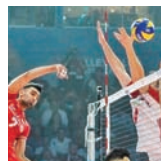




Envoy calls Iran-China long term cooperation a wise decision **2**



Iran considering rail transport for boosting cargo exchange with Syria **4**



Iran volleyball to meet Poland in Tokyo 2020 opener **11**



“Coca Cola” to criticize culture of consumerism in modern world **12**

Iran hosting largest, most protracted refugee situations

© UNHCR/Sebastian Rich

UNHCR says Iran has been enhancing access to education, health, and livelihoods services to refugees

Borrell says EU opposes U.S. policy of sanctions

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Friday that the European Union opposes the United States' policy of sanctions. According to Malay Mail daily, he pointed to sanctions on Iran, Cuba and the International Criminal Court, saying the EU opposed the U.S. policy of enforcing its measures against companies and individuals around the world.

"I am deeply concerned at the growing use of sanctions, or the threat of sanctions, by the United States against European companies and interests," Borrell said in a statement.

He said Washington's secondary sanctions on those doing business with its foes was hitting European companies carrying out "legitimate business."

"Where common foreign and security policy goals are shared, there is great value in the coordination of targeted sanctions with partners. Where policy differences exist, the European Union is always open to dialogue. But this cannot take place against the threat of sanctions," he said.

U.S. President Donald Trump quit the nuclear deal in May 2018 and introduced the harshest ever sanctions in history on Iran as part of his administration's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

Under the JCPOA, Iran promised to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

The U.S. has threatened to punish any company that do business with Iran.

The Austrian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Tuesday, saying parties to the nuclear deal should facilitate economic dividends from the JCPOA to Iran.

"Austria regrets any unilateral steps, which undermine the preservation of the deal. We hope all sides will agree and find their way back to full implementation, in order to create conditions to facilitate economic dividends from the JCPOA for Iran," IRNA quoted the ministry as saying.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Tuesday called the JCPOA the last decade's "greatest diplomatic achievement".

The JCPOA was the result of 12 years of negotiations.

Officials at the White House, including Trump and his foreign secretary Pompeo, have been claiming that the pressure on Iran are intended to force Iran to change behavior. However, analysts and even European allies of the U.S. believes such degree of pressure is aimed to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

If not for the Arab collusion, the annexation plan would not have been presented: Palestinian expert

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A Palestinian analysts believes that he Arab collusion provided an opportunity for Israel to take advantage of some influential Arab countries to take steps toward the annexation of the occupied West Bank.

"The Arab reality is catastrophic, and this provided a window and opportunity for Israel to take advantage of some influential Arab countries to pass the annexation plan," Zakarya Al-Ahmad tells the Tehran Times.

He argues that if it was not for the Arab collusion, Israel would not have embarked on annexing the West Bank.

Following is the text of the interview:

■ What are the reasons that some Israeli parties oppose annexation of the occupied West Bank?

Here are three types of opposition to the annexation plan inside Israel. The first one

is supported by the left-wing parties that talk about a peaceful solution for Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Labor Party adopts this approach, but they are in the minority.

The other critic of the annexation plan is the religious Zionists, especially the leaders of settlements. They believe that the West Bank is part of Israel, and therefore merely annexing parts of this area is not enough, and here lies the dispute over the scope of annexation.

The third group comprises of moderate parties, such as Blue and White and its allies. This party opposes annexation based on its leftist background and believes that it can lead to strategic problems in their relations with the Palestinian Authority and the U.S.

They call for harmony with the U.S. and the international community, emphasizing that the annexation without American approval, may result in problems at international level. ➔7

Tourism projects worth \$3.8b underway in Khorasan Razavi

TEHRAN – A total of 248 tourism-related projects worth 162 trillion rials (around \$3.8 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) are currently underway in Khorasan Razavi province, which is a top destination both for pilgrims and holidaymakers.

"Some 2,300 authorized tourism units are active in Khorasan Razavi province, ranking it the first nationwide," IRNA quoted Ahmad Dinari, deputy tourism chief of the province, as saying on Saturday.

Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, is Iran's holiest and second-largest city. Its raison d'être and main sight is the striking massive shrine complex of Imam Reza (AS), the eight Shia Imam

Dozens of five-star hotels and hostels are dotted across Mashhad. The city has also the highest concentration of water parks in the country, and it also embraces a variety of cultural and historical sites that are generally crowded. The metropolis is also a

good place to buy top handwoven rugs and carpets, and it's a staging post for travel to Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and little-touristic Khorasan regions.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Dinari highlighted the flow of overseas investments over the past couple of years, noting "\$82 million of foreign investment has been made in the tourism sector of the province since President Hassan Rouhani took office in 2013." ➔8



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Iranians recovered from COVID-19 donate plasma

Patients who have recovered from coronavirus referred to blood transfusion center at a hospital in Tehran for plasma donation, July 18, 2020.

Convalescent plasma therapy allows someone who has recovered from a coronavirus infection to donate their blood plasma to someone who is critically ill.

The best time for plasma donation is at least 14 and preferably 28 days after recovery, and donors should age 18 to 60 years.

‘Abuse of federal law’: Remove troops, Portland mayor tells Trump

Ted Wheeler, mayor of the U.S. city of Portland, has demanded that President Donald Trump remove federal agents he had deployed to the city after some of the officers detained anti-racism protesters on streets far from the monuments and buildings they were sent to protect.

"Keep your troops in your own buildings, or have them leave our city," Wheeler said at a news conference on Friday, describing the arrests and the crackdown on protesters as an "absolute abuse of federal law enforcement officials".

The demand came after multiple videos posted online showed camouflage-clad officers without clear identification badges using force and unmarked vehicles to transport arrested protesters.

"It's kidnapping people!" one person said off-camera, as officers marched a protester away. According to al Jazeera, a spokeswoman

for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) told Reuters news agency that federal agents had been deployed to Portland to support a newly launched Department of Homeland Security (DHS) unit, tasked with enforcing last month's executive order from Trump to protect federal monuments and buildings.

The order came amid daily protests in Portland, with demonstrators gathering around the city's federal courthouse to rally against racism and police brutality following the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, during a May 25 arrest in Minneapolis.

In a statement on Friday, the CBP said its agents were behind the arrest carried out in the video as the officers "had information indicating the person in the video was suspected of assaults against federal agents or destruction of federal property." ➔10

Over 2,500 prisoners of unintentional crimes released

TEHRAN – Mostazafan Foundation helped to free 2,574 inmates of unintentional crimes from prison, Parviz Fattah, the Foundation's director has announced.

"We help the prisoners of involuntary crimes in three ways; the first way is granting prisoners leave and providing a number of them with 200 billion rials (nearly \$4.7 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) assistance," he stated.

The second form was 200 billion rials (nearly \$4.7 million) loan paid to those inside the prison, he added.

The third way of assistance, which started today, is the release of unintentional convicts whose debt was less than 500 million rials (nearly \$12,000), he said, stating, some 2,574 unintentional crime doers have been released.

Stating that 90 percent of the people released with this money are married, he said that the oldest prisoner released during this period is 88 and the youngest is 19, and 43 of whom were women.

Some convictions have long sentences that need to be expedited, he noted, adding, "during the coronavirus crisis, the prison population should be reduced, and we are ready to assist the judiciary and the prison organization in providing health supplies."

"If there is a need for the necessary loans for prisoners, the Foundation will be with the Prisons Organization and the Judiciary. We do our best to help the deprived prisoners," he concluded.

Last year, some 8,599 inmates of unintentional crimes were released from prison with the help of charities.

Foreign Ministry strongly dismisses claim by an MP on Iran-China agreement

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry has rejected claims made by an MP about the possible transfer of Iran's islands to China, saying such claims deliver a "severe blow" to the national interests of Iran.

In a statement on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry called the remarks by Mahmoud Ahmadi Bighash, the representative of Shazand in the Parliament, "basically mendacious", adding that "such unfounded allegations" deliver a "severe blow to the national interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran."



MP Bighash has said in an interview with the IRIB that, under the Iran-China 25-year cooperation agreement, which is being negotiated by Tehran and Beijing, Iran was supposed to give China control over some of its islands.

"The Iranian islands were to be handed over to China," claimed the MP.

But the Foreign Ministry firmly asserted that Iran will by no means give any kind of control over its islands to other countries.

Similarly, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that Iran will not give even a "handspan of its soil" to China within the framework of the 25-year partnership.

"We have not given and will not give a [single square] meter of [our] land or the exclusive right to take advantage of a handspan of Iran's soil to China or any other country," Zarif told ICANA in an interview published on Thursday.

In an interview with Tasnim, Bighash denied that he has made such a claim, saying, "I have read the draft of the Iran-China agreement and in no part of the text there is any discussion about leasing Iranian islands to China."

It is better for Pompeo to admit defeat: Shamkhani

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), on Saturday advised the U.S. secretary of state that it is better for Washington to admit defeat in the face of Iran instead of making "stupid bluffing".

"Mike Pompeo, the United States' secretary of state, has said they have changed behavior towards Iran, because only strength works on it and not appeasement. It has been for more than 40 years that you have used your strength to defeat Iran, however you have failed. It is better to admit defeat towards Iran instead of stupid bluffing," Shamkhani tweeted.

Pompeo said during a speech at the Ron Pearson Center in Iowa on Friday, "We've also fundamentally changed the way America treats the Islamic Republic of Iran."

He claimed that the 2015 nuclear deal gave Iran more money, presenting risk to the United States and others in West Asia.

He claimed that the Iranian government only responds to strength, not to appeasement.

"So we flipped what the previous administration was doing. We ditched the deal and implemented a brand new Iran policy," he said.

Gen. Kenneth "Frank" McKenzie, the commander of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), has said that Iran is under great diplomatic and economic pressure, however, he does not consider Iran any less threatening against the U.S.

"I don't consider Iran any less threatening right now than they were several months ago," McKenzie told VOA on Wednesday.

"Iran realizes they're not going to, probably not going to be able to get us out [of Iraq] politically. So, they've got to make a decision: Do they want to move us out through the use of force? And that would be through the use of their proxy forces... that we know operate in Iraq and have actually been very well armed," he said.

Saudi network 'utterly shameless' in airing anti-Iran terrorists event: envoy

Iran's ambassador to the UK decries a Saudi-funded London-based television network that has been set up with the aim of smearing Iran for its "utter shamelessness" in broadcasting the annual gathering of an anti-Iran terrorist cult.

"By broadcasting the gathering of the terrorist Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) that is the murderer of tens of thousands of innocent Iranians, the Saudi Iran International network displayed its full-scale obscenity and shamelessness," Hamid Baedinejad tweeted on Saturday.

The MKO has a squalid history of assassinations and bombings against the Iranian government and nation. It notoriously sided with Saddam Hussein during the former Iraqi dictator's 1980-88 war on Iran.

Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist assaults since the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution, about 12,000 have fallen victim to the MKO's acts of terror.

Western countries, topped by the United States, have, however, taken the group out of their terror blacklists.

The group throws lavish conferences every year in Paris, with certain American, Western, and Saudi officials as its guests of honor. These include former U.S. national security advisor John Bolton, Donald Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, former Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper, and former Saudi Arabian spy chief, Prince Turki Al Faisal.

This year's event that was aired by Iran International at its full six-hour length on Friday was being held virtually as a precaution against the new coronavirus.

In addition to Giuliani, one of the group's staunchest supporters, 18 sitting U.S. senators were among those who addressed this year's event, Reuters reported.

This is not the first time that the Saudi-funded network serves as anti-Iran terrorists' mouthpiece.

In 2018, shortly after an attack by al-Ahwaziya, another Saudi-backed anti-Iran terrorist outfit, killed 25 people in southwestern Iran, the channel allowed the outfit's spokesman to go live on air to defend the act of terror.

(Source: Press TV)

Envoy calls Iran-China long term cooperation a wise decision

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's ambassador to the Vienna-based international organizations, has said that a long term cooperation plan between Iran and China is a "right" and "wise" decision.

"The United States and its allies' opposition show that the decision to do long term and strategic cooperation with China is right and wise. The foreign opponents of this strategic document are concerned about Iran's progress and development despite the sanctions which challenge the hegemonic system and can also become a role model for other countries," Gharibabadi said in a post on his Instagram page, ISNA reported on Saturday.

He noted that the U.S. seeks to keep Iran isolated and impede economic interaction with the country.

The ambassador also said, "Today, China is against the United States' unilateral policies. It also has \$14.14 trillion gross domestic product and is the second biggest economy of the world. This country has also many common positions with Iran on the international issues and has also opposed anti-Iran decisions and actions in the international organizations."

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 Iranian cabinet of ministers approved the final draft of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation with China.

President Hassan Rouhani also said the strategic partnership is based on a win-win approach.

"This cooperation is a ground for Iran and

Europe is affected by U.S. hostile policies against Iran: university professor

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Nader Entessar, a professor of political science from the University of South Alabama, has said that Europe is affected by the United States' hostile policies against Iran and has followed Washington's policies.

Europe could not or has not dared to adopt an independent policy on Iran, Entessar told IRNA in an interview published on Saturday.

The professor noted that European countries will not be able to enter the Iranian market as long as Tehran-Washington relations remain hostile.

He also suggested that Iran should take decisions based on the realities and take any measure to offset the effects of sanctions.

Iran should cooperate with any country which helps failure of the U.S. sanctions, he added.

Entessar also said it is very natural for Iran

to welcome a long-term cooperation agreement with China, predicting that the impending 25-year cooperation between Iran and China will help expand relations.

Elsewhere, the professor said that, contrary to the United States, China focuses on cooperation among regional countries.

China seeks to expand cooperation with countries in the Persian Gulf region and does not see agreement with Iran as an impediment, he pointed out.

The U.S. sees its interests in tension between Iran and the regional countries, but China focuses on regional cooperation to protect its economic interests, he noted.

Iran and China plan to sign a 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement. The document has not been finalized yet.

Dane Rowlands, a professor of Carleton University, has said that Iran will be empowered through partnership with China.

In an interview with ILNA published on

The U.S. sees its interests in tension between Iran and the regional countries, but China focuses on regional cooperation to protect its economic interests, the South Alabama University professor says.

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 cooperation plan has not been finalized yet.

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

Nikki Haley, Donald Trump's former ambassador to the United Nations, has expressed frustration over the impending partnership between Iran and China.

"The partnership ... would vastly expand Chinese presence in banking, telecommunications, ports, railways and dozens of other projects," Haley said.

The New York Times also recently ran an article confirming that Iran and China were nearing conclusion of the roadmap in defiance of the U.S., saying the document foresees "a sweeping economic and security partnership."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Thursday, "Relations between Iran and China are relations between independent countries but have many ill-wishers. This document is a roadmap... our view on this document is long-term."



Wednesday, Rowlands said that economic pressure on Iran has made the country distance from the United States and Europe and instead decide to strengthen cooperation with China which will end in empowerment of Iran in the region.

Iran-China deal is 'pragmatic': CGTN

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — In a commentary on its website on Thursday, the CGTN (China Global Television Network) says the impending 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement between Iran and China is "primarily pragmatic".

"The main reason for the controversy is that the deal paints China in a defiant role against the U.S. However, the deal is primarily pragmatic. Iran is one of the largest producers of oil, and China imports 75 percent of its oil, allowing it to diversify vendors," said the commentary.

Iran and China plan to sign a 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement. The document has not been finalized yet.

It said, "It has been reported that China

and Iran are negotiating a 25-year cooperation agreement named the Sino-Iranian Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The partnership is thought to be a continuation of the 600 billion U.S. dollar trade deal agreement between the two countries in 2016."

It noted, "China was the largest buyer of Iranian crude oil despite sanctions from the U.S. Apart from their primary commercial purposes, the ports of Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Gwadar in Pakistan combined with

ports at Jask and the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, would also create refueling stations for the Chinese Navy. Chinese investments will help Iran develop its telecommunication, banking and railway sectors."

"The deal offers Iran a chance at development with mutual respect on its own terms without compromising on its national interests. More importantly, it gives Iran the opportunity not to feel helpless against the onslaught of disapproval

"Chinese investments will help Iran develop its telecommunication, banking and railway sectors."

China, Russia, Iran call for measures to confront 'U.S. unilateralism'

(Press TV) — China and Russia have joined Iran to express strong opposition to the "U.S. unilateralism" in international affairs amid a widening rift between Washington and Beijing over a litany of political and economic issues.

In a phone conversation on Friday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov voiced support for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the face of U.S. pressure. China's state news agency Xinhua reported.

Wang said the U.S. is practicing its so-called policy of "America First" and pursuing its egoism, unilateralism and bullying policy to the extreme.

Washington has revived its "outdated Cold War mentality" in its policy toward Beijing, deliberately provoking ideological confrontation and violating international law and basic norms governing international relations, he added.

"China and Russia should not only push their bilateral relations to a higher level, but also stand by all countries with an objective and fair stance to reject any actions destructive to international order and against the historical trend, jointly safeguard world peace and stability, maintain the international justice and preserve global development."

The top Chinese diplomat said the U.S. is using the coronavirus pandemic to smear other countries and shift its own responsibilities, adding that Washington has lost its sense of reason, morality and credibility.

Lavrov, for his part, said Russia and China should further strengthen coordination and cooperation in international affairs and safeguard international law and common interests of the two countries.

The Russian foreign minister said the United States is governed based on the ideology of American exceptionalism and egotism, adding that Moscow opposes Washington's unilateralism in international affairs.

The remarks come as tensions between the United States and China have increased over China's imposition of a new national security law in Hong Kong, an ongoing trade war between the world's two largest economies and their handling



of the coronavirus outbreak, among other diplomatic rifts.

In a phone conversation a day earlier, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin that measures must be taken to oppose U.S. unilateralism, while emphasizing the necessity of preserving the landmark nuclear deal clinched by the Islamic Republic and world powers in 2015.

Stressing the need to maintain Iran's nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and ensure its full implementation as an international commitment by all signatories, Rouhani highlighted the urgency of countering U.S. unilateralism in international relations.

The nuclear agreement was reached between the Islamic Republic and the P5+1 group — the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, and China plus Germany — in 2015 in Austrian capital, Vienna.

In May 2018, US President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled his country out of the deal and later re-imposed the sanctions that had been lifted against Tehran. The U.S.' intransigence flew in the face of the fact that the accord has been ratified by the United Nations Security Council in the form of its Resolution 2231.

Although it is no longer a party to the deal, Washington has recently launched a campaign to renew the embargo that concerns the sales of conventional weapons to the Islamic

Republic.

In a separate development on Friday, the European Union (UN)'s diplomatic chief lashed out at the U.S. administration for its use of economic sanctions against countries that transact with Washington's so-called foes.

Josep Borrell, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs, said such a policy was hitting European companies carrying out "legitimate business."

"I am deeply concerned at the growing use of sanctions, or the threat of sanctions, by the United States against European companies and interests," Borrell said in a statement.

"Where common foreign and security policy goals are shared, there is great value in the coordination of targeted sanctions with partners," he added. "Where policy differences exist, the European Union is always open to dialogue but this cannot take place against the threat of sanctions."

Borrell issued the statement two days after the Trump administration announced plans to include Russia's two pipeline projects in Europe in the list of projects to be sanctioned by the U.S. under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) legislation.

Russia has two projects to send natural gas to Europe, namely the Nord Stream 2, which will send Russian natural gas to Germany, and the Turk Stream 2 pipeline, which will supply Western Europe with energy.

The Nord Stream 2 will deliver Russian gas via the Baltic Sea, bypassing Poland and Ukraine. The Turk Stream 2 will carry gas through Bulgaria.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned investors in the two projects that they could face sanctions as Washington seeks to curb the Kremlin's purported economic leverage over Europe and Turkey.

Germany, a major player in the pipeline project, is also expected to suffer sanctions under the U.S. legislation.

In December, Trump signed off sanctions against companies building the nearly \$11 billion Nord Stream 2 pipeline under the Baltic Sea.

Some 25 million Iranians have contracted Covid-19: Rouhani

President says another 30 to 35 million people are exposed to the coronavirus

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Citing a report by the Health Ministry, President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday that some 25 million people in Iran have been infected with the novel coronavirus so far, ISNA reported.

"I have received a report from the Health Ministry suggesting that in the last 150 days an estimated 25 million Iranians have been infected with the virus and more than 200,000 people have been hospitalized and about 14,000 people have lost their lives," Rouhani said at a meeting of the National Task Force for Combating Covid-19.

"Another 30 to 35 million people are exposed to the virus," he added, calling on the citizens to work hand in glove to break the chain of transmission of the disease.

Rouhani noted that these numbers are estimates made in a report prepared by the Health Ministry.

The president also said that according to the Health Ministry's report it is expected that the number of people, who could be hospitalized in the future, to be twice that of people hospitalized over the past 150 days.

On Saturday, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat-Lari announced 2,166



new confirmed cases of Covid-19 over the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of the cases in the country to 271,606. She also said that in the last 24 hours, 188 people have lost their lives because of the virus, raising the fatality count in the country to 13,979.

The president also voiced concern over the asymptomatic cases who may unknow-

ingly spread the disease across the country, adding another few millions are likely to be hospitalized in the future.

"According to the same report, out of every 1,000 people who are infected with coronavirus, 500 are asymptomatic, and about 350 people experience mild symptoms, while 150 people may need to be hospitalized," Rouhani stated.

He said Iran has passed the first wave of the novel coronavirus and now it is going through the second one. According to Rouhani, the second wave has begun because the people no longer fear the disease and have returned to their normal lives.

Underlining the importance of observing health protocols, Rouhani said the most effective way to prevent the spread of the disease is to heed the medical advices such as wearing face mask, social-distancing and washing hands regularly.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president said that the Coronavirus pandemic is a global issue and that every country needs to rely only on its own capabilities.

"In such circumstances, any nation can rely only on its own strength, and this shows that the national strength of the country, especially in the fields of health, science and research, and economy must be to the extent that we can manage ourselves," Rouhani noted.

Reiterating the need to avoid scaring the people, Rouhani said: "undoubtedly, we will win against this disease and we shouldn't be defeated by it. We should help the people and we will get over this disease by cooperating with each other."

China calls Pompeo's remarks on Iran 'totally unreasonable'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Beijing says U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's remarks about the Iran arms embargo are "totally unreasonable".

During a press conference on Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying was asked to comment on Pompeo's warning that China will sell weapons systems to Iran as soon as the arms embargo is lifted.

"We noted relevant reports," she responded, "Pompeo's remarks are totally unreasonable and apparently an excuse to push the UN Security Council to extend arms embargo against Iran."

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

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

"This is another proof of the untrustworthy and unreliable U.S. turning away from its commitments, after defying UNSCR2231 and international consensus and unilaterally withdrawing from the JCPOA," Hua pointed out.

Hua expressed the hope that the U.S. will return to the right track of upholding the sanctity of the Security Council resolution and complying with the Iranian nuclear deal, instead of going further down the wrong path.

During a press availability on Wednesday, Pompeo said



Iran and China have been waiting for midnight on October 18th for the arms embargo to expire.

"I think Europeans should stare at that and realize that the risk of this is real and that the work between Iran and the Chinese Communist Party may well commence rapidly and robustly on October 19th if we're not successful at extending the UN arms embargo," he remarked.

"As for the larger picture, we have a set of sanctions related to any company or country that engages in activity with

Iran," said Pompeo, adding, "The sanctions are clear. We have been unambiguous about enforcing them against our companies from allies, countries from all across the world. We would certainly do that with respect to activity between Iran and China as well."

Responding to the remarks, the Chinese spokesperson said her country has all along adopted a prudent and responsible attitude toward weapons exports and followed the three principles for arms export.

"The exports should be conducive to the legitimate self-defense capability of the recipient country; they should not undermine peace, security and stability of the region concerned and the world as a whole; and they should not be used to interfere in the internal affairs of the recipient country," she explained.

Hua stated that without violating international obligations including Security Council resolutions, China can carry out normal arms trade cooperation with any country and such cooperation is beyond reproach.

"The U.S. has no rights to criticize China on this issue," she said. "It unsigned the Arms Trade Treaty last year while China recently just joined it. The two countries' attitudes towards international rules stand in such sharp contrast that they are self-explanatory."

Inclusion of Iran in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to benefit region: Qureshi

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmod Qureshi has said that the inclusion of Iran in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will benefit the entire region.

In a statement on Friday, Qureshi said that the region can also greatly benefit from the stability and enduring peace in the war-torn Afghanistan, Geo News reported.

It came three days after Tehran reportedly dropped New Delhi from the Chabahar rail project.

It emerged earlier this week that the Iranian government has decided to go ahead with the rail line project from the Chahbahar port to Zahedan on its own, four years after it inked a deal with New Delhi to begin this project along the border of Afghanistan.

The Iranian government has cited a delay in funding from the Indian side to initiate the 628km-long project as the reason for it dropping India from the multi-million-dollar project.

The decision comes in the backdrop of China finalizing a huge strategic partnership with Iran.

Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on June 23 that Iran and China have drafted a 25-year plan for the comprehensive partnership 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 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 commentary on July 17, European Council on Foreign Relations said Iran's rumored talks with China on a partnership agreement could have significant economic benefits and provide it with valuable geopolitical bargaining chips.

It also said both Iran and China stand to gain from a formal and long-term framework that organizes their bilateral relations.

A pragmatic partnership: Why China and Iran try to collaborate

➔ It could take months for the details of the agreement to become public. According to speculation in the media and an alleged leaked draft, the deal is designed to pave the way for considerable Chinese investment in Iran's strategically important sectors, including transport, energy, telecommunications, tourism, and healthcare. The deal is rumored to involve security cooperation and intelligence sharing. Any Chinese-Iranian military and security collaboration — while viewed as a provocative move by the West — is likely to be a slow-burner.

Iran fully understands the implications of China's swift rise as a global power. Indeed, in light of the extensive impact of U.S. secondary sanctions on European trade with Iran, Iranian leaders now view China as the only major world power that can challenge U.S. economic dominance — and, therefore, provide their country with economic and political protection against mounting U.S. pressure. China, meanwhile, understands that Iran is a major regional power located at the crossroads of the Middle East (West Asia) and Central Asia — an area that is important to its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

It now seems that, in the past year, Iran and China — both of which have been left in a precarious position by the Trump administration — have accelerated their talks. For Iran, formalizing its bilateral relations with China in a more concrete fashion can bring tangible economic benefits as well as serving a geopolitical goal. In recent years, Iran has been keenly aware that it has not benefited from the kind of increase in Chinese

Tehran can portray itself as a balancing force in Western capitals' relationships with Beijing and Moscow.

investment and infrastructure projects seen in Israel and [Persian] Gulf Cooperation Council countries. A long-term partnership agreement can lock in Chinese commitments in ways that help Tehran demand greater economic cooperation with Beijing and ensure that lofty statements about Iran's importance to the BRI translate into projects in Iran that create jobs.

The Sino-Iranian deal also has a large political dimension. For Tehran, pursuing this partnership is as much about Beijing as it is about Washington. Iran is clear-eyed about the fact that great power competition between the U.S. and China is likely to intensify in the coming years. Negotiations

China understands that Iran is a major regional power located at the crossroads of the Middle East (West Asia) and Central Asia — an area that is important to its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

over the Sino-Iranian deal present Iran with an opportunity to gain Western states' attention as they debate their economic ties with China. This can provide Iran with some useful bargaining chips in future negotiations with Europe and the U.S. over sanction easing: Tehran can portray itself as a balancing force in Western capitals' relationships with Beijing and Moscow.

Iran has looked to both China and Russia for protection against U.S. pressure at the United Nations, and will push for a bold response from them if the Trump administration attempts a highly contentious move to snap-back UN sanctions on Iran in the coming months. China has become a more vocal defender of Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency, even pushing back last month against a European-led resolution that rebuked Iran. And Iran has sought to exchange its observer status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for full membership — a move that requires China's approval.

Iran's enthusiasm for a partnership agreement with China also plays heavily into domestic politics. The Supreme Leader has long been a proponent of forming more strategic alliances with non-Western powers, which he has viewed as more trustworthy than the U.S. or Europe — a sentiment that only became stronger after the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal. President Hassan Rouhani may have pushed for an opening with the West, but he has also supported greater integration with Asian economies such as those of China, Japan, and South Korea.

Zarif set to visit Baghdad on Sunday

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is scheduled to depart Tehran to Baghdad on Sunday.



According to Iraq News Agency, Zarif plans to hold talks with senior Iraqi officials.

The visit will take place two days ahead of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi's trip to Iran.

Last week, Al-Mayadeen reported that al-Kadhimi would travel to Iran for holding bilateral talks on a series of issues.

Earlier, it was announced that the Iraqi prime minister will travel to Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States in the first round of his foreign trips in order to attract the political and economic support of various parties.

Iran-China deal shows Washington's 'massive failure': Chicago Tribune

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A U.S. newspaper has underlined the importance of the 25-year strategic partnership deal between Iran and China, saying the deal is a "massive failure" of the U.S. maximum pressure policy against Tehran.

"U.S. President Donald Trump's administration pursued a policy of economic sanctions in an attempt to bring Iran to the negotiating table, but such approach pushed Tehran towards signing an accord with Beijing rather than Washington," The Chicago Tribune wrote.

"The new China-Iran partnership represents a massive failure of the administration's Iran policy," it said.

The daily noted that the yet-to-be-finalized accord would establish "a far-reaching economic and security partnership" between Iran and China.

The Sino-Iranian Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was announced in a joint statement during a visit to Tehran by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2016.

The cooperation roadmap consists of 20 articles, covering Tehran-Beijing ties in "Political," "Executive Cooperation," "Human and Cultural," "Judiciary, Security and Defense," and "Regional and International" domains, according to the statement released back then.

Recently, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi described the agreement as "principled" guideline under which, China will emerge as the world's leading economic power in the near future, while Iran will turn into the great power in the West Asia region.

"But for the U.S., the expanding partnership represents a double blow. It gives Tehran an out from the maximum pressure campaign that was supposed to force Iran back to the table and end its nuclear program entirely, if not end the regime itself. And it gives China a crucial geopolitical win in the rapidly accelerating strategic competition with Washington," The Chicago Tribune said.

It further stressed that the U.S. has failed to make its European allies withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and slap sanctions on Iran.

"The decision to go it alone, however, reduced the chances that the new U.S. policy would succeed. While Washington withdrew from the deal, all of the others remained within it. None followed it in imposing sanctions, thus limiting the impact of the U.S. effort to isolate Tehran," it said.

Far from joining in, the Europeans and other parties sought to undermine the new U.S. efforts, the paper said.

"The Europeans set up a barter exchange to enable their companies to escape retaliatory U.S. sanctions for continuing to trade with and invest in Iran. Russia increased its military and strategic engagement with Iran. And China set out to forge an entirely new partnership with Tehran to Washington's detriment, it added.

The New York Times reported last week that the deal would see Iran supply China with oil for 25 years. In return, China would invest in Iran's ports as well as banking and telecommunications sectors amounting to some \$400 billion over the next quarter century.

Beyond economic engagement, the China-Iran partnership would extend to military and strategic areas, including joint training and exercises, joint weapons research and intelligence sharing. According to The Chicago Tribune, for Iran, the economic investments, secure oil outlets and a growing military partnership offer an escape from the pressure exerted by the U.S. and its Persian Gulf allies.

For China, the partnership would give a role in a critical strategic region that has long been dominated by the U.S. The new ports and rail lines will also extend its Belt and Road infrastructure project deeper into West Asia, the paper added.

"The expanding partnership represents a double blow (to the United States). It gives Tehran an out from the maximum pressure campaign that was supposed to force Iran back to the table and end its nuclear program entirely, if not end the regime itself. And it gives China a crucial geopolitical win in the rapidly accelerating strategic competition with Washington," The Chicago Tribune says.

Iran considering rail transport for boosting cargo exchange with Syria

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has hosted a meeting for discussing rail freight transportation between Iran and Syria, Farzad Piltan, director-general of TPO's Office of Arabian and African Countries, said.

As reported by the TPO portal, the meeting was attended by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI), the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, and the Iran-Iraq-Syria Relations Development Headquarters.

According to Piltan, in the meeting in addition to discussing the problems of the current route of transportation between the two countries through the sea, such as being time-consuming and costly, the use of combined-transit (rail-land) method through existing domestic rail lines and also through Iraq to Syria were also examined.

"It was decided that the necessary investigations and follow-ups should be done by the relevant agencies," the official said.

In case of implementing the mentioned idea, it would be possible for Iran to send various commodities like consumer goods, construction materials, and minerals through railway from Tehran to Shalamcheh and then to Basra and finally to Qaem (Abu Kamal) on the border with Syria.

Iran and Syria have been taking major steps for the expansion of their mutual trade ties. The two sides have exchanged numerous trade delegations and Iranian private companies are investing in various fields of the Syrian economy like providing construction materials especially cement and working on several reconstruction projects.

Head of Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce Keyvan Kashefi believes that the value of Iran's trade with Syria will reach \$1 billion by the next Iranian calendar year 1400 (starts on March 21, 2021).

"Considering the plans we have on the agenda for expanding trade with Syria, the value of Iran's trade with the country is expected to reach \$1 billion by the next year," Kashefi said in early May.

Chicken exports reach over \$13m in 3 months

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran exported over 7,000 tons of chicken worth \$13.28 million in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.



According to Rouhollah Latifi, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Venezuela were the top three export destinations for the exports of the mentioned commodity with \$8.185 million, \$3.599 million, and \$585,287 of exports, respectively.

Iran exported 4,116 tons of chicken to Afghanistan while sending 2,523 tons to Iraq and 246 tons to Venezuela.

As reported, due to the overproduction of chicken in the current Iranian calendar year, IRICA temporarily reduced the duty for chicken exports since June 9 up to July 20 to facilitate the exports of the said commodity.

Quarterly exports from Qom Province stand at \$31m

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The value of exports from Iran's central Qom Province stands at \$31 million during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), according to a provincial official.

Mahmoud Sijani, the director-general of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, put the weight of the commodities exported from the province during the first three months of this year at 32,000 tons, IRNA reported.



The official said that of the mentioned figure, \$22 million were the exports from the industry sector of the province.

Major commodities exported during the three-month period included metal products, plastics, copper wire, mechanical tools, cereals, synthetic fiber chemical products, shoes and herbal oil, Sijani said.

Iraq, China, Afghanistan, the UAE, India, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Pakistan, Indonesia and Uzbekistan were the top ten destinations of the exported products, he added.

Sijani further announced that 7,800 tons of products valued at \$36 million have been imported to the province in the first quarter.

The imports included industrial machinery, mechanical equipment, spare parts for road construction machines, automobiles, medical-surgical devices, plastics, coffee, tea, spices, electrical components, nickel and nickel products, synthetic and synthetic fibers and inorganic chemical products.

China, the UAE, Turkey, India, Italy, Iraq, Oman, Japan, Iraq and Germany were respectively Qom's top exporters during the first quarter, according to the official.

Qom's exports reached 290,000 tons worth \$220 million during the last Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), while its imports amounted to 61,000 tons worth \$283 million.

There are currently 2,300 operational industrial units in Qom Province.

Iran's value of exports to UAE rises 8% in a quarter on year

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Ravanbakhsh Behzadian said that maritime trade between Iran and the UAE had been halted since the outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic.

"According to the new health guidelines and protocols, these business communications have resumed between the two countries," he added.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government is pursuing in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20).

In May, First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri called for developing non-oil exports as the only way for realizing the motto of the surge in production.

"The Foreign Affairs Ministry should provide the necessary bases for the development of [non-oil] exports by expanding and strengthening economic diplomacy," he said in a meeting on



reviewing ways of boosting economic relations with the neighboring countries and supporting non-oil exporters.

Iran shares borders with fifteen countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Oman, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia.

Emphasizing that 15 neighboring countries and countries such as China and India and Eurasian members should be targeted as the most important export destinations of the country, Jahangiri called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant agencies to strengthen economic diplomacy and focus on these export destination countries to provide the necessary infrastructure for the development of exports to these nations.

Minerals comprise 80% of Iran's rail cargoes



ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — About 80 percent of Iran's total rail cargoes consist of minerals, a deputy with the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) said.

Seyed Mostafa Davoudi made the remarks on the sidelines of a visit to a railway project in central Kerman province on Friday, IRNA reported.

The official underlined the significance of the country's railway network in the development of other sectors and said the improvement of railway infrastructure is a prerequisite for the development of major industries and mines.

"Large-scale cargo transportation has technical and economic justification only through railways," he added.

"Currently, the operations for connecting large industrial and mining complexes such as Zarand Steel, Butia Steel, Gol Gohar Sirjan, and Jalalabad Complex to the national railway are underway and some of them have been

completed," Davoudi said.

Connecting the industrial and production centers as well as cargo hubs to the national railway network has become one of the main programs that the Iranian government is pursuing.

According to the Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami, the government is currently taking necessary measures for the expansion of the railway network.

"We have currently 14,000 kilometers of railway throughout the country, 14,000 kilometers are under study and construction, and it is expected that the length of the national railway network will reach 28,000 kilometers by the next five years," Eslami said on July 14.

Back in July 2019, RAI Head Saeed Rasouli had said that new railway projects were underway for connecting the major cargo hubs in the country to the national railway network in the coming years.

Single-window business system to be launched in 4 provinces this week

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The chairman of the Business Environment Improvement Center of Iran's Ministry of Labor announced that single-window business system will be launched in four provinces of the country during this [Iranian calendar] week (Saturday-Friday).

Ali Firoozi said that this system will be set up in the centers of four provinces, which are Mashhad (Khorasan Razavi Province), Tabriz (East Azarbaijan Province), Shiraz (Fars Province), and Isfahan (Isfahan Province), in order to reduce the required time for the establishment of a company to three days.

Last month, the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) had announced that single-window business system would be launched in four provinces of the country soon.

During a ceremony on May 30, Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) launched the business single-window system.

Speaking in the inauguration ceremony of the single-window system, which was participated by Iran's Finance Minister Farhad Dehpasand, TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari said a single-window system for the starting businesses would be a great step toward improving the business environment in the country.

He said the first step in improving the business environment is to establish a single-window to facilitate the process of starting a business.

Deputy Economy Minister Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi along with the ministry officials and TCCIMA representatives were also present in the inaugural ceremony.

Addressing the attendees, Khansari noted that in order to turn threats [U.S. sanction] into opportunities the government needs



to support the private sector by reducing unnecessary bureaucracies and facilitating license issuances.

To this end, improving the business environment and improving competitiveness indicators are of utmost importance, and fortunately, in both areas, the Tehran and Iran chambers have taken very good steps that can help government agencies, Khansari said.

"We are happy to have been able to do that in the Tehran chamber, and we hope that this will be a prelude to other measures to improve the business environment," he stressed.

Also speaking in the ceremony, Deputy Economy Minister Dehqan Dehnavi said that with the single-window system going operational, the time for issuing business licenses, which previously took 72 days on average, is going to be reduced to three days.

"Up until now, it took an average of 72.5 days to obtain these licenses, and in this regard, we are in the 178th place among the world countries," Dehnavi noted.

Referring to the Economy Minister's support for the single window project, the official said: "With the approval of the minister, the 55 days required to authenticate in the tax system is now eliminated, which means there is no need to obtain an economic code to start a business."

Car manufacturing up 18% in almost 4 months



ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Car manufacturing in Iran has risen 18 percent during the period since the start of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20) until Tuesday (July 14), compared to the same time span in the past year, the acting minister of industry, mining, and trade announced.

Hossein Modares Khiabani said that Iranian carmakers have manufactured 282,000 vehicles during the mentioned period of this year, while the figure was 238,000 in the same time span of the previous year, IRNA reported.

The official made the remarks during a meeting of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's Car Committee on Friday evening, when some decisions were also made on holding the meetings of the ministry's desks of the domestic production of car parts.

As previously reported, the carmakers have manufactured 203,146 vehicles during the first quarter of the current year (March 20-June 20).

Of the mentioned figure, 96,490 vehicles were manufactured by Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), 79,520 by SAIPA Group, and 27,136 by Pars Khodro.

Three major Iranian carmakers, namely Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), SAIPA Group, and Pars Khodro, manufactured 863,263 vehicles during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

During the previous year, IKCO manufactured 393,812 vehicles, of which 35,953 were produced in the last month Esfand (February 20-March 19).

Production by SAIPA stood at 363,379, of which 23,696 vehicles were manufactured during the last month.

Pars Khodro manufactured 106,072 cars during the past year. Production in Esfand reached 9,300 vehicles.

Iran has been following a program for supporting domestic manufacturing of auto parts since due to the U.S. sanctions the country's automakers have been facing some problems in supplying their needed parts and equipment.

Free zones absorb over \$9.7b of investment in 7 years

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Free trade and industrial zones of Iran have absorbed 410 trillion rials (about \$9.761 billion) of investment during the past seven years, the deputy head of Iranian Free Zones High Council for economic affairs told IRNA on Friday.

Ahmad Jamali said that the amount of investment made by the state-run and private sectors in the free zones has been noticeable in recent years, highlighting that the private sector's contribution has been outstanding in this due.

The official further put the value of domestic investment made in these zones at 100 trillion rials (about \$3.38 billion) and the foreign investment at \$200 million in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

Earlier this month, the secretary of Iranian Free Zones High Council Morteza Bank said that eight new free trade zones (FTZ) are going to be established across the country.

"Currently, in addition to the current eight free zones, the creation of eight new zones is on the agenda, and we can certainly benefit from the capacities of the [Transport Ministry's] Research Center in this regard", the official noted.

Bank made the remarks in a gathering of the heads of the country's FTZs with experts from the Transport and Urban Development Ministry's Research Center in Tehran.

Speaking in the meeting, the official underlined the significant role that the Transport Ministry's Research Center can play in the development of the country's free and special zones and said the studies conducted by the center provide the ground for future cooperation.

"We can have productive cooperation



for the development of standards and regulations, as well as the issuance of technical certificates," he said.

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

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

In recent years, considering the important role that free and special zones play in promoting the country's export and employment, Iran has been seriously pursuing the development of its existing FTZs and the establishment of new zones as well.

More development measures in this field have been taking since the U.S. re-imposition of sanctions on the Iranian economy in November 2018, as Iran is reducing its dependence on the oil income while elevating its domestic production and non-oil exports.

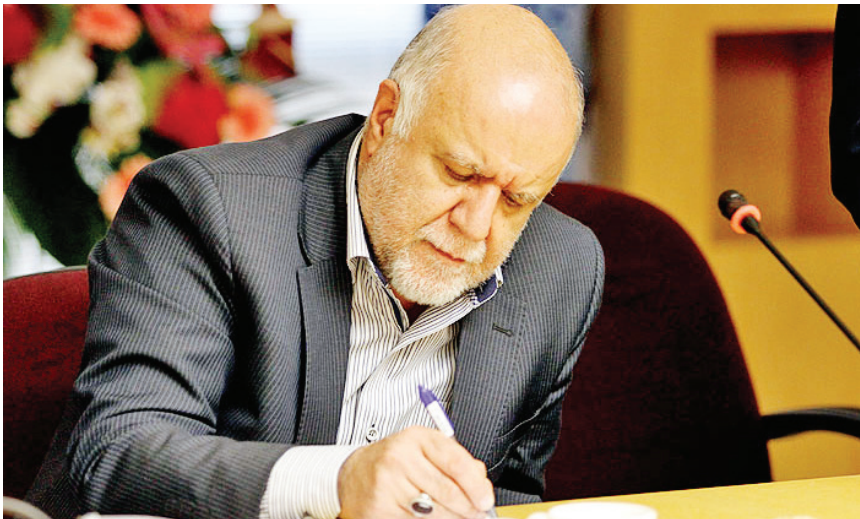
Petchem complexes urged to supply industries with anti-corona materials

ENERGY **TEHRAN** – Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh has urged the petrochemical complexes to supply the downstream industries with the necessary raw materials for manufacturing products used in containing coronavirus, Shana reported.

“All petrochemical companies whose products are used as raw materials for the production of consumer goods related to the outbreak of Covid-19, regardless of business priorities, are obliged to provide their downstream industries in order to prevent any shortages...” Zanganeh Tweeted on Friday.

Despite the great demand for anti-corona safety and health items in the early days of the pandemic, Iran has become an exporter of such products.

Earlier this month, Mehdi Kashmiri, director for technology and planning at



the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology said that currently, about 450 knowledge-based companies are active in the country for manufacturing protective equipment and treatment products to fight the coronavirus.

“Production of more than one million face masks per day, production of more than 1.5 liters of disinfectants per day, diagnostic kits, non-contact thermometers, protective clothing, ventilator are among the produces manufactured by these companies,” he stated.

Also, 150 companies are active in the field of hospital equipment production.

Iranian-made innovative products in the field of diagnosis, screening, and fighting coronavirus have been also unveiled to combat the disease, namely, ozone generator, nano face shields, disinfection gate, and molecular COVID-19 diagnostic kits.

Energy Ministry allows using 26 bcm seawater for industrial purposes

ENERGY **TEHRAN** – Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said his ministry is going to allocate 26 billion cubic meters of seawater to be used for industrial purposes in the country's coastal provinces, IRIB reported.

According to Ardakanian, coastal provinces such as Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Bushehr can use seawater in projects that do not require water desalination like aquaculture or for cooling the towers of thermal power plants.

“Up to 26 billion cubic meters of seawater has been allocated for such uses, which can be used in coastal provinces as required,” the official said.

He also noted that for those projects that need the seawater to be desalinated, necessary licenses have been issued in the mentioned

provinces.

“In these projects, the ratio of desalinated water to the seawater is one third, which means that we have to take three times as much seawater to get equal to one-third of it sweet water”, the minister said.

Studies have also been carried out for desalinating the seawater and transferring it to non-coastal areas in the south of the country, but the implementation of such a project requires the preparation and approval of a plan for consumption management in the mentioned areas as well, Ardakanian said.

“For example, if in a province on the Central Plateau, we simply invest in water transfer projects without changing the cultivation patterns or reducing the extraction from aquifers, it means that we have postponed the problem to the future,” he explained.



With oil cheap, Arab states cannot balance their books

Amid warlords and bandits, as smallpox spread around him, George Bernard Reynolds searched the sands of Persia (now Iran) for oil. The British geologist drilled for seven years—and found little. Finally his financiers said enough was enough: it was time to dismiss the staff, dismantle the equipment and come home. Instead Reynolds kept drilling. And in the early morning hours of May 26th 1908, he struck a gusher. It was the first big petroleum find in the West Asia, but certainly not the last. Oil would soon transform the region's economies, enrich its ruling families and attract more foreign influence.

According to the Economist, a century later another big change is coming, as countries around the world adopt cleaner sources of energy. Peak demand for oil may still be years away, but covid-19 has given the West Asia and North Africa a taste of the future. Prices of the black stuff plummeted as countries went into lockdown. The region's energy exporters are expected to earn about half as much oil revenue this year as they did in 2019; the IMF reckons their economies will shrink by 7.3 percent. Even when the virus recedes, a glut of supply will probably keep prices down. Faced with budgets that no longer add up, Arab states must adapt.

The challenge they face is daunting. Take Algeria, which needs the price of oil to be over \$100 a barrel for its government's books to balance. The price of Brent crude, a benchmark, is just over \$40. So in May the Algerian government said it would cut its budget by half. Things are no better in Iraq, a big oil exporter, which is nearly broke. Even stable producers such as Oman and Kuwait



are living beyond their means. Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has been burning through its cash reserves for months. Money that was meant to smooth the kingdom's transition to a less oily economy is now propping up the old petrostate.

The effects will be felt across the region. Egypt exports little oil, but over 2.5m of its citizens' work in oil-rich countries. Remittances are worth 9 percent of its GDP. As oil revenues fall and some of those jobs disappear, Egypt will suffer, too. The same is true of Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories, which have long relied on the Persian Gulf to absorb their jobless masses. These countries also count on oil producers as customers. Around a third of exports from Jordan and Lebanon go to oil-rich states, which send back wealthy tourists. Kuwaitis, Saudis and

Emiratis account for about a third of tourist spending in Lebanon.

The good news is that many Arab countries have plans to wean their economies off oil. Reform programs with fancy names like “Vision 2030” aim to unleash the private sector, employ more women, cut subsidies and invest in non-oil industries. The bad news is that these states are moving too slowly. Some have cut their bloated bureaucracies and pared back subsidies. Saudi Arabia recently tripled its value-added tax. But the public sector is still the region's main employer. Despite talk of diversification, the Persian Gulf's economies continue to revolve around oil. Now Arab leaders speak of a wave of privatizations to bring in new revenue. What have they been waiting for?

Part of the answer is that these reforms will be painful and are harder in bad times. But today's crisis also provides a chance to build vibrant, sustainable economies and representative governments. Rulers can no longer afford to buy loyalty with do-nothing public-sector jobs and free services. The plans put forward by leaders like Saudi Arabia's Muhammad bin Salman are tearing up the social contract. Saudis wonder why he doesn't sell his \$550m yacht instead of raising taxes. Anger is growing across the region. For the past century Arabs have been ruled by abusive leaders who hoarded their country's wealth. Now these leaders are asking their people to make sacrifices and giving them little say in the matter. That is a recipe for continuing unrest and brutal suppression. If Arab rulers want citizens to pay their way, they will need to start earning their consent.

OPEC is worried that another Covid-19 wave could derail oil market recovery

OPEC may have to play its market-rebalancing act longer than initially intended as it is afraid that a second coronavirus wave would slow oil demand recovery, Reuters reported, quoting internal OPEC research it had seen.

Should a second COVID-19 wave hit, countries may return to lockdown, derailing the oil demand recovery and stockpile drawdowns and prolonging the inventory glut, according to the research OPEC had prepared for yesterday's meeting of an OPEC+ panel which recommended relaxing the record 9.7-million-bpd cuts as of August 1.

New lockdowns could result in oil demand dropping by 11 million bpd this year and increase inventories, which have just started to decline as demand began to pick up in June, according to the research seen by Reuters.

“It should be noted in this scenario that the overall stock build reaches an unprecedented high of 1.218 billion barrels in 2020,” OPEC said in the internal estimate.

OPEC looks at the five-year average of oil inventories



in OECD countries as one of the metrics to gauge the success of its supply-fixing policies. If a second wave forces new lockdowns, this metric is at risk.

Analysts have already started to warn that a second wave of surging coronavirus cases could send oil prices

into “tailspin”, which would further hit OPEC+ producers as it would cripple – again – their oil revenues.

Despite the fear of a second wave, OPEC+ will be easing the record 9.7-million-bpd production cuts as of August as demand has started to recover, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, said on Wednesday at the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMCC).

“The Committee observed that there were encouraging signs of improvement as economies around the world open up. While there could be localized or partial lockdowns re-imposed in some places, the recovery signs are clear, both in physical and futures markets,” OPEC said, noting the highest-ever compliance of the OPEC+ group since it started managing supply to the market in 2017.

The JMCC “noted that, moving to the next phase of the agreement, the extra supply resulting from the scheduled easing of the production adjustment will be consumed as demand recovers.”

Oil market tightens, but second wave looms

By Tom Kool

Bullish data from the EIA and promises from OPEC+ to eradicate under-compliance boosted oil markets, but fears of a second wave of COVID-19 cases are keeping a cap on oil prices.

For Global Energy Alert members there are now two new free reports available in your dashboard. The first of these reports is on how to interpret stock charts and the second outlines the three biggest mistakes made by traders today. Make sure you become a member to read these reports and many more.



The big oil market news of the week was the easing of cuts from OPEC+. The markets largely welcomed the move, especially since it included pledges by laggards to temporarily keep some supply off of the market to compensate for past under-compliance. Meanwhile, bullish EIA data also boosted sentiment. However, by the end of the week, concerns about slowing oil demand weighed on prices, keeping them stuck at around \$40.

OPEC+ delivers on easing. OPEC+ cut really deep in June, and the cohesion was maintained as the group moved to ease production cuts from 9.7 million barrels per day (mb/d) to 7.7 mb/d in August. However, the headline number is mitigated by the fact that the so-called laggards are supposed to “compensate” for overproducing in recent months. So, the effective production cuts may only decline to 8.1 to 8.3 mb/d in August instead of 7.7 mb/d.

Room to increase? Probably. Analysts mostly think that there is room for OPEC+ to increase production without leading to a slide in prices. After all, demand apparently outstrips supply at the moment. Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said the increase will be “barely felt.” Still, significant downside risk remains, largely revolving around the potential hit to demand from the coronavirus and renewed closures.

U.S. gasoline demand eases back. U.S. gasoline demand fell 5 percent last week, the second consecutive week of declines. “Normally this two-week period would have been the peak demand period and we didn't get it,” said John Kilduff, partner at Again Capital in New York. “The recovery has been unwinding.”

Eni to exit oil refineries. Eni said that it would pivot away from conventional oil refineries and instead invest in greener bio-refineries. “Instead of slowing down, we see COVID as a reason to accelerate the transition to low-carbon energy,” Chief Executive Officer Claudio Descalzi said.

China has \$42 billion in clean energy debt. China has built solar and wind so fast that the government owes \$42 billion in subsidies for which it has not budgeted.

China's oil imports may fall back. China imported a record amount of crude in May, but those oil flows fell back a bit in June, although remained above year-ago levels. The surge in imports filled up inventories, which may presage a slowdown in further imports.

New subsidies accelerate EV sales in Germany. New subsidies for EVs in France and Germany have boosted sales. In Germany, an EV fetches a 9,000-euro subsidy. “There are a lot of attractive offers right now because of higher subsidies, and that's boosting demand,” an analyst with BloombergNEF said. “The EU is pushing toward decarbonizing transport, and the coronavirus crisis has allowed them to accelerate that.”

More than 200 Pemex workers die of COVID. Pemex has the highest workplace death toll from Covid-19 than any other company in the world (not just among oil companies). An estimated 202 have died from the virus, a total that only the UK National Health Service – which isn't a company – has surpassed.

Total seeks buyer for North Sea gas pipeline. Total is looking to unload its 25.7 percent stake in the Shearwater Elgin Area Line, which it hopes will generate \$200 million.

Exxon and other oil giants set carbon target. ExxonMobil, Saudi Aramco, CNPC, and other oil giants as part of the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI) pledged to lower the carbon intensity of their operations. However, the target is not an absolute measurement, so the group in theory could still increase emissions so long as the carbon intensity per barrel declines.

Judge vacates Trump admin's methane rule rescission. The Bureau of Land Management's effort at scrapping Obama-era methane regulations was vacated by a federal judge. The rule limits methane from oil and gas operations on federal lands. The Obama-era rule will go back into effect, although the judge agreed to a 90-day stay.

Sec. of State Pompeo tightens sanctions on Nord Stream 2. The State Department closed a loophole in its sanctions policy on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, subjecting more European companies to the sanctions. “It's a clear warning to companies aiding and abetting Russia's malign-influence projects it will not be tolerated,” Pompeo said. “Get out now, or risk the consequences.” The pipeline is close to being completed.

EU identifies 1,000 “shovel-ready” green projects. The EU is eyeing a 750-billion-euro green stimulus, and there are more than 1,000 specific projects ready to go within two years, according to Reuters. For instance, one possibility is a gigafactory for lithium-ion batteries in Poland; another would retrofit buildings in Paris.

California Resources files for bankruptcy. California Resources Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

\$23 billion in clean energy investment at risk. A total of 31 GW and \$23 billion worth of investment is at risk of disappearing over the next 18 months due to the pandemic.

Shell submits plan for Norway Knarr oil field closure

Shell is to cease production from Norway's Knarr oil field, which has been producing at over 10,000 bpd, after an in-fill development well was drilled to maximize recovery, Platts reported, citing the Anglo-Dutch oil and gas major.

Knarr produces from a floating production storage and offloading vessel in the northern part of the North Sea and came on stream in 2015. Production last year averaged 13,000 bpd of liquids, mainly crude oil, falling in the first five months

of this year to 11,000 bpd, data from the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate shows.

Shell has scaled back its presence in Norway and unlike BP and Total does not hold a stake, direct or indirect, in the Johan Sverdrup field, which has been replenishing production in Europe's highest-producing country.

However, it operates the Ormen Lange gas field, with a stake of just 17.8 percent, and holds minority stakes in other fields, and is also a partner in the Northern Lights

carbon capture and storage project.

In an email, Shell noted it is obliged by Norwegian regulations to submit a decommissioning plan to the authorities at least two years before closing down a field, which it did earlier this year. “A final end of field life timing has not been set,” it said.

It added that an in-fill well had been drilled in the second quarter “as part of the strategy of maximizing value from Knarr.”

The NPD in a separate statement listed the field as one of three for which cessation of production plans have been submitted this year, the others -- Heimdal and Vale -- already having production under 1,000 bpd.

Shell has announced a 20 percent capital expenditure cut this year and said it expects to take a post-tax impairment of between \$15-\$22 billion in the second quarter, while also slashing its dividend for the first time since World War II.

Second Announcement
Call for public tender (First/Second publish)
One -Stages tender

N.I.O.C
1399.1771

National Iranian Drilling Company

Subject of Tender:

Tender No.	Description
FP/05-98/160	P/ F: SHANGHAI PUDONG ROTARY TABLE
FP/05-98/150	P/ F: CHANZHOU EDDY CURRENT BRAKE ELECTROMAGNETIC

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial)
National Iranian Drilling Company	8/675/464	Tender No.:FP/05-98/091 Indent No.: 08-22-9845133	4, 800, 000, 000
	8/676/361	Tender No.:FP/05-98/021 Indent No.: 08-22-9845063	23/464/000/000

Tender descriptions:
• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers
• purchasing & submitting

Method

Qualification process will be done in plain mode in offers opening session according to presentation of valid practice certificate / legal documents (certificate of corporation/ supply announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject

Tender Document Distribution by Company

The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.

Distribution Place	Submitting Method
Hall No.:113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN 061-34148659	• Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 190,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR 52010004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Income Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. • Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.

Closing date

• 35 Days after the last time of Purchasing.

Documents Receiving Method

Address

Hall No. 107, 1st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.
Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

Value of guarantee	240/000/000 Rial / 2/018 ,Euro	Regarding Tender No FP/05-98/160
497/000/000 Rial / 4/168 ,Euro <td>Regarding Tender No FP/05-98/150</td>	Regarding Tender No FP/05-98/150	

Type of guarantee

✓ Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
✓ Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 35010004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.

Duration of credit & quotation

Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

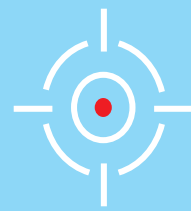
• Tender Guarantee

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)
More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir <http://sapp.ir/nidc-pr>
تهران تایمز نوبت دوم ۹۹/۴/۲۹

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

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

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TEHRAN, Feb. 20 (MNA) - Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh held a phone

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- Islamic Revolution Leader casts his vote in ballot...
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- Hatami hails Iran aviation efforts to neutralize sanctions
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Interview

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Israel collaborated with Holocaust distortion for geopolitical reasons: top historian

A prominent Israeli historian has lambasted the Tel Aviv regime for having “collaborated” with Holocaust distortion and accepting the Polish narrative completely for the sake of political, economic, and security gains.

Speaking in a webinar for British educators organized by University College of London, Yehuda Bauer said Israeli authorities are using fictitious storylines and playing along with it.

"The problem that we face is the identification of Israel with a distortion of the Holocaust, especially in Poland. The political and economic and security relationship between Israel and Poland is great; why would this problem of the Holocaust come between

He said the Israeli regime “decided to settle it” and sent a two-man team to negotiate with the Poles, “neither of them are experts on the Holocaust or history or Poland,” and they ended up “accepting the Polish narrative completely.”

“Anti-Semitism is defined in those documents, signed on June 28, 2018, as the same thing as anti-Polandism by the Jews. So, 2,000 years of anti-Semitism equals the opposition of some Jews to Poland.” Baurer, a professor of Holocaust Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem al-Quds, noted.

“Yad Vashem [Israel’s official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust] doesn’t normally react. This was an exception. It was so gross, so dangerous. We don’t accept Distortion of the Holocaust. I’m saying it is not only directed against the Polish nationalists but against the collaborators on the Israeli side as well,” he further argued.

Bauer then described Distortion as “a completely one-sided mixture of truths and untruths, which is more dangerous than outright lies.”

He said, "Distortion is when you say yes it happened, it was terrible, but we didn't do it – the Germans did it, only them, no-one else. Yes, there were a few bad eggs among us who collaborated, denounced Jews, participated."

Bauer added that “without a large part of the population, arguably a majority, there could have been no Holocaust, because the Germans didn’t know how to differentiate between Jews and Lithuanians, Jews and Poles, Jews and Hungarians.

“The number of Jews who could be identified from traditional ultra-Orthodox clothing was relatively small. The vast majority looked like everyone else in their neighborhood. Without the help of the local population, no Holocaust could have happened. So, this is a denial of what happened, a distortion,” Bauer pointed out.

Back in April 2017, Bauer dismissed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's assertion that the Allies could have saved four million Jews from the Holocaust if they had bombed Nazi death camps from 1942.

"This is utter nonsense. There is absolutely no truth in this," he said at the time, emphasizing that the combined Anglo-American air forces were incapable of reaching any destination east of Berlin and the Elbe River until early 1944.

"The reason for that is simple: The Anglo-American bombers had no fighter escort that could reach those distances," the historian highlighted.

"There was no possibility whatsoever of reaching the places where Jews were being killed until [early] 1944," he said back then.

“If the Palestinian Authority decided to confront Israel and let the people resist on their own, I think we can expect a new Intifada.”

the Israeli vision, the Zionist regime would not have actually dared to take such a step.

The Arab countries are an essential part of the “deal of the century,” and the annexation comes in this context, and it is not separate from this deal. There are some distinct stances, but they are fragile. One of these positions which may affect the American administration is Jordan’s position, but can Jordan continue to oppose the annexation plan?

In my opinion, it will not be able to continue. The question is that can Jordan cancel the peace agreement or at least overlook some provisions of the peace process? I think it is not easy because of its relationship with the international community and U.S. influence and its miserable internal economic situation. In the best condition Jordan can allow a flow of arms to Palestinian factions in the West Bank.

Nevertheless, the annexation plan will eliminate the possibility of forming a Palestinian state, and Jordan will bear the burden of displaced Palestinians from the West Bank in the future.

Although it has been said that the annexation is partial in this phase, on the strategic level, Israel will not give up a single inch in the West Bank due to (the so-called) religious and strategic considerations. In fact, it will not allow the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The alternative is displacing the Palestinians and forcing them to go to Jordan. In this case, Jordan will face a big problem.

So Jordan's opposition comes from this point of view. But can it stand alone? In my opinion, it will not be able to stand alone.

The Arab reality is catastrophic, and this provided a window and opportunity for Israel to take advantage of some influential Arab countries to pass the annexation plan. If not for the Arab collusion, it would not have passed this plan.

this plan.

By Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela

Israel's lobbyists - both in South Africa and around the world - have resurrected my grandfather as a liberal pacifist who benevolently made peace with his enemies. To reduce the life of Rolihlahla (Nelson Mandela's middle name, meaning "the uprooter") to peace-maker and reconciler is a deliberate distortion of his legacy.

President Mandela lived up to his middle name. He was a revolutionary, intellectual, and freedom fighter. His life was dedicated to resisting oppression and restoring dignity. The oppressor determined the form of resistance that he advocated. "It is useless and futile for us to continue talking peace and non-violence against a government whose reply is only savage attacks," Mandela warned in May 1961, seven months before he became the first commander of the newly-formed armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC) called "uMkhonto we Sizwe" ('Spear of the Nation').

Yet, when Israel's supporters talk about Nelson Mandela, they focus exclusively on his message of dialogue and reconciliation. Consequently, the story of Madiba, as he was known, and South Africa's transition to democracy has been reduced to a fairy-tale of forgiveness, rather than a long, hard - often angry - chronicle of justice and freedom. Dialogue, forgiveness, and reconciliation must be put back into its proper context and place in Mandela's story and South Africa's history.

Mandela's cause was not peace and reconciliation; it was justice and liberation. Reconciliation and forgiveness only came after liberation was achieved. Before that, Madiba considered any kind of "reconciliation" with the oppressor as submission and a weapon of co-optation to blunt the liberation movement.

Mandela's cause was not peace and reconciliation; it was justice and liberation. Reconciliation and forgiveness only came after liberation was achieved. Before that, Madiba considered any kind of "reconciliation" with the oppressor as submission and a weapon of co-optation to blunt the liberation movement.

South Africa's allies in the global anti-apartheid movement also never asked us to make peace with our oppressors before our liberation was achieved. Asking South Africans to engage in dialogue with the apartheid government within the context of a brutal

Mandela the Forgiver is especially adored by Israel's lobbyists. They love recounting how he earned the trust of his enemies and had tea with Betsie Verwoerd, the widow of apartheid's architect, Hendrik Verwoerd. Israel's apologists want the world to believe as soon as Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was released, he abandoned the armed struggle and quietly entered into negotiations with the apartheid government, having no demands or pre-conditions. "Even after 27 years in prison, when he was released, Mandela offered dialogue, not violence," says South African writer, Benjamin Pogrand. This is not the reality.

On the day he was released from prison, Nelson Mandela said: "The factors which necessitated the armed struggle still exist today. We have no option but to continue. We express the hope that a climate conducive to a negotiated settlement will be created soon so that there may no longer be the need for the armed struggle."

Mandela did not enter into negotiations while Black South Africans were violently dispossessed and persecuted, or while our liberation leaders were being imprisoned, tortured, and assassinated. "The carrying on of negotiations and rhetoric on peace while at the same time the government is conducting a war against us is a position we cannot accept," Madiba declared at the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) in September 1990.

There were basic conditions that needed to be met before Mandela began negotiations. These included an end to the dispossession and state-sponsored violence against Black South Africans, the release of political prisoners, and the return of exiles. When Palestinians ask for the same conditions before they come to the negotiation table, they are called unreasonable and stubborn.

Israel's advocates have convinced themselves that Palestinians are the opposite of what Mandela stood for. Whenever Palestinians resist Israeli co-option, they are told that Madiba would never have behaved like that. In their mind, Mandela - unlike Yasser Arafat -

In their imagination, Nelson Mandela - unlike Mahmood Abbas - would have agreed to Ehud Olmert's 2008 secret Palestinian Bantustan deal that was hastily scribbled on a napkin. The Madiba that they have created would never have rejected Israel's 'deal of a lifetime' of a demilitarized Palestinian state with its main centers severed from each other and Israel controlling movement between the Gaza Strip and West Bank, Palestinian airspace, economic and foreign policy, water resources, and borders.


The Mandela that exists in the heads of Israel's advocates was always willing to compromise justice and dignity. The real Mandela, however, rejected several "generous offers" from the apartheid government, including an early release if he renounced the armed struggle, surrendered his people's rights, and confined himself to the Transkei Bantustan.

Proponents of Mandela the Forgive'r forget that Madiba never conceded on any issue that would compromise his end-goal: The liberation of South Africans. During negotiations, he and his comrades - like the Palestinians - often chose no agreement over one that did not meet their bare minimum in terms of dignity and human rights.

Israel has never gone into peace talks in the last 20 years actually to negotiate with the Palestinians. It has used the peace process as a toy to keep Palestinians occupied (literally and figuratively) while it violently entrenches the occupation of the West Bank, and intensifies the siege on Gaza. But, as long as the “peace process” continued, Israel could silence the boycott calls. That will be more difficult to do now that Israeli leaders openly discuss annexation, admitting that there will never be a Palestinian state.

We need Nelson Mandela's legacy more than ever in Palestine-Israel - not to preach about forgiveness and reconciliation - but to craft political solutions rooted in justice and dignity. The greatest lesson that Israel and its supporters can learn from Nelson Mandela's life is that peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation will only come when all people enjoy justice, freedom, and dignity.

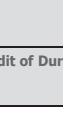
Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, MP, is the chief of the Mvezo Traditional Council and the grandson of Nelson Mandela.



N.I.O.C
1399.1941

Second Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)
Two Stages (semi compressed) tender
Subject of Tender: (LINER PIPES 5")



**National Iranian
Drilling Company**

*** Tender descriptions:**

holder Tender The	Registration system tendering electronic national through No	Tender No /Indent No/	Estimated value (Rial)
Iranian National Drilling Company	10174912	TenderNo. PFP/GACH/98/003 Indent No: 48-22-9822006	46/161/000/000

*** Qualitative evaluation of tenderers**

Method

Based on minimum scoring (50) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.

*** Purchasing & Submitting**

by Distribution Document Tender Company	Distribution Place	Hail No.:316, 3th/floor, Foreign Procurement Dept. (DRILLING PROJECTS), National Iranian Drilling Company, After Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN 06134148329
	Submitting Method	account under Rials Iranian 190000 of amount the in Receipt Fund Bank original one Submitting • Shaba No.) 4001114004020491 number „Bank Central Iran Of „R.I by issued “Fund Centralized Incomes NIDC” of name in (IR520100004001114004020491 Tender receiving of purpose the for Request format Submitting • „Documents

Method Receiving Documents

	date Closing	„Purchasing of time last the after Days 14 •
	Address	H Hail NO.107,1st floor,Tender committee, Operation building, National „IRAN „Ahwaz „square Airport „Company Drilling Iranian 34148569-61-98+ 34148580-61-98+ :Tel

*** Tender Guarantee**

guarantee of Value	Euro 15,932 /Rial 2,310,000,000
guarantee of Type	„non by issued guarantees or guarantees Bank ✓ „Iran of Republic Islamic the of bank central the from license activity obtain that institutions bank Shaba) 4001114006376636 number account under Receipt Fund Bank original one Submitting ✓ „NIDC saving account” by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran” of name in (IR350100004001114006376636 No „Iran of Republic Islamic of bank central the by “account saving NIDC”
quotation & credit of Duration	„duration validity initial in time one for maximum extendable and days 90 for valid be should and quotation Guarantee Tender

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

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تهران تایمز نوبت دوم ۹۹/۴/۲۹

Tourism projects worth \$3.8b underway in Khorasan Razavi

➔ 1 The occupancy rate of hotels in Khorasan Razavi, one of Iran's giant travel destinations, has plummeted to 10 percent, ILNA quoted Abolfazl Mokaramifar, the provincial tourism chief, as saying earlier this month.



A view of the holy shrine complex of Imam Reza (AS) where the eighth Shia Imam is laid to rest in Mashhad, northeast Iran.

Before the coronavirus puts almost everything on lockdown, Mashhad, played host to thousands of travelers and pilgrims who come from various Iranian cities, neighboring countries, and even across the globe to visit the holy shrine.

According to official statistics, some 37 million Iranian pilgrims and travelers visited the shrine city of Mashhad during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year 1398 (started on March 21, 2019). Of whom some eight million came by road, six million by rail, 3.8 million by air, and 18 million by private cars.

Visit Tchogha Tappe, an ancient hill with 360-degree view of city in Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – The ancient Tchogha Tappe (meaning Tchogha Hill) is one of the tourist attractions in Borujerd, the capital of western Lorestan province, which provides tourists with a 360-degree view of the city.

It holds the potential to become one of the country's tourism hubs as well, ISNA quoted Hossein Arbabi, the director of the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as saying on Friday.

Promoting Tchogha Tappe as a tourist destination can lead to sustainable employment as well as more investment by the private sector, the official added.

Located west of Borujerd, the hill is a rich resource of volcanic rocks, wild plants, and small animals.

According to locals, there was a fire temple on top of this hill that was a place of worship for the ancient people.

Historical relics, dating back to the Parthian era, were unearthed during excavations carried out on the hill in 2017.

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.

Beyond Iran's tourist attractions: the people and places to visit in Iran

By Pashmina Binwani

(Part 3/8)

When I posted a public announcement on Couchsurfing, Niloo reached out to me quickly. She used to study in Malaysia for a couple of years and was excited to reconnect with Malaysians who had come to Iran. After exchanging our contact information, Niloo gladly offered to show us the hidden gems of Tehran. She brought us to the Niavaran historial complex where the (last) Shah of Iran used to live before the (1979) Islamic Revolution.

It was a stunning and beautiful place where we could see the rich Iranians dressed to the nines and speaking perfect English at the garden cafe. The Autumn trees and lush greenery made it hard to believe that I was in Iran. It made me feel quite at home. Who knew that besides the crazy eight-lane highways and Tehran's polluted cities that were trees this beautiful and enchanting?



A view of the Niavaran historial complex in northern Tehran

We spoke about her adventures from Malaysia to Iran and her next step in life. For a lot of Iranians, a degree is not enough, it was always what's next after that. During my encounters, I met countless Ph.D. holders, mathematicians who continued their ambition to achieve the highest qualifications despite the restricted job growth in the country, compounded by the international sanctions.

■ **Heading towards the "Silicon Valley" of Iran, Pardis Technology Park**

Just 20km outside of Tehran's metropolitan area lies Pardis Technology Park, as referred to by my host Mostafa "The Silicon Valley of Tehran". A newly planned city with about 200,000 inhabitants and thousands of other engineers and IT consultants.

We were invited by Mostafa to visit his town and learn more about the outskirts of Tehran. As he had a busy shift to attend to, he outsourced his hospitable duties to his friend who had just finished the midnight shift and was ready to show us his village, Aru in the central district of Damavand county.

Persepolis director explains about temporary restoration of World Heritage

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – The director of the UNESCO-registered site of Persepolis has said that using cement and bricks in restoring the entrance stairs of the world heritage site was a temporary solution to prevent further damage to the site.

Due to the recent heavy rains, different areas and palaces in the site were in danger of flowing surface water, so that leveling and sloping the floors were necessary, CHTN quoted Hamid Fadai as saying on Saturday.

However, it was not possible to form a technical council to reach a suitable plan and solution for a fine restoration, due to the coronavirus lockdown, therefore a temporary solution was substituted, he added.

During the temporary restoration project, no stone was moved, no wall was affected, and no work was done on the underlying layers and all the work can be removed within an hour, he noted.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars Province.

The royal city of Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

The city's immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

This 13-ha ensemble of majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne rooms (Apadana), reception rooms, and dependencies is classified among the



Located in southern Iran, Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

world's greatest archaeological sites.

The terrace is a grandiose architectural creation, with its double flight of access stairs, walls covered by sculpted friezes at various levels, contingent Assyrianesque propylaea (monumental gateway), gigantic sculpted winged bulls, and remains of large halls.

By carefully engineering lighter roofs and using wooden lintels, the Achaemenid architects were able to use a minimal number of astonishingly slender columns

to support open area roofs. Columns were topped with elaborate capitals; typical was the double-bull capital where, resting on double volutes, the forequarters of two kneeling bulls, placed back-to-back, extend their coupled necks and their twin heads directly under the intersections of the beams of the ceiling.

Persepolis was the seat of the government of the Achaemenid Empire, though it was designed primarily to be a showplace and spectacular center for

the receptions and festivals of the kings and their empire.

The terrace of Persepolis continues to be, as its founder Darius would have wished, the image of the Achaemenid monarchy itself, the summit where likenesses of the king reappear unceasingly, here as the conqueror of a monster, there carried on his throne by the downtrodden enemy, and where lengthy cohorts of sculpted warriors and guards, dignitaries, and tribute bearers parade endlessly.

Millennia-old coins recovered from antique dealers in Tehran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – Iranian authorities have confiscated 750 coins, which are estimated to date back to the 1st millennium BC, from illegal antique dealers in Tehran province.

"750 historical coins, related to 3,000 years ago, along with an old book have recently been seized from a gang of illegal antique dealers in Tehran. And, the relics are now being examined by cultural heritage experts," ISNA quoted a senior Tehran police official Keyvan Zahiri as saying on Saturday.

"Upon receiving a report, the police started the investigation of a 70-year-old father with two of his 47 and 37-year-old children living in one of the neighboring provinces of Tehran, together with two of their accomplices living in Tehran, who were formed a five-member gang to sell gold and antique coins."

"Preliminary investigations indicated that the father and his three sons were discovering



File photo depicts daric coin of the Achaemenid Empire (Darius I to Xerxes II)

gold and antique coins by the means of metal and gold detectors and unauthorized exca-

vations in one of the neighboring provinces of Tehran province, and after identifying the

Rare Mandaean bowls put on show at Tehran museum

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – A select of rare bowls belonged to ancient Mandaean followers dating from 4th to 7th centuries CE are on show at an online exhibition in Tehran.

The Glass and Ceramic Museum of Iran (commonly known as Abgineh) has organized the event concurrent with the Mandaean New Year that fell on July 16 this year, IRIB reported on Saturday.

The manuscript written on these earthenware bowls shows they were used in religious rituals of the Mandaean followers, the report added.

According to Encyclopedia Iranica, the Mandaeans must have arrived in Iran from the west (i.e., Jordan, Palestine) as early as the 1st and 2nd centuries CE.

The Mandaeans, whose official designation by their Iranian and Iraqi



neighbors is "Sabeans" ("dippers," "dyers," "baptizers"), call themselves "Mandaeans" ("the knowledgeable ones").

Today, the Mandaeans, whose population in Iran is estimated at 14,000 persons, are found chiefly in Khuzestan's capital city of Ahwaz.

Qom to promote lesser-known tourist attractions

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – The tourism department general of Qom province plans to promote unknown or lesser-known tourist sites with the aim of introducing tourism capacities of the province, CHTN reported.

The tastes of different people are taken into account in this regard, and new tourist attractions vary from religious, historical, and cultural sites to natural sights, provincial tourism chief Alireza Moradi said on Thursday.

He also noted that almost 400 properties across the province have been inscribed on the National Heritage List.

The country's second-holiest city after Mashhad, Qom is home to both the magnificent shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and the major religious madrasas (schools).

Apart from sightseers and pilgrims



who visit Qom to pay homage at the holy shrine, the city is also a top destination for Shiite scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

Choram historical fortress undergoes urgent restoration

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Choram historical fortress in southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province has undergone urgent restoration, a provincial tourism official has said.

A budget of 700 million rials (about \$17,000) has been allocated to the project, which aims to repair and strengthen the fortress, Majid Safai said on Saturday, CHTN reported.

Dating back to the Islamic era, the fortress was inscribed on the National Heritage List in 2002.

From ancient to modern times, defensive walls have often been necessary for cities to survive in an ever-changing world of invasion and conquest.

Fortresses were designed primarily to defend territories in warfare, and were also used to solidify rule in a region



during peacetime.

Many of the fortifications of the ancient world were built with mud brick, often leaving them no more than mounds of dirt for today's archaeologists.

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

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

Iran ranks first worldwide in narcotics seizure

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Iran seized some 1,000 tons of narcotics in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 20), putting the country in the first place in the world, said Eskandar Momeni, the director of headquarters for the fight against narcotics.

This rate of discovery has been the highest in the history of Iran and the world, he stated, IRIB reported on Saturday.

He went on to say that last year has been a brilliant year in terms of drug trafficking control in Iran.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, he said.

The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran, he said.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in the drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.



Iran's drug control efforts led to the seizure of 266 tons of different types of drugs during the period of April-June 2020, a 20 percent increase compared to the same period in 2019.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in Iran, Drug Control Headquarters provided and distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other sanitary commodities

among street users and NGOs working with drug users.

In the end, the anti-narcotic police and law enforcement of Iran held a burning ceremony of 90 tons of different types of drugs in provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman, and West Azarbaijan, televised through the internet.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979),

3,800 were martyred, 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking, Momeni announced.

Afghanistan produced only 200 tons of narcotics in 2000 and 2001, and now that number has risen to 9,000, which is caused by the support and encouragement of the U.S. and other countries in Afghanistan.

"With the set of good measures taken last year, the price of drugs inside the country increased," he highlighted.

If the price of drugs is cheap and available, the tendency to use them in society will increase, he concluded.

Drug use is a complex health and social problem worldwide, with half a million people dying each year as a result of drug abuse, he lamented, adding, drug use has entered a critical condition, and the international community is determined to tackle the global drug problem.

Hossein Rahimi, a police chief, has said three gangs of international drug trafficking have been recently disbanded in the capital city of Tehran, and 27 dealers were arrested, over 1 ton of narcotics was discovered.

Since the beginning of this year (March 21), 163 international traffickers were arrested and 6 tons of drugs were seized, he noted, adding, police detections of drugs have increased by 25 percent compared to the same period last year.

Air conditioning curbs could save years' worth of emissions: study

Up to eight years' worth of global greenhouse gas emissions could be prevented over the next four decades by setting tougher standards for air conditioning, according to a study.

It found that improving the energy efficiency of cooling systems by using climate-friendly refrigerants could remove emissions equivalent to between 210bn and 460bn tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2060, the Guardian reported.

The peer-reviewed analysis by the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) found that cutting the use of climate-warming refrigerants such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) alone could help avoid up to 0.4C of global warming by the end of the century.

Doubling the energy efficiency of air conditioning by 2050 would cut electricity use by 1,300 gigawatts, the equivalent of all the coal-fired power generation capacity in China and India in 2018, saving up to \$2.9tn in electricity costs.

More efficient air conditioning would have other benefits too, according to the report, such as better access to life-saving cooling equipment for medicines and vaccines, improved air quality and reduced food loss and waste.

According to the report, an estimated 3.6bn cooling appliances are in use worldwide, and this could rise to 14bn by 2050 if cooling is provided to everybody who needs it rather than just those who can afford it.

Growing demand for cooling is contributing significantly to climate change by producing HFCs and carbon dioxide and often relying on electricity generated by fossil fuels. That demand is expected to grow faster in the years ahead in response to steadily rising global temperatures, creating a vicious circle of global heating.

Carbon emissions from the global energy industry in 2018 rose at the fastest rate in almost a decade, after extreme weather and surprise swings in global temperatures stoked the fastest increase in gas demand for 30 years.

The Unep/IEA report calls for action from governments to tackle the climate impacts of cooling as they roll out stimulus packages to deal with the economic and social impacts of the Covid-19 crisis.

It calls for all countries to adopt an amendment to the Montreal protocol, an international environmental treaty agreed in 2016 that calls for a drastic reduction in HFCs and was agreed in 2016.

Inger Andersen, Unep's executive director, said climate-friendly cooling could help protect the natural environment and even reduce the risk of future pandemics while preventing runaway carbon emissions.

Dr Fatih Birol, the IEA's executive director, said the Covid-19 pandemic offered governments "a unique opportunity to accelerate progress in efficient, climate-friendly cooling", which he said was "one of the most effective tools governments have to meet energy and environmental objectives".

He added: "By improving cooling efficiency, they can reduce the need for new power plants, cut emissions and save consumers money."

Pandemic shows climate has never been treated as crisis, say scientists

Greta Thunberg and some of the world's leading climate scientists have written to EU leaders demanding they act immediately to avoid the worst impacts of the unfolding climate and ecological emergency.

The letter, which is being sent before a European council meeting starting on Friday, says the Covid-19 pandemic has shown that most leaders are able to act swiftly and decisively, but the same urgency had been missing in politicians' response to the climate crisis, the Guardian reported.

"It is now clearer than ever that the climate crisis has never once been treated as a crisis, neither from the politicians, media, business nor finance. And the longer we keep pretending that we are on a reliable path to lower emissions and that the actions required to avoid a climate disaster are available within today's system ... the more precious time we will lose," it says.

The EU unveiled its green new deal proposal this year, aiming to transform the bloc from a high to a low-carbon economy without reducing prosperity and while improving people's quality of life, through cleaner air and water, better health and a thriving natural world.

But the authors of the letter dismiss its target of net zero emissions by 2050 as dangerously unambitious. "Net zero emissions by 2050 for the EU – as well as for other financially fortunate parts of the world – equals surrender," they say.

They add that the target is based on a carbon budget that gives only a 50% chance of limiting global heating to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, the figure set out in the 2015 Paris agreement.

"That is just a statistical flip of a coin, which doesn't even include some of the key factors such as the global aspect of equity, most tipping points and feedback loops, as well

as already built in additional warming hidden by toxic air pollution. So in reality it is much less than a 50% chance."

The letter also argues that the climate and ecological emergency can only be addressed by tackling the underlying "social and racial injustices and oppression that have laid the foundations of our modern world".

It says the EU, with its political and economic clout, has a moral obligation to lead the fight to create a fair and more sustainable world.

"We understand and know very well that the world is complicated and that what we are asking for may not be easy. The changes necessary to safeguard humanity may seem very unrealistic. But it is much more unrealistic to believe that our society would be able to survive the global heating we're heading for, as well as other disastrous ecological consequences of today's business as usual."

Iran hosting world's largest, most protracted refugee situations: UNHCR



SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Republic of Iran is host to one of the largest and most protracted urban refugee situations in the world and has provided asylum to refugees for four decades.

The latest official government statistics in 2014, there are 951,142 Afghan refugees and 28,268 Iraqi refugees living in Iran. Many of the refugees living in Iran are second and third generation, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

About 97 percent of refugees live in urban and semi-urban areas, while 3 percent are residing in 20 refugee resorts run by the UNHCR's main government counterpart, the Interior Ministry's Office for Citizens and Foreign Immigrants.

In addition to Afghan refugees, there are about 2.5 million Afghans living in Iran, including those having a passport and undocumented Afghans. 450,000 Afghan who did not have identity cards or birth certificates have received Iranian visas that allow them to live, work or study in the country.

In addition, in an effort to organize undocumented Afghans, the government in 2017 conducted a census of a specific group of undocumented Afghans living in Iran and for more than 804,000 undocumented individuals were registered.

The legal status of refugees is defined by two international instruments, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 annex. Iran, subject to the provisions of Articles 17 (for-profit employment), 23 (government charity), 24 (Labor and Social Insurance Laws) and 25 (Freedom of Movement) on July 28, 1967, joined both the 1951 Convention and the Protocol 1967.

In recent years, however, the government has been able to gradually introduce strategic policies for refugees and provide more rights to the people of Afghanistan and Iraq living in Iran, and to provide access to basic educational, health, and livelihood services to refugees with minimal financial assistance from the international community.

■ Afghan refugees receive free treatment amid coronavirus

Iran ramped up its production of essential medical equipment, and independent entrepreneurs – refugees included – have redirected their efforts towards contrib-

uting to the national COVID-19 response.

However, the coronavirus shows no sign of abating and, with a socio-economic environment placed under additional strain, Iran needs more support to be able to help the increasing number of people affected by the virus, including refugees.

There are close to one million refugees in Iran and 1.5-2 million undocumented Afghans who have access to free primary health services and similarly free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like nationals.

In Iran, UNHCR is seeking \$16.2 million for its COVID-19 emergency, while requires an additional \$98.7 million to support Iran in maintaining and sustaining its commendable inclusive refugee policies, under the umbrella of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).

■ Supports for Afghan refugees in Iran

Iran spends about 20 trillion rials (nearly \$477 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) every year on the education of foreign national students residing in the country, head of the international affairs department of the Ministry of Education Gholamreza Karimi said in March.

Over 474,000 Afghan national children are receiving education in Iran completely free of charge, he added.

Out of 970,000 foreigners (men and women) in working-age of 15 to 60 years, some 36,000 are under social insurance coverage in the country, head of Social Security Organization's department for foreign nationals Ahmad Reza Khazaei said in July 2018.

Iran is host to one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations worldwide.

■ Refugees in the world

The COVID-19 pandemic and the recent anti-racism protests have shown us how desperately we need to fight for a more inclusive and equal world: a world where no one is left behind. It has never been clearer that all of us have a role to play in order to bring about change.

Every minute 20 people leave everything behind to escape war, persecution or terror. There are several types of forcibly displaced persons, including, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, stateless persons, returnees.

Refugees are among the most vulnerable people in the world. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol help protect them. They are the only global legal instruments explicitly covering the most important aspects of a refugee's life. According to their provisions, refugees deserve, as a minimum, the same standards of treatment enjoyed by other foreign nationals in a given country and, in many cases, the same treatment as nationals.

The 1951 Convention contains a number of rights and also highlights the obligations of refugees towards their host country. The cornerstone of the 1951 Convention is the principle of non-refoulement. According to this principle, a refugee should not be returned to a country where he or she faces serious threats to his or her life or freedom. This protection may not be claimed by refugees who are reasonably regarded as a danger to the security of the country, or having been convicted of a particularly serious crime, are considered a danger to the community.



Respect everyone, even enemies

The gardener had named his dog after the U.S. president. When he found out, he became angry and said: "It is true that he is our enemy and we do not like him, but he is a human being. Never name an animal after a human," he suggested.

Erdogan says Egypt’s actions in Libya are ‘illegal’

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has denounced Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for supporting forces based in eastern Libya, after Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi met Libyan tribesmen who urged Cairo to intervene in the war.

Turkey has been providing military aid to the United Nations-recognized government in the Libya conflict, while Egypt, the UAE and Russia have backed its foes in a rival administration based in the east.

Recent weeks have seen dramatic military advances by the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA), which drove back forces of the eastern renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar who had launched an assault on Tripoli last year, al Jazeera reported.

Eastern-based legislators called this week for Egypt to intervene in the conflict. El-Sisi met Libyan tribesmen on Thursday and said Egypt would not stand idle in the face of a direct threat to Egyptian and Libyan security.

Asked about the possibility of Egyptian intervention, Erdogan said on Friday Turkey would maintain its support for the GNA. “Steps taken by Egypt here, especially their siding with the putschist Haftar, show they are in an illegal process,” he said. He also described the approach of the UAE as “piratical”.

El-Sisi said last month Egypt’s army might enter Libya if the Tripoli government and its Turkish allies renewed an assault on the central Sirte-Jufrah front line, seen as the gateway to Libya’s main oil export terminals, now held by Haftar’s allies.

Nantes cathedral fire ruins organ, shatters stained glass

A major fire broke out in the cathedral in the western French city of Nantes on Saturday, blowing out stained glass windows and destroying the grand organ in the 15th-century building, officials said.

Prosecutor Pierre Sennes told reporters three fires had been started at the site and authorities were treating the incident as a criminal act. He gave no other details< al Jazeera reported.

Dozens of firefighters brought the fire under control after several hours. Smoke was still coming out of the Gothic structure after massive flames earlier engulfed the inside.

“The damage is concentrated on the organ, which seems to be completely destroyed. Its platform is very unstable and could collapse,” regional fire chief General Laurent Ferlay told a press briefing in front of the cathedral.

U.S. officials have ‘gone mad’ in dealing with China: Beijing

China says U.S. officials have “lost their minds and gone mad” in dealing with Beijing, in the strongest verbal reaction from China to the ratcheting up of tensions by Washington.

“These people, for self-interest and political gain, do not hesitate to hijack domestic public opinion... to the point where they have lost their minds and gone mad,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying said during a daily news briefing in Beijing on Friday.

Earlier, U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr had accused Beijing of mounting an “aggressive” campaign to gain top economic status.

“The People’s Republic of China is now engaged in an economic blitzkrieg — an aggressive, orchestrated, whole-of-government and indeed whole-of-society campaign to seize the commanding heights of the global economy and to surpass the United States as the world’s preeminent superpower,” Barr said in a speech on Thursday.

Hua said Barr had misread China’s intentions. “A sparrow cannot understand the ambition of a swan,” she said. “This is a serious misjudgment and misunderstanding of China’s strategic intent.”

But she said China had no intention of challenging or replacing the United States, expressing hope that Washington could “return to rationality” in its China policy.

Resistance News

Father Musallam calls for defending Aqsa Mosque against occupation

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN**— Father Manuel Musallam, a noted Palestinian priest and head of the World Popular Organization for Jerusalem Justice and Peace, has urged the Arab and Muslim nations to protect the Aqsa Mosque against the Israeli occupation.

“Do not let the Aqsa Mosque become a martyr because of you and your idleness and do not allow your enemy to occupy Bab al-Rahma (one of the Aqsa Mosque’s prayer areas) in order to take over the Aqsa Mosque and the holy Dome of the Rock and defile our spiritual glory,” Father Musallam said in recent press remarks.

“Bab al-Rahma is the gate of glory and dignity for our Arab and Muslim peoples today,” the priest said, calling for firmly standing up in the face of the occupation and preventing it from imposing its control over the Aqsa Mosque’s gates.

“Those whose hearts are not attached to the Aqsa Mosque have no place among our Arab nation. They have no Islam or Arab identity,” he added.

Hamas slams Google and Apple for removing Palestine from their maps

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN**— The Hamas Movement on Friday has condemned Google and Apple for removing Palestine from their international maps, describing the step as a bias in favor of the Israeli occupation state and against relevant international resolutions.

“Such step constitutes a bias in favor of the Zionist occupation’s side of the story and a denial of historical facts,” Hamas spokesman Hazem Qasem stated in a press release on Friday.

Spokesman Qasem also said that the removal of Palestine from international maps would encourage the Israeli occupation to persist in violating the international law.

“This behavior violates international and humanitarian laws and decisions,” the spokesman emphasized.

On Thursday, a Russian news Twitter page called AS-Source News revealed that Google and Apple erased Palestine from their map services.

France to probe Abu Dhabi crown prince over torture accusations in Yemen

French authorities are opening an investigation into allegations that Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has been complicit in acts of torture in Yemen, where the UAE, along with Saudi Arabia and its allies, has been waging a years-long bloody war.

Citing multiple sources with knowledge of the case, AFP reported on Friday that a French investigating magistrate had been mandated to take on the probe.

Bin Zayed is deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces and a close ally of Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

An initial inquiry was launched against bin Zayed last October after two complaints were filed during his visit to Paris in November 2018.

Six Yemenis had lodged a complaint with a judge specializing in crimes against humanity in Paris over acts of torture committed in UAE-run detention centers in Yemen.

The complaint alleges that bin Zayed is likely to have provided the “means and orders for these violations to be carried out”.

“My clients welcome the opening of this probe and have great hope in French justice,” said lawyer Joseph Brehm representing the six Yemenis.

The United Arab Emirates is Saudi Arabia’s key partner in its devastating war on Yemen, which began in March 2015 with the arms support from certain Western countries.

The purported aim was to return to power a Riyadh-backed former regime and defeat the popular Houthi Ansarullah movement that took control of state matters after the resignation of the then president and his government.

According to Press TV, besides playing a significant part in aerial assaults and deploying troops to Yemen, the UAE has been training militants fighting on the ground against the Yemeni armed forces and allied fighters.

Additionally, the UAE is running secret prisons in Yemen’s southern regions, which are mostly occupied by Abu



Dhabi-backed separatists.

The United Nations refers to the situation in Yemen as the world’s worst humanitarian crisis as the war has

killed tens of thousands of Yemenis and left 80 percent of the impoverished state’s 29 million people dependent on aid for survival.ed

UK policeman kneels on neck of black man in London

London’s Metropolitan Police suspended an officer on Friday for kneeling on a Black man’s neck after footage of the incident went viral on social media.

The two-minute video showed two police officers restraining a Black man, with one of the police officers kneeling on the man’s neck for several seconds. The man can be heard shouting “get off my neck.”

The police announced that they had suspended one officer and removed another from operational duty. They referred the incident to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

The incident took place on Thursday in north London. Police said the man was arrested on suspicion of affray and possession of an offensive weapon.

Deputy Commissioner Steve House said: “The video footage that I have seen today and is circulating on social media is extremely disturbing. I understand that many viewing the footage will share my concern.

“The man involved was arrested, taken to a police station and has now been seen by a police doctor. Some of the techniques used cause me great concern — they are not taught in police training.

“We have quickly assessed the incident, including the body-worn video footage from the officers and their statements and justification for their use of force. As a result



we have referred the matter to the IOPC.

“One officer has been suspended and another officer has been removed from operational duty, but not suspended at this time. This decision will be kept under review.”

According to Anadolu, London Mayor Sadiq Khan said: “I welcome the fact the incident has been reviewed quickly by the Met and it’s right that they have referred it to the Independent Office for Police Conduct. I look forward to a swift and thorough independent investigation, with all decisions made public. It’s crucial our police service continues to earn the trust of the communities it serves.”

Black Lives Matter gained momentum in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man in police custody in the U.S.

Floyd, 46, died after being pinned down May 25 by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota after reportedly attempting to use a counterfeit \$20 bill.

Israel’s Gantz wants annexation plan shelved

Israel’s prime minister-in-waiting and ruling coalition partner Benny Gantz reportedly wants a plan by current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to annex parts of the occupied West Bank and the Jordan Valley shelved.

Netanyahu had set July 1 as the date for the start of cabinet discussions on the annexation plan. But those discussions did not begin, amid openly expressed differences between Netanyahu and key members of his cabinet.

Netanyahu has been driven ahead by President Donald Trump of the United States, who unveiled a plan for the Middle East (west Asia) in January that effectively sidelines the Palestinians.

Last month, Gantz, who heads the Blue and White

party and is serving currently as the Israeli minister of military affairs, suggested that the annexation plan should be postponed while Israel is dealing with the coronavirus outbreak.

Two Israeli cabinet ministers said on Friday that Gantz called for the shelving of the annexation plan and focusing instead on improving conditions for settlers, Reuters reported.

Netanyahu and his former election rival Gantz struck a deal in April to form a joint cabinet, averting what would have been a fourth consecutive Israeli election due to failed attempts to form a coalition in just over a year.

According to Press TV, under the three-year coalition pact, Netanyahu will be prime minister for 18 months and

Gantz will replace him afterwards.

Alon Schuster, Israel’s agriculture minister and a member of Gantz’s party, said on Friday that he was working to achieve “cultivation and not annexation, now” for West Bank farmers.

“We need to bring water to the Jordan Valley — for both the Israelis and the Palestinians who live there, by the way — and to improve electricity,” Schuster told Tel Aviv radio station 102 FM, according to Reuters.

Another minister from Blue and White said this was also Gantz’ approach, and that the party chief believed that working on West Bank infrastructure shared by settlers and Palestinians would match Trump’s plan.

‘Abuse of federal law’: Remove troops, Portland mayor tells Trump

→ 1 “Once CBP agents approached the suspect, a large and violent mob moved towards their location. For everyone’s safety, CBP agents quickly moved the suspect to a safer location,” the agency said. However, the video shows no mob.

■ Blatant abuse of power

Meanwhile, another video showed an officer shoving away medics trying to aid someone. And still, another showed a protester bleeding profusely from his head after federal troops allegedly shot him with a weapon firing non-lethal munitions.

Portland protester Conner O’Shea said agents chased him in an unmarked vehicle on Wednesday while walking with his friend Mark Pettibone back to their cars.

“I know they’re looking for people that are doing graffiti and laser pointing,” he said. “We haven’t done any of that, which makes it all the scarier.”

Oregon Public Broadcasting reported that federal officers have charged at least 13 people with crimes related to the protests so far. Some had been detained by the federal court, which has been the scene of protests.

But others were grabbed blocks away.

Kate Brown, governor of Oregon, of which Portland is the largest city, called the deployment of federal troops “a blatant abuse of power by the federal government”.

“This political theater from President Trump has nothing to do with public safety,” Brown wrote on Twitter, adding that Trump was looking for a confrontation in the hopes of winning political points elsewhere.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said she would file a lawsuit in federal court against the DHS, the CBP, the Marshals Service and the Federal Protection Service alleging they have violated the civil rights of Oregonians by detaining them without probable cause.

Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Oregon said the federal agents appear to be violating citizens’ rights, which “should concern everyone in the United States”.

“Usually when we see people in unmarked cars forcibly grab someone off the street, we call it kidnapping,” said Jann Carson, interim executive director of ACLU, Oregon. “The actions of the militarized federal

officers are flat-out unconstitutional and will not go unanswered.”

■ Violent anarchists

Oregon’s two senators and two of its House members announced they will also be asking the DHS inspector general, as well as the U.S. Department of Justice, to investigate “the unrequested presence and violent actions of federal forces in Portland”.

“It’s painfully clear this administration is focused purely on escalating violence without answering my repeated requests for why this expeditionary force is in Portland and under what constitutional authority,” Democratic Senator Ron Wyden said.

Acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf, who visited Portland on Thursday, released a statement that included a list of incidents DHS officers had faced since late May in Portland and praised them in a series of tweets on Friday.

“These valiant men and women have defended our institutions of justice against violent anarchists for 48 straight days,” he wrote. He added that DHS officers had been “assaulted with lasers and frozen water bottles” and two officers had been injured.

On Thursday night, federal officers deployed tear gas and fired non-lethal rounds into a crowd of protesters, hours after Wolf visited the city. A few hundred people gathered near the federal court while other protesters went to a police station in another part of the city.

Police told protesters to leave that site after announcing they heard some chanting about burning down the building. Protester Paul Frazier said on Friday the chant was “much more rhetorical than an actual statement”.

Portland police said Friday they wound up arresting 20 people overnight.

Homeland Security acting Deputy Secretary Ken Cuccinelli said Friday morning on U.S. TV show, Fox & Friends, that the federal government has a responsibility to protect buildings such as the court.

“What we’ve seen around the country is where responsible policing is advanced, violence recedes,” Cuccinelli said.

“And Portland hasn’t gotten that memo. Nor have a lot of other cities. And the president is determined to do what we can, within our jurisdiction, to help restore peace to these beleaguered cities.”



With school set to resume in a few weeks, local officials across the country have announced a variety of plans to resume teaching.

■ Trump says won’t order masks

California Governor Gavin Newsom, who until now has allowed school districts in the nation’s most populous state to set their own policies, said on Friday schools could reopen only in counties that for 14 days have stayed off a worsening trends watch list.

As of Friday, 30 of the state’s 58 counties were on the list and schools there must remain closed. Among them are Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Diego counties, accounting for nearly 40% of the state’s population.

The United States has been averaging about 60,000 cases a day in July with cases rising in 41 states on Friday, based on a Reuters analysis. Texas and Arkansas reported a record number of deaths on Friday, while Kansas, Ohio, North Dakota and Puerto Rico reported record numbers of infections.

Iran volleyball to meet Poland in Tokyo 2020 opener

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran national volleyball team will start the Tokyo 2020 Olympic campaign, now replanted for 2021, with a match against Poland on July 24.

The full match schedule for the men's and women's volleyball tournaments at the Games has been confirmed, ahead of the ultimate sporting event of the planet due to be held in the Japanese capital from July 23 to August 8.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the International Olympic Committee and the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games earlier this year rescheduled the Games for 2021.

The volleyball schedule remains the same as originally planned for, though adjusted to the new dates of 2021.

The preliminary round matches will be held on alternate days for men and women, each day including six matches in three sessions of two.

As volleyball returns to the place where it made its Olympic debut in 1964, for the first time in history the competition will conclude with the women's final, on Sunday, August 8, just a few hours ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Closing Ceremony and one day after the men's gold is decided.

Iran have been drawn in Pool A along with Japan, Poland, Italy, Canada and Venezuela.

Pool B consists of Brazil, the U.S., Russia, Argentina, France and Tunisia.

Pool A Match Schedule:

24 July 2021: Iran v Poland
26 July 2021: Iran v Venezuela
28 July 2021: Iran v Canada
30 July 2021: Iran v Italy
1 August 2021: Iran v Japan



Shahrdari Bam crowned Iran's Women Football title



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — In a decision made by Iran Football League Organization, Shahrdari Bam were confirmed as champion of Kowsar Women Football League.

Shahrdari Bam were crowned the champions based on the classification of the table on points per game. Shahrdari Bam led the table with 54 points, six points above second-place Vochan Kordestan.

Shahrdari Sirjan also finished in third place with 41 points. The women league were postponed in November due to coronavirus outbreak and the football organizers decided to conclude the 2019-20 season.

The Kerman based football team have won the title for the third time in a row.

Shahrdari Bam are the most decorated football team in the Kowsar Women Football League with seven titles out of 12.

Ex-Iran weightlifter Ali Mirzaei passes away



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Former Iran weightlifter Ali Mirzaei passed away at the age of 91 on Saturday.

Mirzaei claimed a bronze medal at the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki in the 56kg weight category.

Mirzaei also won a silver medal at the 1951 World Weightlifting Championships in Milan and a bronze medal three years

later in Vienna.

He represented Iran at the 1951 Asian Games and claimed a silver medal.

Mirzaei's bust had been recently unveiled in Tehran's Hall of Fame.

He will be laid to rest in Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery on Sunday.

Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to Mirzaei's family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

Iranian wrestler Hossein Nouri lauds medical staff

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Hossein Nouri, who has recently recovered from Covid-19, believes that doctors and nurses are the heroes these days.

Nouri, who won gold medals at the 2017 and 2018 Asian Championships and 2018 Asian Games and placed third at the 2017 World Championships, has fully recovered from coronavirus more than a month after he was first diagnosed.

"By wearing a mask, observing social distance and following health protocols, the spread of coronavirus can be easily prevented," he advised the people.

The Iranian wrestler revealed that he was hospitalized in the intensive care unit (ICU) for nine days due to the

severity of his illness.

"Breathing was very difficult," he said. "I was in a terrible condition for a few days while I was in hospital, and I hope that no one will be infected with this dangerous virus and disease."

"Fortunately, my latest coronavirus test is negative and I've been told that I have no problem anymore, and I can start wrestling training this week," Nouri added.

He thanked all the people who supported him during his illness and emphasized the important role of the medical and health workers.

"Of course, the efforts of our country's doctors and nurses are great during this time, and in a way, they are our heroes these days," He concluded.

Tokyo Olympic venues lined up, schedule remains the same

The 42 venues for next year's delayed Tokyo Olympics have been secured and the competition schedule will remain almost identical to the one that would have been used this year.

The Athletes Village and the main press center have also been lined up for 2021.

That was the message delivered Friday to IOC members by Tokyo organizing committee president Yoshiro Mori and CEO Toshiro Muto.

They spoke from Japan to a full session of the IOC membership meeting online.

Estimates in Japan say the delay will cost \$2 billion to \$6 billion, with Japanese taxpayers picking up most of the bills. Olympic officials have not given any overall cost estimates, and have not specified the cost of renegotiating contracts for venues and other facilities.

"Now we have a mammoth task ahead of us," International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said Friday. "Organizing these postponed Olympic Games is very different from organizing Olympic Games in normal circumstances. Nobody knows today how the world will look in July and August of next year. This is why we have to prepare for multiple scenarios."

The opening ceremony for the Olympics will be on July 23, 2021. However, women's softball and soccer will open on July 21, men's soccer on July 22, and archery and rowing on July 23.

On July 24, the first full day after the opening, the first medal event will be the women's 10-meter air rifle.

Unlike the large, public celebration of a year ago, local organizers at the last minute have put together a more modest, non-public

event for Thursday inside the new \$1.43 billion national stadium to mark one year to go. Organizers have teased a possible appearance of the Olympic flame.

Mori said the flame, which arrived in Japan in March, was being stored and still burned in the Japanese capital. He said putting it on display at Japan's new Olympic museum was being planned "at a future date." He did not offer any specifics.

Mori, addressing the roughly 100 IOC members, said: "I know that the postponement of the games has been very difficult for all of you. It has been painful for me, too."

Bach, speaking earlier in the week, said empty venues were an option -- but not a preference -- in the long list of possibilities for Tokyo.

"It includes all different countermeasures: quarantine, you name it," Bach said. "But,

Olympic Games behind closed doors is clearly something we do not want. We are working for a solution of the Olympic Games which, on the one hand is safeguarding the health of all the participants, and on the other hand is also reflecting the Olympic spirit."

Japan has been spared the severe effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has reported about 1,000 deaths, but new infections in Tokyo have been rising for the last few weeks. They reached almost 300 on Friday, the highest single day count in the capital.

Bach and Japanese officials have talked about the need to "simplify" the games, but have given no specifics. There have been reports about downsizing the torch relay, or combining the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics and Paralympics.

(Source: AP)

Tractor move to IPL second place

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Tractor football team moved up to Iran Professional League (IPL) second place after a 2-1 win over Sepahan on Friday.

In the match held in Tabriz's Yadegar-e Stadium, Ehsan Haji Safi gave the hosts a lead in the 14th minute with a thunderous strike.

Eight minutes later, Soroush Rafiei levelled the score, taking advantage of Tractor defender's mistake into the six-yard area.

Just seconds before the halftime, Reza Asadi scored the winner with a header.

Tractor leapfrogged Sepahan and Shahr Khodro in the table.

Pars Jonoubi defeated Shahr Khodro 2-1 in Jam, courtesy of first-half goals from Farihorz Gerami and Pouria Aryakia.

Mohammad Ghazi was on target for the visiting team.

In Abadan, Esteghlal beat Sanat Naft 2-0 to keep alive their hopes of reaching next year's AFC Champions League. Cheick Diabate and Amir Arsalan Motahari scored for the Blues.

Rock bottom Shahin Bushehr lost to Gol Gohar 4-2. Saipa and Paykan played out a goalless draw and Nassaji drew 0-0 with Naft Masjed Soleyman.

Persepolis lead the table with 56 points, followed by Tractor and Sepahan with 44 and 42 points respectively.

Mahdavia's goal against the U.S. among top three greatest Asian goals

Iran winger Mehdi Mahdavia's goal against USA in the 1998 FIFA World Cup has been voted as one of the greatest Asian goals in the tournaments.

Saeed Al Owairan's brilliant effort for Saudi Arabia against Belgium in the 1994 edition has been voted as the greatest Asian goal.

Owairan's superb effort was picked as the best from a list of 20 goals the-AFC.com shortlisted in polls which were conducted over the last three weeks.

Late Iraq national football team forward Ahmed Radhi has come second in the poll. He scored an excellent goal against Belgium in the 1986 FIFA World Cup.

(Source: the-afc)

Mousavi linked with Czarni Radom

Iran international middle blocker Mohammad Mousavi has been linked with a move to Czarni Radom.

Mousavi joined Iranian club Saipa in mid-June but there are rumors that he will leave the team to join the polish volleyball club.

"The coach of Radom contacted me and asked about my situation and made me an offer to join his team for the coming season. Now, I cannot say with certainty, but I will see what will happen in the next few days," Mousavi said.

The 32-year-old player was a member of Polish volleyball team Indykpol AZS Olsztyn last season.

(Source: przegladSPORTOWY.pl)

Iran friendly with Uzbekistan confirmed

Tasnim — Iran Football Federation spokesman Amir Mehdi Alavai said Iran will meet Uzbekistan in a friendly match on September 17.

The warm-up match will be held as part of preparation for the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification.

"The clash will be held at Tashkent's Bunyodkor Stadium on September 7. We are also trying to arrange a friendly with Syria in Tehran on September 3," Alavi said.

Iran sit third, behind Iraq and Bahrain, in Group C.

The Asian Qualifiers for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 are set to resume on October 8.

It will be great to start 2022 World Cup at Al Bayt Stadium, says Sanchez

Head coach Felix Sanchez has expressed his excitement at Qatar starting their 2022 FIFA World Cup campaign at the Al Bayt Stadium.

Qatar will kick off the FIFA World Cup 2022 on home soil at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor following Wednesday's announcement of the match schedule.

The 60,000-capacity Al Bayt ground — which takes its shape from the traditional tents used by nomadic people in the region — will host the opening match on November 21.

"Of course to see the date of the match and schedule is a reminder of how near the competition is," Sanchez said in reacting to the match schedule.

"It is another motivation for us to be ready and to give a memorable performance. It's nice to see when we start and where."

The final will be held at the 80,000-seat Lusail Stadium in Doha nearly a month later on December 18.

The opening match will begin a group stage that will feature four matches a day for 12 days, spread over eight stadiums around Qatar.

Group matches will kick off at three-hour intervals, beginning at 1.00pm local time (UTC +3), with the late match kicking off at 10:00pm local time.

The Round of 16 and quarter-finals will see two matches a day, with the semi-finals over two days.

FIFA announced that the draw for the Finals would be made after the March 2022 international match calendar qualifying window.

(Source: the-afc)

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Beware of adding a year's worry to your day's anxiety. When you suffer in one day is enough for you. If only on year remains of your life, know that for each day of it God will grant you a new share, and if you do not last one more year, why do you worry about what is not yours? No one has the power to take away your share, and no one can prevail over you and rob you of it. What is destined for you, will come to you in its own time.

Imam Ali (AS)

Iranian publisher thanks health workers with book presents

→1 The publisher also plans to send a collection of books to the libraries and schools in the remote villages in Sistan-Baluchestan Province next week.



Packages of books from the Elmi-Farhangi publishing house in Tehran are ready to be sent to health workers at Milad and Masih Daneshvari hospitals.

In addition, a collection of children's books was donated to the students at the Farhang School, which is dedicated to Afghan students residing in Iran.

Book City to review Ivan Klima's memoirs "My Crazy Century"

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — The Book City Institute in Tehran plans to review Czech writer Ivan Klima's book "My Crazy Century: A Memoir" during an online session on Tuesday.

The review session, which is scheduled to be attended by translator Alireza Beheshti Shirazi and critics Reza Alizadeh and Sadeq Vafai, will be held at 3 pm on [instagram.com/bookcityculturalcenter](https://www.instagram.com/bookcityculturalcenter).



Front cover of the Persian version of Czech writer Ivan Klima's book "My Crazy Century: A Memoir".

Klima's story begins in the 1930s on the outskirts of Prague where he grew up unaware of his concealed Jewish heritage. It came as a surprise when his family was transported to the Terezin concentration camp — and an even greater surprise when most of them survived.

They returned home to a city in economic turmoil and falling into the grip of Communism. Against this tumultuous backdrop, Klima discovered his love of literature and matured as a writer. But as the regime further encroached on daily life, arresting his father and censoring his work, Klima recognized the party for what it was: a deplorable, colossal lie.

The true nature of oppression became clear to him and many of his peers, among them Josef Skvorecky, Milan Kundera and Vaclav Havel. From the brief hope of freedom during the Prague Spring of 1968 to Charter 77 and the eventual collapse of the regime in 1989's Velvet Revolution, Klima's revelatory account provides a profoundly rich personal and national history.

Resistance festival, Health Ministry ink MOU to honor films on health workers

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iran's Health Ministry and the organizers of the Resistance International Film Festival have inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to honor films on health workers this year.

The MOU was signed between director of the festival Mehdi Azimi Mirabadi and Health Ministry's Public Relations Office director Kianush Jahanpur, the organizers of the festival announced in a press release published on Saturday.

Jahanpur said that the ministry has asked over 60 universities of medical sciences for more collaboration in producing films on health workers, while the Red Crescent Society and the Tehran Municipality have also been invited to cooperate on this issue.

"The issue of coronavirus is an international concern and we are hoping the festival can make better use of world potentials like the World Health Organization," he said.

Azimi Mirabadi also said that the organizers have allocated a special section to films on health workers this year.

"The spread of coronavirus in the country, and the strenuous efforts made by healthcare staff in battling with COVID-19 and serving people with the virus in the hospitals made us dedicate a new section to the festival," he said.

The organizers have asked filmmakers and artists around the world to submit their short, documentary and animation films, music videos and motion graphics before the deadline of August 20.

The category named "Health Defenders" has been established in honor of the medical workers on the front line of the campaign



Director of the Resistance International Film Festival Mehdi Azimi Mirabadi (L) and Health Ministry's Public Relations Office director Kianush Jahanpur exchange documents after signing an MOU to honor films on health workers.

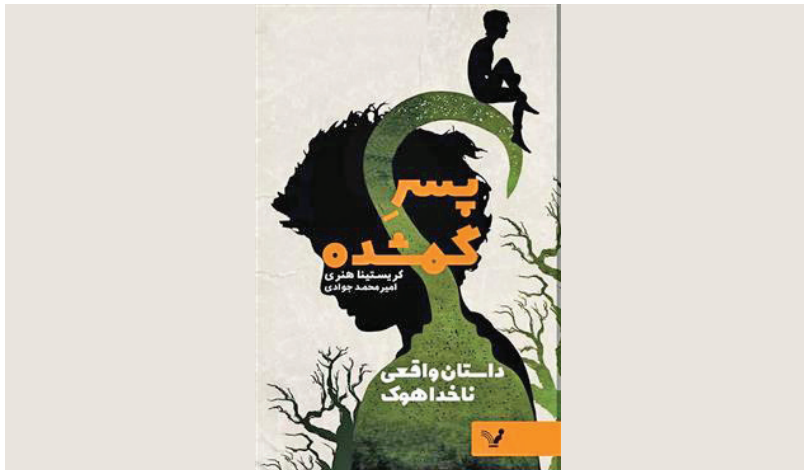
against COVID-19.

An exhibition of photos and posters on the medical workers will be also organized

on the sidelines of the festival, which will take place in Tehran from September 21 to 27.

The festival is organized every year to commemorate the anniversary of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

"Lost Boy" appears in Iranian bookstores



Front cover of the Persian translation of American author Christina Henry's "Lost Boy: The True Story of Captain Hook".

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — American author Christina Henry's "Lost Boy: The True Story of Captain Hook" has been published in Persian by Tandis Publishing House.

The book has been translated into Persian by Amir-Mohammad Javadi.

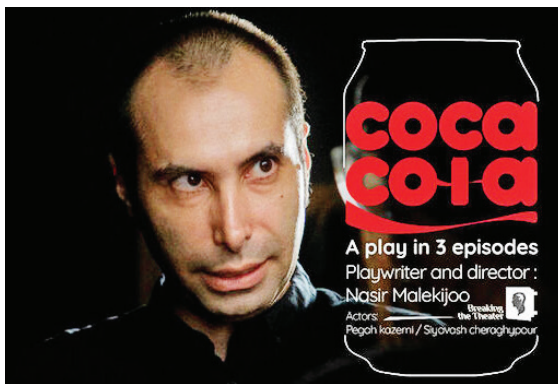
From the national bestselling author of "Alice" comes a familiar story with a dark hook—a tale about Peter Pan and the friend who became his nemesis, a nemesis who may not be the blackhearted villain Peter says he is.

"There is one version of my story that everyone knows. And then there is the truth. This is how it happened. How I went from being Peter Pan's first—and favorite—lost boy to his greatest enemy," Henry has said.

"Peter brought me to his island because there were no rules and no grownups to make us mind. He brought boys from the Other Place to join in the fun, but Peter's idea of fun is sharper than a pirate's sword, because it's never been all fun and games on the island. Our neighbors are pirates and monsters. Our toys are knives and sticks and rocks—the kinds of playthings that bite," she adds.

Henry is the author of the duology "Chronicles of Alice" and "Alice and Red Queen", a dark and twisted take on Alice's "Adventures in Wonderland".

She is also the author of the national bestselling "Black Wings" series.



A poster for writer and director Nasir Malekiju's play "Coca Cola".

"Coca Cola" to criticize culture of consumerism in modern world

A R T **TEHRAN** — A play named "Coca Cola" is scheduled to premiere at the Qashqai Hall of Tehran's City Theater on Sunday that scorns mindless consumerism in modern societies.

The play has been written by director Nasir Malekiju in three episodes, first of which features a father who under the influence of various advertisements encourages his boy to have fast food, canned food and other foods being offered at restaurants.

He believes that having canned food and similar stuff must be a major rule of their life, however, the boy's different way of thinking brings them into a conflict in

Iran Brass Ensemble to perform at Italian festival



A poster for Iran Brass Ensemble's performance at the Italian Brass Week.

A R T **TEHRAN** — The Iran Brass Ensemble will give a performance at the 21st edition of the Italian Brass Week, an international festival of brass instrument performances that will be held online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Persian Suite" composed by Pouya Saraei and a song based on traditional Iranian music will be performed by the ensemble on July 23, the organizers have announced.

Trumpeter and singer Omid Hajili will collaborate as a guest artist in these performances.

Mahsa Yusefinejad, Narges Taqpur-Helali, Baraneh Zolfaqari, Hossein Sharifi, Siamak Karimpur, Afshar Heshmatian, Ali Zarrabi, Kamyar Mandegarian, Seyyed Alireza Miraqa

and Zakaria Yusefi are members of the ensemble, who are also collaborating with the Tehran Symphony Orchestra. Dozens of groups and individuals from the U.S., Sweden, Argentina, China and many other countries will participate in the Italian Brass Week that will take place from July 19 to 26.

The festival was born 20 years ago under the artistic direction of Luca Benucci, a horn virtuoso of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

The mission is to give value to Italian and foreign talents, through promotion and cultural exchange.

The festival gives an opportunity to young students and professionals to take part in this international event, to play and learn from the most important musicians of the brass world.

81-year-old writer Javad Mojabi beats COVID-19

A R T **TEHRAN** — The 81-year old writer, poet and art critic Javad Mojabi, who was battling COVID-19, is feeling much better these days, his wife Asieh Javadi said on Saturday.

"Luckily, after about 18 days of battling with the coronavirus, having high fever and suffering from anorexia and insomnia, he is a little bit better, he can eat a little food and sleep a little," she told the Persian service of IRNA.

"We were in home quarantine for four months. But after a little party, everything went wrong. My daughter and I decided not

to take him to the hospital but were forced to take him to the hospital after 10 days and found out his test was positive," she added.

"The treatment he received at home had helped prevent more progress in the disease, however, his high fever again forced us to take him to the hospital to receive further treatment and doctors helped control his disease," she explained.

"These days are hard for everyone, but harder for the artists because they are much more sensitive. Everyone suffers from problems but the pain of an artist is not a

solo pain and these days get harder for them," noted Javadi who is the writer of several acclaimed books such as "Narrators of the Century of Anxiety".

"He is now in a better and more stable condition. We all should know how not to get infected in order to stop this vicious circle. If not it will continue and getting infected in older age makes it harder," she remarked.

Mojabi is the writer of "Bamdad Mirror", a book containing articles and ideas about the life and poems of the renowned Iranian poet Shamlu.

There are articles in this book on satire in Shamlu's poems, his career in journalism and his 40 years of writing poetry. There are also some notes and memories of the writer and scholars that give a better view of the writer's life to the readers.

"Ninety Years of Innovation in Iran's Visual Art", a book introducing 426 Iranian modern artists is another of Mojabi's praiseworthy books.

Mojabi had called the book a personal narration of the history of art that is useful for researchers, students of art and all artists.