



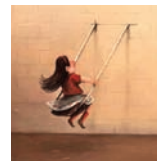
**Tehran urges IAEA to shed light on Saudi 'covert' nuclear program** **3**



**Belgium suspends issuing arms export licenses to Riyadh** **10**



**Alireza Beiranvand fumes at Persepolis officials** **11**



**Iranian cartoonist Mojtaba Heidarpanah runner-up at City of Trento contest** **12**

# Iran ready to help rebuild places damaged in Beirut

**Industrial projects to create 41,000 direct jobs by next March**

**TEHRAN** — Iran's acting minister of industry, mining, and trade said that inaugurating 200 major projects by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021) is going to create 41,000 new direct jobs across the country, Mehr news agency reported.

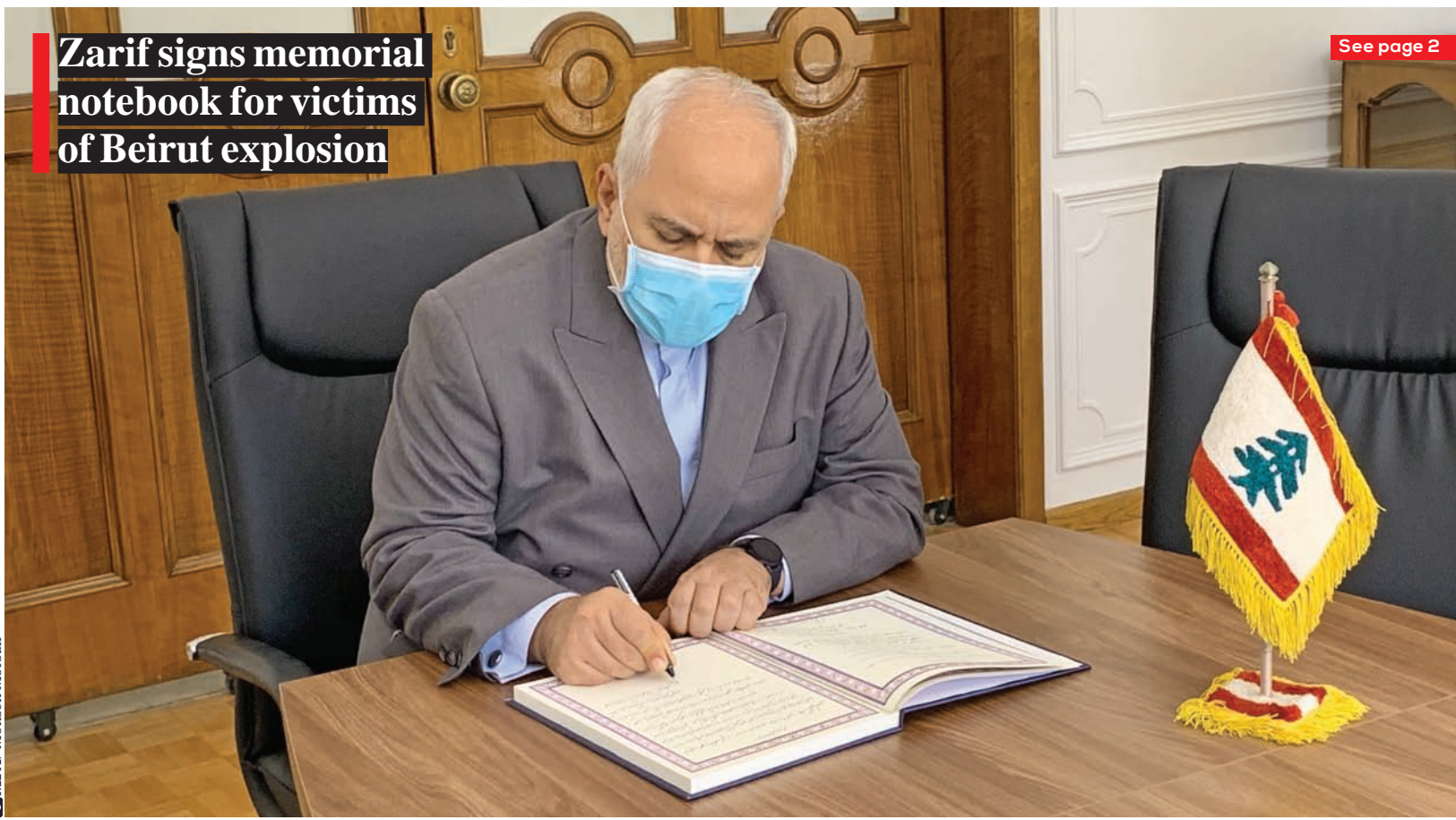
Outlining the ministry's major programs for the realization of the motto for the current Iranian year which is "Surge in Production", Hossein Modarres Khiabani said that one of the major plans of the ministry is completing semi-finished

projects under the framework of a program called "Persistent Production-Effective Employment-Sustainable Exports".

"In this program, large industrial and mining units are inaugurated and go operational every week; In this regard, it is planned for 200 leading industrial projects with a total investment of 1.7 quadrillion rials (about \$40.4 billion) to be inaugurated by the end of the year which will create direct employment for more than 41,000 people", the official noted. **→4**

**Zarif signs memorial notebook for victims of Beirut explosion**

**See page 2**



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## Saudi Arabia halts oil supply to Pakistan as rift widens over Kashmir

Saudi Arabia has suspended the supply of oil to Pakistan as the latter complains about Riyadh's foot-dragging on a meeting of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to address India's contentious measures in Muslim-majority Kashmir region.

In 2018, Pakistan borrowed a \$6.2 billion loan from Saudi Arabia that included a provision, under which Riyadh granted

Islamabad \$3.2 billion worth of oil a year on deferred payments.

On Saturday, Pakistani media reported that the provision expired two months ago and that Saudi Arabia did not renew it.

Instead, the reports said, Islamabad prematurely returned a \$1 billion Saudi loan, four months ahead of the repayment period. **→10**

## Book of interviews with Italian Iranologists published in Rome

**TEHRAN** — The first volume of a book containing thirty interviews with Italian experts on Iran has recently been published in Rome.

"Simorgh: Trenta Interviste con Iranisti Italiani" ("Simorgh: Thirty Interviews with Italian Iranologists") has been compiled by a team of scholars in a project initiated by Abolhassan

Hatami, the Iranian Culture Center in Rome announced on Sunday.

The book has been published by the International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies (ISMEO).

The book begins with prefaces by ISMEO director Adriano Rossi, former Iranian attaché Akbar Qowli and Hatami. **→12**

## ARTICLE

**Mohammad Mazhari**  
Editor in Chief of Arabic  
Mehr News Agency

## Ulterior motives in attacks on Lebanese ministries

**W**hile Lebanon as a crisis-ridden country needs unity more than ever these days to get out of this complex and sensitive situation, some sides make every effort to obstruct the path to tranquility in the country.

The Lebanese had not yet recovered from the shock of the devastating blast in Beirut with an unimaginable number of casualties that they suddenly noticed that many residential houses around Jabal al-Mashgara in the Bekaa Plain in southeastern Lebanon have caught fire.

Less than a day after the second incident, there were reports in the Lebanese local and foreign media outlets that some people had attacked ministries and government buildings.

Who are the beneficiaries of the street riots in Beirut?

Regardless of the purpose of the attackers on government buildings and committing sabotage acts such as burning tires and destroying ministry buildings, along with trying to destroy or steal many important corruption files, and whether they were really protesting or sabotaging, the big question that comes to mind is that who will benefit from these riotous behaviors in such a critical situation.

All around the world, the first step to manage a crisis is to return calm and stability, what some people do not let to happen in Lebanon. Dealing with the consequences of the devastating explosion that took place in the port of Beirut - which according to the latest statistics killed 158 people and left more than 6,000 injured and made hundreds of thousands homeless - regardless of whether it was due to negligence of the relevant authorities or not, entails national solidarity in order to provide assistance at least a large number of victims quickly.

Those who attacked the ministries and destroyed the government buildings on Saturday night, with the aim or under the pretext of supporting the victims of the Beirut disaster have in fact caused another problem. **→7**

## U.S. bid to extend UN arms embargo on Iran hits a dead end

**TEHRAN** — While the U.S. attempts to build an international consensus on the extension of a UN arms embargo on Iran, an analyst tells the Tehran times that the U.S. is going to face opposition from some of the UN Security Council permanent members.

As the UN Security Council prepares to vote on a U.S.-drafted resolution this week, the U.S. seems to be on a collision course with the international community. It is pushing for a vote on extending UN arms embargo on Iran, despite diplomatic warnings that the measure lacks international support.

The UN arms embargo is slated to expire on October 18 according to the terms of the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). However, the U.S. is spearheading a diplomatic campaign to extend the international embargo on Iran, despite the fact that it has unilaterally ceased

its participation in the nuclear deal, which deprives the U.S. from the right to extend the arms embargo.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday that the U.S. is going to move forward with its efforts to extend the arms embargo.

"The United States will put forward a resolution in the Security Council to extend the arms embargo on Iran," Pompeo said, adding, "The proposal we put forward is eminently reasonable. One way or another we will do the right thing. We will ensure that the arms embargo is extended."

Citing UN-based diplomats, the Foreign Policy magazine reported that the U.S. is expected to formally table the resolution on Monday, with plans to put it to a vote on Tuesday. The U.S. measure sets the stage for a diplomatic clash between the U.S. and other Security Council members including Washington's European allies. **→2**

## Protests in U.S.: Oregon trooper injured, 24 arrested in Portland

Protesters in Portland, Oregon, defied police orders to disperse and threw rocks, frozen or hard-boiled eggs and commercial-grade fireworks at officers as unrest in the Northwest city continued early Saturday.

An Oregon State Police Trooper was struck in the head by a large rock and suffered a head injury, police said in a release. The trooper's condition was not immediately known, AP reported.

Some demonstrators filled pool noodles with nails and placed them in the road, causing extensive damage to a patrol vehicle, police said. Oregon State Police worked with Portland officers to clear the protesters.

"Officers are having rocks and chunks of concrete thrown at them," police said on Twitter. "Individuals in the crowd are shining lasers trying to blind officers."

Since George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis,

protests over racial injustice and police brutality have occurred nightly for 70 days.

Portland police declared an unlawful assembly Friday night at the Penumbra Kelly public safety building, ordering everyone in the area to leave. Authorities had previously warned people not to trespass on the property.

Protesters remained for several hours before officers began to rush the crowd away from the building using crowd-control munitions early Saturday. Several people were arrested, police said.

"As arrests were made, certain crowd members began throwing rocks towards officers," police said in a statement. "As this criminal activity occurred, the crowd also blocked all lanes of traffic on East Burnside Street, not allowing vehicles to pass by. Several people in this group wore helmets and gas masks as well as carried shields." **→10**

## Gender gap in literacy rate declines significantly in Iran

**TEHRAN** — The literacy rate difference between men and women has declined from 26 percent before the 1979 Islamic Revolution to 2.8 percent, head of the Literacy Movement Organization has stated.

The average literacy rate in the age group of 10 to 49 has reached 96 percent, IRNA quoted Shapour Mohammadzadeh as saying on Sunday.

The literacy rate in some provinces such as Tehran, Isfahan, Mazandaran, Yazd, and Semnan has reached up to 98 percent, but in some other

provinces such as Sistan-Baluchestan, the rate is 83 percent, which is lower than the national average, he said.

According to the latest census, the literacy rate is 96.2 percent, which increases by 0.5 percent every year, he also noted.

Mohammadzadeh, stating that the distribution of illiteracy in the provinces is very high, added that in some provinces, one illiterate can be found every 20 square kilometers because the number of illiterates has decreased.

"It is not yet possible to say that the illiteracy rate in any province has reached zero," he said.

Nearly 1.8 percent of the population in any country are exceptional children or people with lower Intelligence Quotient (IQ), on the other hand, eight-tenths of the people have learning disabilities and eventually can only be trained, he stated.

He went on to conclude that some 50 percent of the activities of the Literacy Movement Organization is focused on literacy empowerment so that there is no return to illiteracy.

## Coronavirus: Iran to introduce all-inclusive health protocols for inbound travelers

**TEHRAN**— Iran will unveil all-inclusive health protocols for inbound travelers within the next week, as the country is still fighting the coronavirus pandemic, Mohammad Qasemi, the director for marketing and advertising at the tourism ministry, announced on Sunday.

As the coronavirus outbreak has severely damaged the tourism industry in the world and caused huge financial losses, countries need to adopt a peaceful coexistence with the virus to reduce its negative and social effects, therefore, while protecting the health of the society, the tourism ministry has decided to define new rules for accepting foreign tourists, the official added.

In fact with issuing such health directives as a guarantee of safe travel to Iran, the country provides a secure platform for the inbound tourists, and in the long run, having foreign tourists and tours will be possible within a disciplined framework, he mentioned.

In the new health protocol, inbound traveler refers to both foreign tourists entering Iran and Iranians returning from a foreign trip to the country and it is to take effect in all borders and entry terminals, including airports, ports, and land terminals.

Back in July, Iran extended a ban on inbound group tours, while travel agencies were allowed to organize business tours for individuals. The national headquarters for the coronavirus control issued a permit for solo travelers to enter the country in accordance with health protocols, but group tours were prohibited. **→8**

## 20 wonderful must-see cultural sites in Iran

**By Afshin Majlesi**

(Part 1/3)

If you ask foreign visitors to Iran about the most characteristic future they discovered during excursions in the ancient land, the most possible answer may be somewhat like these: "It is the friendliest country on Earth with loads of warm-hearted welcome!"; "It is the jewel in Islam's crown in terms of architecture"; "Being home to fascinating cultural heritage sites"; or "a land where echoes of ancient civilizations still resonate down through the ages!" **→8**



© Mehr/ Mahdi Shojaei



## Iran ready to help rebuild places damaged in Beirut

Zarif signs memorial notebook for victims of Beirut explosion

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — On Saturday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited the Lebanese embassy in Tehran to sign a notebook in memory of the victims of a massive explosion in Beirut port which left at least 150 people dead and 5,000 injured.

Following Zarif's visit to the embassy, Lebanese Ambassador Hassan Abbas wrote on his twitter page in Arabic that "today I was honored to meet Mohammad Javad Zarif, the foreign minister of Iran, at the premises of Lebanon's embassy in Tehran."

In another tweet, the ambassador said, "Dr. Zarif offered condolences over the bitter incident on August 4 in Beirut and announced Iran's readiness in reconstruction process."



The powerful explosion late on Tuesday took place at port warehouses storing highly explosive material, specifically ammonium nitrate, commonly used in both fertilizer and bombs.

The explosion, hitting with the force of a 3.5-magnitude earthquake, was the biggest ever seen in Beirut. The explosion was felt in the neighboring island of Cyprus, around 240 kilometers away — or about 150 miles — from Lebanon, according to the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC).

The citizens made homeless in the blast has increased to 300,000, with losses estimated between \$10 and \$15 billion.

Mohammad Jalal Firouznia, Tehran's ambassador to Lebanon, also said on Saturday that Iran plans to play an active role in reconstructing places of the Lebanese capital devastated by the huge explosion.

Ambassador Firouznia made the remarks while visiting a field hospital set up in Beirut by Iran.

Iran has airlifted humanitarian aid to Beirut. The consignments included food, medical supplies, and field hospitals.

Head of the Lebanese Red Cross George Kataneh has thanked the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) for its immediate readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims.

According to reports released on Sunday, Iran has so far sent 95 tons of humanitarian aid to Lebanon.

In a phone conversation with Lebanese President Michel Aoun on Thursday, President Hassan Rouhani said that Iran is ready to send humanitarian aid to Lebanon.

Zarif had announced on Wednesday that Iran was sending field hospital and medicine to Lebanon.

"Reiterated #Iran's strong and steadfast solidarity with people of Lebanon in call with FM Wehbeh. Iran is sending field hospital & medicine to assist with disaster relief. Iran stands with Lebanon," Zarif tweeted.

Tehran's Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, has also said that Iran will continue supporting the Lebanese people and government.

In a meeting with Lebanese Ambassador to Russia Chawki Bou Nassar on Friday, Jalali offered the Lebanese people condolences over the massive explosion.

Secretary-General of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has urged an impartial investigation into the blast.

Speaking in a televised speech on Friday, Nasrallah said those responsible for the deadly disaster had to be held to account regardless of their affiliations.

Describing the blast as a massive humanitarian and national catastrophe, the Hezbollah chief called on all the Lebanese to unite to overcome the ordeal.

## Lebanese man, daughter shot dead in Tehran

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — A Lebanese man and his daughter were shot and killed in northern Tehran by an unknown assailant on Friday, the Mehr news agency reported.

The victims were identified as Habib Dawoud, 58, and Maryam, 27, the news agency reported.

They were shot dead at about 9 pm (16:30 GMT) by an unidentified motorcyclist. They were shot on Pasdaran Street.

Investigation on the crime is underway, police have said.

## Iran will stand beside Iraqis: ambassador

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Iraj Masjedi, Tehran's ambassador to Baghdad, has said that Iran will stand beside the Iraqis as it did when they were fighting Daesh.

"As the Islamic Republic of Iran stood beside Iraq in fighting Daesh, today, it will stand beside the noble Iraqi people and government in constructing the country and cooperating in areas of healthcare, progress and economic and cultural dealings," ISNA quoted Masjedi as saying on Sunday in a tweet in Arabic.

In a phone conversation with Iraqi President Barham Salih on July 31, President Hassan Rouhani highlighted the necessity to expand relations between Iran and Iraq and also speed up implementation of agreements.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to develop comprehensive relations with Iraq and is ready to cooperate and transfer its experiences to the country in fighting coronavirus," Rouhani said.

Rouhani also described a visit by Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi to Iran as "positive".

Salih also called Kadhimi's visit "positive" and called for increasing cooperation.

He noted that developing relations with Iran is a principle in Iraq's foreign policy.

Kadhimi visited Tehran on July 21-22 to discuss ties between Iran and Iraq. The Iraqi prime minister met with a number of high-ranking Iranian officials including Rouhani, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.

During a joint press conference with Rouhani on July 21, Kadhimi said that his visit to Iran was aimed at boosting ties.

# Mesbahi-Moghadam: Accepting FATF is synonymous with 'distortion'

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Gholamreza Mesbahi-Moghadam, a member of the Expediency Council, has said that any talk about accepting the FATF (the Financial Action Task Force) is a "distortion" of the country's power.

"Those who like the FATF should know this is a trap. Talking about accepting it is a distortion of the Islamic Republic of Iran's power in countering the United States' cruel sanctions," he told the Tasnim news agency in an interview published on Sunday.

He added, "Economic flourishing by accepting the FATF is example of distortion and wrong address."

The cleric trained in economy noted that joining the FATF would have nothing but harms against the country.

The Paris-based FATF placed Iran on its blacklist in February after Iran refused to comply with the watchdog's requirements.

Opposition to join the FATF grew after the U.S. abrogated the 2015 nuclear deal and imposed the harshest ever sanctions in history against Iran.

According to Reuters, the FATF appeared to leave the door ajar for Iran saying "countries should also be able to apply counter-measures independently of any call by the FATF to do so."



Mesbahi-Moghadam said in March that there is no term like "blacklist" in the FATF and Iran has been put on the list of "non-cooperative" countries.

"There is no term as blacklist in the FATF. At this juncture, we have been put on the list of non-cooperative countries again," he told ISNA in an interview.

He also said that Iran has observed 39 out of 41 recommendations of the FATF which have had no benefits for the country.

The government of President Hassan

Rouhani, in a 9-paragraph statement in February, urged the Expediency Council to remove the existing barriers in the way of approving the CFT and Palermo bills, two steps needed to join the FATF.

The previous parliament voted in favor of the CFT in October 2018 but it was rejected by the Guardian Council even after parliament made some amendments. According to law, when the parliament and the Guardian Council fail to agree on a bill, the issue is referred to the Expediency Council

## Iran will overcome challenges through national solidarity and active resistance: top security official

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council said on Sunday that Iran will overcome the existing challenges with doubling down on national solidarity and active resistance.

"Preventing Iran's strategic cooperation with the East and continuing the national economy's dependence on the oil [revenues] are the underlying reasons for the West's political fluctuations toward our country. Iran has long decided to do these two things and it will overcome the current challenges with active resistance and national solidarity," tweeted Shamkhani.

Iran and China are in the process of negotiating over a

long-term strategic cooperation plan that would bolster the two countries' ties for years to come. The plan isn't finalized yet. However some of its details have been leaked to the press. According to the leaks, China will invest a whopping \$400 billion in various Iranian sectors including oil and gas. In exchange, Iran will ensure steady energy supplies to China for a period of 25 years at discounted rate.

The U.S. has expressed concerns over the plan, saying it would "destabilize" the region. In an interview with the Fox News network on August 2, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, "China's entry into Iran will destabilize the Middle East [West Asia]."

## Final report on Ukrainian plane crash to be published soon: minister

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami said on Sunday that the final report on the Ukrainian plane crash will be published soon.

"Information gathered by investigation team of the Civil Aviation Organization and also observations have been conformed to data of the black box, and Iran is supposed to reach a final conclusion at the presence of an Ukrainian delegation and issue the final statement," Eslami told reporters.

Asked about the accurate date of publishing the final report, he said Iran is waiting



for coordination with the Ukrainian team.

Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Legal Affairs Mohsen Baharvand also said last week that the final report on the Ukrainian plane crash will be published soon.

"The International Civil Aviation Organization and the people will be informed about the report. There will be advices in the report to prevent such incidents in future," Baharvand told IRNA.

He also said that next round of talks over the incident will be held in Tehran in October.

for arbitration.

The government's statement says approval of the bills will prevent the enemies to invent more excuses to put more pressure on the country.

In the statement, the government laid emphasis on removal of any obstacle in ratifying the bills, noting that the government will do its best to solve the problem and improve the situation to prevent imposition of more losses on the country's national interests.

Rouhani said on February 23 that Iran has been a forerunner in fighting money laundering and did not deserve to be black-listed by the FATF.

"The great Iranian people and the Islamic Republic of Iran did not and do not deserve to be placed on an international body's countermeasures list while it [the country] is forerunner in fighting terrorism and money laundering," the president said during a cabinet meeting.

He added, "We made efforts to prevent being introduced by the United States and the Zionist regime as violator of these measures while we are forerunner in fighting terrorism and money laundering."

Being blacklisted by the FATF is against the Iranian people's interests, the president remarked.

Some Iranian officials and former diplomats has hailed the plan as a "turning point" in its ties to China.

"The cooperation with China is strategic, and that the U.S. has failed to isolate Iran," Gholamali Khoshroo, Iran's former ambassador to the UN, said in late July, adding that the 25-year cooperation agreement between Iran and China marks a "turning point" in the development of bilateral ties.

The cabinet of Hassan Rouhani approved the draft of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation plan on June 21 and tasked Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif with negotiating with China over the plan in order to finalize it.

The Ukrainian airliner was shot down shortly after taking off from Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport on January 8, killing all 167 passengers and 9 crew members.

On January 11, the Armed Forces General Staff released a statement saying the plane was mistakenly downed near the airport.

The incident happened a few hours after Iran fired dozens of ballistic missiles at a U.S. airbase inside Iraq in retaliation for the assassination of top Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani.

The airplane had been mistaken for an invading missile.

## U.S. bid to extend UN arms embargo on Iran hits a dead end

**1 →** The U.S. resolution is widely expected to face firm opposition from Russia and China along with the Europeans, who fear the extension of the UN arms embargo would lead to a total collapse of the nuclear deal. Therefore, the resolution could be rejected even without a Russian or Chinese veto. According to an AFP report, UN diplomats say opposition to the resolution's current form is so widespread that Washington is unlikely even to secure the nine votes required to force Moscow and Beijing to wield their vetoes.

It's clear that the U.S. resolution will not pass because diplomats say its content is taking a "maximalist position on Iran," AFP reported.

Now, the question is what the U.S. would do if its resolution is vetoed or rejected by the Security Council members. At the official level, U.S. officials regularly say that they will extend the UN arms embargo "one way or another" and they will use all tools at their disposal to make sure that the arms embargo is not lifted. They continue to refuse to declare their next step toward extending the UN arms embargo.

"It's highly likely that the U.S. resolution won't be passed, and if it's not passed the Americans will resort to the 2231 resolution by claiming that they are still a party in this resolution and thus they have the authority to trigger the snapback mechanism," Amirali Abolfath, an expert on U.S. policies, told the Tehran Times. However, Abolfath cast doubt on the U.S. ability to use the 2231 resolution to extend the UN arms embargo.

According to Abolfath, the U.S. is making efforts to exploit the 2231 resolution to re-impose international sanctions on Iran, including the UN arms embargo.

Referring to a recent virtual meeting of the Security Council on Iran, which was attended by Iranian Foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Abolfath said, "Russia and China strongly oppose the U.S. efforts to exploit the 2231 resolution. During the recent Security Council's meeting, the German representative said that a snapback of UN sanctions should be triggered by the Europeans,



suggesting that the Americans have no authority to do so."

However, Abolfath believes that the Americans will pay no heed to the warnings of other signatories to the Iran nuclear deal.

It's not clear yet how the Americans want to trigger a return of all UN sanctions on Iran while Russia, China and the E3 call into question the U.S. legal right to trigger a snapback of UN sanctions. Whether the remaining parties to the JCPOA would implement the UN sanctions in case they are re-imposed, is an open question.

Regardless of U.S. ability to restore UN sanctions against Iran, some analysts say that members of the Security Council would have no options but to adhere to UN sanctions if they are restored.

"If the U.S. triggers a snapback of UN sanctions, other countries including Russia and China would have no options other than getting along with the sanctions, because they can't ignore the binding and legal nature of the 2231 resolution," Omid Asiaban, a PhD candidate in international relations at the University of Tehran and a university lecturer at the University of Birjand told the Tehran Times.

The U.S. efforts to extend the UN arms embargo are shrouded in mystery, and their implications are yet to be

individuals involved in the supply, sale or transfer of arms or related materiel to or from Iran."

Sunday's letter is the first significant joint statement released by the group since the rift, said a person familiar with the matter.

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

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

## Persian Gulf Council calls for extension of Iran arms embargo: Bloomberg

*By staff and agency*

In a report published by Bloomberg on Sunday, it is said that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council has called on the United Nations Security Council to extend an arms embargo against Iran.

In a letter to the Security Council sent

Saturday and obtained by Bloomberg News, the PGCC called on the Security Council to extend the embargo and "further impose any additional measures necessary to prevent the destabilizing proliferation of Iranian weapons, such as a targeted asset freeze and travel ban on



# Iran's pact with China is bad news for the West: Foreign Policy

Tehran's new strategic partnership with Beijing will give the Chinese a strategic foothold and strengthen Iran's economy and regional clout

A recently leaked document suggests that China and Iran are entering a 25-year strategic partnership in trade, politics, culture, and security.

Cooperation between China and West Asian countries is neither new nor recent. Yet what distinguishes this development from others is that both China and Iran have global and regional ambitions, both have confrontational relationships with the United States, and there is a security component to the agreement. The military aspect of the agreement concerns the United States, just as last year's unprecedented Iran-China-Russia joint naval exercise in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Oman spooked Washington.

China's growing influence in East Asia and Africa has challenged U.S. interests, and West Asia is the next battlefield on which Beijing can challenge U.S. hegemony—this time through Iran.

This is particularly important since the agreement and its implications go beyond the economic sphere and bilateral relations: It operates at the internal, regional, and global level.

Internally, the agreement can be an economic lifeline for Iran, saving its sanctions-hit, cash-strapped economy by ensuring the sale of its oil and gas to China. In addition, Iran will be able to use its strategic ties with China as a bargaining chip in any possible future negotiations with the West by taking advantage of its ability to expand China's footprint in the Persian Gulf.

**For China, the pact can help guarantee its energy security. The Persian Gulf supplies more than half of China's energy needs.**

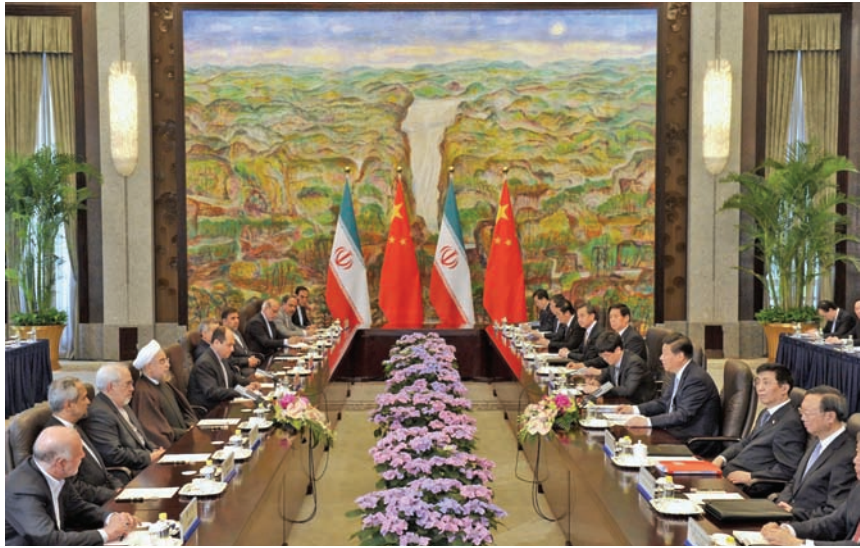
While there are only three months left before the 2020 U.S. presidential election, closer scrutiny of the new Iran-China strategic partnership could jeopardize the possibility of a Republican victory. That's because the China-Iran strategic partnership proves that the Trump administration's maximum pressure strategy has been a failure; not only did it fail to restrain Iran and change its regional behavior, but it pushed Tehran into the arms of Beijing.

In the long term, Iran's strategic proximity to China implies that Tehran is adapting the so-called "Look East" policy in order to boost its regional and military power and to defy and undermine U.S. power in the Persian Gulf region.

For China, the pact can help guarantee its energy security. The Persian Gulf supplies more than half of China's energy needs.

Thus, securing freedom of navigation through the Persian Gulf is of great importance for China. Saudi Arabia, a close U.S. ally, has now become the top supplier of crude oil to China, as Chinese imports from the kingdom in May set a new record of 2.16 million barrels per day. This dependence is at odds with China's general policy of diversifying its energy sources and not being reliant on one supplier. (China's other Arab oil suppliers in the Persian Gulf region have close security ties with the United States.)

China fears that as the trade war between the two countries intensifies, the United States may put pressure on those countries not to supply Beijing with the energy it needs. A



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and China's President Xi Jinping attend a meeting in Shanghai on May 22, 2014. KENZABURO FUKUHARA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

**Last but not least, while the United States has been benefiting from rivalry and division in the region, Chinese-Iranian partnership could eventually reshape the region's security landscape by promoting stability through the Chinese approach of developmental peace.**

comprehensive strategic partnership with Iran is both a hedge and an insurance policy; it can provide China with a guaranteed and discounted source of energy.

Chinese-Iranian ties will inevitably reshape the political landscape of the region in favor of Iran and China, further undermining U.S. influence. Indeed, the agreement allows China to play a greater role in one of the most important regions in the world. The strategic landscape has shifted since the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. In the new regional order, transnational identities based on religious and sectarian divisions spread and changed the essence of power dynamics.

These changes, as well as U.S. troop withdrawals and the unrest of the Arab Spring, provided an opportunity for middle powers like Iran to fill the gaps and to boost their regional power. Simultaneously, since Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012, the Chinese government has expressed a stronger desire to make China a world power and to play a more active role in other regions. This ambition manifested itself in introducing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which highlighted the strategic importance of West Asia.

China grasps Iran's position and importance as a regional power in the new West Asia. Regional developments in recent years have consolidated Iran's influence. Unlike the United States, China has adopted an apolitical development-oriented approach to the region, utilizing Iran's regional power to expand economic relations with nearby

countries and establish security in the region through what it calls developmental peace—rather than the Western notion of democratic peace.

U.S. President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal with Iran in 2018, and the subsequent introduction of the maximum pressure policy, was the last effort by the U.S. government to halt Iran's growing influence in the region. Although this policy has hit Iran's economy hard, it has not been able to change the country's ambitious regional and military policies yet. As such, the newfound strategic cooperation between China and Iran will further undermine U.S. leverage, paving the way for China to play a more active role in West Asia.

The Chinese-Iranian strategic partnership will also impact neighboring regions, including South Asia. In 2016, India and Iran signed an agreement to invest in Iran's strategic Chabahar Port and to construct the railway connecting the southeastern port city of Chabahar to the eastern city of Zahedan and to link India to landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia. Iran now accuses India of delaying its investments under U.S. pressure and has dismissed India from the project.

While Iranian officials have refused to link India's removal from Chabahar-Zahedan project to the new 25-year deal with China, it seems that India's close ties to Washington led to this decision. Replacing India with China in such a strategic project will alter the balance of power in South Asia to the detriment of New Delhi.

**U.S. President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal with Iran in 2018, and the subsequent introduction of the maximum pressure policy, was the last effort by the U.S. government to halt Iran's growing influence in the region.**

China now has the chance to connect Chabahar Port to Gwadar in Pakistan, which is a critical hub in the BRI program.

Regardless of what Washington thinks, the new China-Iran relationship will ultimately undermine India's interests in the region, particularly if Pakistan gets on board. The implementation of Iran's proposal to expand the existing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor along northern, western, and southern axes and link Gwadar Port in Pakistan to Chabahar and then to Europe and to Central Asia through Iran by a rail network is now more probable. If that plan proceeds, the golden ring consisting of China, Pakistan, Iran, Russia, and Turkey will turn into the centerpiece of BRI, linking China to Iran and onward to Central Asia, the Caspian Sea, and to the Mediterranean Sea through Iraq and Syria.

On July 16, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced that Jask Port would become the country's main oil loading point. By placing a greater focus on the development of the two strategic ports of Jask and Chabahar, Iran is attempting to shift its geostrategic focus from the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.

This would allow Tehran to avoid the tense Persian Gulf region, reduces the journey distance for oil tankers shipping Iranian oil, and also enables Tehran to close the Strait of Hormuz when needed.

The bilateral agreement provides Chi-

**Chinese-Iranian ties will inevitably reshape the political landscape of the region in favor of Iran and China, further undermining U.S. influence.**

na with an extraordinary opportunity to participate in the development of this port. China will be able to add Jask to its network of strategic hubs in the region. According to this plan, regional industrial parks developed by Chinese companies in some Persian Gulf countries will link up to ports where China has a strong presence. This interconnected network of industrial parks and ports can further challenge the United States' dominant position in the region surrounding the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

A strategic partnership between Iran and China will also affect the great-power rivalry between the United States and China. While China remains the largest trading partner of the United States and there are still extensive bilateral relations between the two global powers, their competition has intensified in various fields to the point that many observers argue the world is entering a new cold war. Given the geopolitical and economic importance of West Asia, the deal with Iran gives China yet another perch from which it can challenge U.S. power.

Meanwhile, in addition to ensuring its survival, Tehran is going to take advantage of ties with Beijing to consolidate its regional position. Last but not least, while the United States has been benefiting from rivalry and division in the region, Chinese-Iranian partnership could eventually reshape the region's security landscape by promoting stability through the Chinese approach of developmental peace.

## UN envoy slams U.S. for sponsoring anti-Iran Tondar terrorist group

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN—Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, has slammed the United States for sponsoring a U.S.-based anti-Iran group named Tondar.

"Despite being cognizant of the group's terrorist nature and activities, the United States, to date, has continued to sponsor it, and has refrained from taking even the slightest measure to prevent the terrorist activities of this group, which openly, including through its official website and media, incites terrorism and provides training on how to conduct terrorist acts and other subversive and disruptive measures in Iran," Takht-Ravanchi wrote in a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Saturday.

Following is the full text of the letter published by Tasnim news agency:

I am writing to inform you that, on 1st August 2020, the security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrested Mr. Jamshid Sharmahd, the "Commander and spokesperson" of "the Kingdom Assembly of Iran - Tondar", a terrorist group which is headquartered in the United States of America and is responsible for 27 terrorist acts in Iran resulting in the killing and injuring of many Iranian civilians.

On 12 April 2008, when around 800 people had gathered at the Hosseynieh Sayid Al-Shuhadan Mosque in Shiraz to perform a religious ceremony, the operative members of this group exploded a powerful bomb killing 14 civilians, including two children, wounding 215 others and causing damages to the mosque and some nearby properties. Immediately after this heinous terrorist attack, the Kingdom Assembly of Iran - Tondar officially claimed responsibility for the bombing. Mr. Jamshid Sharmahd himself has also publicly and repeatedly admitted that the "terrorist attack" was planned and executed by his group. The group's official website (in Persian language) still contains all such admissions.

Likewise, this group is responsible for other terrorist acts in public and religious places, including the bombing at Imam Khomeini's mausoleum in Tehran on 20 June 2009 which resulted in the wounding of 8 people. It also, in close collaboration with foreign intelligence services, played an important role in the assassination of Professor Massoud Ali Mohammadi, an Iranian nuclear scientist on 12 January 2010.

At the same time, to date, most of the planned terrorist acts of the Kingdom Assembly of Iran - Tondar, including to blow up a dam in Shiraz, to detonate cyanide bombs at the Tehran book fair as well as to explode Hazrat Masoumeh mausoleum in the city of Qom and the building of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament) in Tehran, have been foiled and neutralized, by the security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, prior to their execution. Certain operatives of the group, who have been arrested prior to conducting their planned terrorist acts, have admitted that they have been trained, armed and financed by the United States forces in regional countries to conduct terrorist activities in Iran.

Based on the conclusive evidence about terrorist activities of the Kingdom Assembly of Iran - Tondar, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly called on the Government of the United States, through its interests section in the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran, to effectively prevent the activities of that group and, based on relevant international norms, to extradite its members to Iran for prosecution. Additionally, the United States, through the Red Notices issued by the International Criminal Police Organization, was also in full knowledge of all terrorist and criminal activities of the group and its members.

However, despite being cognizant of the group's terrorist nature and activities, the United States, to date, has continued to sponsor it, and has refrained from taking even the slightest measure to prevent the terrorist activities of this group, which openly, including through its official website and media, incites terrorism and provides training on how to conduct terrorist acts and other subversive and disruptive measures in Iran.

In the light of the above and recalling the obligations of States to prevent and combat terrorism, in particular by taking appropriate practical measures to ensure that their respective territories are not used for terrorist installations or training camps, or for the preparation or organization of terrorist acts against other States or their citizens, making certain the apprehension and prosecution or extradition of any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens to terrorists, there remains no doubt that the Government of the United States has clearly violated all of such obligations with regard to the Kingdom Assembly of Iran - Tondar. Accordingly, the United States is responsible for all terrorist activities perpetrated by that group as well as the loss of lives of the Iranian citizens and the damages inflicted as a result of such acts.

The Islamic Republic of Iran expects the United Nations to shoulder its responsibilities to prevent the United States from providing supports to terrorist groups such as the Kingdom Assembly of Iran - Tondar.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 83 and 118 as well as that of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry said on August 1 that it had arrested Jamshid Sharmahd, the ringleader of the Tondar terrorist group.

In a statement, the ministry said Iranian security forces had managed to arrest Sharmahd, who directed "armed operations and acts of sabotage" in Iran from the U.S.

Following a complicated operation, the ringleader of the group, was arrested and he is "now in the powerful hands" of Iranian security forces, it added. Upon his arrest, Sharmahd admitted providing explosives for a 2008 attack against a religious congregation center in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz, Fars Province, in 2008, that killed 14 people and wounded 215 others.

## Tehran urges IAEA to shed light on Saudi 'covert' nuclear program

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Iran's ambassador to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Saturday called on the UN nuclear watchdog body to shed light on Saudi Arabia's "covert" nuclear activities.

"Despite the fact that Saudi Arabia is a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and has a comprehensive bilateral safeguard agreement with the Agency, it has unfortunately refused to abide by its commitments to the Agency's inspections despite repetitive calls," Kazem Gharibabadi said, according to Tasnim.

Gharibabadi urged the IAEA to carry out investigations and submit a full report on the status of nuclear activities in the Saudi kingdom.

Raising alarm about Riyadh's nuclear ambitions, the ambassador said the international community will not accept Saudi "deviation" from a peaceful nuclear program and will confront it.

The comments came after American intelligence agencies reportedly said they had spotted an undeclared nuclear site near Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh, scrutinizing attempts by the kingdom to process uranium and move toward the development of atomic bombs.

The New York Times reported on Wednesday that the agencies had in recent weeks circulated a classified analysis about Saudi attempts to build up its ability to produce nuclear fuel that could potentially lead to the



development of nuclear weapons.

The study shows "a newly completed structure near a solar-panel production area near Riyadh, the Saudi capital, that some government analysts and outside experts suspect could be one of a number of undeclared nuclear sites," the report said.

The site is situated in a secluded desert area not too far from the Saudi town of al-Uyaynah, 30 kilometers northwest of Riyadh, and its Solar Village.

A day earlier, an article in The Wall Street Journal said that Western officials were concerned about a desert site in northwestern Saudi Arabia just south of the town of al-Ula. It was part of a program with the Chinese to extract ura-

nium yellowcake from uranium ore, according to the article.

Frank Pabian, a former satellite image analyst at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, said the desert site appears to be a small mill for turning uranium ore into yellowcake as it has a checkpoint, high security fences, a large building about 150 feet on a side and ponds for the collection of uranium waste.

In a report on July 21, al-Jazeera said the Saudis announced in early 2018 that they had broken ground on a small research reactor that would be operational by the end of 2019.

Bloomberg News reported that satellite photos taken in March and May of this year revealed that the Saudis have built a roof over the reactor - a development that is alarming nuclear experts because Saudi Arabia has not yet invited the IAEA to monitor the site and inspect the reactor's design.

"What it does tend to infer is problematic," said Paul Dorfman, honorary senior research fellow at the Energy Institute, University College London. "Key to IAEA surveillance and regulations is signing up to non-proliferation treaties. In other words, questions of enrichment and how you deal with substances that flow out of nuclear reactors in terms of future weaponization."

Saudi Arabia has signed the NPT, which obligates it to have a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. But those agreements do not allow IAEA inspectors to visit whenever they like on short notice.



## New heads of CAO, Iran Air appointed

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – In a ceremony on Sunday attended by Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami, the new heads of the country's national airline (Iran Air) and also Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) were appointed.

As reported by IRIB, Touraj Dehqani Zanganeh, who previously served as the managing director of Iran Air, replaced Ali Abedzadeh as the new head of CAO, while Alireza Barkhor took his place as the new head of the national airline.

The ceremony was held at Civil Aviation Technology College in Tehran.



The Civil Aviation Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran is Iran's civil aviation agency. It is the statutory corporation that oversees and regulates all aspects of civil aviation in Iran. The organization was established in July 1946 and it's headquartered at Mehrabad International Airport in Tehran.

Iran Air, the flag carrier of Iran, is the oldest airline in West Asia and the second oldest in Asia. It is also headquartered at Mehrabad Airport in Tehran.

## Iran trying to fill exports gap with Turkey

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Chairman of Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce said that Iran is trying to compensate four-month export gap with neighboring Turkey which happened as a result of spread of coronavirus global pandemic, Mehr news agency reported.

Mehrdad Sa'adat pointed to the latest situation of admitting Iranian trucks at the Turkish border and impact of the coronavirus outbreak on trade exchange between the two countries and reiterated, "We try to compensate a four-month export gap with Turkey."

"Presently, we are facing the long queue of trucks at borders", he emphasized.

Turkey refrains from accepting more Iranian trucks due to the outbreak of COVID-19, he said, adding, "Talks are underway with Turkish officials to increase the number of Iranian export and transit trucks for entering Turkey."

This is while Turkey has been named as Iran's fifth export target market in the first four months of Iranian calendar current year (March 20-July 21) as Iran exported 43,000 tons of products, valued at \$405 million, to neighboring Turkey, he stressed.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), five percent of Iran's total non-oil commodities were exported to Turkey in this period.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official pointed to the volume of products imported into the country from Turkey and said, "Some 1.87 million tons of products, valued at \$1.178 billion were imported into Iran from Turkey."

Accordingly, Islamic Republic of Iran has been Turkey's third importer of goods from Turkey, so that Turkey accounts for about 11 percent of Iran's total import share.

He put Iran's trade balance with Turkey in first four-month period in the current year at -\$773 million.

Two weeks ago Sa'adat had told IRNA on Saturday that Iran's export to Turkey was continuing via the roads and railway.

He said that the number of trucks waiting in Bazargan Border to enter Turkey indicates that Iran's export to its neighbor is increasing, adding that Iran's transit of commodities via Turkey has also risen noticeably after the reopening of this border.

In early July, land borders between Iran and Turkey reopened after more than three months.

On the first day of border reopening, 150 Iranian trucks entered Turkey, according to the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration.

Rouhollah Latifi said that the mentioned trucks entered Turkey via three land borders of Bazargan, Sero, and Razi.

Also, 35 Turkish trucks entered Iran as the borders reopened, Latifi announced.

The long-awaited measure came more than a week after Iranian and Turkish presidents discussed the reopening of air and land borders between the two countries now that the pandemic has slowed down.

Iran sees trade with Turkey as key in efforts to confront the U.S. sanctions that have sought to undermine Tehran's oil exports. Petrochemical products account for a major share of Iran's exports to Turkey although the U.S. bans have made it difficult to settle payments between businesses in the two countries.

Turkey also relies on Iran as a major market for its manufacturing goods, including industrial machinery and garment, while it also sends to Iran some sizable shipments of crops and fruits that are not cultivated in the country.

As announced by the IRICA spokesman, Iran and Turkey exchanged 6,300 wagons of commodities via railway during a 70-day period from the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

According to Latifi, Iran's exports to Turkey via railway stood at 3,072 wagons of goods and its imports from the neighboring country reached 3,228 wagons during the mentioned period of time.

IRICA Head Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi held a meeting with his Turkish counterpart Riza Tuna Turagay, via video conference on May 5, to discuss reopening of trade borders with the implementation of health and safety protocols.

Readiness to exchange health protocols for reopening trade borders, importing goods from Sarisu trans-boundary market, implementation of the third phase of e-Tir electronic project in all customs offices of the two countries, online exchange of information and X-ray in shared borders were among the important topics of discussion in the said meeting.

Mir-Ashrafi urged Turagay to take all the necessary measures to ensure the reopening of the two countries' borders since the Turkish borders with its other neighbors were open at the time.

In late February, Turkey closed its border with Iran as a preventative measure against the deadly coronavirus outbreak.

# Industrial projects to create 41,000 direct jobs by next March

**1 →** He pointed to the ongoing work in 4,000 industrial, mining, and trade projects with over 80 percent of physical progress and said that these projects will be completed gradually by the end of the current government.

According to the ministry's office of public relations, Khashbani underlined four major axes for the ministry's programs this year, that include moving toward self-sufficiency, completing semi-finished projects, developing exports and managing imports, and finally controlling and managing the domestic market.

As for self-sufficiency, the acting min-

ister stated that one of the major goals of the Industry Ministry in the current Iranian calendar year is going to be reducing dependence on foreign sources and the U.S. dollar for supplying the country's needs.

Regarding the third axis which is the development of exports while controlling and management of imports, the official said, "We have limited the import items to basic goods, raw materials, machines and equipment required by factories to prevent the imports of unnecessary goods which can be made domestically."

He also noted that the ministry is implementing a program to indigenize the knowl-



edge for manufacturing various equipment and industrial parts that will save the country over \$3.2 billion annually.

"We have managed to save \$300 million this way in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21)," he added.

The fourth axis of the Industry Ministry's priority plans for the current year is to control and regulate the market, according to Modarres Khashbani.

"Necessary measures have also been taken to ensure the proper and adequate supply of the basic goods required by people," he said.

## Nearly 404,000 tons of copper concentrate produced in 4 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Production of copper concentrate in Iran hit 403,994 tons during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), IRNA reported on Sunday.

As reported, production of copper concentrate during the four-month period of this year was one percent higher than that of the same period of time in the previous year.

In early May, four development projects worth 40 trillion rials (about \$952.3 million) were inaugurated in the copper sector of Kerman Province in the southeast of Iran.

President Hassan Rouhani put the projects into operation through video conference.

The projects inaugurated in Khatoon Abad Copper Complex included increasing the capacity of copper smelting in the complex, building a copper concentrate storage, construction of a sulfuric acid production plant, and an oxygen supplying unit.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO)'s Managing Director Khodadad Gharibpour was present in the inaugural ceremony of the projects.

By putting the first project into operation, the complex's capacity for producing copper anode rises by 50 percent to 120,000 tons, and the country's copper smelting capacity rose to 400,000 tons. This project creates jobs for 120 persons.

Some 1.11 trillion rials (about \$26.4 million) plus \$118 million have been invested for this project.

The second project, which was the construction of a 60,000-ton storage facility, was implemented at the cost of 158 billion rials (about \$3.7 million) plus three million euros, creating jobs for 250 people.



The third project is valued at 750 billion rials (about \$17.8 million) plus 100 million euros and the fourth one was put into operation at the cost of 192 billion rials (about \$4.5 million) plus 31 million euros.

In its outlook plan for the mining sector in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), Iran plans to produce 1.427 million tons of copper concentrate.

The country had planned to produce 1.198 million tons of copper concentrate in the past year, while the output reached 1.18 million tons.

Iran has seen its copper exports doubled in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade of lucrative metals.

A senior official at IMIDRO, Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has said that the value of exports for main copper products reached more than \$1 billion over the past year.

Mohammad Aqajanolou said that total sales of the Na-

## Developing Sistan-Baluchestan industrial parks atop agenda: ISIPO head

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) said in a meeting with the governor of the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, that developing the newly established industrial parks in this province are the ISIPO's top priority for the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20).

In the meeting which was also attended by the heads of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, and Industrial Parks Department, Mohsen Salehinia noted that

ISIPO has doubled the facilities allocated for the expansion of industrial parks in Sistan-Baluchestan.

According to Sistan-Baluchestan Governor Ali-Ahmad Mouhebati, following the government's major policies for the development of Sistan-Baluchestan province and the attraction of investors to this province, the development of industrial parks, especially specialized zones by the private sector has become a top priority by the related organizations and government bodies.

"These industrial parks and zones play

an important role in economic growth and creating employment and achieving the development prospects of the province," Mouhebati said.

The official expressed appreciation for the ISIPO efforts for the expansion of Sistan-Baluchestan industrial parks and explained some of the problems of the province's industrial parks like providing electricity infrastructure.

Sistan-Baluchestan province, after Kerman, is the second-largest province of the 31 provinces of Iran. It is in the southeast of the country, bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Iran's only oceanic port, Chabahar, is based in this province.

## Iran, Iraq resume trade via Shalamcheh border

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN**— Iran and Iraq resumed trade through Shalamcheh border, Mehr news agency reported on Sunday, quoting an Iranian provincial official.

The deputy head of Arvand Free Zone Organization, in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province, said that according to the Iraqi officials the international border of Shalamcheh, which had been closed two weeks ago, has been reopened on Sunday.

Seyed Ali Mousavi said, "Today, the international border of Shalamcheh was reopened and traders of the two countries resumed their activities."

Exports of non-oil goods, including foodstuffs, fruits, vegetables, and meat, as well as technical and engineering services, resumed at this border on July 6, according to an agreement reached with the Iraqi side, Mousavi announced.

According to Mousavi, 21,000 tons of non-oil goods worth \$95 million exported to Iraq after resuming of Shalamcheh border on July 9, after a four-month shut down due to the outbreak of coronavirus.



Before the closure of the Shalamcheh border by Iraq, more than 200 trucks were carrying a variety of domestic exported goods and 150 Iraqi trucks traveled daily at the border dock to unload and load goods.

Meanwhile, in early July, the head of Iraq's Border Ports Authority Omar Al-Waeli announced that Iraqi Prime

Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi had ordered trade exchanges with Iran to be resumed in Mandali and Shalamcheh border markets.

Al-Waeli added that accordingly, 250 shipments from Iran will enter Iraq daily for two days a week through Shalamcheh border in Basra and Mandali in Diyala province, IRNA reported.

Preventive measures against coronavirus should be taken in health departments of the two provinces to ensure the safety of workers and incoming goods, he said.

The official reiterated that only goods exchanges are permissible and passengers will never be allowed to enter the border crossings.

In mid-June, the Iraqi government agreed to reopen Zarbatiyeh (Mehran) border crossing to import goods from Iran for two days a week, and trade is currently underway at that border crossing.

Iraq's Border Ports Authority closed border crossings with Iran and its neighbors in mid-March to prevent the outbreak of the coronavirus.

## TEDPIX rises 6% in a week

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN**— TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), increased six percent during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported by IRNA, the index stood at 2,034 million points at the end of the previous week.

The indices of Bank Mellat, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Iran Khodro Investment Development Company, Ghadir Investment Company, and Bank Saderat were the major contributors to the index's rise in the past week.

Iranian stock market, which has been experiencing some unprecedented growth in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), and also during the present year, registered a new record high on August 2.

The main index of Tehran Stock Exchange,

which is Iran's major stock exchange, surpassed two million points during the trades in the mentioned day and through gaining 45,672 points it stood at 2,007 million, notching up another outstanding record in the current year.

The index had hit the record high of 1.5 million points on June 30, and now we see that it has climbed half a million points in just one month to hit the record high of two million.

It's a while that the capital market in Iran is unbelievably flourishing; we have been witnessing new record highs continuously posted by the TSE since the year start, and climbing to the peak of one million points, something almost unbelievable just some time ago, came true in early May.

Such prosperous status has really made a great shift in the Iranian people's approach of investment making, as more and more people are now making investment in this market.

Of course, the capital market itself has made great strides to attract more investors; as the result of its profitable status and also through making people more acquainted with this market.

Many factors have brought such prosperity for the capital market in the recent months, one of them is that this market is now more profitable compared to some other markets such as the markets of gold coin, foreign currency, and housing.

Such contributing factors have even brought the capital market to the frontline of success and flourishing during the coronavirus pandemic which have made damage to all economic sectors.

Two weeks ago, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dehghani announced that the value of trades in Iran's stock market has risen 625 percent during the first four

months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The minister also said that the value of four-month trades at this market has increased 145 percent since the beginning of the current year.

The official went on to say, "We try to save the liquidity attracted by the capital market and lead it toward production and development."

As announced by the head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), the amount of liquidity absorbed by Iran's capital market reached 500 trillion rials (about \$12 billion) during the first quarter of the current year (March 20-June 20).

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



# Summer peak period passes without blackout

**ENERGY** TEHRAN — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said on Sunday that the summer peak electricity consumption period has been passed without any pre-planned blackouts.

We passed through the summer peak consumption period without any blackouts despite the increase in the country's electricity exports, Ardakanian told IRNA.

According to the minister, this summer the power supply by the country's national grid increased by four percent compared to the previous year's same period, while the peak demand growth reduced to nearly one percent.

"In previous years, the average growth in peak power demand was more than five percent, which meant we needed to build several new power plants with thousands of megawatts of capacity to meet this peak demand," Ardakanian said.

"This year, however, we managed to reduce the increase in demand during the peak period to only one percent by implementing consumption management programs and allocating incentive packages for low-consuming subscribers", he added.

"Consumption management programs started two years ago with the cooperation of people in various sectors including industry, agriculture, commerce, and households,



and with the incentive packages that were foreseen and the memorandums that were concluded, we were able to reduce demand significantly", the official explained.

"We were also able to fulfill the country's electricity export commitments, which are

particularly important in the face of the current sanctions and are significant sources of revenue for the country", he stressed.

In late July, Ardakanian had announced that his ministry was considering new incentive packages for low-consuming

households and industrial electricity subscribers.

"Last year, nearly 10.6 trillion rials (about \$25.2 million) was paid to low-consuming households and industrial subscribers, and this year too, new incentive packages have been considered for awarding such consumers," the minister said on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting.

Ardakanian also mentioned the management of electricity consumption during the cold season and said: "The [upcoming] winter is expected to be very cold and in this regard, the subscribers who make optimal use of heating devices and consume less electricity will also be rewarded."

Since the beginning of the hot season, the energy ministry has been implementing new programs and strategies for encouraging people and industries to optimize their electricity consumption.

In late May, the Energy Ministry's spokesman for the Electricity Sector Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi had said that last year, nearly 3.06 trillion rials (about \$72.85 million) were paid to the households and industrial subscribers cooperating in the consumption management program in the form of incentives and relief packages.

## Security of gas supply at stake without ensuring investment flow: GECF sec. gen.

**TEHRAN (Shana)** — "The lack of investment in the gas industry today could jeopardize the security of gas supply in the medium term," said the secretary general of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF). "It is in the interest of buyers and sellers to keep the flow of investment to at least a minimum."

The outbreak of coronavirus has made 2020 an unusual year for the global economy. Many industries are in shock and it is very difficult for them to predict the future. The gas industry is one of those industries. Gas prices have been declining along with the outbreak of the coronavirus and the demand for this fuel has been dropping, and forecasts indicate that investment in the industry is falling. What is the picture of the future of this industry? What is the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on gas demand? Is there an investment prospect for the LNG sector? What steps can GECF take to strengthen the role of natural gas in the world's energy mix? Is the GECF in competition with other gas exporters such as the United States, Australia and Canada in order to strengthen its role? Given the current situation, may GECF change its policies?

"In 2021, gas demand will grow again, but we will be cautiously optimistic because of the duration and severity of the outbreak," said HE Yury Senturin, secretary general of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum. Senturin also announced that GECF had recently established the Gas Research Institute in Algeria.

Read the interview of the Oil and Energy Information Network (Shana) with HE Yury Senturin, Russian Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum:

■ According to our previous interview in Tehran (Iran Oil Show, May2018), you believed that natural gas would play a key role in the future energy mix in the context of sustainable development and climate change agenda. Do you still hold this belief taking into account the recent developments in terms of global economy, technology advancements and environmental considerations?

Natural gas has inherent advantages including its affordability, reliability, low-carbon emissions, and the security of supply even under a severe hit to global markets, such as by the Covid-19 pandemic.

It can replace coal in power generation, especially after the improvement of the switching economics coming from the low natural gas price. The other side is backing up the intermittent renewables. Its diversified nature also makes it ideal in several sectors and development scenarios of the global energy mix, such as hydrogen. As a result, the medium- and long-term outlook for natural gas is very promising.

The GECF forecasts that emissions mitigation potential of gas can be largely increased with a larger deployment of decarbonization options, including carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), and hydrogen development.

The technology advancement in the renewable sectors that reduces the cost and improve the efficiency can promote the competitiveness of the renewables in the long-term. However, advancement in technology is also assumed to materialize in the natural gas sector, especially in the field of CO2 and Methane abatement.

The GECF has recently established the Gas Research Institute in Algeria to promote innovation, especially for technologies that reduce the environmental footprint of natural gas. Furthermore, the Forum initiated the environmental knowledge and solutions framework initiative that aims to create a supportive and collaborative platform allowing Member Countries to share best practices to deal with the environmental challenges.

The GECF pursues its effort to promote and assess the balanced ways in which to reduce emissions from energy systems, while simultaneously supporting the economic and social progress of populations. The GECF strongly calls for cooperation with all interested parties involved in the climate dialogue, and the delivered statement at the COP-25 conference in Madrid last December emphasizes this point.

We are also highlighting natural gas' critical role in the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 7, as an environmentally friendly, affordable, reliable, accessible and flexible natural resource for ensuring economic development and social progress.



In our view, post-Covid-19 policy measures that aim to extensively push for clean energies, excluding hydrocarbons, will face several challenges. First, it is difficult to add new constraints, such as carbon taxes or imposition of tougher environmental standards on already weakened economies. Second, funding the green stimulus packages remains a key issue since it will amplify the debts risks and the creditworthiness of the economies. Third, the clean energy options, excluding hydrocarbons, are still facing technical and economic barriers for their deployment, which might have an effect on the competitiveness of the energy supply. Even solar and wind, which have observed decreasing costs, continue to face integration challenges and the necessity to provide backup for their intermittency.

Therefore, we believe that natural gas, even if it is a hydrocarbon source, should be considered as a clean energy and be included as a lever for economic restoration in the aftermath of the pandemic. Indeed, natural gas provides a competitive and environmentally friendly source of energy and constitutes the attributes that will allow reaching a balance between the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainable development.

■ How do you elaborate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gas demand in the short and long terms?

In 2020, global gas demand could decline by 2-3% in a best-case scenario and up to 5% in the worst-case scenario due to another mild winter season and the Covid-19 pandemic, which is driving the world towards a global recession and cutting gas demand especially in the power and industrial sectors. In 2021, gas demand will rebound, however we adhere to a cautious optimism as the duration of the outbreak and the severity of its impact remain unclear. According to our initial forecast, last year's level of gas consumption will be reached only by 2022. At the same time, some additional gains could be expected from coal-to-gas switching, helped by current low gas prices and ample supply. These factors are projected to be a driving force in the power sector of Europe and Asia Pacific markets, underpinned by policy-driven conversion. Particularly, a phase-out of coal-fired power generation in Europe will create additional prospects for natural gas in the mid-term.

On the LNG demand side, global LNG trade in 2021 is set to slow down. Compared to a record 11.6% growth in 2019, this year we expect an increase of around 3-3.5% as less LNG projects are commissioned and the risk of the U.S. losing around 5-10 mtpa of LNG productions due to low spot prices globally. However, after recovering to around 7% growth in 2021, in 2022 to 2023 LNG trade growth is projected to decelerate to around 1.5%-2% per year, driven by a slowdown in new LNG capacity, which is expected to support a recovery in global spot and LNG prices and stabilize oversupply situation that we are observing at the moment.

Over the long-term, we consider that natural gas will remain an indispensable fuel accompanying the energy transition and propelled by positive policy support in many countries. Gas demand is projected to reach around 5,850 bcm by 2050, corresponding to almost 50% growth between now and 2050. As mentioned already, the share of natural gas in the global energy mix will increase in parallel from 23% to 27% over the forecast period.

The GECF community is more than confident that

the future of gas and LNG demand will be strong in the coming years. In all cases, the GECF Member Countries are reliable partners and are committed to sustain the stability of gas market through resilient supplies to the global market.

■ Given the decline in natural gas demand, the existence of LNG oversupply and falling prices in the current market conditions, do you think there would be a clear prospect for investing in LNG industry?

2020 has become an extraordinary year for the global economy, with many industries, including the gas industry, experiencing a shock because of the Covid-19 outbreak. We have witnessed the falling gas demand in many regions driven by the imposition of the lockdown measures, which, coupled with LNG oversupply, has led to historically low gas prices.

It is natural that in the context of falling gas prices, many gas operators, including international and national gas companies, have incurred losses in Q1 and Q2 of 2020. In these unfavourable circumstances, market operators have had to cut their expenditures, with capital investment getting the axe first. Gas companies simply do not have sufficient cash flows to keep investment budgets at the same levels as approved before the advent of Covid-19.

All subsectors of the gas industry including upstream, midstream, and downstream, have witnessed a decline in investment flows in 2020. Many projects, with final investment decision (FID) already taken, have had delays in implementation, and are likely to be commissioned later than previously expected. As for new projects, with FID expected to be taken in 2020-2021, several have been put on hold until the market condition improves. For instance, developers of LNG projects have faced a problem with attracting financial resources because of the inability to secure long-term supply contracts.

As a result, investment in the global gas industry might decline by up to 30% in 2020. Investment delays in LNG projects could limit liquefaction capacity and create a significant shortfall in production levels over the medium-term. LNG demand growth outpaces liquefaction capacity, and delays in project sanctioning will affect the development of LNG regasification infrastructure and LNG to power plant projects, especially in Asia. We should clearly understand that a lack of investment today might pose a risk to security of gas supply in the medium-term. Therefore, the plunging investment flows are an important concern not only for the gas suppliers, but also for gas consumers. It is of the mutual interest of the buyers and the sellers to keep investment flows at the minimum required level.

Nevertheless, we might expect a rebound of gas demand in a few months, driven by the lifting up of lockdown measures in many countries and the approaching winter season. This factor, coupled with a slowdown in LNG supply growth, would entail a slight recovery of gas prices starting from 2021. As a result, the financial situation of many gas operators is expected to improve which will enable them to gradually step up investment flows, put current projects back on track, and start new projects. As for long-term prospects, the global gas industry has excellent potential to attract sufficient investments, since natural gas, which has environmental advantages over other fossil fuels, is anticipated to gain a foothold and increase its share in the global energy mix.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, almost 200 mtpa of LNG capacity, particularly from the U.S., were targeting FID in 2020. However, the plunge in global oil and gas prices, which was exacerbated by the pandemic, led to the postponement of around 115 Mt of LNG capacity to 2021 and beyond. In addition, the Covid-19 travel restrictions affected the signing of long-term LNG Sales & Purchase Agreements (SPAs) for project finance, which also contributed to the postponement in FIDs. There are still around 71 mtpa of LNG capacity targeted to be sanctioned this year, including the first phase of Qatar's LNG expansion (33 mtpa) and some projects in Russia and the U.S. The first phase of Qatar's LNG expansion and one or two projects from the U.S. are most likely to reach FID this year. However, for the other LNG projects in 2020, if oil and gas prices remain low and long-term LNG SPAs are not signed to support financing, some of these projects may be postponed.

## Weak oil demand could spark another market share showdown

By Tsvetana Paraskova

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and the main force behind the OPEC+ production cuts, faces a too familiar dilemma just four months into the new collective agreement to curtail output in order to rebalance the market crushed by the pandemic-driven demand crash. The global oil demand recovery seems to have stalled just as OPEC+ starts to ease the production cuts by 2 million barrels per day (bpd) as of August 1.

OPEC's leader finds itself in an all-too-familiar position: should it try to regain its own market share again, or should it continue to try forcing full compliance with the cuts, hoping that a tighter market will drive oil prices higher.

Recent signs that oil demand recovery is now slower than many analysts expected could prompt the Saudis to go back to the market-share game, instead of ensuring their unwavering compliance with the OPEC+ cuts, hoping that all others will finally stop cheating and cut as much as they are supposed to, Clyde Russell, a columnist for Reuters, writes.

There are increased uncertainties on the oil market on both the demand and supply side. Demand recovery is surely not V-shaped, and it may have stalled as economies re-open in fits and starts and new localized lockdowns as COVID-19 cases return to grow in many countries. At the same time, global oil supply is also subject to speculation, as OPEC+ and North American producers restore part of the previously curtailed production.

Saudi Arabia has promised that the higher production from the eased cuts would go to its domestic market, not to the global oil market.

Saudi Arabia has also promised that the actual OPEC+ cuts in August would be higher than the 7.7-million-bpd as per the agreement because laggards had promised over-compliance to offset previously poor compliance. The biggest laggard in the deal, Iraq, is promising additional cuts of around 400,000 bpd this month as part of its 'compensation schedule'. Considering that Iraq has never fulfilled a promise as part of the deal since 2017, it's not certain it will do so this time.

The easing of the OPEC+ cuts as of August comes as signs mount that the oil demand recovery is stumbling, including in OPEC's key market Asia.

This could prompt Saudi Arabia to cut its official selling prices (OSPs) for the first time in four months. Oil refiners and traders in Asia largely expect Saudi oil giant Aramco to cut the price of its crude oil going to Asia in September as faltering oil demand recovery is depressing refining margins and weakening the Middle East [West Asia] oil benchmarks against which the producers in the Persian Gulf set their prices for Asia.

Saudi Arabia typically releases the pricing for its crude around the fifth of each month, but this month, Aramco delayed the OSP announcement for several days because of a Muslim holiday.

Profit margins for processing crude into gasoline in Asia evaporated through July, crashing from \$2.37 per barrel on July 1 to just \$0.04 at end-July, according to Reuters estimates.

The world's third-largest oil importer, India, is seeing refiners cut processing rates because fuel demand has slowed in recent weeks as fuel prices are higher and parts of India are again under local lockdowns, while the monsoon season is also stalling economic activity and transport, officials at refineries told Reuters last week.

Against these bearish developments in terms of demand, Saudi Arabia had no other choice but to cut its prices for Asia for September.

If the weaker-than-expected demand recovery persists beyond September, it could frustrate the OPEC+ efforts to tighten the market and draw down inventories.

Having moved from managing the immediate surplus of the crisis, the OPEC+ cuts are now managing the recovery, Roger Diwan, vice president financial services at IHS Markit, said in a note on Thursday.

"The recent display of restored harmony among OPEC+ heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Russia illustrates that the strategic debate within the group over price levels and market share has time to run," he said.

"As long as prices hold in the current range, demand concerns will likely help keep the agreement on course. When prices surpass \$50/bbl, potentially lifting capital spending in the United States higher, that is when changes to the tenor of the discussion, and the divergence of interest could start to play out," Diwan noted.

## Asian LNG prices hit over 4-month high on firm Europe, U.S. gas prices

Asian spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices jumped to a more than four-month high this week, tracking firmer gas prices in Europe and the United States, and as major cities in North Asia face warmer-than-usual weather potentially boosting demand.

The average LNG price for September delivery into northeast Asia (LNG-AS) was estimated at about \$3.10 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) this week, up 40 cents from the previous week, Reuters reported.

Prices for cargoes to be delivered in October were estimated at about \$3.50 per mmBtu.

"Market is bullish due to supply issues from Gorgon and also because European and U.S. gas markets are firm," said a Singapore-based LNG trader, referring to the delayed restart of a production line at the Chevron-operated LNG plant in Australia.

The maintenance on Train 2 of the Gorgon project began in late May, but a restart initially planned for mid-July has been delayed until early September.

The recent rise in spot prices has seen buyers snap up cargoes at prices that are still low compared with previous years, the trader said.

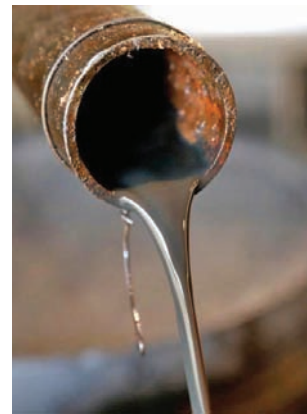
Prices across Europe rose this week on the back of lower Russian flows, while those at the Henry Hub in the United States gained on hotter-than-normal weather.

Tokyo, Beijing and Shanghai are expected to see warmer-than-usual temperatures next week, according to Refinitiv weather data, potentially boosting demand for electricity as people switch on air conditioners.

Malaysia's Petronas sold a cargo from the Gorgon LNG plant for mid-September loading to Gunvor at about \$2.90 per mmBtu, one industry source said.

PetroChina put in the lowest offer to a tender issued by Pakistan LNG for a mid-August cargo.

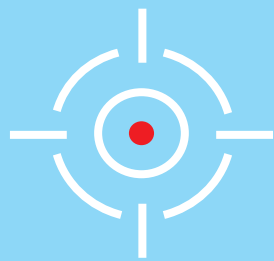
Sakhalin and Papua New Guinea LNG plants sold September-loading cargoes at above \$3 per mmBtu, while Nippon Steel bought a cargo at about \$3 to \$3.15 per mmBtu, traders said.





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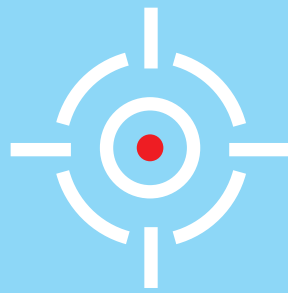
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# The coronavirus betrays Netanyahu

Not long ago, I wrote an opinion piece suggesting that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “will go down in history as the first leader who owes his seat to a virus.”

Indeed, in April, it was the public fear of the pandemic that made Blue and White alliance leader Benny Gantz violate his election promise to voters not to form a coalition with Netanyahu.

The incumbent prime minister had used the military call for everyone “to get under the stretcher” to urge his political rivals to join forces with him in defeating the common viral enemy. He had presented an either-or option — either a so-called “unity government” merging the political right and center-left, or a fourth legislative election, which would be a blatantly unpatriotic, virtually treasonous choice.

Gantz heeded his call and is probably already regretting it. Today, it increasingly seems like Netanyahu is not only unable to handle the political and economic fallout of the pandemic, but is also willing to throw the country into turmoil to save himself from jail.

While Israel is facing a second COVID-19 wave, hospitals are filling to capacity, unemployment and bankruptcies are surging, and a budget hole is threatening Israel's global financial standing, Netanyahu is pushing for a new election, despite just months earlier demonizing such a prospect.

In July, reports in the Israeli media revealed that Netanyahu is seeking to dissolve the coalition and trigger early elections in a bid to regain control of the justice ministry and make sure that he is not forced from his seat to face trial.

In effect, Netanyahu is dragging Israelis to the ballot box for the fourth time in less than 18 months at the start of what is forecast to be a grim winter. But this time, it may bring about his political demise.

On August 2, coalition whip Knesset member Miki Zohar likened the relationship between Netanyahu's Likud and Gantz's Blue and White to a couple that “wants to divorce and are about to sign on it any minute.” The brash lawmaker, who is one of Netanyahu's closest confidants, added that “it doesn't matter what we do, it is about to



be over between us and Blue and White.”

Netanyahu has no guarantee of getting custody of most of the children, especially the many undecided and unemployed who are so sick of the whole thing that they may leave their political home altogether. An April poll gave Netanyahu's handling of the health crisis a 68 percent approval rating, whereas in the July Israeli Voice Index conducted by the Israel Democracy Institute only 25 percent of respondents approved of his performance in dealing with the crisis and only 30 percent of the way he is running the government.

In the spring of 2020, the coronavirus smiled on Netanyahu, portraying him as a national hero who brought the epidemic to heel, an irreplaceable unique leader worthy of glory and, of course, clemency. When the epidemic reared its head again in June, and Israel starred among the world's most dangerous states, Netanyahu's bragging that Israel was doing “better than most countries” became a stand-up comedy gist.

Netanyahu, who initially imposed stringent measures to stem the COVID-19 spread, decided to ease restrictions at the end of May under strong public and political pressure. He ignored the experts advising his National Security Council, who insisted on adopting an orderly model for easing the

lockdown, which might have significantly reduced the spread of the disease.

In a June 27 letter to Netanyahu and Israeli health minister Yuli Edelstein, the team wrote that the country “has lost control of the pandemic” and warned that absent immediate steps to stop the infections, Israel could find itself under another lockdown.

Along with disregard for medical experts' advice, Netanyahu displayed insensitivity over the economic plight of the many Israelis hard hit by the pandemic, including someone million unemployed and tens of thousands of small business owners. The government's financial support to those in need has been too little and too slow.

Despite the growing public anger, at the end of June, Netanyahu demanded that the Knesset approve retroactive tax refunds for expenses at his private villa in Caesarea. He eventually expressed regret over the timing, but not over the actual demand, which the Knesset granted.

His next lapse in judgment, which could cost him his seat, was lashing out at those demonstrating outside his official Jerusalem residence against government corruption, alongside artists, students, social activists, and many others who feel the government has abandoned them to their fate.

Netanyahu painted the protesters as

“anarchists” and “leftists” out to topple “a strong right-wing leader.”

Contrary to his claims, the tens of thousands of protesters in Jerusalem and elsewhere around the country are hardly anarchists funded by extreme left organizations. Among the protesters I met, there were Likud voters, religious and ultra-Orthodox Israelis, and even fans of the Netanyahu family.

On July 31, Channel 12 aired a monologue by interior designer Moshik Galamin who had previously starred in Netanyahu's election campaign clips. “I am concerned about my future, and that of my self-employed friends, those about whom you up there do not give a damn,” the Tel Aviv celebrity opined on primetime television. “This is definitely not an issue of right or left, and I am quite definitely not an anarchist. You obviously know that I am not against you. I am simply Moshik Galamin, an independent businessman, a concerned citizen living in this country, who wants you to take me into account, too.”

The July Israeli Voice Index indicates that most Israelis do not want elections at this time - not over the budget impasse between Netanyahu and Gantz or for any other reason.

Netanyahu is already pointing the finger of blame at Gantz, who insists that Netanyahu honor his coalition agreement with Blue and White and submit a two-year budget rather than the one-year budget on which he now insists for what is left of 2020.

The near future does not bode well for Netanyahu, not only because of the virus's refusal to meet his personal interests. In November, he may not only lose the election, but he could also lose his White House benefactor and find himself having to deal with Democratic majorities in both chambers of the US Congress. As of January 21, his diary will be full of court appearances to defend himself against charges of corruption, and invariably against petitions arguing that he is unfit to remain in office.

The virus that put Netanyahu in control now seems to augur his political demise.

(Source: Aljazeera)

## Truman's war crimes at Hiroshima and Nagasaki

This month marks the 75th anniversary of the U.S atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While proponents of the bombings have long justified them on the basis that they shortened World War II, the fact is that they were war crimes. The only reason why President Truman and the pilots who dropped the bombs were not prosecuted as war criminals is because the United States ended up winning the war.

It has long been pointed out that Japan had expressed a willingness to surrender. The only condition was that the Japanese emperor not be abused or executed.

President Truman refused to agree to that condition. Like his predecessor Franklin Roosevelt, Truman demanded “unconditional surrender.”

That was why Japan continued fighting. Japanese officials naturally assumed that U.S. officials were going to do some very bad things to their emperor, including torture and execution. In the minds of Japanese officials, why else would the United States not be willing to agree to that one condition, especially given that it would have meant the end of the war?

The dark irony is that Truman ended up accepting the condition anyway, only after he pulverized the people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with nuclear bombs.

In an excellent op-ed in the Los Angeles Times entitled “U.S. Leaders Knew We Didn't Have to Drop Atomic Bombs on Japan to Win the War. We Did It Anyway,” the authors point out:

Keep in mind that there is nothing in the principles of warfare that required Truman and Roosevelt to demand the unconditional surrender of Japan (or Germany). Wars can be — and often are — ended with terms of surrender. Both presidents were willing to sacrifice countless people on both sides of the conflict to attain their demand for unconditional surrender.



But Truman's unconditional surrender demand is not why his action constituted a war crime. This bombing constituted war crimes because they targeted non-combatants, including children, women, and seniors, with death as a way to bring about an unconditional surrender of the Japanese government.

It has lone been considered a rule of warfare that armies fight armies in war. They don't target non-combatants. The intentional killing of non-combatants is considered a war crime.

A good example of this principle involved the case of Lt. William Calley in the Vietnam War. Calley and his men shot and killed numerous non-combatants in a South Vietnamese village. The victims included women and children.

The U.S. military prosecuted Calley as a war criminal — and rightly so. While the deaths of non-combatants oftentimes occur incidentally to wartime operations, it is a war crime to target them for death specifically.

Truman justified his action by arguing that the bombings shortened the war and, therefore, saved the lives of thousands of American soldiers and Japanese people if

an invasion had become necessary. It is a justification that has been repeated ever since by proponents of the bombings.

There are two big problems with that justification, however.

First, an invasion would not have been necessary. All that Truman had to do was to accept Japan's only condition for surrender, and that would have meant the end of the war, without the deaths that would have come with an invasion, and that did come with the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

More importantly, the lives of American soldiers would have been saved is not a moral or legal justification for targeting non-combatants. If Calley had maintained at his trial that his actions were intended to shorten the Vietnam War, his defense would have been rejected. He would have still be convicted of war crimes.

Soldiers die in war. That is the nature of war. To kill women, children, and seniors in the hopes of saving the lives of soldiers by shortening the war is not only a war crime, but it is also an act of extreme cowardice. If an invasion of Japan would have become necessary to win the war, thereby resulting in the deaths of thousands of U.S. soldiers, that's how war works.

It's also worth pointing out that Japan never intended to invade and conquer the United States. The only reason that Japan bombed Pearl Harbor was in the hope of knocking out the U.S. Pacific fleet, not as a prelude to invade Hawaii or the continental United States but to prevent the U.S. from interfering with Japan's efforts to secure oil in the Dutch East Indies.

And why was Japan so desperate for oil to initiate war against the United States? Because President Franklin Roosevelt had imposed a highly effective oil embargo on Japan as a way to maneuver the Japanese into attacking the United States.

Of course, FDR's plan succeeded, which ended up costing the lives of hundreds of thousands of American soldiers and millions of Japanese citizens, including those at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Jacob George Hornberger (pictured above) is an American attorney, author, and politician who was a Libertarian candidate for president in 2020 and 2000. He is the founder and president of the Future of Freedom Foundation. The article was first published on the Future of Freedom Foundation.

## Ulterior motives in attacks on Lebanese ministries

➡ ■ Suspicious attempts to destroy corruption documents

Lebanese media reported that those who attacked the Foreign Ministry intended to destroy corruption documents. According to the Al-Mayadin network, this is the exact thing that some parties have been pursuing since 1992. So, perhaps part of the answer to the question about the causes of the Saturday night attack can be found here. The biggest beneficiaries of this event is those who are facing big corruption cases.

In this regard, Lebanese Industry Minister Emad Huballah points to infiltration of suspicious elements among the demonstrators to destroy the documents in the ministries.

He warns about some moves to prevent the completion of the government investigations and announcing the results in coming days.

On the other hand, many Lebanese observers, including retired General Charles Abi Nader, believe that those who attacked government buildings and ministries are those who do not want the Beirut blast to be handled domestically and intend to internationalize it. As in the case of the assassination of Rafik Hariri, pro-U.S. and Western-backed Lebanese groups brought the case to international court with the chief aim of undermining and accusing Hezbollah.

In this context, the March 14 movement also seeks to fish in troubled waters. And while this group, along with its affiliated political currents, is expected to help facilitate international aid to Lebanon and alleviate the suffering of the Lebanese people, it is trying to block international aid delivery.

Prior to Saturday night's events, a number of the movement's affiliates called for isolation of the government at regional and international level, saying that the government should not receive even a dollar in international aid. Some of them have also taken explicit positions in opposition to Hezbollah.

Also, before the protesters attacked the government buildings, some reports cited by the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhabar, indicated that the groups under the supervision of Baha al-Hariri and Ashraf al-Rifi had been getting ready to come to the streets and close transport routes and increase tensions in Lebanon and the region.

The March 14's rush to accuse the government of negligence and blame it for the Beirut tragedy indicates that the movement, along the U.S.-Persian Gulf coalition, was plotting to overthrow the new Lebanese government.

However, if the Lebanese government deserves to be blamed for the Beirut port explosion, the storage of more than 2,500 tons of ammonium nitrate in this sensitive area was done during the previous government.

In the aftermath of the blast, Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab, speaking under pressure from the streets of Beirut, said that holding early parliamentary elections might be a good way out of the crisis.

But many analysts believe that holding parliamentary elections is likely to lead to a repeated scenario in Lebanon, a challenge that may last for months in the country with no achievement but creating more problems for the government and the nation.

## Islamic Jihad warns Israel against escalating aggression against Palestinians

The Palestinian resistance movement, Islamic Jihad, has warned the Israeli regime against escalating acts of aggression against Palestinians.

The movement, in a statement released on Sunday, censured the repetition of attacks by Israeli military forces against Palestinians, stating that such heinous behavior projected its ugly image last Friday when Dalia Samoudi, 23, succumbed to her critical wounds sustained from Israeli gunfire during a raid into al-Jaberiyyat neighborhood of the northern occupied West Bank city of Jenin.

The Islamic Jihad said the mother of three was shot as she prepared to feed her baby daughter, and was hit by a bullet which penetrated through her body and left her dead a few hours later.

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates announced on Saturday that it will take the cold-blooded murder of Samoudi to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The ministry said in a statement that it was doing the necessary preparations to lodge the crime and its details to the ICC, calling on the international tribunal to open an official investigation into the matter.

“The international community is requested to break its silence and take urgent action to provide adequate protection for our people,” the statement read.

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry held the Israeli regime, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, fully responsible for the heinous crime, underlining that such acts of aggression are being committed under the full support of U.S. President Donald Trump's administration.

The Director of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Mahmoud al-Sa'adi said Israeli forces opened fire on the ambulance that was trying to reach Samoudi's house, with two bullets penetrating the vehicle, WAFA news agency reported.

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**Seven of the United States' eight five-star Army and Navy officers in 1945 agreed with the Navy's vitriolic assessment. Generals Dwight Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur and Henry 'Hap' Arnold and Admirals William Leahy, Chester Nimitz, Ernest King, and William Halsey are on record stating that the atomic bombs were either militarily unnecessary, morally reprehensible, or both.**

## UK intensifies Lebanon intervention with additional offer of 'aid' money

The UK is set to escalate its involvement in Lebanon following the Beirut port explosion on August 04 which devastated large swathes of the Lebanese capital.

Taking to Twitter, Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, pledged £20 million in aid to Lebanon ostensibly to “help the most vulnerable”.

According to the government, the funds will be directly allocated to those

“injured and displaced by the explosion” by providing “access to food and medicine as well as other urgent supplies”.

The latest offer of aid is on top of the £5 million so-called “emergency relief effort” which the UK pledged immediately after the explosion which killed nearly 160 people, injured more than 5,000 and left up to 300,000 people homeless.

In the immediate aftermath of the

explosion the UK also announced it will send the Royal Navy survey ship HMS Enterprise to the port of Beirut as part of a “wide-ranging package of military support”.

The British government's decision to escalate its involvement in Lebanon comes in the wake of French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Beirut on August 06 where he blatantly interfered

in Lebanon's internal affairs by calling for the overhaul of the country's political system.

As part of a broader effort to enhance Britain's profile in Lebanon, Johnson spoke with the Lebanese President, Michel Aoun, in a phone call yesterday (August 08) where he reportedly said the UK would “stand by the country [Lebanon] in its hour of need”.

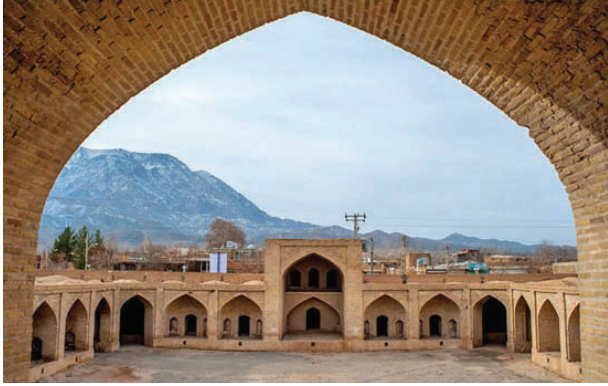


## Shah-Abbasi caravanserai in Semnan undergoes restoration

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – A new round of restoration projects has recently been commenced on the Safavid era (1501 to 1736) Shah-Abbasi caravanserai in the city of Mayamey, north-central Semnan province.

The project involves repairing the middle tower on the east side and removing the extensions and re-executing the walls, while repairing eastern walls and rooftop as well as replacing worn-out bricks were done earlier, CHTN quoted Mohammad Sadeq Razavian as saying on Saturday.

The mudbrick structure was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1986.



The historical structure of Mayamey includes several caravan-serais, natural sights, and historical sites such as Shah-Abbasi caravanserai, Aqaian Mosque, Aqaian Mansion, Aqaian bathhouse, and Emarat cistern.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat) and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining “caravan” with “Sara”. The first stand for a group of travelers and Sara means the building.

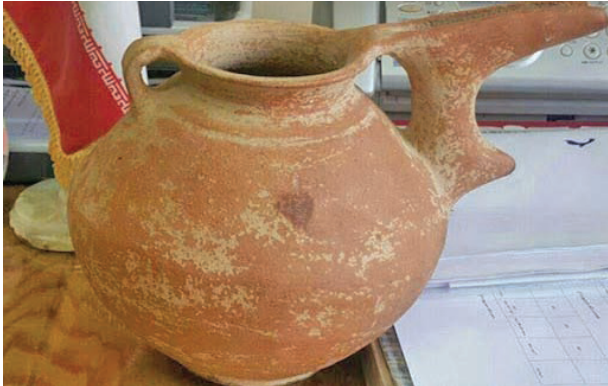
They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran’s earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country.

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a wide experience as they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age.

## Millennia-old jug recovered in Tehran

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Iranian police have recently confiscated a clay jug, estimated to date back to some 4,900 years ago, from an antique smuggler in Tehran, IRNA reported.



The culprit, who was detained and handed over to judiciary officials for further investigation, claimed that he found the relic in one of the western cities of the country and wanted to sell it in Tehran, the report added.

The ancient jug, which is submitted to the province’s cultural heritage department, is being studied by the cultural heritage experts.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation on the Iranian plateau is found from deposits from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites in the Zagros Mountains, which dates back to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

## Giveh: Iran’s traditional handmade footwear

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — Sanjan is a city near Iran’s central Markazi province of Arak famous for its “giveh” cotton shoes production.

“Giveh” is a traditional cotton footwear handwoven using cotton fibers for uppers and leather soles. It is still very popular in Iran for its comfort and coolness in the summer. Sanjan has been weaving the giveh for over 300 years.



Women were its primary weavers in the past. They worked on their handicraft mostly in the evenings and in their free time after a day’s work.

A limited number of giveh workshops still operate in Sanjan and older women who have carried on with the art collaborate with them.

UNESCO has stamped its seal of approval on the originality and quality of Sanjan giveh weaving in 2010 and 2012.

# 20 wonderful must-see cultural sites in Iran

→ **1** Iran is heaven for those interested in cultural tourism, a subset of traveling that traces the nation’s lifestyle in various geographical areas, their history, their arts, architecture, religion(s), and other elements helped shape their way of life over time. Modern Iran was once the heart of the great Persian Empire that stretched from Greece boundaries all the way to China.

It is filled with numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. These sites provide an ample opportunity to learn more about the country with their own eyes and touch its marvelous and incredibly rich cultural heritage with its own hands. Even if you don’t plan to visit in the near future, you can still marvel at these 20 amazing ones selected as the must-see cultural sites in Iran:

### ■ 1. Imam Mosque, Isfahan

At the southern end of Isfahan’s main square stands the big, grand and impressive Imam Mosque (formerly known as the Shah Mosque), which is not only impressive because of its sheer size and incredible decorations, but also helps to get a good impression of the needs and challenges of always on-going restoration works.

A very picturesque huge entrance portal welcomes people to the mosque. It is built to face the square though the mosque is oriented towards Mecca. A short corridor connects the square to the inner courtyard that is surrounded by four imposing iwans (porticos) with a pool dedicated to ritual ablutions nesting in the middle.

Visitors to the mosque are mainly overwhelmed with good views of the main dome with its glorious profusion of turquoise-shaded tiles. The craftsmanship continues and is intricate with amazing views both on the façade and the interior. The monuments boast perfect proportions and iconic blue-tiled mosaics.

### ■ 2. Persepolis, Shiraz

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, ranks among the archaeological sites with no equivalent, considering its unique



*Sightseers visit the atmospheric prayer hall of the centuries-old Nasir al-Mulk Mosque in Shiraz, southern Iran.*

architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and arts. The site, which as the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Persian Empire (c. 550 – 330BC) was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as a revenge to the Persians because the Persian King Xerxes had probably burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

The magnificent ruins of Persepolis lie at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), which was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. Situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

### ■ 3. Imam Reza Shrine, Mashhad

Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, typically attracts thousands of domestic pilgrims each day. The raison d’être is the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam. Visiting the holy shrine and its complex is a pure and celestial journey for the Muslims.

The complex includes the 15th-century Goharshad mosque, a museum, a library,

four seminaries, a cemetery, the Razavi University of Islamic Sciences, a dining hall for pilgrims, vast prayer halls, amongst other buildings. The complex is one of the tourism centers in the country and has been described as “the heart of the Shia Iran”.

Amid tearful prayer and meditation, the climax to any Shrine pilgrimage is touching and kissing the Zarih (gold-latticed enclosure), which covers the tomb of Imam Reza (AS) beneath the iconic golden dome. Non-Muslims are generally excluded from visiting this inner sanctuary but can see a since-replaced older Zarih on display in the museum.

### ■ 4. Golestan Palace, Tehran

Located in the heart and historic core of Tehran, the Golestan Palace complex is one of the oldest in the Iranian capital, originally built during the Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) in the then walled town.

Following extensions and additions, it received its most characteristic features in the 19th century, when the palace complex was selected as the royal residence and seat of

power by the Qajar ruling family (1789-1925).

At present, the Golestan Palace complex consists of eight key palace structures mostly used as museums and the eponymous gardens, a green shared center of the complex, surrounded by an outer wall with gates. The complex exemplifies architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar era including the introduction of European motifs and styles into Persian arts.

### ■ 5. Nasir al-Mulk Mosque, Shiraz

The atmospheric Nasir al-Mulk Mosque sometimes referred to as the “Pink Mosque”, situated in downtown Shiraz, southern Iran, has long been a prime destination for international and domestic travelers.

The name “Pink Mosque” is driven from abundant pink-colored tilework that dominates its courtyard and exteriors facade. Nasir al-Mulk has arrays of delicate mirror work and stuccowork, which are interwoven with arabesque designs and tilework.

Reflection of light through the stained-glass sheets, abundant carved pillars, and lavishly-created polychrome faience are amongst elements that enhance the beauty of the mosque’s prayer hall. In case one is willing to get shots it is widely recommended to come as early as possible in the morning to picture the prayer hall when it is lit up through the colorful glass frames.

### ■ 6. Eram Garden and Palace, Shiraz

Eram Garden, widely famous for its towering cypress trees, is one the impressive and most-visited gardens in the country. Visitors to the garden may be amazed by its peaceful atmosphere that feathers fragrance of flowers, bird songs, and dance of blossoms all intertwined with rich Persian art and architecture.

Located in southern city of Shiraz, it was converted into a botanical garden by Shiraz University in the early 1980s.

Narratives say the garden goes down to the time of the Seljuk Dynasty (ca. 1040–1196), but what visitors see today date from the 18th century onwards. UNESCO describes the Persian Garden an idea that combines natural elements with manmade components in order to materialize the concept of Eden or Paradise on Earth.

## Coronavirus: Iran to introduce all-inclusive health protocols for inbound travelers

→ **1** Earlier last week, Iranian authorities announced that the COVID-19 negative PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test is required for all travelers to enter the country.

Not issuing visas on arrival for tourists, specific mandates for testing, tracing, receiving of a traveler test/vaccine certificate, identifying infected travelers, and removing them from the travel ecosystem and putting them in quarantine were among the new regulations for traveling to Iran.

However, in June, Mohammad Ali Vaeqi, the vice president of the Iranian Tour Operators Association, warned that the coronavirus pandemic may turn tours and travels in Iran into luxury items as observing health protocols will raise the cost of travel in the country.

“With the continuation of the coronavirus outbreak, tourists may prefer individual travel rather than tours. They may also choose to go on a trip by their own vehicle and stay in tents or in nature instead of hotels.... So far, 90 percent of the 2020 inbound tours have been canceled, and the possibility of canceling the remaining 10 percent is still high,” he explained.

Iran has suffered an average 15.8 percent fall in foreign

arrivals during the first three months of 2020 compared to the same period last year, according to data released by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) that analyzes the impact of the COVID-19 on international tourism.

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

Back in March, the UN specialized agency for tourism announced that it expected international tourist arrivals would be down by 20 percent to 30 percent in 2020 when compared with 2019 figures.

Iranian deputy tourism minister Vali Teymouri has said that international tourism could be recovered soon because it is mostly relying on potential travelers and pilgrims from the neighboring countries.

“Given the policies of the country’s tourism industry over the past two years to focus on tourism markets in the neighboring countries, the possibility of recovering and reviving international tourism in the shortest possible time is predictable,” Teymouri told the Tehran Times in May.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges,



bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

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

## Zanjan historic bazaar to undergo restoration

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Parts of the historic bazaar of Zanjan in northwestern Iran will undergo rehabilitation works in the near future, provincial tourism chief Amir Arjmand announced on Sunday, CHTN reported.

Repairing rooftops of covered passages, repairing roof insulation, replacing worn-out bricks, as well as worn-out joints, are parts of the restoration project, the official added.

He also noted that parts of the bazaar are planned to turn into handicrafts markets after the restoration, which is needed to be done with the participation and cooperation



of the shop owners.

The Qajar-era (1789-1925) bazaar has five mosques, two caravanserais, and two

bathhouses as well as over 900 stores. Due to changes in weather conditions in the city of Zanjan, the bazaar has been designed in such a way that external climatic variations are not perceived at all.

In the Iranian culture, bazaars have been traditional public spaces in the Iranian cities with great contributions to commercial activities in the urban life meanwhile their extended activates can be traced to social, cultural, political, and religious roles.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180-242 CE). The province makes a base for wider

explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby.

In late January, Zanjan was designated as a “world city of filigree” by the World Crafts Council after the WCC assessors visited various craft workshops, stores, exhibits, and bazaars of the city in a two-day itinerary in last December.

Filigree consists of curling, twisting, or plaiting fine, pliable metal threads and soldering them at their points of contact with each other with a metal groundwork.

## Rainmaking ritual added to National Heritage list

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Rainmaking ritual with Chomcheh Galin doll, which is held in southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, has recently been inscribed on the National Heritage list, CHTN reported on Sunday.

The arid climate of Iran has always been a concern for people throughout history, which has culminated in various rituals, such as rain dances to rain prayers, across the country.

In the southwestern province of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, in times of drought, children cover big wooden spoons with dolls’ dresses and call them Chomcheh Galin, which is considered a rain doll. While singing songs and wishing for rain, they go to the houses in their town or village to collect necessary items for cooking Ash - a traditional slow-cooked, thick soup made with



chickpeas, beans, noodles, and fresh herbs. When Ash is ready, it is given to all the people, who gather together to pray for rain.

Some more seven items in the region including the skill of baking Berko bread, Kicheh Sineh-Zani [beating the chest] ceremony, and the skill of Tarkeh-bafi, a kind of wickerwork was also added to the National Heritage list.

Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari has various unique traditions and rituals relative to the ‘tribal’ lifestyles. Special forms of music, dance, and clothing are noteworthy. It has considerable potential to become a vibrant tourist attraction because of its changing natural landscape.

The province is also a hub for making wool felt products, majorly of which exported abroad. It is home to some 500 crafters, in over 250 workshops, making handmade felt products.



# Iranian industries utilizing homegrown nanopaints

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian knowledge-based manufacturing and industrial company has made nanopaints which are being used in different sectors, including the aviation, automotive, home appliances, and steel industries.

“Our researchers have achieved nanopaint formulations based on the aviation industry standards, and currently the paint meets the need for 25 percent of domestic aircrafts,” the company’s CEO, Nobakht Gharedaghi, said, IRNA reported.

In recent years, the trend of using homegrown nanopaints in aircraft industry has increased, so that our market share has increased from 10 to 25 percent, which means that currently 25 percent of aircraft is painted by our products, he also said.

Accordingly, we are trying to complete the product portfolio and we must complete this range of products to have a chance to succeed in the export sector, he noted, adding, in this regard, in addition to supplying paint to the aviation industry, we also operate in sectors such



as automotive, home appliances and steel industry.

Nanopaint is a coating that can modify the properties of a surface or substance

according to user-defined parameters. Like ordinary paint, nanopaint is applied as a liquid and then hardens. The liquid contains a suspension of microscopic

particles called nanotubes that alter their behavior as external conditions change or when a specific command is given.

The addition of nano silicon dioxide to paints can improve the macro- and micro-hardness, abrasion, scratch and weather resistance. Adding nano silicon dioxide to polymeric resins creates paints with excellent abrasion properties. However, it decreases the elasticity of the paints, which is needed to resist the swelling and shrinking associated with temperature and humidity changes.

Surfaces coated with nano silver containing paint provide excellent antimicrobial properties against bacteria and human pathogens. However, in contrast to indoor paint, the bactericidal efficiency of nano silver in paints for outdoor application seems to be insufficient due to the exposure to external conditions. Studies have shown that nano silver as well as nano titanium dioxide, are not able to fully prevent microbial and algal growth on test substrates in addition to being a poor deterrent from possible fungal colonization.

## Earthquake forms stunning lake in Iran 80 years ago

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Churat Lake, situated in the northern province of Mazandaran, was created in the aftermath of an earthquake in 1939.

Miansheh lake, is also called Lake Churat due to its proximity to the village of Churat in Sari city.

The Lake, stretching to 2.5 hectares, is located 350 km from Tehran inside the pristine forests.

Following the closure of the spring water path that is located next to the lake, when the water recedes, the appearance of the remaining trees at the site of the lake creates a special landscape.

The geometric shape of the lake is elongated and its depth varies according to the amount of seasonal precipitation.



Another amazing attribution of the lake is different types of fish whose population has increased over the years as migratory birds transfer the eggs of fish to the lake.

The best time to enjoy visiting the gorgeous area is in spring, summer, and early autumn; the lake is also a great choice for sailing.

## Magnitude 5.1 earthquake shakes western Iran

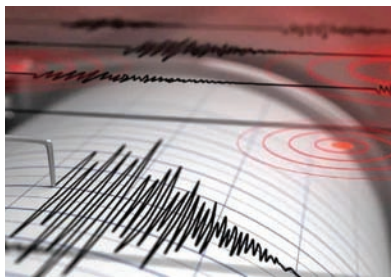
**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale jolted the western province of Kermanshah on Sunday.

The earthquake occurred at 01:46 p.m. local time at a depth of 8 kilometers near the city of Gilan-e Gharb, according to the Iranian Seismological Center.

There are so far no reports of injuries or severe damages.

Since the occurrence of the 7.3 magnitude earthquake in November 2017, Kermanshah province has been shaken more than 6,000 times.

On November 12, 2017, a destructive earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale hit Sarpol-e Zahab in the western province of Kermanshah. Some 90,000 houses were partly or completely damaged



by the tremor. Sadly, the quake took over 660 lives and left more than 10,000 injured.

A year later on November 25, 2018, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake occurred, but 771 people suffered superficial injuries. As a result, 600 residential units in the province were destroyed and 3,500 units needed to be repaired.

## Penguin poo seen by satellites reveals new colonies of emperors

Satellite mapping technology has located 11 previously unknown emperor penguin colonies in Antarctica based on mapping the brown-red guano stains the birds leave on the ice.

The new colonies represent a 20 per cent rise in the number of known emperor penguin colonies in Antarctica, and provide a new and important benchmark for scientists studying the impacts of the climate crisis on the world’s most southerly continent.

Of the 11 new colonies, three had previously been identified, but had not been confirmed. There are now known to be 61 emperor penguin colonies scattered around the continent.

“This is an exciting discovery,” said Dr Peter Fretwell, a geographer at the British Antarctic Survey who led the satellite mapping study.

“The new satellite images of Antarctica’s coastline have enabled us to find these new colonies. And whilst this is good news, the colonies are small and so only take the overall population count up by 5-10 per cent to just over half a million penguins or around 265,500 – 278,500 breeding pairs”.

Emperor penguins need sea ice to breed and are located in areas that are very difficult to reach and study because



they are remote and often inaccessible with temperatures as low as 50C (58F).

For the last 10 years, British Antarctic Survey scientists have been looking for new colonies by searching for their guano stains on the ice.

Emperor penguins are known to be vulnerable to loss

of sea ice, their favoured breeding habitat.

With current projections of climate change, this habitat is likely to decline. Most of the newly found colonies are situated at the margins of the emperors’ breeding range. Therefore, these locations are likely to be lost as the climate warms.

Dr Phil Trathan, head of conservation biology at the British Antarctic Survey, has been studying penguins for the last three decades. He said: “Whilst it’s good news that we’ve found these new colonies, the breeding sites are all in locations where recent model projections suggest emperors will decline. Birds in these sites are therefore probably the ‘canaries in the coalmine’ – we need to watch these sites carefully as climate change will affect this region.”

The study found a number of colonies located far offshore on areas of sea ice which had formed around icebergs that had grounded in shallow water.

These colonies, up to 180 km (110 miles) offshore, are a surprising new finding in the behaviour of this increasingly well-known species.

The research is published in the journal Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation.

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ↔ ع

## 11m ha of plains require aquifer, watershed management

Some 11 million hectares of the country’s plains need watershed and aquifer management plans, so they must be prepared in this regard, director of watershed management at Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization has said.

Over the past 10 years, the country experienced 11 millimeters of rainfall decline while evaporation rate increased by 54 millimeters, ISNA quoted Khoshroo Shahbazi as saying on Thursday.

## یازده میلیون هکتار از دشت‌های کشور نیازمند آبخیزداری است

معاون آبخیزداری، مراتع و بیابان سازمان جنگلها و مراتع و آبخیزداری، گفت: یازده میلیون هکتار از دشت‌های کشور نیازمند اجرای طرح‌های آبخیزداری و آبخیزداری است.

به گزارش ایسنا، خسرو شهبازی گفت: طی ۱۰ سال گذشته به طور متوسط در کشور ۱۱ میلیمتر کاهش بارندگی و ۵۴ میلیمتر افزایش تبخیر و تعریق را شاهد بودیم.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### “bi-, bin-, bis-”

■ **Meaning:** two or twice

■ **For example:** *Biscuit* comes from the French meaning twice-cooked.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Opt in

■ **Explanation:** to decide to join a group or system

■ **For example:** Employees have the choice to opt in to the scheme.

### IDIOM

#### Cross your mind

■ **Explanation:** If an idea or thought crosses your mind, you suddenly think of it

■ **For example:** It just crossed my mind that the shops are closed today.

## Out-of-control wildfires in Arctic circle released more CO2 in two months than whole of 2019

Out-of-control wildfires north of the Arctic Circle have released more dangerous greenhouse gases in two months than all of the fires last year combined, scientists have said.

The latest data from the European Union’s Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service reveals the appalling extent of the fires in the Siberian Arctic, which are releasing huge amounts of carbon dioxide (CO2) into the atmosphere.

Around 600 individual fire hotspots are being detected every day, compared with 200 to 300 on average in July 2019, and images taken by the satellites show enormous plumes of thick smoke, many stretching tens of kilometres across the tundra.

In total, smoke from the wildfires was covering an area of about 3.6 million sq km (1.4 million sq miles) on Wednesday - more than a third of the area of Canada.

“What we have been seeing in the Arctic this summer is a significant number of wildfires in the Siberian Arctic that have been burning since about the second week of June with high intensity and producing large amounts of smoke pollution covering much of the region,” Mark Parrington, senior scientist at Copernicus, told The Independent.

“In terms of CO2, we estimate that 205 megatonnes of CO2 was emitted from wildfires within the Arctic Circle between 1 June and 31 July 2020.

“For some context, the annual total wildfire emissions for the Arctic Circle in 2019 was 182 megatonnes of CO2,” he said.

This is more CO2 emissions than the annual output of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland combined.

Speaking about the increase in fires in recent years, Dr Parrington said detailed data on fires north of the Arctic circle only goes back to 2003, nonetheless, what the observations show is that up until 2019 there had been some fires in the Siberian Arctic but they have been relatively short-lived, lasting for “a few days”.

“But in 2019 and 2020 the fires have been more widespread and more persistent, burning for several weeks between June and August.

He added: “Observations are somewhat limited prior to the mid-1990s but there does not seem to be any evidence of similar fire events in the years before any routine monitoring data are available.”

The wildfires come amid a heatwave in northern Siberia, where temperatures have been 15C to 20C warmer than normal for consecutive days, forecasters said this week.

Also in Canada, a temperature of 33C was recorded north of the Arctic circle, highlighting the impact of the Arctic amplification phenomenon in which temperatures in northern polar regions have risen at least twice as fast as other parts of the globe amid the climate crisis.

According to the Moscow Times, ice cover in the Arctic Ocean hit an all-time low for this time of year on 15 July, the paper said, citing Russia’s National Snow and Ice Data Centre.

The Siberian coast is most affected, while the Northeast Passage, a sea shipping route connecting Europe with Asia, was free of ice by mid-July. Last year, it took until late August for the ice to melt and open the route.

Dr Parrington said: “The direct impact of these wildfires on the global climate is difficult to quantify but there are a number of potential indirect impacts. In terms of the CO2 emissions, some of this will be reabsorbed by the biosphere but this is a slow process and we don’t have an estimate of this right now, however, fires in peatland are releasing carbon which has been stored in the ground for thousands of years.”

He added: “Changes to the surface albedo [reflectivity], due to changes in the land surface with the burn scars and deposition of black carbon to sea ice in the Arctic Ocean could also alter how solar radiation is absorbed or reflected and affect how the climate is changing in the Arctic.”

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### South African elections

(April 14, 2004)

As South Africans started voting in the third multi-racial elections in the country’s history, coinciding with the tenth year since the end of apartheid, the ruling ANC (African National Congress) were expected to win. This report from Barnaby Phillips:

Long queues of voters were **building up** in Soweto even before **the polls** opened. National radio reported similar queues in other parts of the country. In Soweto people said they were still excited to have the right to vote. Many say life has improved in the past **decade**.

The vast majority of South Africans still vote **along racial lines** and so the governing ANC is expected to **sweep to victory**. President Thabo Mbeki is confident of winning a second five year term. He **cast his ballot** in the capital Pretoria and urged all registered voters to go to the polls. He also said that he hoped the election would be peaceful.

One **potential flashpoint** is the province of KwaZulu-Natal which has a history of political violence and where thousands of extra policemen have been **deployed**, but **by and large**, South Africans appear to be confident that the election will be peaceful and well-organised.

■ **Words**

**building up:** gradually forming and getting bigger

**the polls:** the places people go to vote in an election

**decade:** ten years

**along racial lines:** depending on their race, skin colour or ethnic origins

**to sweep to victory:** to easily win with a large majority

**cast his ballot:** voted – literally he placed the paper on which he marked his choice into the box used to collect the votes voted – literally he placed the paper on which he marked his choice into the box used to collect the votes

**potential flashpoint:** possible area of conflict or trouble

**deployed:** organised and positioned so that they are ready for action

**by and large:** in general

(Source: BBC)



## Venezuela sentences 2 Americans to 20 years in prison for attempting to kill Maduro

Venezuela's judicial branch convicted two American soldiers who took part in Operacion Gedeon, a paramilitary operation planned to assassinate the country's President Nicolas Maduro a few months ago.

Luke Denman and Airan Berry confessed that they were hired by U.S.-backed opposition leader Juan Guaido to take the life of Maduro, and consequently a criminal tribunal found them guilty.

The two American mercenaries were caught by Venezuelan military officials and failed to achieve their goal in Caracas.

According to Press TV, investigations found evidence of a contract signed by Guaido, in which the criminal mission was agreed with the hitmen and a U.S. firm that had participated in American wars in the Middle East.

Venezuelan officials say the judges' verdict follows the rule of law. On the other hand, the opposition criticizes the verdict. Nonetheless, authorities claim that plenty of evidence exists about the terrorists.

The conviction of the two American soldiers is a clear message from Caracas to Washington. Officials say that any foreign attempt to overthrow President Maduro will be strongly punished based on the Venezuelan law.

## Heavy monsoons kill 50 across Pakistan

Three days of heavy monsoon rains triggering flash floods killed at least 50 people in various parts of Pakistan, as troops with boats rushed to a flood-affected district in the country's southern Sindh province Sunday to evacuate people to safer places.

Every year, many cities in Pakistan struggle to cope with the annual monsoon deluge, drawing criticism about poor planning. The monsoon season runs from July through September, during which swelling rivers cause damage to crops and infrastructure, AP reported.

According to Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, 19 people were killed in rain-related incidents in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, 12 in southern Sindh province, 8 in Punjab province and 10 in the country's scenic northern Gligit Baltistan region in the past three days.

Rains also partially damaged about 100 homes and caused a breach in a main flooded canal, inundating villages in Sindh province. In a statement, the military said troops used boats to rescue stranded people and move them to safer places. It said a medical camp was also established and food was being provided to the rescued people.

## S. Korea floods, landslides kill dozens, displace thousands

At least 30 people have died, and 12 remain missing after 46 days of heavy rains in South Korea, with the country's longest monsoon in seven years causing more flooding, landslides and evacuations on Sunday.

Close to 6,000 people had also been evacuated as of Sunday, according to the country's Yonhap news agency, as rains battered the southern part of the Korean Peninsula.

Yonhap also quoted the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters as saying that at least eight people have been injured in the disaster.

The death toll did not include the casualties from three capsized vessels at Uiam Dam in Chuncheon, 85 kilometers (53 miles) east of Seoul, which left three dead and three missing on Sunday. It was categorized as a marine accident.

## Resistance News

### Shaker praises Italian court ruling on Jerusalem

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN**— Hussam Shaker, a Palestinian researcher in the European affairs, praised Italy's Rome Court after it ordered RAI TV to issue a correction that Israel is not the capital of Israel.

In May a contestant in a quiz show aired by RAI was asked what the capital of Israel is. The answer "Tel Aviv" was deemed wrong. The right answer, the contestant was told, is "Jerusalem".

Shaker, in an interview with the Palestinian Information Center, said that Rome Court's ruling shows how important are the efforts made by individuals and organizations to defend the Palestinian cause and refute the Israeli narrative.

Shaker said that many lessons can be learned from this experience. The first, he explained, is that the Israeli propaganda and its misleading discourse in Europe should not be underestimated and should be met with equally strong and effective media campaigns.

The second important lesson according to Shaker is that resorting to the law is still an available and possible option and it must be used in the most effective ways by pro-Palestine activists and organizations.

Another advantage of this court ruling, the Palestinian researcher underlined, is that it will open the door for similar pro-Palestine pressure campaigns in other European countries.

The court ruling came in favor of two Italian pro-Palestine organizations who protested the host of the show's statement that "there are different views on the issue" after the episode sparked debate and decided to bring the case to court.

Judge Cecilia Pratesi conveyed in the ruling that "the Italian State does not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital."

"It is well known that on 21 December 2017, Italy voted in favor of a UN General Assembly Resolution rejecting the US decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel," the judge said.

# Thousands of Israelis join in renewed anti-Netanyahu protests

Thousands of demonstrators have once again filled the streets near the official residence of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a renewed show of strength as weeks of protests calling for his resignation showed no signs of slowing.

The protesters were angry at the government's handling of the coronavirus crisis and said Netanyahu should not remain in office while on trial for corruption charges, al Jazeera reported.

In central Jerusalem on Saturday evening, protesters held Israeli flags, blew horns and chanted slogans against Netanyahu.

Some held posters that said "Crime Minister" or called him "out of touch", while dressed up as visitors from outer space, in a move aimed at mocking comments by Netanyahu's son, Yair, who caused a public uproar this week when he described the demonstrators as "aliens".

Al Jazeera's Harry Fawcett, reporting from the rally in Jerusalem, described it as "another very noisy, substantial protest".

"Once again, it seems very much dominated by the Israeli political left. We see the



black flags of the pro-democracy, anti-Netanyahu movement, and others who have long been protesting against his premiership saying he should resign because of the fact that he is on trial "

Though Netanyahu has tried to downplay the protests, the gatherings only appear

to be getting stronger - they are the largest since protests erupted in 2011 against the country's high cost of living.

After moving quickly to contain the coronavirus earlier this year, critics believe Israel reopened its economy too quickly.

The country is now facing a surge in in-

fections - confirmed cases have surpassed 82,000, including 592 deaths - while unemployment has jumped to more than 20 percent.

Self-employed workers, whose businesses have been hurt amid the economic fallout of the pandemic, also joined Saturday's protest.

### Dismissing demonstrations

Netanyahu has dismissed the demonstrators as "leftists" and "anarchists" and accused local media of strengthening the protests by giving them heavy coverage.

The Israeli prime minister was sworn in for a fifth term in May after clinching a coalition deal four months ago with centrist Benny Gantz, his main rival in three inconclusive elections since April 2019.

Netanyahu, who heads the right-wing Likud party, has often complained of press bias against him, and some of the charges he faces in a corruption trial related to alleged attempts to seek favorable coverage from media barons in return for state favors.

The prime minister has denied wrongdoing in the three corruption cases against him.

## Afghanistan to release 400 'hard-core' Taliban to start peace talks

Afghanistan agreed on Sunday to release 400 "hard-core" Taliban prisoners, paving the way for the beginning of peace talks aimed at ending more than 19 years of war.

Under election-year pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump for a deal allowing him to bring home American troops, the war-torn country's grand assembly, or Loya Jirga, on Sunday approved the release, a controversial condition raised by the Taliban militants to join peace talks, Reuters reported.

"In order to remove an obstacle, allow the start of the peace process and an end of bloodshed, the Loya Jirga approves the release of 400 Taliban," the assembly said in a resolution.

Minutes later, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said, "To-

day, I will sign the release order of these 400 prisoners."

Last week Ghani invited some 3,200 Afghan community leaders and politicians to Kabul amid tight security and concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic to advise the government on whether the prisoners should be freed.

With the release, the Afghan government will fulfil its pledge to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners.

Talks between the warring Taliban and government will start in Doha this week, Western diplomats said. Ghani appealed to the hardline group to pledge to a complete ceasefire ahead of talks.

Deliberation over the release of last batch of Taliban

prisoners, accused of conducting some of the bloodiest attacks across Afghanistan, had triggered outrage among civilians and rights groups who questioned the morality of the peace process.

In 2019 alone, more than 10,000 civilians were killed or injured in the conflict in Afghanistan, putting total casualties in the past decade over 100,000, a United Nations report said last year.

Ahead of the Loya Jirga, Human Rights Watch cautioned that many of the prisoners had been jailed under "overly broad terrorism laws that provide for indefinite preventive detention".

## Belgian court suspends issuing arms export licenses to companies dealing with Riyadh

Belgium's highest administrative court has suspended issuing arms export licenses for a number of Belgian companies in a bid to block the flow of arms to Saudi Arabia over its poor human rights record and the bloody campaign against Yemen.

On Friday, the Council of State decided on the move by an emergency ruling, which overturned the decision by the Wallonian minister-president, Elieo di Rupo, who had granted licenses to two arms companies FN Herstal and CMI Defense, Anadulo reported.

Back in early July, Di Rupo had given authorization to the two Wallonia-based companies to sell weapons to the Saudi Arabia's National Guard and Royal Guard. The licenses were meant to replace previous authorizations canceled by the same court.

"It cannot be excluded that there is a real risk for the weapons ... to be used in the context of the conflict in Yemen or to contribute to internal repression," the Friday ruling said.

The Saudi regime is the most important client of Wallonia's arms industry. In 2018, Riyadh purchased weapons for 267\$ million from local arms companies, based in Belgium's southern region, representing one-quarter of Wallonia's total arms export.

Wallonian arms company John Cockerill, whose arms export license was suspended by a previous court ruling, gave military training to the Saudi army in eastern France two years ago, Amnesty International says.

Saudi Arabia has violated the very basics of human rights by killing tens of thousands of civilians in its war on Yemen, besides its other rights violations against its own citizens.

The Yemen conflict, which began in earnest in March 2015, has devastated large swathes of the country and triggered multiple humanitarian disasters, including famine and the internal displacement of millions of people into disease-infested camps and areas.

## Lebanese information minister resigns amid pressure on government

Lebanon's Information Minister Manal Abdel Samad has stepped down from her position, citing the failure of the government to carry out reforms and the recent deadly explosion in the capital Beirut.

She announced her resignation on Sunday, saying the move was out of respect for all those who were killed, injured and still missing as a result of the Beirut blast, and in response to the people's demand for change.

"I apologize to the Lebanese people whose aspirations we were unable to meet ... change remained elusive," Abdel-Samad said before announcing her resignation on live TV.

She was appointed as Lebanon's information minister in January as part of Prime Minister Hassan Diab's government that took office after anti-government protests toppled the previous one in October 2019.

At least 158 people are so far confirmed to have lost their lives, while more than 6,000 others were wounded in the powerful explosion that ripped through the Beirut port on Tuesday.

The number of fatalities and those hurt is expected to rise as search and rescue operations are still underway.

The blast took place in Beirut port warehouses storing highly explosive material, specifically ammonium nitrate, commonly used in both fertilizer and bombs.

The blast — one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions the world has ever seen — flattened much of the strategic port and left buildings in ruin.

A Lebanese security official, whose name was not mentioned, said Sunday the chemical explosion had left a huge crater.

"The explosion in the port left a crater 43 meters deep," the official told AFP, citing assessments by French experts working in the disaster area.

According to Press TV, On Saturday, angry anti-government protesters filled downtown Beirut and stormed government buildings, calling for justice for the blast victims and demanding the resignation of the entire ruling class.

## Protests in U.S.: Oregon trooper injured, 24 arrested in portland

→ 1 Police said Saturday that they arrested 24 people during the overnight demonstration. Most of those arrested were from Portland, while one man was from Oakland, California, and another was Tulsa, Oklahoma. Most were in their 20s or 30s.

The police also said officers are investigating a report on social media that someone threw explosive devices at protesters early Saturday morning in Laurelhurst Park. There are no reports that anyone was injured, the police said.

The charges included assault on an officer, interfering with an officer, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Most of the crowd left the area by about 2:30 a.m. Saturday, police said.

Democratic Mayor Ted Wheeler said this week the violent protesters are also serving as political "props" for President Donald Trump in a divisive election season where the president is hammering on a law-and-order message. Trump

has tried to portray the protesters as "sick and dangerous anarchists" running wild in the city's streets.

The chaos that started Thursday night lasted into Friday morning in a residential neighborhood about 6 miles (10 kilometers) from downtown. The demonstrations this week had been noticeably smaller than the crowds of thousands who turned out nightly for about two weeks in July to protest the presence of U.S. agents sent by the Trump administration to protect a federal courthouse that had become a target of nightly violence.

This week's clashes have, however, amped up tensions after an agreement last week between state and federal officials seemed to offer a brief reprieve.

The deal brokered by Democratic Gov. Kate Brown called for agents from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Marshals Service and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to pull back from their defense of the Mark

O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse starting July 30.

Early Friday, as peaceful demonstrations proceeded elsewhere in the city, a group of people gathered at a park in eastern Portland and marched to the local police precinct, where authorities say they spray-painted the building, popped the tires of police cars, splashed paint on the walls, vandalized security cameras and set a fire in a barrel outside the building. One officer was severely injured by a rock, police said, but no additional details were provided.

Tear gas was used by police on protesters Wednesday for the first time since the U.S. agents pulled back their presence in the city. But officers did not use it Thursday despite declaring the demonstration an unlawful assembly.

Portland police have arrested more than 400 people at protests since late May. U.S. agents arrested at least an additional 94 people during protests at the federal courthouse in July.

## Saudi Arabia halts oil supply to Pakistan as rift widens over Kashmir

→ 1 Saturday's reports came a few days after Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi threatened that if the OIC, headed by Saudi Arabia, did not convene a foreign ministers' meeting on Kashmir, Prime Minister Imran Khan would hold it on his own with his allies among the Islamic countries.

"For one year we have been requesting the OIC to call a council of foreign ministers meeting on Palestine and Kashmir issues where Muslims are facing atrocities which India demolished the 300-year-old Babri mosque and are building a Ram Temple but the OIC remains silent. But why?" Qureshi told local television station ARY News late Wednesday.

The remarks came on the same day Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid a foundation stone for the construction of a Hindu temple at the site of the 16th-century Babri Mosque in the city of Ayodhya.

It was the latest anti-Muslim measure taken by Modi's right-wing government. Last August, it revoked Article 370 of the Indian constitution, effectively ending Kashmir's 70-year semi-autonomous status and bifurcating it into two "union territories" under the central government's direct control.

According to Press TV, the OIC, which is based in the Saudi city of Jeddah, is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations, with the membership of 57 states.

In December 2019, the Malaysian capital city of Kuala Lumpur hosted a summit, where leaders from Islamic countries discussed topics confronting the Muslims globally, including the Kashmir issue.

Saudi Arabia shunned the meeting and the regime's media projected it as a challenge to the OIC. Pakistan also skipped the event upon a request from Riyadh.

Visual point of view



© Tehran Times/ Abbas Gondarzi



# Alireza Beiranvand fumes at Persepolis officials

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Former Persepolis goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand lambasted the team's officials after they didn't respect him in the Iran Professional League title celebration.

Beiranvand joined Belgian side Royal Antwerp on a three-year deal in late July.

The 27-year-old shot-stopper has become renowned as one of the Continent's best goalies in Asia, playing a key role for the Persepolis side which recently won the Iran Pro League for the fourth successive season, and finishing as the AFC Player of the Year runner-up in 2019.

However, Beiranvand believes that he has not been treated fairly in Persepolis.

"First of all, I have to say it was a great honor to play for Persepolis. I wanted to play for them for many years and extended my contract ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup. After the World Cup, I received offers from several European teams but I stayed there to help my team since Persepolis had been handed a transfer



ban," Beiranvand told ISNA.

"After the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, I could leave Persepolis once again but I found out they would face problem and remained in the team. I had a \$700,000 release clause in my contract and it has helped the club to pay their former coaches' unpaid salaries," he added.

"I won eight cups with Persepolis in four years but I was not treated fairly in the club. On Friday, they lifted the trophy for the fourth time but dropped my name in the celebration, while Anthony Stokes, who didn't return to Persepolis after the league resumed, was called to receive his medal. I called them and they told me there is no more medal and I have to wait," Beiranvand went on to say.

"It's not about money. The Persepolis's officials didn't respect me and it made me sad. They had to respect me. I didn't expect this kind of treatment from them. I hope the managers to treat the players honestly," the Iran national football team custodian concluded.

## Iran to hold four-a-side futsal tournament in Kish Island

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran football federation will hold a four-a-side futsal tournament in Kish Island, in the Persian Gulf in September.

The tournament will be held as part of preparation for the 16th edition of the AFC Futsal Championship in Turkmenistan.

Kuwait, Iraq, Iran and Iran U20 are four participating teams in the event.

The four-a-side futsal tournament has been scheduled for Sept. 13 to 23.

The tournament was originally scheduled to be held with participation of six teams but some teams withdrew from the event in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.



Iran are the most decorated team of AFC Futsal Championship with 12 titles out of 15 editions of the games.

The Persians have been drawn along with South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Thailand in Group D of the 2020 AFC Futsal Championship.

## Iran to host AFC Media online workshop

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — The Public Relations Department of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is planning to hold the second workshop of "Media Rules and Responsibilities" on August 10.

The workshop which is organized with the cooperation of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will be held in an online format on Monday at 4 p.m. local time due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Colin Gibson, the AFC's Director of Media and Communications, will be the presenter of the workshop.

Media representatives will be attended at the workshop. They will be welcomed by the FFIRI's officials.

Last year, the workshop, under the AFC Mentorship Program, was held for the first



time in the Central Zone and received overwhelming support from the media in Iran.

The Mentorship Program, which was launched in 2019, is part of the AFC's commitment to providing its Member Associations with tailored made programs to help enhance their media and communications capabilities.

## Taremi born to play in a top league

World Soccer wrote Iranian striker Mehdi Taremi has potential to play in a top league.

"I mean no disrespect to Rio Ave or the Portuguese league, but Mehdi is a player for a bigger stage," said Rio Ave coach Carlos Carvalhal at the start of the season. One year down the line, it is difficult to argue with the well-travelled manager's glowing appraisal of the Iranian striker

Taremi scored a hat-trick in his first start against Desportivo das Aves on August 23 and has not looked back since, averaging a goal every two games for the modest club from the north of Portugal. Lending further credence to Carvalhal's words has been Taremi's consistently excellent displays in the big matches. He scored against Porto, Benfica and Braga, and tormented Sporting without finding the net

Iran is not exactly renowned as a hotbed of football talent, so Taremi's arrival in the Primeira Liga aroused curiosity. The striker's exceptional goalscoring record in his home country and then in Qatar suggested he could do well in Europe. The regularity with which he found the net and his all-round quality for the national team left Iran's former Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz in little doubt that he could thrive at a higher level.

"I came here because of Carlos Queiroz. He told me Portugal would be good for me, both in terms of the way of life and the football says the softly spoken forward. "And he was right Portuguese people are very friendly and Rio Ave is a family club. This is very important for a player coming from Asia

Modest and self-effacing off the pitch, Taremi exudes class and intelligence



on it, but allied to his elegant style is a lethal streak Tall and athletic, he uses his body well, but it is his two-footedness, technique and composure in front

of goal that makes him such a danger.

His trickery and quick feet make him especially dangerous in the opposition box, as Sporting's experienced center-back Sebastian Coates found to his cost. The red card the Uruguayan international was shown in a 3-2 home defeat to Rio Ave was something of a show of mercy by the referee after Taremi had made it a traumatic night for the defender. Coates trooped off the pitch having given away three penalties, all to Taremi.

There was no let-up in Taremi's output after the interruption caused by COVID-19. Indeed, the forward seemed invigorated, scoring eight goals in nine matches after returning Such has been his impact, it will be little surprise if Carvalhal's words prove prophetic, and the striker moves to one of Europe's top leagues for 2020-21.

(Source: World Soccer)

## The Best ACL2018 XI announced!

After more than 250,000 votes, the fans' Best XI from the 2018 AFC Champions League has been decided with the final line-up featuring a host of standout performers from the competition.

The 2018 AFC Champions League was filled with classic matches, nail-biting moments and fabulous individual performances and, after reviewing the competition's key players, we present the 'Dream Team' as voted by you, the fans.

Below are the 11 players who made the cut on the public polls on the-AFC.com, while an XI by OPTA, the official statistics provider for the AFC, is also included as a comparison.

### GOALKEEPER

- **Fans' Pick: Alireza Beiranvand – Persepolis**
- 14 appearances, 12 goals conceded
- 7 clean sheets (#1 for goalkeepers)
- 69.3% save percentage

Collecting a huge 89% of the votes, the popular Persepolis custodian and 2018 runner-up was out in front by some distance, with Kashima Antlers' three-time AFC Champions League winner Kwoun Sun-tae (10%) coming second.

### DEFENDERS

- **Fans' Pick: Voria Ghafouri – Esteghlal**
- 2 goals
- 77% tackle success rate
- 24 crosses from open play

Esteghlal's attacking full-back Khosro Heydari (92%) was way out in front ahead of Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors Lee Yong (4%), Kashima Antlers' Koki Anzai (3%) and Guangzhou Evergrande's Zhang Linpeng (2%).

### FORWARDS

- **OPTA Pick: Lee Yong (Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors)**
- **Fans' Pick: Pedro Miguel – Al Sadd**
- 81.2% passing accuracy
- 76% tackle success rate
- 35 clearances

Al Sadd's centre-back Pedro Miguel clinched the fans' vote for centre-back and he partners Persepolis' defender Shojae Khalilzadeh in our rearguard.

Khalilzadeh edged out his club captain Jalal Hosseini, while Gen Shoji of Kashima Antlers, Tianjin's Kwon Kyung-won and Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors' Choi Bo-kyung were also in the running.

● **OPTA Pick:** Jalal Hosseini (Persepolis), Shojae Khalilzadeh (Persepolis)

- **Fans' Pick: Abdelkarim Hassan – Al Sadd**
- 11 shots (#2 for a defender), 1 goal
- 81% tackle success rate (#2 for a defender)
- 79% passing accuracy

Abdelkarim Hassan's performances in Al Sadd's 2018 campaign were so impressive that they helped him win the AFC Player of the Year award at the end of the campaign and the fans have reflected this too, naming the Qatari star as the left-back in our XI.

His 45% share of the vote saw him hold off Kim Jin-su of Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors (26%), Shuto Yamamoto of Kashima Antlers (19%) and Guangzhou Evergrande's Li Xuepeng (9%).

### MIDFIELDERS

- **Fans' Pick: Siamak Nemati – Persepolis**
- 5 assists, 2 goals
- 25 tackles won (Joint #1 by a midfielder)
- 20 dribbles completed

Siamak Nemati more than played his part in what was Persepolis' best AFC Champions League performance to date and the fans have rewarded him with a whopping 68% of the votes.

Nemati takes the right side of our three-man midfield with countryman Farshid Esmaili and Barcelona legend Xavi, who received the second and third most votes respectively, taking up the other two spots.



● **OPTA Picks:** Xavi (Al Sadd), Ricardo Goulart (Guangzhou Evergrande), Serginho (Kashima Antlers)

### FORWARDS

● **Fans' Pick: Ali Alipour – Persepolis**

- 5 goals scored
- 35 shots on goal, 21 on target (#2 by a forward)
- 65 duels won

There were plenty of super strikers to choose from to lead our frontline but, ultimately, it was Persepolis forward Ali Alipour who came out on top ahead of Mame Thiam of Persepolis' fierce rivals Esteghlal.

Al Sadd's Baghdad Bounedjah, who was the tournament's top scorer, rounds out our three-man attack in this exciting-looking all-star team from the 16th edition of the AFC Champions League.

● **OPTA Picks:** Baghdad Bounedjah (Al Sadd), Youssef El Arabi (Al Duhail), Dejan Damjanovic (Suwon Samsung Bluewings)

(Source: the-afc)

## Persepolis to settle with Branko Ivankovic: official

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis acting general manager, Mehdi Rasoul Panah, claimed that the club have paid about 60 percent of former coach Branko Ivankovic's unpaid salary.

Local reports said on Saturday that FIFA has sent a letter to Persepolis, warning the Tehran based club over the unpaid money of Ivankovic and his assistants, Igor Panadic (goalkeeping coach) and Marco (fitness coach).



However, the acting GM of the club said that they have paid more than 60 percent of their debts to the Croatian coaches.

"The club's blocked money at FIFA was € 430,000 and we paid Igor's debt. Then we paid another € 230,000 to Branko. After that, when we received \$515,000 from Alireza Beiranvand's transfer fee to Antwerp, we immediately transferred it to an Omani bank in order to pay Mr. Branko's remaining demands," Rasoul Panah confirmed.

Persepolis, who won Iran Professional League (IPL) title for the fourth successive years, are facing a possible deduction of six points from the 2019-20 table after they failed to pay their former coach Branko Ivankovic.

The club have a history of financial problems due to mismanagement over recent years.

Rasoul Panah said that FIFA has confirmed the payment of the money related to the Persepolis debts and the news about receiving a warning letter from FIFA is not true.

The acting general manager, however, believes that there is no guarantee that Persepolis will not face serious punishments such as point deduction and transfer ban.

"We have shown our goodwill to FIFA and Branko. But we cannot say that the problem is 100 percent solved. The club have many financial troubles. Our focus is on strengthening the team for the next season and we have allocated budget for signing new players. At the same time, we try to pay the debts in the next few days according to the resources we have made," he added.

## Mes Rafsanjan win Azadegan League title

**Tasnim** — Mes Rafsanjan football team secured promotion to the Iran Professional League (IPL) for the first time on Saturday.



In the penultimate game of Iran's Azadegan League, Mes Rafsanjan defeated Navad Urmia 1-0 and claimed the title of the Azadegan League with 66 points.

Aluminium Arak defeated Mes Kerman 1-0 and moved up to second place with 60 points on goal difference.

Aluminium and Mes Kaerman have a chance of qualifying for the Iran Professional League next week.

The top two teams of Azadegan League will promote to the IPL and two teams from the IPL will be relegated to the Azadegan League.

## Santa Clara eye Moghanlou: report

Paykan forward Shahriar Moghanlou has been linked with a move to Portuguese club Santa Clara.

Santa Clara have been following the performance of the 25-year-old striker, A Bola reported.

Despite playing for a struggling club in the Iran Professional League (IPL), Moghanlou has scored 12 goals in 27 games, and is currently vying to win the Golden Boot.

Clube Desportivo Santa Clara are a club from Ponta Delgada, Azores. They play at the 13,277-seat Estádio de São Miguel. Santa Clara are the most successful football team from the Azores Islands as the only team from the archipelago to compete in a UEFA competition; the UEFA Intertoto Cup to be exact.

A Bola has recently reported that Paços de Ferreira are going to sign Persepolis forward Ali Alipour.

(Source: A Bola)

## Iranian referees to officiate at 2020 AFC Cup

**Tasnim** — Payam Heydari and Farhad Moraveji will officiate at the 2020 AFC Cup.

In the Eastern Zone, the Vietnam Football Federation (VFF) has been confirmed as host for ASEAN Zone Groups F and G matches.

The event has been scheduled for September 23 to 29, 2020.

Heydari will officiate at the event as referee and Moraveji will assist him in the competition.



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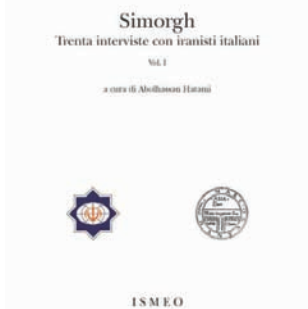
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Shunning a person who is attracted by you is a sign of your misfortune, and your inclination towards another who ignores you is a sign of your abjectness.  
Imam Ali (AS)

## Book of interviews with Italian Iranologists published in Rome



Front cover of "Simorgh: Trenta Interviste con Iranisti Italiani" published by the International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies (ISMEO) in Rome.

→1 Carlo Cereti of the Sapienza University of Rome, Simone Cristoforetti and Riccardo Zipoli of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, and Carlo Saccone of the University of Bologna are among the Italian scholars whose interviews have been published in the book.

The book has been prepared in a project named "The Plan of the Verbal Iranian History by Italian Iranologists", and the questionnaires have been designed by the Iranian Culture Center in Rome, Iranian cultural attaché Mohammad-Taqi Amini said.

He added that the center is negotiating with an Iranian publishing house to publish a Persian translation of the book.

## Honar Pooya Group unveils poster for "Nimble"

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The poster for the animation "Nimble" was unveiled on Sunday during a ceremony held at the Honar Pooya Group, a Tehran-based private company that was founded by a group of young animators in 2007. The animated movie is a co-production between the Education Ministry and the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA).



The Education Minister Mohsen Haji Mirzai poses for a photo with a poster for the animation project "Nimble" at the Honar Pooya Group in Tehran on August 9, 2020.

Education Minister Mohsen Haji Mirzai and IIDCYA director Fazel Nazari attended the unveiling ceremony of the poster. Set in Iran, the story of the animation is about wildlife and the environment.

It is about a boy named Mohsen who loves the heroes and superheroes in the movies and he likes to help others.

However, he faces an extinct Iranian species once and he wants to help the animal and return it back to its homeland, but his journey into the jungle and his encounter with the hunters is just the beginning of a great adventure.

The Honar Pooya Group entered into a contract with the IIDCYA to make its new project "Nimble" last year.

The animation was earlier named "Extinction".

This is the third feature-length animated film produced at the Honar Pooya Group.

"Nimble" will be directed by Hadi Mohammadian, who helmed Honar Pooya's previous movies "Princess of Rome" and "The Elephant King".

"Princess of Rome" grossed over 50 billion rials at the box office in 2016 and became the fifth highest-grossing movie nationwide.

The animation chronicles the life of the Roman emperor's granddaughter, Malika, the mother of the 12th Imam of Shias, Imam Mahdi (AS).

"The Elephant King" had its premiere in Iran during the 36th Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in January 2018.

It also had its premiere in Russia in November of the same year. The film is about Shadfil, a funny baby elephant who must quickly find the courage to be the successor to his father as the leader of the elephants.

"The Elephant King" then went on screen in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan.

# Iranian cartoonist Mojtaba Heidarpanah runner-up at City of Trento contest

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian cartoonist Mojtaba Heidarpanah has taken second place at the 28th International Satire and Humor Festival City of Trento in Italy.

He won the prize in the Satire and Humor category, in which Turkish artist Dogan Arslan won first prize, the organizers have announced.

"For giving an original and effective version to the sense of limitation represented symbolically as the building of a wall, stopping the playing moment and walling in the playing itself, with a violation of the rules of time, space and movement that enhances its irrationality and horror," the jury wrote about Heidarpanah's cartoon.

The contest is organized every year by the Andromeda Art Studio, a cultural association that has been operating internationally for over forty years in the fields of satire, illustration, painting and other fields of art.

"Limit" was the theme of the 28th edition of the International Satire and Humor Festival City of Trento.

The jury composed of Marilena Nardi, Luigi F. Bona, Roberta Opassi, Assunta



This cartoon by Iranian artist Mojtaba Heidarpanah won second prize at the 28th International Satire and Humor Festival City of Trento in Italy.

Toti Buratti, Luigi Penasa, Umberto Rigotti and Giulia Pedrotti judged the submissions at the contest.

"For having synthesized, in a single image built with perfect technical knowledge, many perceptions and interpretations of the limit, perceived as an inescapable rule, a helpless state, while concern is amplified by stillness, by suspended time and by the apparent absence of violence," the jury commented about the top winner of the event.

Third prize in this section went to Raffael Blumenberg from Switzerland.

The artwork received the prize "For the graphic and essential clearness in the representation of the extreme limit, with the powerful contrast between man's determination that keeps going toward his progressive isolation and the lack of awareness about the unescapable conclusion of a definitive cancellation of himself."

In the Comics section, only one work by French cartoonist Clement Thiriet was selected as a winner, and Mansur Dehqani from Iran and Silvia Detassis from Italy won honorable mentions.

## Iran searching for safe platform to organize Fajr Film Festival online

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Cinema Organization of Iran director Hossein Entezami announced on Sunday that the organization is searching for a safe platform to organize the Fajr Film Festival online if the pandemic continues until February 2021.

Speaking during a press conference streamed live on Instagram, he said that there is no platform in Iran to guarantee the festival entries against piracy.

"Therefore, I have asked my colleagues to find solutions for this issue," he added.

"If we cannot have any platform to ensure the safety of films during the festival, it will be impossible for us to organize the event online," he noted.

The 38th edition of the Fajr Film Festival, Iran's major

film event, was held in Tehran from February 1 to 11, just a few days before the first cases of the COVID-19 infection were detected in the country.

Afterwards, the international edition of the festival, which was scheduled to be held in April, was canceled due to the pandemic.

Meanwhile, groups of Iranian cineastes called on the Cinema Organization of Iran to cancel film festivals in the country to allocate the events' budgets to those film-makers and film organizations affected by the coronavirus shutdown.

In addition, the outbreak of coronavirus also forced Iran to cancel the Tehran International Book Fair, which is organized in May every year.



Cinema Organization of Iran director Hossein Entezami attends an online press conference in Tehran on August 9, 2020.

## Artist Behzad Shishegaran's self-portraits promote face masks during pandemic

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian painter and graphic designer Behzad Shishegaran has displayed a selection of his self-portraits wearing a face mask to encourage people to put on face masks during the coronavirus epidemic.

He has tried to put the spotlight on the role of a face mask during the pandemic in saving one's life through his own language of art.

"The spread of COVID-19 made me decide to think of my own self-portraits as the main topic of the online exhibit to better showcase the importance of wearing a face mask and observing social distancing in the battle with the coronavirus," the artist told the Persian service of ISNA on Sunday.

This is the artist's second online ex-



A self-portrait in an online exhibit on coronavirus by Behzad Shishegaran.

hibit which aims to promote the culture of wearing a face mask in these hard days of coronavirus.

Like his previous exhibit, the artists uploaded one new work every day for 10 days from July 30 to August 9.

Shishegaran displayed a collection of his artworks on coronavirus in an online exhibition on the Instagram, Facebook and Telegram accounts in April.

He invited the artists in general to take the issue seriously and play their own great parts in improving the public culture in the fight with this new virus.

"Unfortunately 40 to 50 percent of the people still do not wear face masks and do not observe social distancing," he said.

During the home quarantine in April, Shishegaran presented his first online

exhibit.

"I gave much thought to my artistic life. Art is connected with the hearts of people and I have the honor to have been connected with their hearts for over half a century," he had said.

"The truth is that we are all living in isolation with great limits these days. We are all in pain and we are all strangers in one another's hearts. Art, which is ignorant of people's life and pain, surely remains neutral, and that is why I used these restrictions as a great opportunity to hold a painting exhibition to reflect the atmosphere we are living in," he had explained.

He had called his first exhibit a tribute to the devoted medical staff and those who died of COVID-19.

## DEFC new doc "Diaphragm" spotlights history of music recording in Iran

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) has completed a new documentary project named "Diaphragm" that chronicles the history of music recording in Iran from the Qajar era to the Pahlavi period.

Javad Vatani is the director of the documentary that studies the advent of equipment for recording music on gramophone records and the social, cultural and economic effects of the industry in Iran.

Vatani said that he first planned to make a documentary with his friend Ali Abolkheirian who is a private collector of gramophone records, but due to the significance of music and records in the country, he decided to do a review of the history of music recording in Iran.

"With the arrival of the photograph and gramophone machines in the country, recording began and Iranian traditional music was recorded on gramophone records, and the performances of many great musicians, who presented the various methods of singing in the Iranian



Director Javad Vatani shoots a scene from the documentary "Diaphragm".

dastgahs over the past 100 years, were also recorded," Vatani said.

The word dastgah in the Persian language means "system", as well as "equipment". The suffix "-gah" signifies a place of doing something. Here, dastgah is used in two different significations: First, the totality of melodies of a certain musical system, e.g. dastgah-e Shur consists of Shur, Abuata, Bayat-e Tork, Afshari, Dashti and their related gushahs. Second, the word refers to the frets on a stringed instrument. Dast means "hand", hence dastgah literally denotes "the place of the hand".

Vatani further noted, "Producing documentaries based on history and research has always been with difficulty because of the lack of access to resources, however, one cannot deny its attraction and beauty in discovering new things."

Vatani is also the director of "Vars", a documentary about Veresk Bridge, an over 80-year-old bridge in northern Iran, which played a key role during World War II as it was used by the Allies to deliver aid to the Soviets in their fight against Hitler.

## Caroline Kennan's book on ISIS appears in Persian

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — British scholar Caroline Kennan's book "The Rise of ISIS: The Modern Age of Terrorism" has been published in Persian by Qoqun Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Parisa Sayyadi.

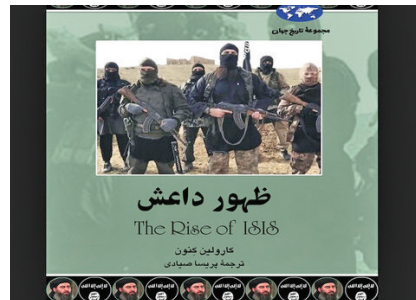
This book discusses ISIS as a

significant threat to modern society. It has caused the deaths of thousands and the rise of anti-Muslim sentiment around the world, despite the fact that prominent Muslim leaders have denounced the group's actions. Understanding ISIS is vital to defeating it.

In this book readers learn about

the creation of this terrorist group, its rise to power, and what is being done by nations around the world to stop its members from taking more lives.

Full-color photographs and a timeline of key events contribute to a comprehensive overview of the story of modern terrorism in this book.



Front cover of the Persian version of Caroline Kennan's book "The Rise of ISIS: The Modern Age of Terrorism".