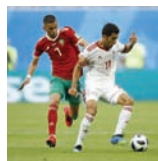




**Only Lebanese entitled to decide their fate** **2**



**Dairy products export hit \$153.7m in 4 months** **4**



**Iran to play Uzbekistan as planned** **11**



**Film Museum of Iran photo exhibit celebrates Ali Hatami's birthday** **12**

# 14 years after 33 days of war

See page 2

**Lebanon celebrates 14th anniversary of victory in the July War amid pressures to disarm Hezbollah**



© File photo

## Iran calls UAE move to normalize ties with Israel shameful

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Friday condemning an agreement between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Zionist regime of Israel to normalize ties.

Iran called the action a "strategic stupidity" by the UAE and Israel.

It is said in the statement that the move will definitely result in boosting the axis of resistance.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran considers this 'shameful' action of Abu Dhabi in

normalizing ties with the fake, anti-human and illegitimate Zionist regime a dangerous action and warns about any interference of the Zionist regime in equations of the Persian Gulf region and announces that the government of the Emirates and other accompanying governments must admit responsibility for consequences of this action," said the statement.

The statement described the action as a "dagger in the back of the Palestinians and all the Muslims". **→2**

## Major water projects inaugurated in western provinces

**TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, on Thursday, inaugurated major irrigation and drainage projects worth 17.73 trillion rials (about \$422 million) in the western provinces of Ilam and Kermanshah through video conference, IRNA reported.

Carried out on 23,000 hectares of land, the said projects were inaugurated in the 15th week of the Energy

Ministry's A-B-Iran programs based on which every week several projects will go operational in various provinces across the country.

Reducing the drought impacts, supplying water to households and the industry sector, as well as improving and developing agriculture in Kermanshah and Ilam provinces were reported to be some of the goals of these projects. **→4**

## Anthology of short stories by Iranian writers published in Iraq

**TEHRAN** — An anthology of short stories from 14 contemporary Iranian writers has been published in Arabic in a book by the Shahriar Publishing House in Iraq.

Entitled "Wind Elegy", the book has been translated into Arabic by Hossein Torfi Alivi.

"My Chinese Doll" by Hushang Golshiri, "Broken Column" by Ahmad Mahmud, "Wind Elegy" by Abutorab Khosravi, "Two

Passengers" by Mohammadreza Safdari, "Shark" by Adnan Ghariqi and "Story of Rahman" by Hossein Mortezaian Abkenar are among the stories.

The author and instructor, Keyhan Khanjani, has written an introduction to the book, which briefly reviews a portion of the history of Persian literature.

"Several years after the Constitutional Movement in Iran in 1921. **→12**



**EDITORIAL**  
**ZHANG Yuan**  
SISU professor

**International cooperation is indispensable to ease economic pain caused by COVID-19 pandemic**

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused nearly 20 million confirmed cases around the world. Affected by the epidemic, the world economy is at a more dangerous time than the 2008 financial crisis. The widespread recognition of economic liberalism has shaped an interdependent international society. At least in economic relations, since globalization, the exchanges and cooperation between countries have basically been mutual and been based on fair competition.

In the near past, given the confidence that comparative advantage can improve the production efficiency of the overall industrial chain at the global level, it is a general consensus among all countries that international trade and cross-border mobility of people are beneficial to national economic development. People believe that increased mobility can stimulate economic vitality and innovation. The coronavirus pandemic may have changed all of the above. While in fact, in the future, to alleviate the global COVID-19 recession and revive the economy, international cooperation will still be indispensable.

**■ 1. In a post-epidemic era, globalism is still needed to kick-start the world economy**

It should be recognized that globalization is a necessary path for all countries to develop their economies. It is already difficult for one single country to leave the global supply chain and fully achieve self-sufficiency in all production, both developing and developed countries are no exception.

Strategically, open and equal international cooperation is the attitude of communication between countries that effectively fight the new coronavirus and restore the economy. However, when external political risks, economic risks, and even security risks steadily increases, **→7**

## The absolutely magnificent 'Gold Bowl of Hasanlu': Sixty-three years later

By Afshin Majlesi

**TEHRAN** — Sixty-three years ago, an Iranian man, named Emamqoli Mohammadi Hasanluei, unearthed a millennia-old gold bowl in the debris of a burned building, part of the major architectural complex at Tepe Hasanlu near the city of Naghadeh in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, a short distance south of Lake Urmia.

It is here, when in 1958 archaeologists came across a layer of an Iron Age city that had been frozen in time - a 'burn layer' containing tens of bodies preserved in ash and rubble. Tepe Hasanlu consists of a 25m high central mound with massive fortifications which is thought to be once a citadel surrounded by paved streets and an outer town with houses, stables, and temples.

Engraved with images of gods and rituals, a stone cylinder with gold caps, a figurine of laminated ivory, and a sword-hilt with a bronze guard, the Gold Bowl of Hasanlu is named after

the man who discovered it almost 3000 years later not far from a skeletal hand of an individual who had been fleeing with the piece at the end of the 9th century BC. The excavation was led by the celebrated anthropologist and archaeologist Robert H. Dyson, Jr., who shined at Iran's archaeology scene in the mid-20th century.

In no time it became evident that the bowl epitomized a unique and significant example of the ancient goldsmith's expertise, demonstrating a high degree of technical mastery and a wide range of ornamental motifs that were deemed to provide a key to the religious and mythological traditions of its time.

Over the years, the bowl has been discussed in countless scholarly books and articles including an analysis by Marie-Therese Barrelet (1911-1996) as one of the greatest finds of the decade. Images of the crumpled yet still dazzling bowl appeared on newspapers around the world, **→8**

## U.S. protests: Portland police and protesters clash in fresh demonstrations near courthouse

by staff & agencies

Protesters and police clashed in downtown Portland in a demonstration that lasted into the pre-dawn hours of Thursday, with some in the crowd setting a fire and exploding commercial-grade fireworks outside a federal courthouse that has been a target in months of conflict in Oregon's largest city.

Officers used teargas to break up the crowd of several hundred people who gathered near the Mark O Hatfield U.S. courthouse, the neighboring Multnomah county justice center and a nearby police precinct station.

Protests have been held nightly in the city since the police killing of George Floyd in May, who died after a white officer pressed a knee to his neck.

Protesters hurled rocks, bottles and paint at officers during the demonstration that started on Wednesday night and went into Thursday morning, Portland police said in a statement.

One officer suffered a hand wound described as serious several other officers suffered non-specified injuries and two people were arrested, the statement said.

The protests in Portland reached their apex last month outside the federal courthouse, with demonstrators clashing nightly with federal agents dispatched to the city to protect the courthouse.

The demonstrations dwindled after a drawdown of the agents, who were replaced by Oregon state troopers. But protests turned violent over the last week, mostly near a police union headquarters building miles from the federal courthouse.

Meanwhile, the protesters are on a march across several states. They started in Wisconsin and are headed to Washington D.C. to help celebrate the 57th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech. Along the way, they're continuing to spread the message that Black Lives Matter. **→10**

## Sanctions on Iran to affect all countries in COVID-19 battle

**TEHRAN** — U.S. sanctions against Iran, which have led to a lack of prevention and treatment equipment, will affect all other countries as well, head of the Medical Council has stated.

U.S. sanctions are oppression that has made COVID-19 fight harder in Iran, IRNA quoted Mohammad Reza Zafarghandi as saying on Thursday.

"I wrote in a letter to the World Health Organization Director General [Tedros Adhanom] and the United Nations Secretary-General [Antonio Guterres] that this oppression against Iran extends to other countries as well, because the coronavirus knows no borders and when there are not enough facilities for prevention and treatment in Iran, the virus spreads and this is oppression on humanity."

Although food and medicine were claimed to be exempted from the U.S. sanctions, financial and banking sanctions have limited the life-saving medicine trade which harshly targeted the patients suffering from rare diseases.

Moreover, fears of falling afoul of Washington have restricted exports to Iran.

Exemptions for humanitarian trade (such as food, medicine, and medical equipment) have not been effective in protecting Iranian patients from access to imported medicine, such as the bandages used for patients suffering Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare genetic disease that causes painful blistering of the skin.

With the return of sanctions, over a year (May 2018-May 2019), 15 patients covered by EB Health House lost their lives. **→7**

## Military unveils upgraded tank

An upgraded version of an Iranian military tank was unveiled on Thursday.

The tank was unveiled at a ceremony by Defense Minister Amir Hatami in Doroud, the western province of Lorestan.

At the ceremony, Hatami said overhauling and upgrading military and defense equipment require up-to-date knowledge. He added that the Defense Ministry relies on domestic capabilities to strengthen military power.

Hatami also expressed hope that experts at the ministry will upgrade all the operational tanks. **→3**



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In order to receive more information, please visit our site: <http://www.iralco.ir/> (Tender)

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**Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company**





## Russia reiterates U.S. move to extend arms embargo on Iran violates 2231 resolution

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Russia's permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations said on Friday that the United States' attempts to extend arms embargo on Iran is a violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 which endorsed the 2105 nuclear deal, officially known as the JCPOA.

"US attempt to extend #armsembargo against #Iran constitutes a violation of UNSC res.2231 by Washington. The only legitimate way to extend embargo and other "sunset" provisions is a relevant decision of Joint Commission on #JCPOA to be made by consensus (see res.2231, Annex B)," Mikhail Ulyanov tweeted.

The United Nations Security Council started voting on Thursday on a U.S. bid to extend an arms embargo on Iran, which is opposed by veto-powers Russia and China, and the result was set to be announced at a meeting on Friday, diplomats said, Reuters reported on Friday.

The 15-member council has been operating virtually amid the coronavirus pandemic so states have 24 hours to cast a vote.

The 13-year-old arms embargo is due to expire in October under a 2015 nuclear deal among Iran, Russia, China, Germany, Britain, France and the United States. However, Washington unilaterally quit the agreement in May 2018 and imposed sanctions on Iran.

In a bid to gain more council support, the United States slashed its draft resolution on Tuesday to just four paragraphs that would simply extend a weapons ban on Tehran "until the Security Council decides otherwise."

But diplomats and analysts said the draft text was still likely to fail. To be adopted a resolution needs at least nine votes in favor and no vetoes by the permanent members of the council.

If the United States is unsuccessful it has threatened to try and trigger a return of all UN sanctions on Iran using a provision in the nuclear deal, even though Washington quit the accord.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Wednesday that the United States is not in a position to trigger the snapback mechanism which returns all the UN sanctions on Iran.

"From legal point of view, the United States has no status to use snapback mechanism. Three European allies of the United States had announced clearly in the previous session of the United Nations Security Council that the United States cannot apply this mechanism," Zarif told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

In a tweet on Wednesday, Ulyanov said the United States' attempt to revise the provisions of the UN Security Council's 2231 resolution to extend arms embargo on Iran is "counter-productive" and "unjustifiable".

"The US attempts to revise the provisions of UNSC res. 2231 on restrictions on arms trade with #Iran are counterproductive and unjustifiable," he tweeted.

## Foreign Ministry congratulates Hezbollah over its defeat of Israel in the 33-day war in 2006

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Saturday congratulating the anniversary of the victory of the Lebanese resistance movement, Hezbollah, over the Israeli regime during the 33-day war in 2006, saying that resistance will definitely defeat the Zionist regime of Israel.

"This great victory achieved through internal integrity among the Lebanese brought stability, security and dignity to the region. Resistance of the Lebanese men and women and also combat of the resistance front's youths taught a lesson to the aggressors and their supporters that will protect Lebanon against the fake Zionist regime of Israel's threats and aggressions," the statement said.

The statement calls the 33-day war "symbol of resistance" against the Zionist regime which resulted in victory.

It also said that Iran has stood and will stand beside the Lebanese government and people.

Israel carried out an offensive on Lebanon in 2006 claiming that the attack was to release Israeli soldiers captured by Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. The offensive left 1200 Lebanese killed.

Israel retreated after Hezbollah fighters inflicted heavy damage on the Israeli military.

The Hezbollah victory shattered the myth of the invincibility of the Israeli army. It caused a political earthquake in Israel. Israel lost more than 100 soldiers in the war.

A five-member Winograd Committee, appointed to examine Israel's performance in the 2006 war, concluded in January 2008 that the war "was a big and serious failure" for Israel.

## Letting U.S. destroy nuclear deal would be return to law of jungle, Zarif warns

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif warns that allowing the U.S. to go to the full length of its ill-intentioned campaign to destroy the historic 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers promises return to the law of jungle.

Zarif made the comments in an article he wrote in the French newspaper Le Monde published on Wednesday, Press TV reported.

Through its obdurate campaign to bring about the total annihilation of the agreement, the United States is threatening to devastate what is left of multilateralism and international law, he wrote.

Known officially as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the agreement was concluded between the Islamic Republic and the P5+1 group of countries in Vienna in 2015, which at that time included the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, and China plus Germany.

Zarif reminded that the deal was made to address all concerns regarding "the exclusively peaceful nature of our nuclear program," while freeing the Iranian people from inhumane and unjust sanctions.

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

Ever since, the U.S. has also been threatening other countries into toeing its sanction line and abandoning their legal trade with Iran.

Zarif said in the article that as a result of the U.S. behavior, Iran has been the target of "the most vicious and indiscriminate sanctions."

The U.S. has slapped the harshest sanctions in history against Iran. The purpose behind the sanctions is to strangle the Iranian economy.

# Only Lebanese entitled to decide their fate, says Zarif

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday that only the Lebanese people and their representatives are entitled to decide their country's future in the aftermath of the August 4 massive explosion in Beirut.

"In our view, it is not humane to exploit the pain and suffering of the people for political goals," Zarif said during a joint televised news conference with Lebanon's caretaker foreign minister, according to Press TV.

Zarif has travelled to Lebanon to express solidarity and sympathy with the Lebanese people and government over the Beirut tragedy.

He emphasized that Iran believes that the government and the people of Lebanon should decide on the future of Lebanon.

Zarif also said Iran and private Iranian companies were ready to help Lebanon with reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country's electricity sector.

Iran's chief diplomat also denounced the Thursday agreement between Abu Dhabi and the Zionist regime as a stab in the back of Lebanon and other regional countries.

For his part, Charbel Wehbe thanked



**“Victory in the 33-Day War proved that the Lebanese will protect their country’s independence through resistance,” Zarif say at the meeting with President Michel Aoun.**

## Iran calls UAE move to normalize ties with Israel shameful, dagger in back of Palestinians

### Iran condemns Israel-UAE agreement to normalize ties

**1 →** The regional rulers are advised in the statement not to mistake "their foes for their friends".

The statement also said "the oppressed Palestinian people and all freedom-seeking nations in the world will never forgive normalization of ties with the usurper and criminal regime of Israel."

**■ 'Treason against the Palestinian cause'**

It also said the "unjust shedding" of the Palestinians' blood who have been resisting for seven decades to liberate "the sacred Palestinian land and the first qibla of Muslim will soon or later" turn against those who are committing "treason" against the Palestinian cause.

Reportedly, Israel and the UAE reached a deal on Thursday that will lead to a full normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The deal came after a phone call between United States President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, according to Aljazeera.

Trump hailed the deal as a "huge breakthrough" and a "historic peace agreement between" its "two great friends".

"This deal is a significant step towards building a more

peaceful, secure and prosperous Middle East (West Asia)," The New York Times quoted Trump as telling reporters in a hastily arranged event in the Oval Office. "Now that the ice has been broken, I expect more Arab and Muslim countries will follow the United Arab Emirates' lead."

The White House says the agreement will see Israel suspend its plans to annex Palestinian areas of the occupied West Bank.

According to Press TV, Palestinian factions unanimously slammed the development with the Gaza-based Hamas resistance movement calling it "a reward for the Israeli occupation and crimes," and the West Bank-headquartered Palestinian Authority (PA) denouncing it as an act of "aggression" against the Palestinian people and a "betrayal" of their cause.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas recalled the Authority's envoy from Abu Dhabi and demanded that the Arab League address the issue of the agreement in an emergency meeting.

Turkey said the UAE had "betrayed" the Palestinian cause. The Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a statement supporting the Palestinian administration, saying that the



"history and the conscience" of the region's people will not forget and never forgive the "hypocritical behavior" of the United Arab Emirates in agreeing to a deal with Israel.

"While betraying the Palestinian cause to serve its narrow interests, the UAE is trying to present this as a kind of act of self-sacrifice for Palestine," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said, according to DW.

A spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Thursday the deal amounts to "treason," and should be reversed.

## 14 years after 33 days of war

### Lebanon celebrates 14th anniversary of the July War amid pressures to disarm Hezbollah

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — This year's 14th of August marks the

14th anniversary of the July War between the Lebanese Hezbollah movement and Israel in 2006, which led to Israel withdrawing its troops from southern Lebanese territories.

A Lebanon expert tells the Tehran Times that the war has established a long-lasting deterrence between Lebanon and Israel.

Since the early years of the 1990s, Israel and Hezbollah have reached many deals to swap prisoners. The first prisoner exchange took place in January 1991, which saw the release of dozens of Lebanese prisoners. In the following years, the two sides continued to swap prisoners, with the biggest prisoner swap took place in late January 2004, nearly two years before the 33-day war. The 2004 prisoner swap involved a large number of prisoners, including Sheikh Abdulkarim Ubeid, who was abducted by the Israeli forces from Lebanon on July 28, 1989.

However, Israel refused to release some of the long-time prisoners such as Samir al-Quntar, even though Hezbollah had called for the release of al-Quntar. In an attempt to get Israel to release al-Quntar, Hezbollah launched "Operation Truthful Promise" on July 12, 2006, during which it captivated two Israeli soldiers.

Israeli forces immediately attacked the Lebanese territories, a move that prompted Hezbollah to take measures to prevent Israeli forces from advancing into Lebanon. One day later, Israeli air forces targeted Lebanese infrastructure including power plants, Beirut Airport, roads and, bridges, killing dozens of Lebanese people. On the same day, Hezbollah Secretary-General Seyed Hassan Nasrallah held a press conference calling on Israel to engage in indirect negotiations over a possible swap of prisoners.

However, the war didn't stop in the early days and lasted for 33 days. On August 14, the warring sides agreed to a UN-brokered ceasefire in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which was unanimously approved by the Security Council on August 11, 2006.

As the war ended, Lebanon declared victory over Israel. In a televised speech at the time, Nasrallah congratulated the Lebanese on "the strategic and divine victory" over Israel. Similarly, regional leaders, including the Emir of Qatar and the then-president of

Iran congratulated the Lebanese leaders on their victory over Israel.

The war had many ramifications for Lebanon and the entire region, with analysts saying that the July War significantly contributed to the Hezbollah rise in Lebanon and the region. It significantly increased the popularity of Hezbollah in Lebanon and beyond, according to Mohammad Khajouei, a Lebanon expert. "The Lebanese people have deeply tasted the bitter taste of Israel's occupation. The Lebanese army, you know, was unable to confront Israel, and that the Resistance [movement] was made up of the core of the Lebanese society. The Lebanese people, who have gone through the Israeli occupation, favor the Resistance because they believe that it had forced Israel to retreat from the Lebanese territories. The people see that today Israel is unable to commit any act against Lebanon. The Lebanese people feel this deterrence," Khajouei told the Tehran Times.

He added that Hezbollah has also established deterrence against ISIS in Syria, a move that earned it popularity among the Christians, Sunnis, and Shiites in Lebanon. Khajouei, who was the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) bureau chief in Beirut as recently as 2017, also said that the most consequential implication of the July War was the change of military situation between Lebanon and Israel.

"The most important effect of the war was the establishment of a sort of deterrence in Lebanon against Israel. In fact, Lebanon was under Israeli occupation for nearly 18 years, from 1982 to 2000. Israeli soldiers have been easily roaming Lebanon. The first step toward establishing deterrence was taken in 2000 when the Resistance forced Israel to withdraw its troops from Lebanon after 18 years of occupation. The July War has finally strengthened this deterrence," Khajouei said, underlining that today, there is a widespread deterrence between Lebanon and Israel.

According to Khajouei, the calm that prevailed on the Lebanon-Israel border since the 2006 war is another sign that a long-lasting deterrence has been established between the two sides.

**■ 14 years after the war**

The UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which was intended to end the July War, called for the implementation of previous resolutions whose aim was to disarm

Hezbollah. The resolution called for "full implementation of the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords, and of resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1680 (2006), that require the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon, so that, pursuant to the Lebanese cabinet decision of 27 July 2006, there will be no weapons or authority in Lebanon other than that of the Lebanese State."

However, Nasrallah said on al-Manar TV that Hezbollah fighters would not be forced to disarm through intimidation or pressure, calling for the disarmament of Hezbollah to be discussed through official channels instead of pursuing it at the media level.

Ever since the international pressures to disarm Hezbollah continued unabated. The August 4 massive blast at the Beirut port has only exacerbated these pressures, shining the light on Hezbollah's arms, especially after some Lebanese political factions managed to blame the blast on the group.

As French President Emanuel Macron proposed a new initiative to contain the Lebanon crisis, the calls for the disarmament of Hezbollah resurfaced, with some even calling for the expulsion of Hezbollah from the Lebanese government. President Macron paid a visit to Beirut, shortly after the August 4 blast razed the Beirut port to the ground. The president held meetings with Lebanese political leaders, urging them to form a national unity government in the aftermath of the blast. However, Macron's efforts have yet to come to fruition. In a bid to secure international support for his efforts, the French president also called many leaders around the world including Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif traveled to Lebanon after the phone conversation between Macron and Rouhani. Zarif told reporters in Beirut that Lebanon is going through a "very worrying circumstances," and that Iran will support "any decision" the Lebanese government makes.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Lebanese counterpart, Zarif said that no international party has the right to exploit Lebanon's needs to dictate its demands to the country.

Zarif's visit came at a time when France and the U.S. intensified their efforts to secure their interests in Lebanon. While Zarif was busy holding talks with the Lebanese

Tehran for expressing solidarity and sympathy with the Lebanese people and government immediately after the blast in Beirut, and explained his country's urgent needs in the current circumstances.

The chief Iranian diplomat also met with Hassan Diab, the Lebanese prime minister who announced his government's resignation on August 11.

During the meeting, Zarif expressed his country's solidarity with the Lebanese people and government.

He said those who do not want stability and unity in Lebanon are the ones who are benefiting from the deadly blast.

Later in the day, Zarif met with Lebanese President Michel Aoun.

"Victory in the 33-Day War proved that the Lebanese will protect their country's independence through resistance," Zarif said at the meeting.

"You will also overcome the problems created by the terrible explosion in Beirut's port with the help of your friends," he added.

The foreign minister also met with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, announcing Iran's readiness to help Lebanon meet its needs at such juncture.



# Iran calls on Security Council to reject U.S. 'ill-intentioned' move

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Iran's permanent mission to the UN has called on the UN Security Council to stand up to an "ill-intentioned" move by the U.S. government to extend an arms embargo on Tehran.

In a statement on Thursday, the Iranian mission rejected the U.S. draft resolution and described it as part of that country's domestic policy.

"The U.S. draft resolution, presented in gross violation of Security Council Resolution 2231, is aimed at addressing U.S. domestic policy and has nothing to do with maintaining international peace and security," the mission said, according to Press TV.

"The draft resolution undermines the integrity, authority, and credibility of the Security Council; and by extension, the United Nations, multilateralism, the rule of law and diplomacy," it added.

The statement came before the UN Security Council members began to vote on the U.S. proposal to the extend arms embargo on Iran, a move that some diplomats say is bound to fail.

The move is opposed by veto-powers Russia and China.

The 13-year-old arms embargo is due to expire in October under a 2015 nuclear deal among Iran, Russia, China, Germany, Britain, France and the United States, which U.S. President Donald Trump walked away from in May 2018.

In a bid to gain more council support,



the U.S. slashed its earlier draft resolution on Tuesday to just four paragraphs that would simply extend the arms ban on Tehran "until the Security Council decides otherwise," claiming it's "essential to the maintenance of international peace and security."

The Iranian mission said the United States baselessly accuses Iran of instability in the region to satisfy its deep addiction to sanctions and to justify its irresponsible

behavior in the Council.

"While its interventions, destructive behavior, divisive policies, and insatiable appetite for exporting its deadly weapons to countries in the region as well as the presence of a large number of its forces in the Middle East (West Asia), their involvement and spreading lies and destructive acts are the main sources of instability, insecurity and human suffering in this region," it underlined.

The mission further said members of the Security Council are "expected to resist U.S. illegal and ill-intentioned action, to refrain from abusing or manipulating the work of the Security Council, and to demonstrate that the 15-member body is capable of supporting the UN Security Council."

The United States has threatened to try and trigger a return of all UN sanctions on Iran if its bid to extend the arms embargo fails.

On Wednesday, Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, expressed confidence that the Council will reject the U.S. move.

"Rebuffed by UNSC members, US was forced to retreat from its draft resolution on Iran arms embargo, and proposed another version—also violating 2231—today. The new draft is similar—in its NATURE and GOAL—to the previous. Confident that the Council will—again—reject this move," Takht-Ravanchi tweeted.

In a tweet on August 10, Takht-Ravanchi urged the UN Security Council to reject bullying and unilateralism of the U.S.

"At the #UNSC, the US is actively resorting to Iran-phobia & coercion to gain support for its unlawful anti-2231 resolution, illegally seeking to extend an arms embargo on Iran. The Council must reject bullying & unilateralism—again—as it did when US first introduced its draft," he wrote.

## Iran rejects claims about seizure of its tankers by U.S.

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Ambassador to Venezuela Hojat Soltani has rejected claims that the United States has seized Iranian tankers carrying fuel to Venezuela.

"Another lie and psychological warfare by the United States' imperialism propaganda machine. The tankers are neither Iranians, nor their owners or flags have anything to do with Iran. The terrorist Trump cannot make up for his humiliation and defeat towards the great Iranian nation through fake propaganda," ambassador tweeted on Friday.

U.S. officials claimed on Thursday that the Trump administration has seized the cargo of four tankers which was targeting for transporting Iranian fuel to Venezuela, The Associated Press reported.

A senior U.S. official told AP that no military force was used in the seizures and that the ships weren't physically confiscated. Rather, U.S. officials threatened ship owners, insurers and captains with sanction to force them to hand over their cargo, which now becomes U.S. property, the official said.

An informed Iranian source told Nour News that no Iranian tanker has been seized.

"As it has been announced for several times, the Is-

lamic Republic of Iran will respond to any hostile action that limits its legal rights, and so far has not permitted any country to take such actions," the source said.

U.S. prosecutors filed a lawsuit in July to seize four tankers sailing towards Venezuela with gasoline supplied by Iran.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, was followed by a warrant issued by U.S. District Judge James Boasberg for the seizure of the more than 1.1 million barrels of gasoline in the four vessels, Reuters reported.

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

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

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

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

Five Iranian oil tankers by the names of Petunia,



Forest, Faxon, Clavel, and Fortune carried fuel to Venezuela despite the United States' sanctions. The last of them entered Venezuelan waters on June 1.

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

## MP urges France not to meddle in Lebanese affairs

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — The chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has strongly criticized France for interfering in Lebanon's domestic affairs, saying neither France nor any other country is entitled to interfere in Lebanon's domestic affairs and undermine the country's political legitimacy.

"When countries help one another they shouldn't do it on conditions, and they also shouldn't interfere in the sovereignty of other countries, because their interference equals questioning that country's political legitimacy," Mehr on Friday quoted Mojtaba Zonnour as saying.

He also said all countries are welcome to help Lebanon to recover from the recent tragic explosion.

The MP added, "If the Islamic Republic of Iran is able to do so, it would definitely create a campaign to help the

Lebanese people."

"Unfortunately, the extent of the destruction is huge, and given that some 300,000 people were left homeless and 6,000 people were injured, it's necessary that countries in the world help the Lebanese people," he stated.

Zonnour also said other countries should not exploit Lebanon's sectarian sentiments or provoke the Lebanese people's anger in order to secure their own interests.

On the afternoon of August 4, 2020, two explosions occurred at the port of the city of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. The second explosion was extremely powerful, and caused at least 171 deaths, 6,000 injuries, \$10–15 billion in property damage, and left an estimated 300,000 people homeless.

Macron appeared at the site of the explosion on August 6, and called for an



international inquiry into the devastating blast that generated a seismic shock felt across the region.

Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network said Macron, in a meeting with President Michel Aoun, threatened Lebanese leaders with sanctions if they do not submit to reforms and a "political change".

Macron also called for a "new political pact" among Lebanese political factions and said he had proposed a roadmap to the Lebanese authorities to unlock billions of dollars in funds from the international community, and that he would return to Lebanon in September to follow up.

"I will be back on September 1, and if they can't do it, I'll take my political responsibility" toward Lebanon, said Macron.

Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab announced the resignation of the country's government on Monday evening amid heightened political tensions following the blast.

"We are still under the shock of the tragedy that struck Lebanon. This disaster which has hit the Lebanese at the core occurred as a result of chronic corruption in politics, administration, and the State," Diab said.

## Grabbing UAE more important than West Bank for Israel: Guardian Council

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — The agreement between the Zionist regime and the UAE is nothing but occupation of the UAE with a promise to end annexation of the West Bank, says Guardian Council spokesman Abbasali Kadkhodaei.

"The agreement showed that for the Zionist regime the occupation of the gateway to the [Persian] Gulf [Cooperation] Council is more important," Kadkhodaei wrote in a tweet on Friday.

"First the Emirates and then the West Bank!" Kadkhodaei wrote, asking, "Is the Emirates a part of the Zionist regime's territory from now on?"

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has called the UAE move "shameful" and a "dagger in the back of the Palestinians and all Muslims".

Reportedly, Israel and the UAE reached a deal on Thursday that will lead to a full normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The deal came after a phone call between U.S. President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, according to Al Jazeera.

Trump hailed the deal as a "huge breakthrough"



and a "historic peace agreement between" its "two great friends".

"This deal is a significant step towards building a more peaceful, secure and prosperous Middle East (West Asia)," The New York Times quoted Trump as telling reporters in a hastily arranged event in the Oval Office. "Now that the ice has been broken, I expect more Arab and Muslim countries will follow the

United Arab Emirates' lead."

The White House says the agreement will see Israel suspend its plans to annex Palestinian areas of the occupied West Bank.

Iranian Expediency Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaee said Abu Dhabi has turned the UAE into a "paradise" for Israel during the last ten years.

"They have created spy networks of Mossad against regional countries there," Rezaee said in a Twitter thread.

He further slammed the UAE for stabbing Palestine in the back, saying Palestine will be free very soon in spite of such betrayals.

■ **"Strategic mistake"**

Hossein Amir Abdollahian, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Iranian Parliament speaker, also condemned the move, saying the move serves Israel's ongoing crimes.

"UAE's new approach for normalizing ties w/ fake, criminal #Israel doesn't maintain peace & security, but serves ongoing Zionists' crimes," he said via Twitter.

"Abu Dhabi behavior has no justification, turning back on the Palestine cause. W/ that strategic mistake, #UAE will be engulfed in Zionism fire."

## Zarif felicitates Lebanon on anniversary of 33-Day War victory

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has sent separate messages to his Lebanese counterpart and secretary-general of the Hezbollah movement to congratulate them on the anniversary of the country's victory in its 33-day war against the Israeli aggressors.



Zarif, who is in Beirut on an official visit, offered congratulations to the Lebanese nation and government in his separate messages to Foreign Minister Charbel Wehbe and Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Foreign Ministry website reported.

Zarif has travelled to Lebanon for a series of meetings following the recent tragic blast that killed more than 200 people in Beirut.

August 14 marks the fourteenth anniversary of the end of Israel's 33-day war on Lebanon. The war that began with Israeli airstrikes against Lebanese cities in July 2006, resulted in the demolition of vital infrastructure and the death of over 1,000 innocent people.

In 2000 and 2006, the Israeli regime launched two wars on Lebanon. About 1,200 Lebanese, most of them civilians, were killed in the 33-Day War of 2006.

On both occasions, however, Hezbollah fighters defeated the Israeli forces and Tel Aviv was forced to retreat without achieving any of its objectives.

The conflict in 2006, also known as the July War, took place in Lebanon, northern parts of Occupied Palestine and the Golan Heights.

It started in July 2006, and continued until a United Nations-brokered ceasefire went into effect in the morning on August 14 that year, though it formally ended on September 8 when Israel lifted its naval blockade of Lebanon.

## Military unveils upgraded tank in western Iran

➡ According to the Mehr news agency, the minister went on to say that Iran is currently capable of manufacturing tanks equipped with the electro-optical fire control system, laser rangefinder system, ballistic computer, and the ability to fire at fixed and moving targets at day and night.

Military equipment made by experts must be upgraded in accordance with the needs of Armed Forces in battlefield.

## IRGC commander vows harsh revenge for General Soleimani assassination

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Hossein Salami underlined again that Iran will certainly retaliate against the U.S. assassination of the martyred Commander of the IRGC Qods Force, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, saying a harsh revenge is waiting for the American assassins.



"Our enemies should know that nowhere is safe for them; they have triggered a permanent source of danger and avenge for themselves by martyring Haaj Qassem, and the revenge will be taken sooner or later and certainly it will be harsh," General Salami said, addressing a ceremony in Tehran on Thursday.

He went on to say that the martyrdom of General Soleimani gave a new life to Islamic countries and brought eternal glory to the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian nation, and the IRGC.

The top commander said the IRGC Qods Force has generated power in the fight against the enemies in different fields.

General Salami further noted that the enemies sought to change the balance of power in the Islamic countries and form their own governments, however, they eventually failed and their desperate attempts were in vain.

Lieutenant General Soleimani was assassinated in a U.S. drone strike on Baghdad International Airport in Iraq on January 3.

The airstrike also martyred Deputy Commander of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. The two were martyred in an American airstrike that targeted their vehicle on the road to the airport.

Five Iranian and five Iraqi military men were martyred by the missiles fired by the U.S. drone at Baghdad International Airport.

On January 8, the IRGC Aerospace Force started heavy ballistic missile attacks on U.S. Ein Al-Assad airbase in Southwestern Iraq near the border with Syria and a U.S. operated airbase in Erbil in retaliation for the U.S. assassination of General Soleimani.



## RMTO inks deal for renovating cargo transport fleet

**ECONOMY** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTO) has signed a tripartite deal with Bank Saderat Iran (BSI) and some private companies for the renovation of the country's suburban cargo transport fleet, the portal of the Transport Ministry announced.

The signing ceremony was held on Wednesday, August 12, in the presence of Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami, RMTO Head Abdolhashem Hassan-Nia, BSI Managing Director Hojjatollah Seyedi, and representatives of the private companies.



Under the agreement, 5,000 trucks, tow trucks, and refrigerated containers will be renovated over a 20-month period.

According to RMTO, at this stage, trucks over 50 years old are the priority for this scheme, and accordingly, the owners of such trucks have been notified by the Transport Ministry to register for the program.

The private sector has invested about 140 trillion rials (about \$3.33 billion) in this project, while BSI is going to provide the owners with low-interest facilities equivalent to the 80 percent of the new trucks' price.

According to RMTO, the country's suburban freight transportation fleet is currently comprised of 387,000 trucks of which about 52,000 are older than 40 years.

Back in May, Transport Ministry unveiled a portal for registering in a program for the renovation of the country's road transportation fleet.

Speaking in the unveiling ceremony, Eslami had said that the renovation of the country's road transportation fleet is going to increase the number of vehicles able to transit goods to other countries to 100,000.

According to the minister, the modernization of the transportation fleet, in addition to improving the country's transport capacity, will save the country 530 million liters of fuel worth nearly \$960 million.

He noted that to accelerate the implementation of the plan, 25 domestic companies are going to participate in the program and foreign vehicles under three-years of age will also be considered to replace the old fleet.

## 4-month exports from Qom Province stand at \$56m

**ECONOMY** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The value of exports from Iran's central Qom Province stood at \$56 million during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), according to a provincial official.

Mahmoud Sijani, the director-general of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, put the weight of the commodities exported from the province during the first four months of this year at 49,000 tons, Mehr news agency reported.

The official said that of the total exports, 29,400 tons of goods worth \$40 million were from the province's industrial units.

He named metal products, plastics, copper wire, mechanical tools, cereals, machinery, and edible oils as the major products exported from the province during the four-month period, and mentioned Iraq, China, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), India, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Armenia as the main export destinations.

The official further announced that 12,200 tons of commodities valued at \$59.7 million have been imported to the province in the first four months of the present year.



He named industrial machinery, mechanical equipment, spare parts for road construction machines, medical-surgical devices, plastics, coffee, tea, and spices as the major imported products, and China, the UAE, Turkey, India, Ukraine, Italy, Oman, Japan, Germany and Iraq as the main exporters of goods to the province in the mentioned period of time.

As previously announced by the official, the value of exports from Qom Province stood at \$31 million during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20).

Sijani put the weight of the commodities exported from the province during the first three months of this year at 32,000 tons.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Major water projects inaugurated in western provinces

**1 →** The investment in the mentioned projects was made jointly by the Agriculture and Energy Ministries, and are said to create 9,240 job opportunities in the mentioned provinces.

A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), during which the minister made 31 trips to various provinces for inaugurating over 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion).

Since the beginning of the second phase of the scheme in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), every week several energy projects have gone operational across the country.

Earlier this month, Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said that 53 major water and electricity projects have gone operational in the current Iranian calendar year under the framework of the ministry's A-B-Iran program.

According to the official, in the second phase of the A-B-Iran scheme 250 projects



are going to be inaugurated by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

The official noted that a total of 500 trillion rials (about \$11.9 billion) of investment will be made in the mentioned 250 projects.

## Iran, Turkey considering new rail border crossing to expand trade

**ECONOMY** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Transport ministers of Iran and Turkey on Wednesday discussed cooperation between the two neighbors during a video conference session in which they stressed the need for establishing a new rail border crossing for expansion of trade.

As reported by ILNA, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami and Turkish Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Adil Karaismailoglu discussed cooperation in various areas of the transportation sector in their talks.

In the meeting, Eslami emphasized the need for development of rail transport between Iran and Turkey and noted that currently the only railway border between the two neighbors is through the Razi border to Van in Turkey.

Noting that operating through only one station increases the cargo traffic load at the border, the official stated that



Iran, based on negotiations between the leaders of the two countries, has conducted necessary research and proposed

## Dairy products export hit \$153.7m in 4 months

**ECONOMY** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran exported 152,574 tons of dairy products valued at \$153.742 million during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Rouhollah Latifi said that Iranian dairy products have been exported to 30 countries

including Canada, Germany, Britain, Russia, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, and New Zealand during the mentioned time span, IRNA reported.

Through importing \$75.998 million of the mentioned goods, Iraq was the major export destination of Iranian dairy products in the first four months of the present year, the official said and mentioned Afghanistan

and Pakistan as the second and third export markets of the products.

As previously reported by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI), production of cow milk in Iran has risen three percent during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20) from its previous quarter.

SCI has put the quarterly cow milk output at 1.9 million tons.



## TEDPIX drops 2% in a week

**ECONOMY** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, fell two percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), IRNA reported.

The index, which had hit the record high of two million points on August 2, closed at 1.975 million points in the previous week.

As reported, the indices of Iran Khodro Investment Development Company, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Ghadir Investment Company, Bank Saderat, Mobarakeh Steel Company, and Bandar Abbas Oil Refining Company were the major contributors to the index's rise in the past week.

TEDPIX, which had been experiencing an unprecedented trend of rising over the recent months, experienced several days of drop in the past week.

The index had surpassed two million points on August 2 and through gaining 45,672 points it stood at 2.007 million, notching up another outstanding record in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20).

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

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.

Last month, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejjasand 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."

While the amount of liquidity absorbed by the stock market is rising more and more, this market is also developing its scope of activity, for example, it's planning to add a new exchange to its current major exchanges, including TSE, Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

The new exchange is supposed to be the real estate stock exchange which is estimated to be established by the next four-six months.

The establishment of such exchange is in line with the government's policy of providing housing units for the underprivileged, and many efforts have been already made to prepare the required infrastructure in this due.

The government's approach toward the capital market, which is the expansion of this market's activity, the capital market's strategy for more growth and development, and the current economic condition of the country and the status of the parallel markets, all are promising a prosperous future for the capital market.

And one of the significant results of such prosperity could be leading the liquidity toward production and materialize the motto of this Iranian year, which is "Surge in Production".

## Expansion of electricity co-op discussed between Iran, Azerbaijan

**ECONOMY** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The energy ministers of Iran and Azerbaijan explored the ways for the expansion of cooperation in electricity sector between the two countries in an online meeting on Thursday, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, Azerbaijan's Energy Minister Parviz Shahbazov put emphasis on the implementation of Iran-Azerbaijan joint electricity projects, and extending the bilateral agreement in this sector between Azerbaijan's Azerenerji Company and Iran's Tavanir Company.

Shahbazov and his Iranian counterpart Reza Ardakanian also urged implementation of the joint projects in construction of dams.

In a telephone conversation in late June, Iran's Finance and Economic Affairs Minister



Farhad Dejjasand and Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev had explored the ways for the expansion of bilateral economic relationship between the two countries amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Dejjasand, who is also the Iranian chairman of the joint cooperation committee of

the two counties, said, "I hope that with the help of bilateral cooperation, we will be able to witness the expansion and strengthening of economic relations between Iran and Azerbaijan."

The minister also expressed hope that through observing anti-coronavirus health protocols the two sides can hold the 14th meeting of Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Economic Committee in the near future.

He also referred to the building of a joint industrial park near the border of the two countries and joint projects of North-South Corridor which is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road routes for moving freight between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.

A preliminary agreement on the establishment of a joint Iranian-Azerbaijani industrial park was reached in 2019. Along with a joint industrial park, the two countries will also set up a joint logistics center in Iran's Ardebil Province.

Dejjasand wanted Mustafayev to take measures to support Iranian transit drivers dealing with issues when entering Azerbaijan in the time of coronavirus.

Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Mustafayev said his country has a comprehensive plan to limit the negative effects of the coronavirus outbreak and to support the employers and people active in trade and economy, and promised to pursue all the points mentioned by the Iranian side and try to finalize the projects with collaboration.

## Iran's Khosravi border with Iraq fully reopened

**ECONOMY** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Khosravi border between Iran and Iraq which was partially reopened in late July after several months of closing due to the coronavirus pandemic has become fully active, the spokesman of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

According to Ruhollah Latifi, the border crossing which was previously operating only two days a week (Sundays and Wednesdays) is now active on all weekdays following the Iraqi government's agreement.

However, the cross ceiling of 500 trucks per week has not changed for this border and the weekly admission will be the same as before, Latifi said.

Following the outbreak of the new coronavirus, all trade



borders between Iran and Iraq were closed as of early March, however, with the partial control of the pandemic's first wave, trade borders between the two countries were gradually reopened.

In early July, Iran and Iraq resumed trade exchanges through Mandali and Shalamcheh borders following the reopening of the mentioned crossings from the Iraqi side.

Head of Iraq's Border Crossing Authority, Omar al-Waeli had announced on July 6 that the country's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kazemi agreed to resume partial trade in the Mandali and Shalamcheh border markets with Iran.

"According to this decision, 250 shipments from Iran will enter Iraq for two days a week through the Shalamcheh border in Basra and Mandali border in Diyala province," al-Waeli said at the time.

Head of Iraq's Border Crossing Authority said: "Only the exchange of goods is allowed and the entry of passengers into the border crossings for any reason is prevented."



# 1st phase of West Karoun oil transmission project inaugurated

**E N E R G Y** TEHRAN — The first phase of an oil transmission project which is going to send the oil from West Karoun fields in southwest Iran to the country's export terminals was officially launched in a ceremony on Thursday.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Oil Ministry and the National Iranian Oil Company, including Farokh Alikhani, the NIOC's deputy director of production affairs, Touraj Dehqani, the managing director of Iran's Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC).

As reported, the mentioned transmission line in the first phase has the capacity to transfer 460,000 barrels of heavy crude oil as well as 254,000 barrels of light crude on a daily basis.

The transmission route in this project is going to send oil from the West Karun pumping station to a middle station, which is Omidieh pumping station, and then to the Bahregan and Jask terminals as the final destinations.

The mentioned project includes operations for transferring oil from North Azadegan,



South Azadegan, Yadavaran, and Darkhovin to West Karun Pumping station, in addition to transferring North Yaran oil to Jofair exploitation unit and then to the West Karun station.

With the development of Phase 2 of this project, which is currently underway, the capacity of the mentioned transmission line is going to increase to more than one million barrels per day.

West Karoun oilfields, which Iran shares with Iraq at the western part of Iran's southwestern region of Karoun, include five major fields namely North Azadegan, South Azadegan, North Yaran, South Yaran, and Yadavaran.

West Karoun holds great importance for the country's oil industry since according to the latest studies, its in-situ deposit is estimated to be 67 billion barrels containing both light and heavy crude oils, and therefore it could have a big impact on Iran's oil output increases in the future.

With the fields fully operational, their output could add 1.2 million bpd to the country's oil production capacity.

## Slow airline industry recovery pushes global oil demand forecast lower

The International Energy Agency released its monthly oil market report on Thursday and revealed it has lowered its 2020 global oil demand forecast by 140,000 barrels per day to 91.9 million barrels per day. This is 8.1 million barrels per day lower than last year, which is greater than the 7.9 million barrels per day difference it had predicted in July.

According to Investopedia.com, this is the first downgrade in several months and it comes due to the stalling of mobility as the number of COVID-19 cases remains high, and air traffic staying stubbornly low. 2021 global demand estimate has been revised down by 240,000 barrels per day to 97.1 million barrels per day.

"Recent mobility data suggest the recovery has plateaued in many regions, although Europe, for now, remains on an upward trend," it said in the press release, speaking of the impact on road transport fuel demand. "In April the number of aviation kilometers travelled was nearly 80 percent down on last year and in July the deficit was still 67 percent. With few signs that the picture will improve significantly soon, we have downgraded our estimate for global jet fuel and kerosene demand."

The Paris-based organization also warned that "the oil

market's rebalancing remains delicate" due to uncertainty and possibility of higher output, even though June demand exceeded supply and there is an implied stock draw for the rest of the year.

In the U.S., Federal Reserve officials are talking about the continuing spread of the virus in several states prolonging the economic downturn. Their statements come against the backdrop of an impasse in Congress over the next stimulus package and testing numbers falling sharply. President Trump said a deal is "not going to happen" at a news briefing yesterday. This was hours after Republicans and Democrats spoke for the first time since talks fell apart on Friday. Both sides have accused the other of not compromising.

Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren said the economic data indicates that the recovery "may be losing steam" and the recent slowdown in economic activity is likely to continue this fall. He added that Europe's economic activity has been more "robust" since countries did not reopen until the virus had reached low levels. San Francisco Fed President Mary Daly told reporters that the halt in the \$600 a week unemployment benefits may create "a little bit of a hole" in consumer spending, and she's hearing reports of foot



traffic slowing as people realize the virus isn't behind us. "Businesses that had a sign that said 'We'll be back,' those signs are gone," she said.

The American Bankruptcy Institute says 800 small businesses filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy between mid-February to July 31. Over 80,000 U.S. businesses have closed permanently from March 1 to July 25, according to data from Yelp.

## Rosneft back in profit in second quarter, oil output down 13%

Russia's largest oil producer Rosneft made a second-quarter profit of 43 billion roubles after reporting a loss in the previous three months thanks to a rise in oil prices, it said on Friday.

Rosneft, headed by Igor Sechin, a long-standing ally of President Vladimir Putin, is the first big Russian oil company to report financial results for the second quarter, when the oil prices started to recover after hitting a 21-year low in April.

The oil market, under pressure from overproduction and the fallout from the coronavirus crisis, has been on a recovery path thanks to a global deal between OPEC and other leading oil producers, including Russia, to cut oil production.

The company, which accounts for more than 40 percent of Russia's total oil output, said it produced 4.04 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) in the second quarter, down 13% from the previous quarter, due to the global output reduction deal.

Rosneft gave a dollar figure of \$700 million for its earnings in the first quarter. Rosneft said the conversion was calculated using average monthly Central Bank of Russia



exchange rates for the reporting period.

The company, in which BP owns a 19.75 percent stake, sustained a loss of 156 billion roubles (\$2.13 billion) in the first quarter, when the oil prices fell by two-thirds due to a supply glut and the impact of the coronavirus crisis.

"As prices for crude oil and refined products had improved, our financial metrics demonstrated a positive dynamics in the course of 2Q 2020. This provides us confidence that the company's financial results will stage a recovery in the upcoming periods," Sechin said in a statement.

In the second quarter of 2019, Rosneft had reported a net profit of 194 billion roubles.

## China's Hengli adds to Dalian crude storage capacity

China's private-sector Hengli Petrochemical has brought on line another 22.6 million barrels (mn bl) of crude storage capacity in Dalian, helping support rising import demand for its 400,000 bpd Changxing refinery.

The second-phase tanks been operational since the end of June, taking the company's total crude storage capacity to 37.8mn bl, Argus Media cited the company as stating.

The new tanks will help Hengli optimize crude purchases for its refinery on Changxing Island in Dalian. It ramped up crude purchases as prices collapsed earlier this year in order to lock in lower feedstock costs, the company said today, without giving details.

Hengli reported strong profit growth in the first half of this year, despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Profit rose by 37 percent from a year earlier to 5.5bn yuan (\$792mn) in the period, as revenue increased by 59 percent to Yn67.4bn. The Changxing refinery contributed the bulk of the profits, at Yn4.6bn.

Crude costs averaged Yn2,277/t (\$45/

bl) in January-June. Hengli said it produced 1.78mn t of fuels, 10.79mn t of chemicals, 4.58mn t of purified terephthalic acid (PTA) and 1.29mn t of polyester products in the period. It did not give a breakdown of fuel output by product.

Fuel sales prices fell by 7.2 percent but average sales prices of petrochemical products rose by 4.5 percent, Hengli said, illustrating how its petrochemical focus insulated it from the worst of the oil market downturn, in line with fellow private-sector producer Rongsheng.

Hengli said its integrated operating model — with 98 percent of ethylene feedstock supplied by its 1.5mn t/yr cracker at Changxing — helped it manage the impact of the Covid-19 crisis. It ran its units at high rates in the first half of this year, but gave no details.

Hengli is adding a fifth PTA unit this year, which will take its PTA capacity to 11.6mn t/yr and make it the world's second-largest producer behind Chinese counterpart Yisheng. The PTA units are fed by paraxylene from the Changxing complex.

## Venezuela looks to ease gasoline shortage by restarting production units

Venezuela's state-owned oil firm PDVSA looks to restart another gasoline-producing unit soon, hoping to ease the gasoline shortages in the country that sits atop the world's largest crude oil reserves.

PDVSA aims to restart the gasoline-producing unit at its CRP refining complex within two weeks, following the restart of two crude distillation facilities earlier this week, Argus reported on Thursday, citing company officials and internal documents it has seen.



Venezuela is currently producing gasoline from one unit at the Amuay refinery and another unit at the Cardon refinery. Amuay and Cardon are currently processing up to 135,000 barrels per day, "but that level of production has to be sustained and other units needed for gasoline production, including the fluid catalytic cracker, must be restarted," a manager at PDVSA told Argus.

In the middle of July, PDVSA resumed gasoline production at Cardon, which was at the time the only operating refinery in the country that is experiencing severe gasoline shortages.

Venezuela's 1.3-million-bpd refining capacity is mostly offline, due to the cash crunch at PDVSA and Venezuela, the crumbling industry, and years of lack of investment in maintenance and repairs.

The lockdown to curb the coronavirus pandemic in the country already in a severe economic collapse has reduced the demand for gasoline, but shortages persist.

Venezuela has seen some reprieve recently in its fuel shortage problem after Iranian tankers shipped gasoline and refining components to the Latin American country in open defiance of U.S. sanctions.

The government tried to alleviate the fuel shortage in the country, but a new scheme of subsidized gasoline failed to put an end to the long lines in which Venezuelans queued to fill their cars with fuel.

Despite the shipments from Iran, Venezuelans continued to queue for gasoline. Meanwhile, the United States is looking for ways to cut off Iranian gasoline deliveries to Venezuela.

## Oil refinery intake recovers but lags behind demand rebound: IEA

Global refinery crude intake is recovering but it lags behind the demand increase due to high inventories, Platts reported, citing the International Energy Agency.

In the second quarter, global refining throughput fell 11.5 million bpd year on year to 69.5 million bpd "the lowest quarterly level in 17 years."

However runs returned to monthly growth in June, "putting the global refining industry on a recovery track, which is expected to be a long and arduous journey," the IEA said.

The pace of demand and refining rebound in China was "one of the unexpected developments" in Q2, as coronavirus lockdowns were lifted, the agency said in its latest report. It expects China to fully offset the Q1 declines by August and for the whole 2020 to be "the only country registering any significant year-on-year growth."

The agency estimated global July crude runs at 3.7 million bpd above the "low point" in May when runs totaled 68.7 million bpd. By the end of 2020, refinery runs are expected to ramp up by another 5.6 million bpd although overall will decline by 6.9 million bpd in 2020 to 74.8 million bpd.



Runs are forecast to rebound by "only" 4.5 million bpd next year to 79.4 million bpd. They will be 2.7 million bpd "below the historical peak seen in 2018."

IEA sees "more existential threats in the near future" for refining assets, as new capacity additions are further exacerbated by declining profits in trading operations, which have provided a "cushion" thanks to the Q2 "super-contango in the crude oil market."

Some US refiners have decided to close their sites or transform them into terminals or biodiesel plants. Marathon said it is indefinitely idling its 26,000 bpd El Paso, Texas, plant and its 161,000 bpd Martinez, California, plant, two refineries shut when demand first crashed due to the pandemic, and is evaluating re-purposing Martinez into a 48,000 bpd renewable diesel plant. In Europe, Total may convert its 101,000 bpd Grandpuits refinery into a bio plant.

The IEA said the performance of middle distillate cracks had "helped boost refinery margins worldwide" and in Europe, Brent cracking margins increased in July for the first time in three months. Singapore Dubai cracking margins also benefited from middle distillates and the fuel oil complex, but mostly from weaker freight and the easing of sour versus sweet crude prices "to the detriment of Dubai", the IEA said. In the US, Midwest margins "remain in the high single digits, better than anywhere else."

## S Korea's longest monsoon on record to push Q3 gasoline demand 12% lower

Heavy rains and flash floods across various regions in South Korea could put the brakes on the country's auto fuel demand recovery since the peak of the COVID-19 cases in March-April, with refinery and industry officials expecting domestic gasoline consumption in the third-quarter to fall at least 12 percent from the second-quarter and year on year.

South Korea has suffered from heavy downpours that continued for more than 50 days since late-June, marking the country's longest ever monsoon season.

The heavy rains triggered numerous cases of river overflows, small to medium-scale flash floods, as well as landslides across the nation, leaving 33 dead and 9 missing and some 7,800 residents displaced from their homes, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration.

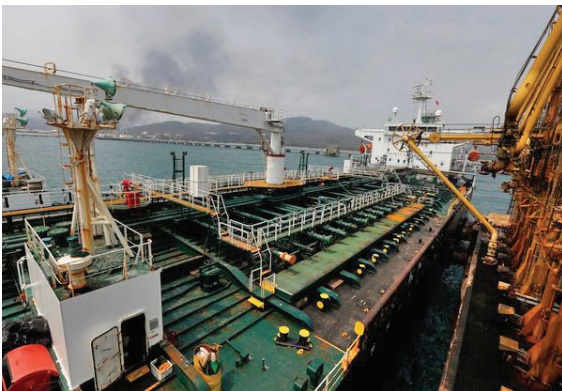
The damages are expected to grow as more rains are forecast until mid-August or even possibly late in the month.

The prolonged rainy season has led to a sharp decline in road traffic during the summer and holiday driving season, which had already been affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the state-run Korea Expressway Corp. on Aug.12, auto traffic on the country's highways dropped to an average 3.68 million vehicles/day during the Aug.8-9 weekend, down 17.9 percent from 4.48 million units/day in the same period a year earlier.

It was also down 18.4 percent from the average 4.51 million units/day a week earlier.

Reflecting the downbeat tepid road traffic volume and



the prolonged downpour curbing holiday travel interest, South Korea could see its gasoline consumption tumble to around 18.5 million barrels in Q3, according to traders and fuel marketing sources at major South Korean refiners SK Innovation, S-Oil Corp., GS Caltex and Hyundai Oilbank surveyed by S&P Global Platts.

The survey estimate is equivalent to around a 12.9 percent fall from 21.25 million barrels consumed in Q2 and down 12.1 percent from 21.05 million barrels a year earlier, Platts calculation based on KNOC data showed.

"We had initially hoped auto fuel demand hit by the COV-

ID-19 to rebound sharply in the Q3 summer and holiday driving season, but that's not going to be the case because of the lengthy rainy season," a refinery official said.

South Korea's domestic gasoline refining margin slipped into the negative territory as road traffic failed to live up to the peak driving season auto fuel demand expectations.

Domestic margin for gasoline was seen at around minus \$0.3/b in the first week of August and minus \$0.5/b a week before, down from around \$5.5-\$6/b a year earlier, the refinery official said.

The Asian benchmark 92 RON Singapore gasoline crack spread against front-month ICE Brent crude futures had also dipped into the red earlier this month. The Singapore crack spread fell to minus 79 cents/b on Aug.3, before recovering to \$1.58/b on Aug.13.

Despite the negative margins, the South Korean refiners said they would not further cut their run rates to reduce output of refined oil products because the run rates had already been slashed earlier this year due to the pandemic.

The country's biggest oil refiner SK Energy's run rate dropped to 77 percent in Q2, which marked the lowest-ever operational level. The refiner had reported a 90 percent run rate in the same period a year earlier and 92 percent in Q1.

Other refiners including GS Caltex, Hyundai Oilbank and S-Oil have also reduced run rates during Q2 and July in response to sluggish domestic consumer and industrial fuel demand following the outbreak of the pandemic.



First Announcement

In the name of God  
Shahid Tondgooyan petrochemical company



Call for Tender Tender No: 99/473

Shahid Tondgooyan Petrochemical Company (STPC) intends to purchase of 28MT Diphyll oil as follows according to specifications described in tender documents through qualified manufacturers.

**Subject:**

It is the purchase of 28MT Diphyll oil required by the tendering body based on Indent: Wts-9830643

**Location of delivery:**

Phase #1, site #4, Petrochemical Economic Special Zone(PESZ), Bandar Imam Khomeini, Khuzestan province, Iran. Tel: 065226-52479

**Duration of the project:**

1. Partial shipment is not allowed.
2. The maximum delivery time is 2 months after purchase order.

**Guaranty price for participate in tender is 1,059,000,000 Rials.**

Applicants for participation in tender must pay the amount of equivalent 1,059,000,000 Rials to the account no 1495230562 at Mellat bank in the name of tendering body (STPC) or submit bid bond.

**Place& deadline of receive tender document:**

Legal & contracts affair, Phase #1, (STPC), site #4, Petrochemical Economic Special Zone(PESZ), Bandar Imam Khomeini, Khuzestan province, Iran.

It shall be given latest by 16:00 pm on 22/Aug/2020

**Place & deadline of submission of price envelopes& evaluation forms:**

Commission, Phase #1, (STPC), site #4, Petrochemical Economic Special Zone(PESZ), Bandar Imam Khomeini, Khuzestan province, Iran.

It should be submitted latest by 16:00 pm on 23/Sep/2020

**Place & date of opening of A&B envelopes:**

Mention address: Conference room of main office-11:00 on 04/Oct/2020

All the bidders will be invited to attend in the meeting of opening the price envelopes.

Advertisement is visible in mention address by tender ID 98/448 & [www.stpc.ir](http://www.stpc.ir)

Note: all the details of mentioned tender are in the tender documents.

**Contacts:**

You can contact any of the addresses below:

Email: Moradpour.a@stpc.ir

Tel: 061521-72045

Fax: 06152172043

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First Announcement



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N.I.S.O.C  
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN  
TENDER NO. : 08-38-9740002

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	COILED TUBING REEL STRING, QT- 800, SINGLE TYPE H2S SERVICE, FITTING FIG .1502 WING WITH INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CORROSION INHIBITOR, TEST CERTIFICATE/ANAL YZES, WELDING LOCATION AND MATERIAL CERTIFICATE ATTACHED ON EACH REEL SHIPPING SPOOL: STEEL SPECIFIED AS OD SIZE, WALL THICKNESS REF, QUALITY TUBING LONG SIZE: 15000FT OD 1.25 IN . , W.T 0.109 IN	05

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tender are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form No.1, available at: [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir), not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 5.493 EURO or 1.112.000,700 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

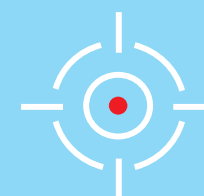
Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative to Assessment Forms can be accessed via: [www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab](http://www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab)

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI IRAN, PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

**FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**  
**Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex**  
**Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran**  
**E.MAIL: KALA.F.P@nisoc.ir Tel. No.: 061 34 12 34 55 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437**  
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**Oil min. holds phone talk with Russia's energy min. on reducing oil output**

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

**Iranian manufacturers indigenize strategic petchem equipment**

**Parl. commission approves slicing off 4 zeros from national currency**

**Iran starts mass production of drilling bit**

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- Iranian people to disappoint enemies more than before...
- Senior Iranian officials cast vote in ballot box
- All countries except 3 terrorist regimes in favor of...
- Islamic Revolution Leader casts his vote in ballot...
- Polls open across Iran
- CAO rejects rumors on continuation of Iran-China flights
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TEHRAN, Feb. 20 (MNA) -- Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh held a phone

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# Lebanon must now counter hybrid war

By Mohammad Mazhari

July 12 marks the 14th anniversary of the start of the 33-day Israeli war on Lebanon in which the Hezbollah resistance movement succeeded to deal a great blow to the Zionist regime's army. Hezbollah aborted any move by Israeli army in the war which surprised military analysts.

Today, Israel is well aware that its offensive against Lebanon in July 2006 increased the deterrence capability of Hezbollah and boosted its morale. Now Tel Aviv cannot assess consequences of any possible war against Hezbollah in the future.

Israel is now fearful of waging a new war against Lebanon as it has realized that the resistance movement is able to respond efficiently and strongly.

Tel Aviv also knows that Hezbollah has developed new defense strategies to confront drone attacks by Israel.

However, today Lebanon is facing another kind of war – economic war - by the U.S. and Israel and their subordinates. Such an approach toward Lebanon shows the failure of classic war against Hezbollah and the Axis of Resistance.

By waging such a hybrid war, Israel has been trying to avenge Hezbollah's victories by provoking economic war on the Lebanese and then portray the resistance movement as the responsible.

It is not surprising that Washington is backing Tel Aviv in the economic and psychological warfare. The U.S. has supported Israel for decades in various means. We never forget U.S. direct military support in the July war,



in which Israel used smart and cluster bombs as well as advanced aircraft to target civilians. During the war, the U.S. shamelessly airlifted weapons to Israel.

Political observers are unanimous in their view that Israel is penalizing the Lebanese for their victory over the Israeli army. At such a situation it is necessary to raise awareness and cherish those heroic moments.

While America is trying to exploit the current economic crisis and the problems arising from the August 4 massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon

needs to get rid of the corrupt system by reviewing the mistakes of the past thirty years.

Nevertheless, it seems that the Americans have retreated in recent days, knowing that what they have done was wrong, especially after Nasrallah's words about the repercussions of their pressure, which may strengthen the support for the Resistance movement in Lebanon and the Axis of Resistance in the region.

We must recall the speech by Sayyed Nasrallah when at the height of the war he said, "Look at the Israeli battleship

on fire." At the time, he also said, "I considered this a gift for me personally and not only for the nation because this is the language that the enemy understands."

Hezbollah showed that Resistance could protect Lebanon and gave a lesson to the enemy so that they would not dare to attack the country again. Now Lebanon must provide actual support to guard the Resistance movement because America is seeking to undermine the Resistance movement and depict it as the main cause of the economic crisis engulfing Lebanon.

Resistance proved that Lebanon can win and can rise again from ashes, despite the economic war waged by the U.S.

The awareness and intelligence in countering this war are important factors. To offset the war, Lebanon needs some reforms:

- \*Shift towards a productive economy,
- \*Cooperate with the outside world and embrace multiple options,
- \*Complete the campaign against corruption

In this regard the Resistance in Lebanon can bet on steadfastness and support of Hezbollah and its allies to prevent the country from falling into abyss.

Here we recall the words of Nasrallah in the July War when he said, "We are faced with two options. Either we submit to the conditions that the enemy wants to dictate to us, with international, American, and unfortunately Arab support, which tries to put Lebanon under the Israeli control or stand firm and confront the Zionists ... and I promise you victory again."

## IAEA must investigate Saudi violation of NPT

By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Professor Frank N. von Hippel, former assistant director for national security in the White House Office, believes that some US companies are assisting Saudi Arabia with its Nuclear activities.

Professor Frank N. von Hippel, says that Saudi Arabia should be required to inform the IAEA of nuclear facilities at the design and construction stage as Iran has agreed to do.

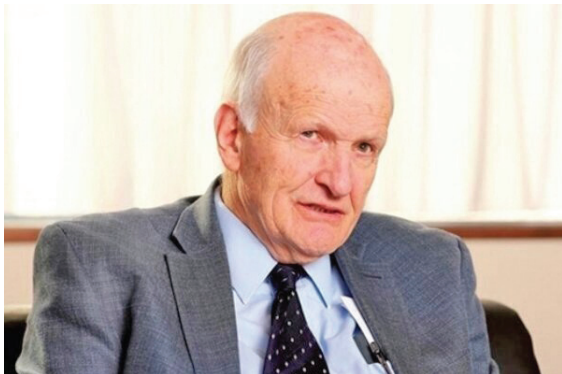
"I hope the report on construction of a uranium mill will result in the IAEA demanding access as it did in Iran," Frank N. von Hippel tells Mehr News in an exclusive interview.

The following is the interview:

■ According to the New York Times, US intelligence agencies have in recent weeks published a confidential analysis of current actions inside Saudi Arabia and in cooperation with China to build the industrial capacity needed to produce nuclear fuel. The analysis has raised alarms that there may be covert moves by Saudi Arabia and China to produce unenriched uranium so that it can later be enriched to fuel nuclear weapons. What will be the reaction of the Trump administration to this report?

A: Exports/imports of technology for mining and separation of uranium from uranium ore are not considered sensitive. However, it is a concern that Saudi Arabia is not transparent. If it has not informed the IAEA about its facilities, it may violate its NPT safeguards commitment. You may recall that the IAEA Board declared Iran in violation because it had not informed the IAEA of its enrichment program before it became public in 2003.

With regard to the view within the Trump White House, President Trump does not care about international law. He divides the world into his friends and enemies – often depending upon whether they provide profitable business to him and his family. Friends like Saudi Arabia can do whatever they want. Enemies like Iran should be punished whether they have violated international law or not.



Congress has a more balanced view and has been fighting with the Trump White House about "turning a blind eye" toward Saudi Arabia's transgressions, including Saudi Arabia's war crimes in Yemen and its murder of the journalist, Jamal Khashoggi.

The State Department position is between. Secretary Pompeo supports the White House, and the professionals support international law.

■ Despite the fact that Saudi Arabia is a member of NPT and has a comprehensive bilateral safeguards agreement in place with the IAEA, but unfortunately still refuses to accept the Agency's safeguards inspections, and despite repeated requests for several years, the Agency has not amended its obligations to allow the Agency to inspect. According to the New York Times, Saudi Arabia is trying to build a yellow cake factory. Accordingly, Saudi Arabia's nuclear program has entered a critical phase, which requires the IAEA to adopt bilateral agreements with the country to these sensitivities. Why does the IAEA not put pressure on Saudi Arabia in this regard, and the IAEA's Board of Governors does not make a serious decision?

A: Saudi Arabia should be required to inform the IAEA of nuclear facilities at the design and construction

stage as Iran has agreed to do. I hope the report on the construction of a uranium mill will result in the IAEA demanding access as it did in Iran.

■ Some members of the Trump administration, including Jared Kushner and Michael Flynn, a former national security adviser to the Trump administration, have been accused of providing sensitive nuclear equipment to Saudi Arabia. However, Saudi Arabia appears to have secret ties to both the United States and China over its nuclear program. What is your assessment?

A: I understand that US nuclear equipment suppliers provided some design information to Saudi Arabia. Congress put pressure on the Department of Energy, which had given permission for transferring this design information, and I believe it was stopped. To my knowledge, the US has not provided any nuclear technologies to Saudi Arabia.

■ Why is China trying to have a secret nuclear plan with Saudi Arabia? What are the goals of this issue?

A: In the past, Chinese companies' violations of nuclear export controls have been due to their interest in contracts and inadequate enforcement of international standards by China's government.

■ Some experts have previously said that if the United States does not cooperate with Saudi Arabia under the 123 agreement and does not allow the country to enrich uranium and have a full fuel cycle, the country may resort to a secret program to have a full fuel cycle. Do you think the United States will be willing to give Saudi Arabia the right to enrich uranium, or does it want an agreement like the United Arab Emirates that does not allow uranium enrichment and reprocessing of plutonium (golden standards)?

A: There have been proposals within the US debate to loosen the "Gold Standard" on Saudi Arabia because otherwise, Saudi Arabia will take its nuclear business to other countries that don't require the Gold Standard. Congress has pushed back, however, and forced the Trump Administration to adhere to the Gold Standard.

## What's the real aim of the disastrous UAE-Israel deal

By J. Michael Springmann

Israel and the United Arab Emirates have announced an agreement leading to full diplomatic relations -- with the help of U.S. President Donald Trump (who has a Zionist daughter and son-in-law, Jared Kushner). Sealed after a long-running series of negotiations and confirmed in a phone call on August 13 among Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli co-prime minister, Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed, and Donald Trump, the U.S. president, the participants will formally sign the accord at the White House in coming weeks.

Trump's comment? "HUGE breakthrough today! Historic Peace Agreement between our two GREAT friends, Israel and the United Arab Emirates," he wrote on Twitter.

But is it? -Israel will suspend "applying sovereignty to the West Bank" --which it already controls.

-It will give Muslims greater access to the Haram al-Sharif by permitting them to fly from Abu Dhabi to Tel Aviv -- but what happens when the Muslims seek

access to the Dome of the Rock?

-Trump's senior adviser Jared Kushner, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and the Middle East (West Asia) envoy Avi Berkowitz, Zionists all, were deeply involved in negotiating the deal.

What's the real aim of the agreement? It's glaringly obvious. It is directed at splitting the Arab world, and engaging the Zionist entity with the repressive, authoritarian, and medieval Persian Gulf statelets. In pontificating on the agreement, Trump said, "Now that the ice has been broken, I expect more Arab and Muslim countries will follow the United Arab Emirates' lead .... and normalize relations with Israel." It's also aimed at Iran. "Brian Hook, the [outgoing] U.S. State Department's lead official on Iran, said the agreement amounted to a 'nightmare' for Iran in its efforts against Israel in the region."

Trump and his anti-Arab, anti-Muslim advisers apparently see this as a continuation of the Camp David Accords, which normalizes relations between Israel and Egypt in 1978. That pact has been more than 40 years of abject failure.

What's worse is that this agreement



is between the only two nuclear states in the region, unless you count Iran's power station at Bushehr. Israel has atomic, possibly hydrogen, bombs, and reactors. The UAE has four nuclear power stations, one now operating and three nearly completed. How fast could that country produce enough fissionable material to build one, two, many bombs to use against Yemen?

But, there is Saudi Arabia. According to the Times of Israel (August 13, 2020), in discussing the Kingdom's interest in nuclear power, "This is not an entirely hypothetical question. Riyadh is reportedly taking steps to advance its nuclear program in ways experts worry could indicate the future pursuit of uranium enrichment

capability -- in other words, the Kingdom may be inching toward an atomic bomb." Where would a Saudi bomb be used? Yemen or elsewhere?

So, Donald Trump's "Historic Peace Agreement" has pushed West Asia farther towards instability, nuclear energy, and general war. It has enabled the dangerous rogue entity of Israel to increase the division of the Arab and Muslim worlds. It's like Churchill's comment on the Treaty of Versailles ending the First World War: "They sought peace. They shall have war."

J. Michael Springmann is a former American diplomat and political commentator based in Washington, DC. He had formerly worked at the U.S. Commerce Department's International Trade Administration and as a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State. He had been assigned to Germany, India, Saudi Arabia, and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in Washington, DC.

He's the author of two books, Visas for Al Qaeda: CIA Handouts That Rocked the World: An Insider's View and Goodbye, Europe? Hello, Chaos?: Merkel's Migrant Bomb

(Source: Press TV)

## International cooperation is indispensable to ease economic pain caused by COVID-19 pandemic

The trade cooperation and friendly exchanges between China and Iran will continue to deepen

➡ healthy economic development model has to pay more attention to internal economic circulation. The global economy circulation and the internal domestic circulation complement each other, and the domestic economic cycle could be the main body of development, which means consumption and service turns to be more important compared to international trade and investment. The "dual circulation" development pattern aimed at boosting domestic economy with pumping up demand and reducing unemployment? but also reviving the world economy.

The idea of coping with recession in details may be hidden in technology innovation, which lies in actively looking for new methods to ensure domestic and global economies promote, such as building digital economy ecosystems.

Of course, the emphasis on domestically driving the economy does not mean abandoning external economic cooperation. After all, the close embedding of the global industrial chain far exceeds the short-sighted judgment that advocates "cutting off" between interdependent countries.

■ **"The law of the jungle" in the economic sphere is neither moral nor conducive to economies reopen**

When the global economic situation is smooth, free market and liberal economic models prevail. People believe that they can profit from the liberal economic model. With the current COVID-19 pandemic, trade protectionism and state interventionism tend to become increasingly prominent, and some countries are scared of competition in the context of ongoing economic recession.

The Western long-standing self-confidence in liberalism has been greatly degraded. At the social level, anti-intellectualism and populism are clamoring when liberalism is declining. Those conspiracy theories that are not supported by facts have become more and more popular, and have been used by some politicians to incite their supporters to unnecessary panic and hatred.

Helping developing countries recover their economies and eliminating the serious unbalanced development of world economy will benefit global peace and stability, rather than maliciously disrupting other countries' opportunity of economic stability or undermining the sign of global economic revival. Fighting against the epidemic should oppose stigmatization and politicization of the virus, and global economic recovery needs to resist scapegoating as well.

■ **Responsible powers are essential to boost the global economy**

Governments closed their doors on overseas travelers, restricted the export of medical supplies, and limited food exports from leaving their own countries while battling COVID-19. These policies hurt people's confidence in the free trade system in the long way, and even eroded the trust between allies.

A new world order calls for more responsible powers to support each other with joint hands. When the novel coronavirus struck, China, as a responsible major country, upholding the vision of a global community of shared future, assisted other countries to contain the spread of the virus, and protect the health and wellbeing of people around the world. China also calls on multilateral organizations to increase exchange within their respective framework. Securing global community of health and wealth needs all responsible powers' contributions to strengthen international macroeconomic policy coordination and jointly maintain the stability, security and smoothness of the global industrial and supply chains.

Responsible major countries should ensure normal business activities of multinational enterprises that follow international market rules, abide by the laws and regulations of the host country, to preserve a healthy and fair international market order. Responsible powers are not fighting for global supremacy in chaos. Responsible powers should be responsible for the stability of secure international order, rather than deliberately provoking or spreading distrust.

■ **Safeguarding diversification always meets the requirements of the times**

The COVID-19 epidemic is changing the international order and the world pattern, the ideal world pattern in the post-epidemic era should maintain pluralism. Diversification does not mean fragmentation. Most developing countries, including China, always hope to maintain the multilateral trading system so as to systematically and structurally boost the global economy. When the traditional major powers become more and more isolated, emerging countries are the hope. To rebuild mutual trust in international cooperation and trade, at least Asia can lead the way. For example, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) offered loans for building member states' public health emergency management system. AIIB will offer up to 13 billion dollars of financing under the facility, and it will be a new platform that performs highly in terms of international cooperation.

Objectively speaking, COVID-19 has indeed caused some original planned cooperation negotiations to be postponed. For example, in 2016, China and Iran established a comprehensive strategic partnership. However, due to the public health emergency, both China and Iran adopted extensive stringent and thorough containment measures, and the detailed discussions on the 25-year cooperation agreement have been influenced. However, the trade cooperation and friendly exchanges between China and Iran will continue to deepen, and the cooperation prospects for future are promising.

Dealing with global risks and challenges posed by this pandemic requires global cooperation. After all, the wellbeing of all humanity does not come from not being inferior to other countries, nor is it at the expense of others, but from the actual and universal prosperity.

Dr. Yuan ZHANG is Professor and Director of the Religion in the Middle East Research Program of the Middle East Studies Institute (MESI) of Shanghai International Studies University (SISU).

**The COVID-19 epidemic is changing the international order and the world pattern, the ideal world pattern in the post-epidemic era should maintain pluralism.**



## Iran’s first handicraft town to make debut

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The first handicraft town in Iran is being established in the city of Zarqan, southern Fars province, in a bid to bring more prosperity to the domestic handicraft industry.

The first phase of the project is being carried out over three hectares area of land near Zarqan and is anticipated to be completed by the yearend (March 2021),” Zarqan cultural heritage,



tourism, and handicrafts department director Mahmoud Mastan said on Wednesday, CHTN reported.

Last year, Shiraz, the capital of Fars province, was named a “world city of handicrafts” by the World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region director Ghada Hijavi.

Iran exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19). Of the figure, some \$273 million worth of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and

about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces, according to data provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Traditional ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones were exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

## Historical tombstones transferred to Bishapour museum

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Some 170 ancient tombstones were handed over to the UNESCO-tagged Bishapour museum in southern Fars province, a provincial tourism chief has said.

To preserve and protect these historical relics, they were transferred to the open-air museum of the Bishapour World Heritage Site to be documented and studied properly by the archeologists and cultural heritage experts, CHTN quoted Mohammad Javad Jokari as saying on Friday.

He also noted that ancient tombstones are one of the most important sources of studying different historical eras, and the symbols and inscriptions on them can show the philosophical meanings, religious beliefs, traditions, and beliefs of the people of their time.



Bishapour, along with Firouzabad and Sarvestan are collectively registered a UNESCO World Heritage titled “Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region”

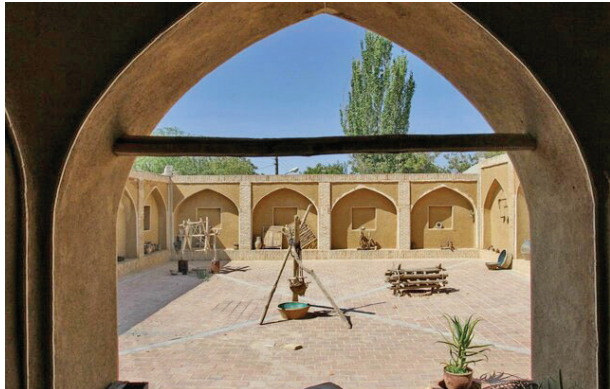
Under the Sasanians, Iranian art experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as the palaces at Ctesiphon, Firouzabad, and Saravan.

Amongst most characteristic and striking relics of the Sasanids are rock sculptures carved on abrupt limestone cliffs, for example at Shapur (Bishapour), Naqsh-e Rostam, and Naqsh-e Rujab. Metalwork and gem engraving became highly sophisticated.

## Seven tourism projects to come on stream in central Iran

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – A total of seven tourism-related projects are scheduled to be inaugurated across Iran’s central Markazi province on the occasion of the Government Week (August 24-30), provincial tourism chief has said.

Five eco-lodge units as well as two handicrafts markets will come on stream in the cities and villages of Mahalat, Khomein, Hazaveh, Nimvar, and Komijan, Mostafa Marzban announced on Thursday, ISNA reported.



Over 8,000 artisans are currently working in 120 fields of handicrafts across the province, the official added.

However, Markazi province’s tourism and handicrafts sectors have taken a total of 75 billion rials (about \$2 million) hit from the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) over the past few months, he lamented.

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

Markazi province is considered the industrial capital of the country. It is rich in natural, historical, cultural and religious attractions.

Hand-woven carpets and klims, made in its cities including Farahan, Sarugh, Lilivan, Senejan, and Vafs are known internationally.

# The absolutely magnificent ‘Gold Bowl of Hasanlu’: Sixty-three years later

→ 1 and scholars began publishing their interpretations of the images etched onto this magnificent artifact.

Some evidence suggests when the citadel of Hasanlu was under violent siege some soldiers could penetrate into the citadel grabbing a handful of valuable treasures, including the treasured gold bowl. The hypothesis suggests that the whole building was collapsed due to fire, crushing the warriors and their prized possessions under layers of debris. And here they remained for around 3,000 years until the ground-breaking discovery in 1958.

Due to the lack of written records, very little is known about the inhabitants of Hasanlu, and their invaders. “There is no written evidence from Hasanlu that would attest to the identity of the inhabitants. We know neither the ancient name of the site nor the state to which it may have belonged, much less the linguistic and/or ethnic affiliations of its population – neither preceding nor during the period with which we are concerned,” writes Irene J. Winter in an article titled “The Hasanlu Gold Bowl: Thirty Years Later”.



A view of the Gold Bowl of Hasanlu, ca. 900 BC

Among the most important objects uncovered at Hasanlu were an unusually decorated silver bowl, several iron garment pins headed by bronze lions, a solid gold bowl, a knife handle with gold cloisonné, and two hollow bronze horse heads that served to hold liquids.

According to the Britannica Encyclopedia, Hasanlu was inhabited from about 2100 to about 825 BC, but the richest period yet excavated dates to the 10th and 9th centuries BC. The period, often called “Mannaeen” after the name of the people who lived in the area, is characterized by gray pottery accompanied by black and red varieties, the black ware being of a much finer quality and probably made in imitation of metal vessels.

Experts say parallels to the motifs on the Hasanlu objects have been found in Elam, Assyria, north Syria, and Urartu, indicating that Iran not only received considerable cultural and artistic stimuli from other areas but also, in turn, exerted influence on the Middle East.

The Gold Bowl of Hasanlu is being kept at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

## Mirza Kuchak Khan’s house to turn into museum

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The house of national hero and legendary freedom fighter Mirza Kuchak Khan in the city of Rasht, northern Gilan province, is planned to be repurposed into a museum, showcasing objects and documents remaining from the movement that Mirza founded in the early twentieth century, CHTN reported.

Painting, repairing the roof and stairs, and fixing the bricks are parts of the restoration project, which is being implemented by the province’s cultural heritage department in collaboration with the Rasht Municipality, deputy provincial tourism chief Vali Jahani announced on Thursday.

Covering an area of 1120 square meters, the house is located in the Ostadsara neighborhood. The Rasht Municipality purchased the house from its owner a few years ago in order to convert it into a cultural center.

The house was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2007.

Born Yunes, Mirza Kuchak Khan (1880-1921), established the movement in the forests of Gilan that

became known as the Jangal (Forest) Movement in response to the period of political decay brought about by the advent of World War I and the occupation of Iran by Anglo-Russian and Ottoman troops.

This uprising started in 1914 and remained active until 1921 when the movement was defeated.

The Jangal Movement laid the ground for a popular movement in the northern part of the country. In this period, the Iranian people were grappling with social unrest, anarchy, political turmoil, abject poverty, famine, and numerous other problems.

After Reza Khan took power in 1920, he issued a highly classified document requesting high-ranking security officials to deliver Mirza Kuchak to him, dead or alive, offering a large reward to whoever did so.

This secret document shows that the king of Iran was desperately seeking to suppress the Jangal Movement as soon as possible in order to crack down on the new freedom movements mobilized in different parts of Iran.

Mirza and his companion named Gaouk, a Russian-German revolutionary adventurer, fleeing from the central



government forces both died of frostbite in the Talesh mountains near Masal on December 2, 1921.

## Iron Age jug seized in Zanjan

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iranian police have recently confiscated a pre-historical clay jug, estimated to date from the Iron Age, from an antique dealer in Zachkan village in northwestern Zanjan province.

The pea-green jug with two vertical handles and a flat bottom, which was perfectly intact, was handed over to the tourism ministry for further assessments by the cultural heritage experts, provincial tourism chief Amir Arjmand announced on Friday, CHTN reported.

The accused person was detained



in this regard and surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, the official added.

Iron Age is in fact final technological and cultural stage in the Stone–Bronze–Iron Age sequence. The date of the full Iron Age, in which this metal, for the most part, replaced bronze in implements and weapons, varied geographically, beginning in West Asia and southeastern Europe about 1200 BC but in China not until about 600 BC, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

## Jameh Mosque of Urmia undergoes new round of excavation

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** – An archaeological project has been commenced on the eastern side of the centuries-old Jameh Mosque of Urmia, which stands tall in the city of Urmia, the capital of northwestern East Azarbaijan province.

“New round of excavation will be conducted on the eastern side of the Jameh Mosque of Urmia in order to identify possible architectural elements estimated to exist in this part of the mosque,” CHTN quoted provincial tourism chief Jalil Jabbari as saying on Thursday.

The Jameh Mosque of Urmia, also known as Rezayieh Mosque, is located in a historical neighborhood of the city, and the mosque was constructed in the 13th century during the Ilkhanate era.

“Due to the presence of masses of wall-like rocks in this place, these excavations are necessary, and in this regard, this operation will be carried out from today



under the supervision of experienced experts and archaeologists,” the official explained.

## Persian cuisine: Khoresh-e Ghormeh Sabzi (Persian herb, bean and lamb stew)

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Khoresh-e Ghormeh Sabzi is known as one of the most prominent dishes in Persian culinary heritage. The herb stew is loaded with the flavors of several different green herbs and it’s traditionally served atop white rice.

The main ingredients are a blend of sautéed herbs, consisting mainly of parsley, leeks or green onions, and coriander, seasoned with the key spice of dried fenugreek leaves, that is cooked with kidney beans or yellow split peas, yellow or red onions, black lime (pierced dried limoo amani), and turmeric-seasoned lamb or beef.

Stews are a big part of Iranian cuisine. Ghormeh Sabzi along with Fesenjan and Gheimeh are an essential part of the culinary tradition of the nation and also the most common stews cooked by all



Iranians both at homes and restaurants.

### Ingredients

¼ cup canola oil, divided  
1 large yellow onion, finely chopped  
1 teaspoon ground turmeric  
1½ pounds boneless chuck roast, cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes

1½ cups finely chopped spinach  
1 cup finely chopped green onions (green part only)  
½ cup finely chopped Italian flat-leaf parsley  
¼ cup finely chopped cilantro  
¼ cup finely chopped chives  
¼ cup finely chopped fenugreek leaves  
1½ cups water, or more as needed  
1 pinch salt and ground black pepper to taste  
1 lemon, juiced  
4 dried Persian limes (limoo amani), or more to taste  
1 (15 ounces) can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed

### Recipe

1) Heat two tablespoons oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add onion; cook and stir until deep golden brown, 10 to 15 minutes. Stir in turmeric for one

to two minutes. Add chuck cubes; cook until coated in turmeric and browned on all sides, eight to 10 minutes.

2) Heat remaining two tablespoons oil in a separate pot over medium heat. Add spinach, green onions, parsley, cilantro, chives, and fenugreek leaves; cook and stir until deep dark green in color, five to 10 minutes.

3) Stir spinach mixture into the onion and chuck mixture. Pour in enough water to create a slurry consistency. Season with salt and pepper. Pour in lemon juice. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer stew until greens soften, about one hour.

4) Pierce dried limes with a fork and add to the stew. Continue simmering until chuck is tender, 30 minutes to one hour. Stir in red kidney beans. Cook until flavors combine, about 30 minutes. Discard dried limes before serving.



# DOE opens Iran's richest biodiversity museum

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — The richest and most important biodiversity museum of Iran has been set up in the Department of Environment (DOE) after years of efforts and activities of Iranian researchers, IRIB news agency reported.

In the museum of the natural history of Iran, out of about 90,000 identified specimens in the world, there are more than 5,000 specimens of animals, plants, ancient and museums.

The purpose of this museum is to provide specialized research and specimens to scientists and entry is not open to the public.

The museum includes several sections, including a genetic bank that includes samples of genes from Iranian and foreign species for study, a herbarium collection, an animal taxidermy collection, and a geological museum.

Providing research opportunities in the fields of animal, plant and geological species, the museum allows researchers and scientists to study special and rare species of Iran and other species.

Farhad Sadeghi Rad, head of the department of animals at the museum, told Sputnik in Tehran that this collection, which is the first panel exhibition (collection of horns and skulls) in Iran, has been working for a long time, since 2006 until the efforts of Iranian researchers, this panel has been completed and is now operational.

This panel includes a variety of deer, chinkara, antelopes, mouflon, wild goat,



A dik-dik which is the world's smallest antelope

and a large number of specimens of foreign animals, especially from Russia, Siberia, and Africa; We have worked with experts from different countries, including Russia, to assemble foreign panel collections, and

experts, researchers, and scientists from other countries can take advantage of this excellent opportunity to research species, he explained.

Referring to the taxidermy collection,

he noted that the samples are generally collected after an animal's death either due to accident or illness, of course, part of this collection has been donated.

He went on to say that in this collection, there are 8 top specimens of the world that are unique and there is no second specimen of them, including urials, hartebeest, dik-dik (the world's smallest antelopes), and Persian fallow deer.

Leila Ezzodinlou, head of the biotechnology department of the museum, also pointing to the activities of this collection, said that Gene Bank of the DOE started operating in 2006, aiming to preserve native plant and animal species and also to maintain gene samples of endangered species such as Asiatic cheetah in order to protect genetic resources.

"We already keep approximately 22 percent of the gene samples of animal species in Iran, including mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, and biospheres."

The samples in this collection are provided to researchers and scientists in accordance with the research in order to prevent direct sampling injuries to animals, she noted, adding, received samples are stored for about 10 to 15 years under special conditions and under constant supervision in a certain amount of alcohol and are replaced with new samples before degradation.

"In this collection, in addition to genetic samples, we also keep DNA samples," she concluded.

## Iran welcomes Russia's success in producing COVID-19 vaccine

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran welcomes Russia's success and achievements in COVID-19 vaccine production and believes that the international community should also welcome it, the Iranian ambassador to Russia has said.

Iran has been conducting research on the production of the vaccine since the onset of the outbreak and collaborated with Russia in this regard, but Russia has been able to achieve success in this regard, not only we welcome, but also the international community should welcome it, Kazem Jalali said in an interview with Sputnik news agency on Thursday.

Iran welcomes any achievement by any country that succeeds in discovering a vaccine or medicine to eliminate the deadly virus, he added.

### WHO should approve the vaccine

Meanwhile, Iraj Haririchi, the Iranian deputy health minister, said that in total, 165 vaccines are being developed in the world, 27 of which have reached the human trial.

The vaccine, announced by Russia, is one of eight vac-

cines that have been successful in the third phase of the clinical trial, he noted.

The Ministry of Health can talk about this vaccine in two ways; one is through the World Health Organization (WHO), when announces the necessary approvals for this vaccine, and the other is through bilateral cooperation with Russia, he stated.

He went on to say that if a coronavirus vaccine is produced in the world and with proper quality, we will provide it to our people without a doubt, adding, the important point is that most of the vaccines that are proposed have an effect of 50-70 percent and do not have a long period of safety.

As WHO officials have stated, despite the discovery of these vaccines, we still need to adhere to the principles of social distancing and personal hygiene, as the vaccines' effects are not significant at the moment in terms of both final effects and duration of safety, he highlighted.

The number of people diagnosed with coronavirus in Iran reached 338,825 on Friday, of whom 19,331 have died and 293,811 recovered so far. Over the past 24 hours,



2,501 new cases of people having the virus have been identified, and 169 died, Sima Sadat Lari ministry of health's spokesman said.

Currently, 3,956 patients with coronavirus are in critical condition, she added.

## Last decade was hottest on record as global warming accelerates

The past decade was the hottest for the world in records dating back to the Industrial Revolution, a new report has warned.

Last year was one of the three hottest years since the records began in the 1800s, only outstripped by 2016, and 2015 in some analyses, the 30th edition of the Bulletin Of The American Meteorological Society said.

The data for last year showed the global climate was continuing to change rapidly, experts said, with consequences from melting glaciers to exceptional wildfires, the Independent reported.

The peer-reviewed State of the Climate report said 2019 saw out the warmest decade on record, and that each decade since 1980 had been successively warmer than the one before.

The last decade, 2010-2019, was 0.2C



warmer than the previous 10 years from 2000-2009.

And the years since the turn of the millennium had been warmer than any other comparable period since the Industrial Revolution, climate experts warned.

All the years after 2013 had been warmer than any previous years dating back to the

mid-1800s, the evidence showed.

The report, which has contributions from climate scientists from around the world, including from the UK Met Office, also said lake temperatures were above long-term averages, and temperatures for permafrost - or permanently frozen ground - were increasing.

The growing season in the northern hemisphere was eight days longer than average in 2019, mountain glaciers shrank across the globe for the 32nd consecutive year and wildfires raged in Australia, the Amazon, Indonesia and Siberia.

Robert Dunn from the Met Office said: "The view for 2019 is that climate indicators and observations show that the global climate is continuing to change rapidly.

"Global average temperature is perhaps the simplest climate indicator through which to

view the changes taking place in our climate.

"2019 was one of the top three warmest years in the historical record dating back to 1850.

"It also marks the end of a decade in which the average global temperature had risen by 0.2C when compared with the previous decade.

"And this millennium has been warmer than any comparable period since the Industrial Revolution.

"A number of extreme events, such as wildfires, heatwaves and droughts, have at least part of their root linked to the rise in global temperature."

And he said the rise in global temperatures was linked to the ongoing increase in emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

## Sanctions on Iran to affect all countries in COVID-19 battle

**1 →** Companies exclusively producing medicine for Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) patients, such as BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. of the U.S. and a South Korean company, have refused to export these drugs to Iran, threatening the lives of 335 patients in Iran.

However, Switzerland delivered 180,000 packages of medicine needed for cancer patients and transplant operations to Iran in February in an attempt to facilitate humanitarian trade following the implementation of the Swiss payment mechanism.

The government of the Republic of Korea also started close consultations with the United States and Iran in order to facilitate humanitarian trade with Iran with won-currency deposits made by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) at banks in the ROK. As a result of such consultations, the ROK government resumed humanitarian trade with Iran on April 6, which was suspended after the U.S. tightened sanctions on the CBI in September 2019.

So, South Korea sent by air a shipment of medical supplies and medicine worth \$500,000 needed for genetic diseases to Iran on May 29, which will mark the first case of shipment of goods for the recently resumed humanitarian trade and is expected to be followed by exports of medicine and medical equipment worth about 2 million U.S. dollars in June.

Building on the resumption of exports of humanitarian items, the ROK government will continue consultations with the U.S. and Iran on ways to broaden the scope of trade items to include not only medicine and medical equipment, which are currently the main trade items, but also foods and agricultural products, according to the Relief Web website.

The number of people diagnosed with coronavirus in Iran reached 338,825 on Friday, of whom 19,331 have died and 293,811 recovered so far. Over the past 24 hours, 2,501 new cases of people having the virus have been identified, and 169 died, Sima Sadat Lari ministry of health's spokesman said.

Currently, 3,956 patients with coronavirus are in critical condition, she added.



## Wind and solar produce record 10% of world's electricity, but scientists warn faster change is needed

Use of coal is falling and renewables are surging around the world, but the progress is not enough to meet the targets set under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, scientists have warned.

Over the first half of 2020, wind turbines and solar panels together produced a record 10 per cent of the world's electricity - a rise of 14 per cent compared with the same period last year, the Independent reported.

Meanwhile power output from coal plants fell by 8.3 per cent, and overall electricity demand fell 3 per cent due to coronavirus lockdowns, according to a report by independent climate think tank Ember.

Despite the drop, coal plants still produced 33 per cent of the world's electricity during the period.

But far more dramatic cuts to the use of fossil fuels are required if we are to avoid planetary catastrophe due to the climate emergency, the scientists said.

"To keep a chance of limiting climate change to 1.5 degrees, coal generation needs to fall by 13 per cent every year this decade," Ember senior analyst Dave Jones said.

Europe and the UK saw the largest contributions from wind and solar, at 21 per cent and 33 per cent respectively during the first half of the year, with China at 10 per cent and the United States at 12 per cent, the report said.

Coal power generation in the US and Europe fell by 31 per cent and 32 per cent respectively while coal power in China was down just 2 per cent.

Ember's report examined data from 48 countries which make up 83 per cent of global electricity production.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

Today, we start a course of teaching Persian as a second language for complete beginners. In this course, you will learn about the Persian alphabet, basic grammar, as well as reading and writing skills. You will also acquire relevant vocabulary. (Part 1) (Source: saadifoundation.ir)

### Persian Script

Persian is written from right to left. The alphabet consists of 32 letters, most of which have short and full forms and are joinable in one or both sides. Some of the letters are similar in shape but differ in the number and place of dots. Some others have the same sound but differ in shape.

Persian script is taught almost in the alphabetical order and on the basis of the following procedure:

1. Two of the most frequent letters, /mim/ and /nun/, are introduced at the beginning; they are very helpful in building essential words of the early lessons.

2. The three vowel letters /vāv/, /he/ and /ye/, which stand at the end of the alphabet list, are introduced next, following /mim/ and /nun/. They make the formation of words possible from the elementary stages. Other letters are taught according to the alphabet list.

3. Not all the letters are urgent for learning now. A number of letters and words that are represented by the asterisk (\*), in lessons one and two, form the basic elements of the following lessons. These should be learnt here. The remaining words and letters may be gradually learnt as students proceed with new lessons. Thus, lessons one and two will be helpful as a reference for gradual learning of the alphabet.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## Kani Barazan international wetland overflows after a decade

Recent downpours made Kani Barazan international wetland full to bursting its banks which is unprecedented over the past ten years, Mahabad chief of department of environment (DOE) has stated.

Kani Barazan wetland, located in Mahabad county in northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, was once recorded as the first bird-sighting site in the country.

Stretching to 910 hectares, Kani Barazan wetland is home to various bird species including, flamingo, little cormorant, great white pelican, stilt, sternidae, great crested grebe, graylag goose, lesser white-fronted goose, heron, common shelduck and etc.

The wetland retains 16 million cubic meters of water, which is already overflowed, IRNA quoted Farooq Sokhanvar as saying on Sunday.

"The overflowed water is entering three wetlands near the Lake Urmia, as it is part of southern ecology of Lake Urmia," he further stated.

By launching the online monitoring station in the wetland, water level, oxygen, temperature, pressure and humidity of the wetland are recorded and transmitted to aquatic ecosystems department at the DOE, he highlighted.

## آب تالاب بین المللی «کانی برازان» پس از ۱۰ سال سرریز شد

رئیس اداره حفاظت محیط زیست مهلباد گفت: آب تالاب بین المللی «کانی برازان» این شهرستان پس از ۱۰ سال و بر اثر بارش های مناسب سرریز شد. تالاب بین المللی کانای برازان مهلباد با وسعتی افزون بر ۹۱۰ هکتار یکی از مهمترین تالاب های آقماری جنوب دریاچه ارومیه و با ارزش ترین زیستگاه های انواع پرندگان آبی و کنار آبی مهاجر و بومی در شمال غرب کشور به شمار می رود.

فاروق سخنور روز یکشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اظهار داشت: هم اکنون ظرفیت ۱۶ میلیون مترمکعبی این تالاب پر شده و به صورت میانگین سه مترمکعب آب ورودی آن از سه دریاچه خروجی به سمت سه تالاب آقماری دریاچه ارومیه هدایت می شود.

سخنور اضافه کرد: با راه اندازی ایستگاه پایش آنلاین در این تالاب مولفه های عمق آب، میزان اکسیژن، دما، فشار و رطوبت تالاب رصد شده و به صورت آنلاین به دفتر تالاب های ایران ارسال می شود.



## Nujaba declares ‘Israel’s destruction’ ultimate goal of all resistance groups

Iraq’s al-Nujaba Movement says the ultimate goal pursued by all resistance groups is to destroy Israel and expel all American forces from the region.

“Our goal today is not limited to victories here or there; rather, our clear goal is the full destruction of Israel and expulsion of the U.S. and its mercenaries from the entire region and Islamic countries,” said Nasr al-Shammari, the deputy secretary-general and official spokesman for Iraq’s al-Nujaba Movement.

“In order to achieve this goal, we will avenge the cowardly assassination of resistance commanders, most importantly the martyred commander Hajj Qassem Soleimani,” he said on Thursday night.

He made the remarks in a video conference speech to an international conference held in the Iranian city of Mashhad to commemorate martyrs of Afghanistan’s Fatemiyoun Brigade, a resistance group involved in the regional fight against terrorism.



Al-Shammari said the fighters of Fatemiyoun and other resistance forces in Iraq are taking the “hard revenge” every day, and that is what American forces witness today.

“These fighters will continue to struggle against the U.S. with stronger resolve, greater experience and with technologies the enemy can’t counter,” he added.

He said the defeats currently suffered by the U.S. are an introduction to the ultimate humiliating defeat they and the Israeli regime will suffer.

“The enemy’s increased pressure ... is what contributes to the realization of the resistance front’s goals and its great victory,” he said.

Al-Nujaba Movement is part of the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), an Iraqi government-sponsored umbrella organization composed of around 40 factions of volunteer counter-terrorism forces, including mostly Shia Muslims besides Sunni Muslims, Christians and Kurds.

According to Press TV, In the early days of the Daesh’s reign of terror, the PMU fighters played a major role in reinforcing the Iraqi army, which had suffered heavy setbacks against the Takfiri elements.

In November 2016, the Iraqi parliament voted to integrate the PMU into the military amid U.S. efforts to sideline the group.

## Paris is ‘red’ high-risk COVID zone again

The French government has declared Paris and the Bouches-du-Rhone area around Marseille on the Mediterranean coast as “red” zones with a high coronavirus infection risk, according to a government decree published Friday.

The decree gives local authorities the power to limit the circulation of people and vehicles, to restrict the access to public transport and air travel, to limit the access to public buildings and to close some establishments where there is a high risk of infection, Reuters reported.

The measure follows a sharp increase in COVID-19 infections over the past two weeks.

## U.S. protests; Portland police and protesters clash in fresh demonstrations near courthouse

➔ 1 The protestors say this is the first negative interaction they’ve had with the law along their journey, so we wanted to get both sides.

Frank Nitty has been watching Black Lives Matter protests all over the country.

“I was like, what if I just march to Washington DC?” said Nitty.

He made a Facebook post about his plan — and plenty of other people joined in. This week they made it to Indiana and started their march across U.S.-30.

“Per Indiana state code, the cars are able to go at a slow pace or a slow speed, there’s no pace that was identified as long as they have their blinkers on.”



But Indiana State Police and the Kosciusko Sheriff Department disagreed.

“What they were doing with cars and pedestrians traveling in the right lane at walking speed was creating a dangerous situation not only for the other motorists on the road, but for them,” said Sgt. Bohner.

U.S.-30 is a four-lane, divided highway where cars regularly travel at speeds of 60 mph or higher. Sgt. Ted Bohner worries about what would have happened if a protestor was hit.

“We’d be talking about a completely different story today, we’d be talking about multiple fatalities and it’s safe to say that.”

But Nitty denies that he or any other protestors were actually in the street, and he showed us a Facebook Live video. The clip shows protestors lined up on the shoulder. But that same video shows traffic backed up for quite a distance on U.S.-30.

“When this came to a head, we had upwards of a seven mile traffic backup already,” said Bohner.

Bohner says his colleagues tried to come to a compromise by allowing protestors to use the grass berm for their march. He says the choice to arrest Nitty and two others is about safety.

# UAE, Israel normalize ties

## How the world reacted to shameful agreement

By staff & agencies

The United Arab Emirates has become the first Persian Gulf Arab country to reach a deal on normalizing relations with Israel, capping years of discreet contacts between the two countries in commerce and technology.

The so-called “Abraham Agreement”, announced by United States President Donald Trump on Thursday, secures an Israeli commitment to halt further annexation of Palestinian lands in the occupied West Bank.

However, addressing reporters later in Tel Aviv, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he agreed to “delay” the annexation as part of the deal with the UAE, but the plans remain “on the table”.

The UAE is also the third Arab nation to reach such a deal with Israel, after Jordan and Egypt.

Here is how other nations and the various stakeholders in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict reacted to the Israel-UAE deal:

### ■ Palestinian leadership

In a statement issued by his spokesman, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas denounced the accord.

“The Palestinian leadership rejects and denounces the UAE, Israeli and US trilateral, surprising announcement,” said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a senior adviser to Abbas.

Abu Rudeineh, reading from a statement outside Abbas’s headquarters in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, said the deal was a “betrayal of Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa and the Palestinian cause.”

Hanan Ashrawi, an outspoken member of the Palestinian Liberation Organization’s executive committee who has served in various leadership positions in Palestine, said the UAE’s announcement was the equivalent of being “sold out” by “friends”.

### ■ Hamas

Hamas rejected the U.S.-brokered deal establishing formal ties between Israel and the UAE in exchange for Israel dropping its plans to annex land in the occupied West Bank, saying it did not serve the cause of the Palestinians.

“This agreement does absolutely not serve the Palestinian cause, it rather serves the Zionist narrative. This agreement encourages the occupation [by Israel] to continue its denial of the rights of our Palestinian people, and even to continue its crimes against our people,” Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said in a statement.

“What is required is to support the legitimate struggle of our people against the occupation and not to establish agreements with this occupier, and any annexation we will face by a Palestinian confrontation that is supported by the Arabs and internationally, and not by signing normalization agreements with them [Israel].”

### ■ United Arab Emirates

The UAE’s minister of state for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, defended the deal. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince’s Mohammed bin Zayed decision to normalize



ties with Israel reflected “badly needed realism,” he said.

“While the peace decision remains basically a Palestinian-Israeli one, the bold initiative of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed has allowed, by banishing the specter of annexing Palestinian lands, more time for peace opportunities through the two-state solution,” Gargash said in a series of tweets.

“Developing normal ties in return for this is a realistic approach forwarded by the Emirates,” he said. “The successful decision is to take and give. This has been achieved.”

### ■ Jordan

Jordan said that the UAE-Israel deal could push forward stalled peace negotiations if it succeeds in prodding Israel to accept a Palestinian state on land that Israel had occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War.

“If Israel dealt with it as an incentive to end occupation ... it will move the region towards a just peace,” Jordan’s Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said in a statement on state media.

Israel’s failure to do this would only deepen the decades-long Arab-Israeli conflict and threaten the security of the region as a whole, Safadi said.

Safadi said the agreement must be followed by Israel ending any unilateral moves to annex territory in the occupied West Bank that “obstruct peace prospects and violate Palestinian rights”.

“The region is at a crossroads ... continued occupation and denial of the Palestinian peoples’ legitimate rights won’t bring peace or security,” Safadi added.

“I value the efforts of those in charge of the deal to achieve prosperity and stability for our region.”

### ■ Bahrain

The Persian Gulf state of Bahrain welcomed the accord between the UAE and Israel, state news agency BNA said.

The small island state of Bahrain is a close ally of Saudi Arabia, which has not yet commented on the agreement.

Bahrain praised the United States for

its efforts towards securing the deal.

### ■ Turkey

Turkey said history will not forget and never forgive the “hypocritical behavior” of the United Arab Emirates in agreeing a deal with Israel to normalize relations.

The Palestinian people and administration were right to react strongly against the agreement, the foreign ministry said.

“History and the conscience of the region’s peoples will not forget and never forgive this hypocritical behavior of the UAE, betraying the Palestinian cause for the sake of its narrow interests,” it said in a statement.

“It is extremely worrying that the UAE should, with a unilateral action, try and do away with the [2002] Arab Peace Plan developed by the Arab League. It is not in the slightest credible that this three-way declaration should be presented as supporting the Palestinian cause.”

### ■ Oman

Oman said it backed the normalization of ties between the neighboring United Arab Emirates and Israel, and hoped the move would help achieve a lasting West Asia (Middle East) peace.

A foreign ministry spokesman expressed the sultanate’s “support for the UAE’s decision regarding relations with Israel”, according to a statement on Oman’s official news agency.

### ■ Jewish settler groups

The move angered right-wing Israeli settlers who want to annex the West Bank.

Netanyahu said that while he had promised to apply Israeli sovereignty to areas, including Jewish settlements, in the territory, which Palestinians seek for a future state, he had made clear he first needed a green light from Washington.

“He deceived us. He has deceived half a million residents of the area and hundreds of thousands of voters,” said David Elhayani, head of the Yesha Council of settlers.

### ■ Egypt

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, a close ally of the UAE, welcomed the agreement.

“I followed with interest and appreciation the joint statement between the United States, United Arab Emirates and Israel to halt the Israeli annexation of Palestinian lands and taking steps to bring peace in the West Asia,” el-Sisi said on Twitter.

### ■ Germany

Germany welcomed the “historic” deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

The normalization of ties between the two countries “is an important contribution to peace in the region”, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said.

### ■ United Kingdom

United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson praised the agreement between Israel and the UAE.

“The UAE and Israel’s decision to normalize relations is hugely good news,” Johnson said on Twitter.

“It was my profound hope that annexation did not go ahead in the West Bank and today’s agreement to suspend those plans is a welcome step on the road to a more peaceful West Asia.”

### ■ France

France welcomed Israel’s decision to suspend its planned annexation of areas of the occupied West Bank under the historic agreement, calling it a “positive step”, Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said in a statement, adding that the suspension “must become a definitive measure”.

The accord paved the way for a resumption of talks between Israelis and Palestinians with the aim to establish two states, he said, calling it “the only option” to achieve peace in the region.

### ■ Joe Biden

In a statement, Democratic United States presidential candidate Joe Biden said: “The UAE’s offer to publicly recognize the State of Israel is a welcome, brave, and badly-needed act of statesmanship ... A Biden-Harris Administration will seek to build on this progress, and will challenge all the nations of the region to keep pace.”

Biden also addressed annexation: “Annexation would be a body blow to the cause of peace, which is why I oppose it now and would oppose it as president,” he said.

### ■ United Nations

Antonio Guterres, the United Nations secretary-general, said he hoped the normalization of ties between Israel and the UAE can help realize a two-state solution with the Palestinians.

“The secretary-general welcomes this agreement, hoping it will create an opportunity for Israeli and Palestinian leaders to re-engage in meaningful negotiations that will realize a two state-solution in line with relevant UN resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements,” a spokesman for Guterres said in a statement.

“The secretary-general will continue to work with all sides to open further possibilities for dialogue, peace and stability,” the spokesman added.

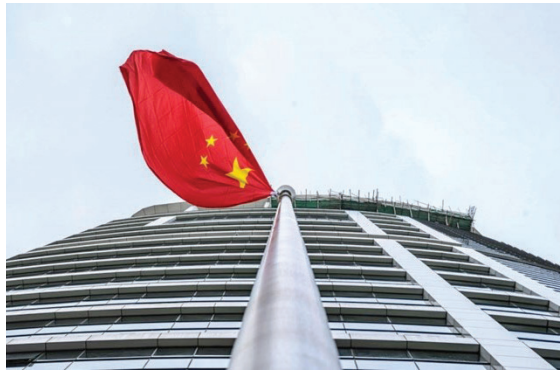
## U.S., China to discuss trade deal amid COVID-19 disruption

Negotiators from the United States and China will Saturday discuss the “phase one” trade deal signed earlier this year -- before the coronavirus slammed the world economy and relations between the two economic powers took a turn for the worse.

Washington and Beijing’s January deal represented a partial truce in their months-long trade war, and obligated Beijing to import an additional \$200 billion in American products over two years, ranging from cars to machinery to oil to farm products, AFP reported.

But purchases of those goods have been lagging, while U.S. President Donald Trump has stepped up rhetoric against China ahead of what’s expected to be a tough fight for a second term in the November elections, raising questions about the deal’s fate as well as the possibility of a second phase of the truce.

“The outcome of the trade talk will signal if both sides



are willing to continue to keep the deal, which will signal whether the relationship will deteriorate further,” said Iris

Pang, chief economist for greater China at financial services giant ING.

Neither the U.S. nor the Chinese government confirmed the talks to AFP but the deal mandates meetings every six months after it takes effect, which would be Saturday.

Even with tensions high and both countries reeling from the shock of COVID-19 -- which has caused a historic contraction in global growth and trade -- analysts don’t expect the talks to produce major changes in the agreement. And if anything does happen, Washington would be the catalyst.

“Until now, China has been relatively passive and the United States has been relatively proactive,” said Raymond Yeung, chief economist for greater China at ANZ bank.

“In my opinion, there shouldn’t be much change coming from China in terms of trade, cooperation or opening up the market, the key still lies in the U.S. side.”

## Britons rush home from France to beat new quarantine rules

Britons rushed home from summer holidays in France on Friday after their government said it would soon impose a 14-day quarantine on travelers from across the Channel due to rising coronavirus infections there.

Britain’s government announced late on Thursday that it would impose a quarantine from 0300 GMT on Saturday on arrivals from France, giving an estimated 160,000 UK holidaymakers

there just over 24 hours to get home to avoid having to self-isolate once back, Reuters reported.

The sudden rule change dealt a fresh blow to tourists, airlines and tour operators all hoping for holidays after the pandemic, which has left many travel groups cash-strapped and facing an uncertain future.

Many British tourists headed towards the French port of Calais hoping to catch a ferry or a shuttle train home in time.

## Turkey will retaliate if Greece attacks vessel in East Mediterranean: Erdogan

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan warned Greece Friday that Turkey will retaliate against any attack on its survey vessel Oruc Reis in the eastern Mediterranean in an escalating row between the NATO allies over gas and oil exploration in the region.

Turkey and Greece are vehemently at odds over overlapping claims for hydrocarbon resources in the region, and tensions rose after Ankara launched exploration operations in a disputed area of the Med-

iterranean Monday. Thursday, Erdogan warned of a “high price” if Oruc Reis was attacked and suggested Turkey had already acted on that warning, Reuters reported.

Speaking to reporters after Friday prayers in Istanbul, Erdogan said one of the warships accompanying Oruc Reis, the Kemal Reis, had “given the necessary response” to an attack by Greek ships on Thursday. “If this continues, they will receive their answer in kind,” he said.

## EU chief executive calls for sanctions on Belarus

The head of the European Union’s executive arm Friday joined a growing chorus calling for sanctions on Belarus where security forces cracked down on protests against strongman Alexander Lukashenko claiming victory in a disputed election.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen spoke

ahead of emergency talks between the EU’s foreign ministers later Friday on applying such sanctions, which would require unanimity among the 27 countries in the bloc, Daily Star reported.

“We need additional sanctions against those who violated

democratic values or abused human rights in Belarus,” von der Leyen said on Twitter.

“I am confident today’s EU Foreign Ministers’ discussion will demonstrate our strong support for the rights of the people in Belarus to fundamental freedoms and democracy.”



# Iran to play Uzbekistan as planned

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Despite d e s k postponement of all Asian qualifying games for the 2022 World Cup, the friendly match between Iran and Uzbekistan will take place as scheduled.

The 2022 World Cup scheduled this year were postponed to 2021 on Wednesday due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On Wednesday, FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation issued a joint statement saying the delay is to protect the health and safety of all participants from COVID-19.

Iran national football team will meet Uzbekistan in Tashkent on Sept. 7.

“The Iran national football team training camp will start on Aug. 27 as it planned,” Iran football federation spokesman Amir Mehdi Alavi said. “The Asian qualifying matches of the 2022 World Cup have been postponed but our plans



go ahead as scheduled.”  
Iran, who sit third in Group C behind Iraq

and Bahrain, have four must-win matches ahead in the competition.

Deagan Skocic's team were due to host Hong Kong and Cambodia on Oct. 8 and 13 in Tehran and Phnom Penh, respectively.

Iran also had two matches against Bahrain and Iraq on Nov. 12 and 17 in Tehran but the games will be held in 2021.

The eight group winners of the World Cup qualification's group stage and four best runners-up will advance to the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Finals and the final round of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The next best 24 teams from the second round of the joint qualifiers will compete in a separate competition for the remaining 12 slots in the 24-team AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

The FIFA World Cup in Qatar will run from November 21 to December 18, 2022.

## Persepolis launch CAS appeal against former coaches' financial verdict

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis club on Friday announced that they have appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the FIFA Players' Status Committee regarding the financial cases of Persepolis's former head coach, Gabriel Calderon, and his two assistant coaches.

FIFA has ordered the Iranian team Persepolis to pay \$ 580,000 to former coach Calderon.

Persepolis parted ways with the Argentine in January after six months but have failed to pay his full wages so far.

The champions of the Iran Professional League (IPL) are also obliged to pay \$95,380 and \$70,400 to Calderon's assistants Joaquin Gil Arrondo and Inigo Valencia Amadoz, respectively.

Following the ruling by FIFA, the Tehran based club announced that they would appeal to the CAS because they are



not satisfied with the vote made by FIFA regarding Calderon and his assistants.

Persepolis head of International Relations Department, Amir Ali Hosseini, confirmed on Friday that the documents relating to the appeal against the votes of FIFA Players' Status Committee were sent to the Court of Arbitration for Sport last Wednesday.

## Asia's futsal developed: Hossein Tayebi

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran national futsal team player Hossein Tayebi says that futsal has developed in Asia.

Tayebi joined Portuguese futsal club Benfica on Wednesday.

Tayebi, 31, has joined Benfica from Kairat Almaty of Kazakhstan.

Tayebi has won two UEFA Futsal Champions League silver and bronze medals with Kairat as well as 10 titles in Kazakhstan with the team.

“Futsal in Portugal has progressed over the past years. Sporting qualified for the final match last year. I played against them last year when I was a member of Kairat Almaty,” Tayebi said.

“In the past years, we could ease past the Asian teams but futsal has developed in Asia in recent years,” he added.



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

“We have to do our best in the competition. Iran want to defend the title since we are the best team in Asia. However, we know that we have a difficult task ahead,” Tayebi concluded.

## AFC: Champions League to go ahead as scheduled

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Although AFC has decided to postpone the World Cup qualifiers to 2021, the other competitions are set to take place as scheduled...

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA on Wednesday announced that they have decided to postpone the remaining 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup joint qualifying matches to 2021, taking into consideration the Covid-19 situation in numerous countries in the continent.

But it must be noted that the other marquee competitions, namely the AFC Champions League (ACL), AFC Cup, and

the AFC U16 and U19 Championships, which are slated to be hosted at a centralised venue will stick to schedule.

The U16 tournament is proposed to take place from November 25 to December 12, 2020, in Bahrain. India have been drawn in Group C along with South Korea, Australia, and Uzbekistan. The tournament will be played at three venues, Riffa, Isa Town, and Muharraq. The Blue Colts will start their campaign on November 26 against Australia at the Bahrain National Stadium in Riffa

(Source: Goal)



## FC Tokyo's Muroya to join Hannover

Japan international full-back Sei Muroya will play his last game for FC Tokyo on Saturday after the defender agreed to join German side Hannover 96, the J.League club announced on Friday.

Muroya has completed a medical with the Bundesliga 2 club and will be part of Kenan Kocak's squad when the league begins in September.

The 26-year-old, who has played 10 times for the Japan national team, will be available for selection when FC Tokyo take on Nagoya Grampus in the J.League this weekend before jetting off to Germany.

Muroya is the second player to leave FC Tokyo this summer after Kento Hashimoto joined FC Rostov in Russia and the right-back will



join compatriot and fellow Japan international Genki Haraguchi on Hannover's books.

Muroya played twice in the group phase of the 2020 AFC Champions League for FC Tokyo, who will resume their quest for the continental title when the tournament resumes in October.

(Source: AFP)

## Azmoun in AFC Asian Cup Bracket Challenge

The AFC Asian Cup has always captivated audiences with its moments of sheer genius, brilliant celebrations and - above all - stunning goals.

As we build up towards the AFC Asian Cup China 2023, the-AFC.com kicks off the AFC Asian Cup Bracket Challenge which will feature 32 mouthwatering goals from previous editions of the Continent's premier national team competition.

Kicking off the AFC Asian Cup Bracket Challenge is Islamic Republic of Iran's Sardar Azmoun who goes up against Mao Jianqing of China PR, while Singapore's Razali Saad locks horns with Yoon Bit-garam of Korea Republic.

Check out their spectacular goals and cast your vote!

■ **Sardar Azmoun (IRN) vs Mao Jianqing (CHN)**

■ **Sardar Azmoun (IRN)**

2015 AFC Asian Cup

Qatar v Islamic Republic of Iran (15.01.2015)

Sardar Azmoun scored a fabulous opportunistic goal which earned Iran a 1-0 win over Qatar and a place in the

2015 AFC Asian Cup quarter-finals. Solid Qatari defending had kept Iran at bay until shortly after half-time in Sydney when Azmoun's instinctive touch and shot ended their resistance and sent a partisan crowd wild.

■ **Mao Jianqing (CHN)**

2007 AFC Asian Cup

China PR v Islamic Republic of Iran (15.07.2007)

China PR were 1-0 up thanks to Shao Jiayi's early goal and the 2004 AFC Asian Cup runners-up doubled their lead in the 33rd minute when Zheng Zhi crossed from the right and found Mao free in the area. The striker had plenty of time to bring the ball down and slam his 12-yard shot past a diving Hassan Roudbarian.

■ **Razali Saad (SIN) v Yoon Bit-garam (KOR)**

■ **Razali Saad (SIN)**

1984 AFC Asian Cup

Singapore v Islamic Republic of Iran (10.12.1984)

A clinical finish by Razali Saad drew Singapore level

in this tie on home soil. Shahrokh Bayani had put Team Melli in front with his 55th minute penalty but Razali, the defender turned midfielder, literally rose to the occasion as he jumped high to head home a cross from right-back Marzuki Elias past a stunned Iran goalkeeper Behrouz Soltani in the 61st minute.

■ **Yoon Bit-garam (KOR)**

2011 AFC Asian Cup

Islamic Republic of Iran v Korea Republic (22.01.2011)

With the match headed for extra-time, Yoon Bit-garam was sent on 10 minutes before the end of regulation time and he made a lasting impact as he broke the deadlock seconds before the end of the first period of extra time. The pacey midfielder dribbled towards the edge of the box before lashing a powerful shot into the far post to send the Taeguk Warriors into the semi-finals.

(Source: the-afc)

## Michael Jordan Nike sneakers reach record price at auction

A pair of Michael Jordan's game-worn sneakers sold for \$860,000 (SUS615k), Christie's auction house has announced in a sale that's shattered the previous NBA sneaker merchandise price set earlier this year. The sneakers were a pair of Air Jordan 1 Highs that the NBA megastar wore during a 1985 exhibition match in Italy when he dunked the ball so hard it shattered the glass backboard.

“This is the original shoe with an actual piece of the backboard, a piece of glass, in the sole of the shoe,” said Caitlin Donovan, head of handbag and sneaker sales at Christie's — which organized the auction with Stadium Goods.

The shoes were described by merchandise experts as the “rarest of rare”.

Jordan racked up 30 points while wearing the size 13.5 shoes, which are in the red and black colors of his Chicago Bulls team.

Though the sale broke the record set in May when a pair of Air Jordan 1's sold for SUS560,000, the new auction landed below the range of more than \$1.1 million experts predicted at the start of the auction.

It was just one of several items to be sold for more than \$100k. Among the highest profile merchandise sales were a pair of the Air Jordan 7 “Olympic” shoes worn by the Bulls legend during his 1992 gold medal-winning campaign with the US Dream Team at the Barcelona Games, selling for more than \$150,000.

The record setting sales highlight the soaring market value of objects identified with the retired basketball superstar since the release of “The Last Dance,” an ESPN/Netflix documentary that chronicles the saga of Jordan and his Chicago Bulls.

The sale also confirms that the lowly sneaker now has a place of pride in the world of

wealthy collectors alongside more traditional collectibles.

Upon its release 35 years ago, sneaker connoisseur Bobbito Garcia described the Air Jordan design as “garbage”, but it quickly became a cultural phenomenon.

In episode five of The Last Dance, Jordan's former agent David Falk spoke about the early success of the brand during the 1980s.

“Nike had just come out with this new technology for their running shoes called ‘air soles’, and obviously Michael played in the air. So, it got called Air Jordans,” Falk said.

“Nike’s expectation when we signed the deal was at the end of year four, they hoped to sell \$3 million worth of Air Jordans. In year one, we sold \$126 million.”

It was revealed in the popular documentary earlier this year that Jordan's iconic partnership with Nike almost never eventuated. At the end of the last financial year the

famed Jordan Brand, under the Nike umbrella, was worth \$3.14 billion, up 10 per cent from the year prior, according to Forbes.

Back in 1984 Converse was the shoe of choice for NBA stars, the brand boasting Celtics icon Larry Bird and LA Lakers pin-up Magic Johnson among a host of others on their books. And as Jordan recalls, it was one meeting with the company that persuaded arguably the game's greatest player to look elsewhere.

“Converse had big players and told me, ‘We cannot envision you being put ahead of them’,” Jordan says on The Last Dance.

It was to prove a costly mistake. Nike executive Howard White said the company blew rival sneaker companies out of the water with a gamble worth \$250,000 on an unproven Jordan. It ended up being the best money Nike ever spent.

(Source: dailyleague.com.au)

## Iran futsal remain sixth in World Futsal Ranking

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran national futsal team are d e s k still sixth in the latest Futsal World Ranking.

Iran sit sixth place in the world with 1603 points.

Brazil and Spain are first and second with 1810 and 1801 points, respectively.



Argentina remain third with 1694 points. Russia and Portugal are fourth and fifth with 1642 and 1639 points, respectively.

Japan and Thailand are 16th and 17th in the ranking with 1368 and 1325 points, respectively.

Iran national futsal team prepare for the 2020 AFC Futsal Championship.

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

## Majid Hosseini linked with Sampdoria

Italian Serie A football team Sampdoria have shown interest in signing Trabzonspor defender Majid Hosseini.

Local media have reported that Trabzonspor have requested €5 million for their Iranian defender.

Hosseini joined the Turkish football team in July 2018 from Esteghlal on a three-year contract.

He represented Iran in the 2018 FIFA World Cup and 2019 AFC Asian Cup.

Hosseini came off the bench in the match against Morocco and was in starting line-up for the matches against Spain and Portugal in Group B of the 2018 World Cup.

Hosseini has played 39 matches for Trabzonspor and scored one. (Source: genova24.it)

## Branko Ivankovic reacts to report of link with Sepahan

**MNA** — Croatian coach Branko Ivankovic says he is committed to his contract with Oman national football team after some reports linked him with Iran's Sepahan FC.

Amir Ghalenoei stepped down as Sepahan coach this week after a 2-0 defeat against Esteghlal at Hazfi Cup semifinal. The club's spokesperson, Ali Pezeshk, said that Ivankovic is one of near dozen coaches that the club eye to sign a contract with.

In a brief interview with Mehr News Agency, Ivankovic stressed that he is currently the head coach of Oman's national football team. “I cannot speak about other clubs and teams such as Persepolis and Sepahan. I am committed to the contract with Oman,” he said.

The Croatian coach can be considered as one of the most successful foreign coaches in Iranian football. He won three IPL titles with Persepolis before parting ways with the Reds due to financial issues. He has also led Iran national football team for four years between 2002 and 2006 while also winning the 2002 Asian Games with Iran U23.

## Vladimir Koman leaves Sepahan

**Tasnim** — Ukrainian-born Hungarian winger Vladimir Koman left Sepahan football club.

The 31-year-old player joined the Iranian football club in 2018 and scored three goals in 40 matches for the Isfahan-based football team.

Sepahan announced that they have parted company with Koman.

Koman will likely continue his footballing career in an Arabian league.

Sepahan football club published a post on the club's Instagram account and thanked the player.

## Cruyff appointed by Shenzhen as Donadoni replacement

Chinese Super League side Shenzhen FC have appointed Jordi Cruyff as their new head coach, with the former Netherlands international replacing Roberto Donadoni at the helm.

Donadoni parted company with the club earlier this week after a poor start to the current Chinese Super League (CSL) campaign saw the southern Chinese side lose three of their first four games.

Cruyff takes over a team that is in sixth place in Group A of the CSL, which is currently being played in two separate hubs due to the coronavirus pandemic. The top four teams in each of the eight-team groups will progress to the championship playoffs later in the season.

The former Barcelona and Manchester United winger is returning to China PR after impressing during an 18-month spell as head coach of Chongqing Lifang. Having maintained the club's CSL status at the end of the 2018 season, he guided Chongqing to a 10th place finish in the 2019 campaign before resigning.

Cruyff was appointed head coach of the Ecuador national team at the start of the year before stepping down to take on the role with Shenzhen.

(Source: AFC)



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you fail to attain your desire, do not blame others, and accept your fate in any case.

Imam Ali (AS)

## WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES



### Painting

■ Nushin Ipakchi is displaying her latest collection named "Inside the Courtyard" in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The gallery is also playing host to an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by a group of artists including Dorsa Hashemi, Arash Nazari, Elaheh Keshavarz, and Vahid Arian.

Both exhibits will continue until September 16 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

■ Still lifes by Amir Jadidi are on display in an exhibition at Inja Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Light on Darkness" will run until September 4 at the gallery located at 4 Pedram Alley, Neauphle-le-Chateau St.

■ Saye Gallery is hanging a collection of paintings by Afsaneh Akhundi.

The exhibit named "Pieces" will run until August 19 at the gallery located at No. 21, 13th Alley, Sanai St. off Karim Khan Ave.

■ Paintings by Iman Ebrahimipur and Milad Jahangiri are on view in an exhibition at Mohsen Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "I Will Return" runs until September 2 at the gallery located at 42 East Mina Blvd., Naji St., off Zafar St.

■ Mohammad Dabbagh is showcasing his latest collection "1.5 X 1.5" in an exhibition at Tehran's CAMA – Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery.

The exhibition will run until August 19 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.

■ An exhibition of artworks in various media by Sanaz Shahsevanpur, Saman Kusha, Parisa Salabat, Marzieh Savad, Mina Safari and several other artists is currently underway at Entezami Gallery.

The exhibit named "Abstract Border" will be running until August 18 at the gallery that can be found at 608 Shariati Ave. near Motahhari St.

### Graphic design

■ Graphic designs by Rahman Ahmadi-Maleki are currently on display in an exhibition at Farmanfarma Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Unread Inscriptions" will continue until September 4 at the gallery located at 2nd Araabi St., North Kheradmand St. off Karim Khan Ave.

### Calligraphic painting

■ Ehsan Gallery is hosting a group exhibition of calligraphic paintings by Yalda Moqaddam, Payam Fuladi, Mina Effati, Maryam Faghani, Nasim Sadeqi, Nasrin Rostami and several other artists.

The exhibit entitled "Combination" will run until August 18 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

### Multimedia

■ Aran Gallery is hanging a collection of artworks by Morteza Momayyez, Yasmin Sinai, Parisa Taqipur, Nasim Davari, Homaayun Sirizi and several other artists in an exhibition name "The Shahnameh: The Eternal Narrative of the Second Stage".

The exhibition will run until August 31 at the gallery that can be found at 5 Lolagar St., Neauphle-le-Chateau St.

### Drawing

■ Drawings by Vali Javadi-Azar and Qader Mansuri are on view in an exhibition named "From Khiav" at Negar Gallery.

The exhibition will run until August 26 at the gallery located at 154 near Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Blvd.



# Film Museum of Iran photo exhibit celebrates Ali Hatami's birthday

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** – An online exhibition launched by the Film Museum of Iran on Thursday is celebrating the 76th birthday of filmmaker Ali Hatami by showcasing a collection of his rarely-seen photos and pictures of his documents and memorabilia.

Known as the Hafez of Iranian cinema due to the native and poetic ambiance of his movies, Ali Hatami was born on August 14, 1944 in Tehran.

He was a filmmaker, screenwriter, art director and costume designer.

A graduate in cinema from the College of Dramatic Arts, he began his professional career as a playwright and writer of short TV screenplays.

He wrote a number of plays such as "The Demon and Bald Hassan", "Adam

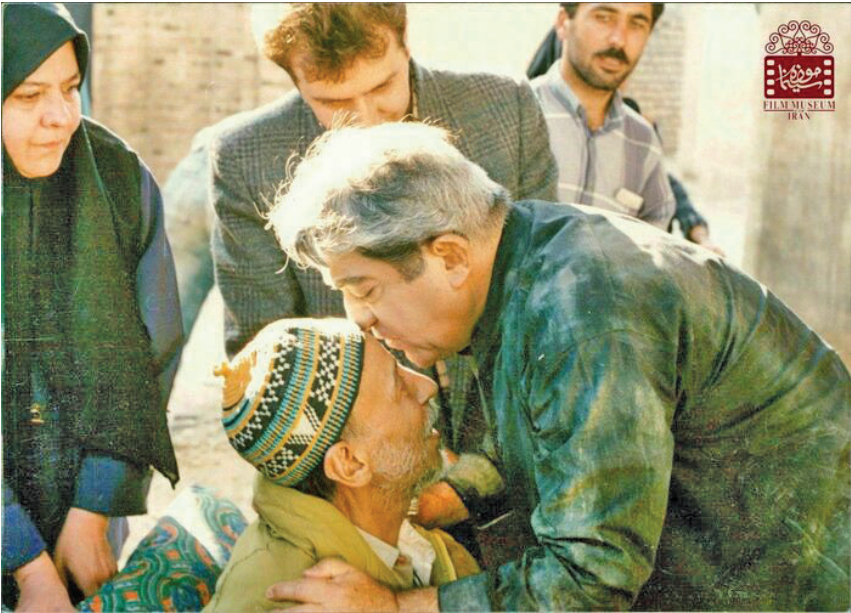
and Eve", "The Fisherman's Story" and "City of Oranges".

He made his debut film, "Bald Hassan", in 1970. Over the subsequent years, he developed a personal filmmaking style that was characterized by melodious dialogues and traditional Iranian ambiance created through architecture and set design.

Perhaps every Iranian is familiar with his TV series "Hezardastan", which he made from 1978 to 1987. The series is regarded as an eternal work in the history of Iranian television.

Hatami died of blood cancer on December 5, 1996.

At the time of his death, he was still working on his last film "World Champion Takhti".



Master actor Ezzatollah Entezami plants a kiss on Ali Hatami's forehead in an undated photo.

Director Behruz Afkhami was then selected to complete the film, which critics called a good thriller that failed

to solve the mystery of Takhti's death. Celebrated actress Leila Hatami is the daughter of Ali Hatami.

## Anthology of short stories by Iranian writers published in Iraq

➔ three books were published in the three fields of poetry, theater and fiction. The books are 'Pale Story' a selection of poetry by Nima Yushij, the play 'Jafar Khan Has Returned from the West' by Jafar Moqaddam and short stories 'Once Upon A Time' by Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh," he wrote.

"But modernism in Persian story writing begins with Sadeq Hedayat and his books, because of his journey to France and his encounter with modern works. He was impressed by Western art and localized his stories, which were a big event in Persian story writing," he added.

"After Sadeq Hedayat, great fiction writers flourished

in the Persian language such as Sadeq Chubak, Ebrahim Golestan, Gholam-Hossein Saedi and Hushang Golshiri. In post-revolution Iran, despite the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, adverse economic conditions and the issue of migration, there was a breakthrough in story writing with good stories from writers such as Bijan Bijari, Goli Taraqqi, Mohammadreza Safdari, Samad Taheri and Ali Khodai," he noted.

"If Persian authors write only one short story a year, the literature will have embraced a precious treasure, and surely short stories from West Asia and even the world without short stories by Iranian authors is incomplete," he stated.

## Mohammad Mirkiani's book of ancient Persian stories published in Turkish

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iranian writer Mohammad Mirkiani's book "Our Story Becomes a Fairy Tale", which contains a large collection of ancient stories of Persian sayings has been published in Turkish in Istanbul.

The collection named "Hikayemiz Masal Oldu" has been published in ten volumes by the Muhenna Publishing House for young adults.

"Many stories from ancient times have remained as a memory for us," Muhenna wrote in a description of the

book translated into Turkish by Ahmet Adiguzel of Igdri University.

"But these stories have a completely different taste; these sweet and beautiful stories are the stories of advice, proverbs, idioms or quirky words," the publisher added.

Some are the true stories of great men, some are those stories that have been written by the writers and poets of classical Persian literature, it stated.

The first edition of the original collection, which is composed of 110 stories, came out with illustrations by

Mohammad-Hossein Salavatian by the Behnashr publishing house in 2005. The book has so far been republished thirteen times.

Mirkiani has written the anthology based on stories from the classical Persian masterpieces, including Rumi's Masnavi-ye Manavi, Sadi's Bustan (The Orchard) and Gulistan (The Rose Garden), Attar's "Asrar-Nameh" ("The Book of Secrets") and Elahi-nameh (The Book of God), Sad ad-Din Varavini's Marzban-nameh, and Nasrollah Monshi's animal fable Kalila and Dimna.



Front covers of the Persian and Turkish versions of Iranian writer Mohammad Mirkiani's book "Our Story Becomes a Fairy Tale".

Behnashr has said that a Chinese translation of the collection will be published in the near future.

## “The Edge of Democracy” director Petra Costa appears on Iranian TV

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Brazilian director Petra Costa, famous for her Oscar-nominated film, "The Edge of Democracy", appeared on an Iranian TV program on Friday elaborating on her films and plans.

The program named "Nardeban" is being broadcast from the Mostanad Channel, IRIb's channel dedicated to screening documentary films.

The program covers issues on documentary cinema and photography in two sections for beginners and professionals.

Costa talked about her self-experience in cinema and filmmaking while she also reviewed political documentaries made by Iranian filmmakers.

"The Edge of Democracy" chronicles Brazil's recent political upheaval, and follows the impeachment of a president, the imprisonment of a historical leader and the rise of a right-wing populist.

In this documentary, Costa documents Brazil's still-festering divisions through a personal rather than journalistic lens, narrating events in the first person and using the political battles within her own family as a backdrop.

The idea first came to her in 2016, when protests erupted demanding the impeachment of then-President Dilma



Petra Costa attends a screening of her film "On the President's Orders" at the International Documentary Association in Los Angeles on October 30, 2019.

Rousseff, who was accused of illegally manipulating government accounts to hide a growing deficit in order to secure her re-election.

## Iranian artist Zahra Tarkhan honored at India's art competition on COVID-19

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iranian artist Zahra Tarkhan has won an award at an international art competition on COVID-19 organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

She received the Amateur Award for her work titled "Closed Door" in the Digital and New Age Art category of the foreign competition. The artwork depicts a bandaged face.

The award was handed over to Tarkhan by Gaddam Dharmendra, Indian ambassador to Tehran, on Wednesday. Tarkhan also presented the ambassador with a copy of her work, the Persian service of IRNA reported.

Over 8,000 artworks were submitted

to the International Art Competition – United against Corona-Express through Art, the organizers have announced.

In the Digital and New Age Art, the Professional Award went to Ganat Alaa from Iraq for "The Virus Does Not Kill But Lose Hope", and Aliyah He won the children's Award for "Petrified Purity".

Faten Nabil Khalil from Lebanon won the Professional Award for "Instability in Life" in the Contemporary Art section.

Malaysian artist Jonathan Avinash Victor for "Angst" and Thai artist Pannapach Keereedej for "Care Doctor" were other winners of the section.

The competition was also held in the Folk and Tribal Art, and Cartoons

and Illustrations categories.

In the Folk and Tribal Art, Nishtha Pathak and Ruchira Tripathi, both from Singapore, and Ahana Agarwal from Denmark were honored.

Nguyen Tuan Anh from Vietnam, Eljane Nia C. Piano and Catherine Elsa Shiju were the winners in the Cartoons and Illustrations section.

An online exhibition of the winning artworks is currently underway on the Indian Council for Cultural Relations web site.

The council was founded in 1950 to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries, and to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people.



Iranian artist Zahra Tarkhan's work "Closed Door" was honored by India's International Art Competition – United against Corona-Express through Art.