TEHRAN – The number of foreign travelers to Iran has drastically plunged due to the global coronavirus pandemic as the Islamic Republic registered only 74 visits during the spring season.

Iran’s [inbound] tourism came to almost zero and the country had 74 foreign tourists in the first three months of this [Iranian calendar] year [started on March 21], due to corona outbreaks, “Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Agha Alimohammadi in a televised interview late on Tuesday.

Tourism [industry of Iran] was growing before corona [outbreak], its revenues reached 82.1 billion in 2019, which accounted for 3.8% of GDP, near the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which is 3.2 percent, the minister explained.

He said 8.2 million foreign nationals visited Iran during the past [Iranian year] (1399), adding that Iran was ranked as the second-fastest growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization.

“On the onset of coronavirus, tourism faced a sharp decline in the world including our country, so that in the first three months of the current [Iranian] year the number of foreign tourists dropped to 74 — it was reached almost zero.”

The minister reminded that some 2.3 million foreign nationals visited the Islamic Republic during spring last year that showed a 40.66 percent increase year on year. The country hosted 1,443,551 million travelers during the same period a year earlier.

Talking about losses to the travel and hospitality industry of the country, the minister said that the industry has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic to many countries around the world, and our country’s travel sector has also suffered a share of 12 trillion rials (some $4.2 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) (100).

U.S. protests: Two shot dead in third night of Wisconsin unrest

Two people have been killed and one injured during a short night of unrest in Kenosha, sparking by the police shooting of a black man.

Police said Wednesday that a Agar Blake was shot in the chest and later died. The other man was believed to have stemmed from a conflict between protesters and armed men guarding a petrol station.

U.S. authorities said that after Jerich Blake was shot and injured by police on Sunday.

Videos showed a man of African descent being shot a number of times as he leaned into a car. The video showed a man with a rifle being chased by a police officer.

Local media reported a third gunshot victim was transported to a hospital, but no further details were available.

Meanwhile, according to the New York Times that an investigation into the police shooting of a man armed with guns outside a petrol station.

U.S. authorities said that 20 police officers had been injured by police on Sunday.

The shooting resulted in two fatalities and a third gunshot victim was transported to a hospital, but no further details were available.

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Nonzero: only 74 international travelers visit Iran during spring

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Iran ranks second worldwide for scientific growth

TEHRAN – With a scientific growth rate of 31.4 percent in 2019, Iran ranked second among the top 155 countries in the world, next to China with a growth rate of 32.0 percent.

According to the Web of Science website, Iran ranked 41 in the world for the highest scientific productivity in 2019. In 2010, the country placed 19 and ranked 18 in 2016, and since 2017, for three consecutive years, it remained 16th in the world.

In 2010, Iran’s share of scientific productivity was about 0.1 percent, which reached about 2 percent with a 20-fold increase in both Scopus and Web of science databases.

According to statistics released by the International Web of Science Database, Iran’s citation rank has been on the rise over the last eight years, from 24 in 2012 to 16 in 2019.

Iran ranks first in terms of the number of universities in the region and among Islamic countries, according to Shanghai Ranking’s Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2020. Two Iranian universities have been ranked among the top 100 universities in Asia, according to Webometrics Ranking of World Universities for July 2020.

Moreover, 7 Iranian universities have been listed among best 700 universities in the world by Shanghai Ranking. Iran’s Babol University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, University of Tehran, University of Science and Technology of Kerman, Sharif University of Technology, Tarbiat Modares University, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Isfahan University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology.

Offers of Iranian refineries’ shares through 2nd ETF begins

The Tehran Times offers condolences on the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hassan (AS) and his loyal companions

Assad meets with Hashd al-Shaabi authority

The source did not reveal the content of the message.

This message comes after Al-Kadhimi visited the United States of America, where he met with U.S. President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as well as other officials.

It is noteworthy that Al-Kadhimi visited Annapolis where he attended a tri-partite summit along with the Jordanian and Egyptian leaders.

U.S. - Israel - Saudi Arabia: No hint; director Majidi

Majlis made the remarks on Wednesday at a conference organized to brief the media about the Mourning at the festival, which will put its spotlight on short films covering rituals Iranian families will practice in their homes to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) this year.

The festival has been launched by the Baba Iran Charity Organization this year to encourage people to stay at home due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and organize the rituals for their families in a short film format.

"In Iran we have a huge affection people have for Imam Hussein (AS)," she added.

West Asian states should unite against U.S.-Israel-Saudi-Arabian axis: Turkish party leader

U.S.-Israel-Saudi Arabian axis: Turkish party leader

By Mohammad Mazhari

Karim Ansarifard joins AEK Athens

Mohammadreza Abbasi

Islamic Republic to keep its position in the World University Ranking...
Tractor to Hazfi Cup final

**TEHRAN** – Tractor football team edged Naft Masjed Soleyman 1-0 on Tuesday, September 3.

Tractor defeated Naft Masjed Soleyman on their 15th meeting point and will continue until 2025. By no means could Tractor coach Vahid Amiri have expected to depart for a Chinese team.

The fact that the United States is no longer a legal participant to the agreement. The Trump administration’s own admission, it has fully ended its participation in the nuclear deal.

The United States is no longer a participant in the international agreements that has to be boosted at the joint conference of Afghanistan and Pakistan, relations with Afghanistan and Pakistan, the shared water supplies.

All Security Council and Germany on one side, and Iran on the other. The term “participant” is not a simple mechanism because the resolution does not impose the international sanctions against Iran. We urge the U.S. not to act arbitrarily against the world’s will.

There is only one problem. The U.S. is no longer a legal and valid participant in the nuclear deal. Trump administration’s own admission, it has fully ended its participation in the nuclear deal. The term “participant” is not a simple mechanism because the resolution does not impose the international sanctions against Iran.

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Ashura uprising epitome of sacrifice and solidarity

More than 3,000 people were killed and others injured in the Ashura uprising of 1978-79, when Iranian officials attempted to stop the process of mourning ceremonies for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS). The uprising was an attempt to prevent the day from being commemorated, as this is associated with political and social opposition to the regime. The uprising lasted for 35 days, during which time thousands were killed and wounded, and millions of people were arrested and imprisoned.

The Ashura uprising was a symbol of the resistance of the Iranian people to the rule of the Shah and his regime. It was a response to the authorities’ attempt to stop the mourning ceremonies for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), which was seen as a symbol of opposition to the regime. The uprising was a massive demonstration of the people’s determination to continue their struggle for freedom and justice.

The Ashura uprising also had a significant impact on the international community, as it was seen as a challenge to the legitimacy of the regime and a call for support. This resulted in the imposition of sanctions and political pressure on Iran, which in turn led to a decline in the regime’s grip on power and an increase in the level of opposition to the regime.

In addition to its impact on the domestic and international political landscape, the Ashura uprising also had a profound effect on the religious and cultural traditions of the Iranian people. It became a symbol of the resilience of the Iranian people, and a call to act for justice and freedom.

The Ashura uprising epitomizes the sacrifice and solidarity of the Iranian people in their struggle for freedom and justice. It is a reminder of the power of the human spirit and the importance of the struggle for justice and freedom.

**Ashura sacrifices continue to inspire athletes today**

Pompeo, whose ‘lawless bullying’ leaves US isolated again, says Zarif

Iran, Russia, Turkey slam Israeli attacks on Syria

Iran U.S. median day called on Rouhani to restore public trust

U.S. isolated more than and Pompeo humiliated

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Iranian steel industry outshining the world against the odds

By Esfandiar Fathollahi

TEHRAN — Iranian steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles faced by the nation due to the U.S. sanctions and the economic pressures. Production of crude steel in Iran increased 14.4 percent in July from the figure for the same month in the previous year, while the average global production for this commodity has fallen by 6.5 percent as of the mentioned month, a report recently released by the World Steel Association (WSA) said.

The Iranian steel industry has obtained the world’s producers in this sector for the first seven months of 2020, alongside, as the WSA report, Iran produced 22.39 million tons of crude steel during July, rising from 21.4 million tons produced in the same time span of a year, Ghorban Shapouri, a news agency in Mashhad, reported.

The ministry of industry, mining, and trade announced that the country’s annual steel production has reached 30 million tons, Reza Shahrestani stated that of this figure is related to the two platforms of 13B and 13G, while the first phase of this project will be produced 9.5 million tons in 2020.

Completion of SP complex remains vital

According to the data released by the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry, in the mentioned period over 20.226 million tons of steel per annum, and to achieve this target the country has allocated $7 billion of revenue for the country.

The successful candidate is expected to commence from October / November 2020.

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Also patients with special diseases was one of serious diseases (hard-to-cure patients) and Sage, "Cost Management and Transparency in the field of medical equipment and medicines hit the headlines of media, producing and importing food and drug trans, saying that the results should be made transparent in the shortest time possible. For this purpose, Dr. Namaki ordered to set up a taskforce for the provision of medicines and medical equipment as well as monitoring offenses at Food and Drug Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After the end of any year since the establish- ment of such a headquartered office and in the time that tough sanctions had been imposed against the country, people much concerned about accessing medicines and medical equipment. According to him, the country experienced the longest economic year in last Iranian calendar year (ended March 20, 2020).

Preventing Imports of Medicines into Country Which Can be Produced Domestically Elsewhere in remarks, Dr. Namaki pointed to the medicines and drugs with similar domestic production and added, "with the coordination made, we will prevent entry of any medicine and drug which its similarity is produced in the country." He seized this opportunity to express his thanks to the Leader of Islamic Revolution in throwing his weight behind the objectives of Ministry of Health. With the implementation of the National Mobilization Plan to control blood pressure, influenza, HIV and certain cancers, the import of similar foreign currency, valued at more than $100 million, has been saved in the country in a way that objectives of Health Ministry is produced in the country. One of the main and salient measures taken in the field of Health Reform System during 35th Fiv-Year Socioeconomic and Cultural Development Plan was made during tenure of Dr. Namaki in a way that objectives of Health Reform System were followed up strictly during the 12th government.

Setting up Health System File electronically for 83 million Iranians is considered as one of the salient achievements under Dr. Rouhani administration.

One of the major concerns of the Ministry of Health of the country was accompanied by a key message, "Correction of hoteling of hospitals and various services, dissolving companies affiliated to the Ministry of Health and abolishing the management of economic enter- prise by drug-resistant patients, was one of the salient characters of Dr. Saeed Namaki in management of the country."

Revising Health Reform System Plan Projects
At the threshold of the Government Week, although Dr. Saeed Namaki had been one of the most active ministers to interview with his (Dr. Saeed Namaki), his salient launches the past two years cannot be ignored. Dr. Namaki took the helm of this social field, which at the time was prolific and sensitive situation of the country. At the first step, he (Dr. Saeed Namaki) sup- ported the Health Reform Plan to the largest and most successful social plan at the initiative of Dr. Saeed Namaki, in a way that objectives of Health Ministry is produced in the country. He is of the opinion that this comprehensive plan as an "Health Reform System" was followed up seriously especially in favour and disadvantageous areas of the country which were under government attention from the beginning of his tenure as the Minister of Health and Medical Education. Another important point that should be taken into consideration in "Health Reform System" is concerned with sending medical staff and physicians to foreign exchange programs, which have been conducted during the first 12 and 12th governments. This phenomenon was immediately at the hospital instead of hospital, talking at hospital and medical centers,

Dealing with Corruption of Confronting Coronavirus, COVID-19

In spite of salient advantages of Health Reform Re- form Plan, one of the major challenges of this package offered in this comprehensive Plan. For this purpose, some unused and corrected same packages defined for Health Reform Plan from the beginning of his tenure as the Minister of Health and Medical Education. With his support of domestic production Dr. Saeed Namaki prevented capital outflow, valued at $700 million, from the country in the field of medical equipment and medicines. When it comes to this sensitive point of Health Reform Plan, he said, "Giving priority to healthcare system improvement over treatment was of the first activity that was taken into consideration and the second aspect of imple- mentation of Health Reform Plan." For this reason, "We focused on treating patient- patients in the country, faraway, disadvantaged and underprivileged areas of the country, development of regions of the country was accompanied by a key message, "Supporting domestic production and saving foreign currency, valued at more than $600 million, has been saved in the country in a way that objectives of Health Ministry is produced in the country.”

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Morteza Bank Expounds on Launching Intl. Stock & Exchange Market in the Free & Special Economic Zones

Adviser to the President and Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free zones, Mr. Morteza Bank, announced the establishment of Exchange in the Free and Special Economic Zones.

To learn more about the details, our correspondent has made an interview with him, as follows:

Would you mind explaining about the setting up of the international exchange market in the free and special economic zones?

A: Planning to establish the international exchange market in the free and special economic zones has been underway since 2017, with the aim of expanding and developing capital markets, and improving the existing system of trading raw materials in the free and special economic zones. It has been set up in such an exchange market in the free and special economic zones to be considered as an outstanding step toward internationalization of the Iranian economy and creating a platform to contribute to the improvement of the country's economy. The exchange market will involve various activities, including trading raw materials, trading securities, and trading real estate in the free and special economic zones.

A: The issue of launching of an international financial center on the Kish Island has been running for years. Such a center will facilitate transactions and improve the transfer of funds. It will involve various activities, such as trading raw materials, trading securities, and trading real estate in the free and special economic zones.

A: Given the above issue, production, trade, and industrial activities should be carried out in the free and special economic zones.

A: He then pointed to the export of iron ore which has not focused on crude-rolling of their products and all products have been exported after going through a series of processes, such as high-quality iron ore concentrate, 300,000 tons of high-quality iron ore concentrate, and 500,000 tons of 75% iron ore concentrate. Moreover, about 45 million tons of iron ore were exported.

According to statistics, this industrial and production company has so far exported the amount of 15 million tons of iron ore which have been sold in the country. Mr. Bank added, “the company has made a lot of efforts to increase the production of iron ore which will improve the situation of the country. Tax problems, the country should focus on the export of iron ore for the country.

Of course, construction of new steel manufacturing units at southern coastal areas of the country should be put top agenda of large companies such as Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company. He said, adding, “one of these steel projects will be constructed at Chabahar Port and its needed iron ore would be provided from Australia.

In the end, Executive of the company said, “production of iron ore proposed that the government should not interfere in the issues of the activities of private companies tasking with producing iron ore.”

In addition, the government should not interferences in the activities of producers of iron ore which are not in the field of pricing, rationing, and levying taxes on our products, he added. In the end, he called on the government officials to cooperate with private companies in the iron ore industry, facing ahead of these companies.
During the coronavirus global pandemic which has imposed unprecedented challenges on all countries in the world, this issue’s focus is on the progress of development with more added-value track of projects that have been implemented in the natural gas sector. The challenges facing this sector around the world are related to various factors such as confronting economic sanctions imposed by the United States and the growing threats of viruses, COVID-19 and also economic pressures and technical challenges in different fields of oil, gas and petrochemicals.

Generally speaking, spread of coronavirus has increased the complexity of the problems, especially in the technical and engineering fields. How suitable ways for the development and operation of facilities can be prioritized after the completion of the remaining phases in the largest ever project, the government dubbed “Hope Project”? It was reported that the project has been completed and will be operational by making improvements in the company’s infrastructure. In this regard, several phases of the mentioned project in Hormozgan Steel Company, with the annual production capacity of 1065,000 tons of sponge iron using two direct reduction units and 1500,000 tons of hot rolled steel will be operational in the near future. The completion of this project is the first step in attaining to the expected status in the global and gas industry. In this regard, it is confirmed that all activities in this sector are moving forwards ideally.

It was reported that the governmental structure of some regions of the country, with the aim of attaining to the nominal rich gas extraction capacity of 56 million cubic meter daily from four offshore platforms. In this regard, the project’s part, totally with the daily extraction capacity of 160,000 tons of liquefied natural gas (36 million cubic meter) and will be on a par in technological and operational terms with the successful part of the project in which has realized the most important potential.

Oil Minister Expounds on Delay in Construction

Operation of Refinery in Phase 14 of South Pars Gas Field

A: As mentioned in above, according to the design and production of distinctive product in terms of specific dimensions and qualities, the oil and gas industry in Iran is considered as the best strategy to develop the product portfolio of the Companies in Group which guarantees the sustainable presence of company in domestic and export markets in coming years.

Most importantly, construction of phase 15 of South Pars Gas Field will be in the service of the country by the Ministry of Oil and the lack of supply of this type of sheet in the domestic market.

It should be noted that in the first five years, the country’s steel industry (in cooperation with the Italian Company “Danieli”, this industrial and production project) will be the second factory in the country in the field of producing wide sheets (plate) in the country.

Therefore, considering the implementation of oil and gas projects in the country and the capacity of newly discovered reserves and development plans of oil and gas transportation to the neighboring countries and other regions of the country, the Ministry of Oil has imagined the consumption of API wide steel sheets in the country.

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Developmental activities on the path of attaining increased oil production capacity (West Karun District)

1. Fulfilling construction operation of Goureh-Jask oil pipeline as long as 1,000 km
2. Construction operation of export terminal at Makran Area in line with turning Jask into country’s important export terminal
3. Planning to attain the production capacity of 400,000 barrels of oil in West Karun region by yearend (to end March 2020)
4. Starting construction operation of flare gas processing and collecting plant
5. Deploying the first mobile separator at South Yaran Joint Gas Field

Highlights of Developmental Activities on Path of Attaining to Increase Gas Production Capacity (South Pars Gas Field)

1. Operation of the first change of phases 13, from 22 to 24 of South Pars Gas Field
2. Fulfilling the operation of installing the last offshore platform in phases 13 and 14 as well as final operation from phase 29 of the production platform up to the last end of the year 1998 (ended March 2020)
3. Development of 28 phases of South Pars Gas Field at the final station
4. Attaining to the daily production capacity of 1,000 million cubic meters of gas in the country by yearend

Highlights of Developmental / Production Achievements of National Iranian Oil Company (NICO) Since 2019 Up to the Present Time

Developmental / Production Achievements of NICO since 2019

1. Signing and sealing 13 contracts related to the second stage of oil production increase and retention plans
2. Signing and sealing a contract for the completion of development of South Azadegan Oil Field
3. Signing and sealing contract for the construction of the largest country’s oil and gas processing unit (CTEP)
4. Signing and sealing contract for the improvement of recycling, increasing production and operation of PERANJ and PARSH oilfields
5. Signing and sealing development contracts in YARAN Oilfield and BELAL Gas Field
6. Operation of eight exploratory contracts in various oil and gas areas of the country

The Desired Objectives in Signing Domestic Contracts:

1. Signing and sealing 13 contracts related to the second stage of oil production increase and retention plans
2. Implementation of 416 projects related to the flood-hit regions in Khuzestan province, with the allocation of 1.2 billion rials
3. Allocation of 326 billion rials credit for the implementation of water conveyance projects in Caspian Sea of Alborz, Khuzestan province

Social Responsibilities

1. Fulfilling 4,280 public utility project, costing over 25.4 million rials (implementation of 280 projects in 2020 and 2021)
2. Implementation of 416 projects related to the flood-hit regions in Khuzestan province
3. Signing and sealing contract for the improvement of recycling, increasing production and operation of PERANJ and PARSH oilfields
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A Glance at West Karoon Combined Cycle Power Plant

Construction operation of West Karoon Combined Cycle Power Plant was planned to be started in 2015 within the framework of investment projects with Built, Operate and Own (BOO) basis with the aim of supplying electricity for oil installations of West Karoon and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) 3200. Finally, contract of construction operation of West Karoon Combined Cycle Power Plant was exchanged between Oil Engineering and Development Company (OEDC) as investors and MAPNA Group as companies in BOO basis within the framework of contract for converting energy and guaranteed purchase of electricity for a period of 20 years. The nominal capacity of West Karoon Combined Cycle Power Plant stands at 520 megawatts which includes a combined cycle block comprised of two gas-powered turbines of MAPA type manufactured by MAPNA Group and a steam-powered turbine with all the necessary facilities and a substitution with 210-MW. Currently, the first phase of this giant project, including gas department of the power plant, is ready for operation with the completion of installation operation. It should be noted that the development plans at West Karoon Oil Fields is currently considered as the most important national projects of the country. It is obvious that operation of projects of this area strongly depend on the safe and sustainable supply of electricity, so that this power plant was launched for meeting the electricity demands. MAPNA Group is honored to say that, with the nonstop and unflinching efforts of its specialized and expert manpower, it has played a key and leading role in developing and operating oilfields. Benefited from high capabilities and potentials of domestic companies, MAPNA Group has used all its specialties and expertise in the country in line with realizing objectives of economy's resistance.

In addition to prevent capital flight, the Group has taken giant strides in line with generating new employment opportunities.

Hereunder are of the most important and salient specifications of this project:  
- This power plant will be considered as the first combined cycle power plant in the country in the form of E- type with the nominal production capacity of about 335 MW. In this line, West Karoon Combined Cycle Power Plant is equipped with an advanced three-pressure turbine which is unique in its kind in the country in order to reach its maximum output obtained from smoke emitted from gas units. In addition, the power plant is equipped with two recycling boilers (HRSG), main cooling tower system of ACC type, etc. in line with increasing its production capacity.
- With due observance to the social responsibility of MAPNA group and given the scheduled program, necessary predictions have been made for converting gas turbines of this power plant into MAPPJ version at the first fundamental repair and maintenance services. It should be noted that conversion of gas turbines of this power plant into MAPPJ version will increase the efficiency and production capacity of each unit considerably.
- Supplying main fuel of the power plant: Major fuel of this power plant will be supplied from LNG 3200 Factory in order to prevent loss of energy and converting it to the electricity required by operational consumers of electric grid of country.
- Reducing production of greenhouse gases and decrease greenhouse gas emissions as much as 185,000 tons per year due to the increased efficiency of combined cycle from 48%, which is the soft amount in similar power plants in the country, to 52% as well as using DLN system for reducing environmental pollutants.
- Air-intake System and some other systems of this power plant have been designed and installed in specific form due to the special condition of region in terms of dust and humidity.
- Given the possibility of increasing the need for electricity in the region, in the design and location of the power plant, necessary arrangements have been made for the construction of two more combined cycle blocks at the current location of the power plant.
- Using a control system called MAPCS, MAPPA and MAPPB gas turbines from the products of knowledge-based companies, affiliated to MAPNA Group.
- Using a special design to reduce water consumption in the process section, water consumption in this power plant has decreased from 316 m³/hour in similar projects to about 43 m³/hour per power unit.
- Operation of two more combined cycle blocks in the region, so that an average of about 420 direct manpower has been generated in the workshop of the power plant and more than 1400 people have been employed indirectly per month. During the operation period, using specialized forces in the region and after the necessary training services, employment opportunities have been generated for about 100 people.
- The main working volumes of this project include: more than 23,000 cubic meters of excavation, about 10,000 cubic meters of concrete, piling at depths of 12 and 25 meters with the amount of about 4,200 pieces (in order to strengthen the bed), installation and commissioning of 13,000 tons of equipment and about 5,000 tons of field structures.
- With the incessant efforts of specialized manpower of MAPNA Group and the cooperation and support of the Oil Engineering and Development Company, the first and second gas units were synchronized with the national electricity grids in summer 2019 and after conducting necessary tests, they have been put into commercial operation. MAPNA Group will use all its efforts to set up a steam unit and complete the power plant as soon as possible in order to promote national productions and achieve self-sufficiency in the past.
U.S. intelligence behind assassinations in Basra

By Fatemeh Salehi

Basra province in southern Iraq has been the scene of some of the most controversial assassinations in the region in recent days amid popular protests against the economic situation. The protests, which began in October 2019, culminated in a widespread demonstration in November. However, it seems that the protests in Basra have been carried out by government forces to lure protesters to damage public property and protest against the resignation of the governor of the region.

The waves of these protests, the assassination of a number of Iraqi activists at the behest of the Basra government, and the situation in Basra.

In this regard, the Basra provincial government has detained several protesters who were involved in the protest against the resignation of the governor of the region. The government has also confiscated the belongings of the protesters and imposed several restrictions on them.

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During Muharram, a month-long mourning month, Iranians honor the life of Imam Hussein (AS), who was killed by the Abbasids in the Battle of Karbala in 680 AD. The event is held in commemoration of survived children of Imam Hussein (AS) and their love for their father. The horses’ whinnies, the clanging of swords, and the groans of mourners during the mourning rituals across the country are believed to be a representation of the pain of Imam Hussein’s martyrdom.

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A glimpse at unique Kopet Dag biodiversity hotspot

By Farahneh Bashirian

TEHRAN — Kopet Dag biodiversity hotspot is located in the northeastern province of North Khorasan, holds a great share of cute and endemic plant and animal species, with natural attractions and a unique biodiversity. Now, the presence of local and nomadic communities. Kopet Dag is a protected area stretching over 18,000 hectares of land area and is filled with thick forests and a variety of plant and animal species that received UNESCO recognition for biosphere reserves in south. The Kopet Dag is a chain of mountains and the plateau of Turk and Turan that consists of two mountain ranges with a parallel extent covering the most surface area. The ecological region of Kopet Dag is an important part of the non-Anatolian biodiversity hotspot; whose primary function is the conservation of many of the ancestors of domesticated species. The weakened of customary laws and governance systems of the tribes has resulted in some of the unique natural areas that the primary focus for conservation in this hot spot, include leopard, Caspian wolf, wild sheep, beaver (bearded) goat, ibex, lynx, pomegranate, and a number of other rare species of mammals, birds, snakes, and lizards.

This mountain range is the center of origin of some of the most important domesticated plant and animal species.

By 2050, 97% of rural population covered by community-based rehabilitation

TEHRAN — The national community-based rehabilitation (CBR) program has so far covered 97% of the country’s rural population, according to the Welfare Organization’s website. The program, which was launched in 2001 and is part of the Sixth Development Plan (2016-2021) and has so far been able to cover 97% of the country’s rural population. Every year, about 480,000 people with disabilities covered by this program receive various services of health, education, financial assistance, social activities, and employment. The CBR program in rural areas with the help of governmental and non-governmental sectors and communities has more than 18,000 neighborhood centers, which includes rehabilitation, poverty reduction, equalization of opportunities, and the formation of social networks with disabilites through the joint efforts of the disabled and their families. The CBR program in rural areas with disabilities has access to all areas of development and the formation of social networks with disabilities, he explained.

In recent years, efforts to develop and implement CBR programs in urban areas, especially in the DOE, have been more concentrated in urban areas, but since people with disabilities living in low-income and densely populated urban areas (suburbs) often do not have access to rehabilita-

Last year, a plan on the rehabilitation of the elderly was introduced in various counties, according to the Tehran Times in June.

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**Love of Imam Hussein (AS) has no limit: director Majid Majidi**

Majid Majidi and this shows that Imam Hussein was so an pure an art that the bored him goes beyond the boundaries of the Shiites country," said Majidi who made his 2017 drama "Beyond the Clouds" in India.

"I also saw in Tibet that Buddhists are interested in the Muhammad mourning rituals and Imam Hussein (AS). The blessed aspects of Imam Hussein's character should not only be defined in religious terms, but also his moral and perfection can be shown to be the world, and I hope we can organize the festival as a global event in upcoming years," he added.

Only one-minute-long films and movies under three minutes are allowed to participate in the festival and submissions should be sent to the organizers for pre-screening. Films will be judged by a jury consisting of filmmakers Reza Mirikarimi and Narges Arabzadeh.

The festival also intends to highlight top Islamic clerics’ calls for conducting the "Death of Imam Hussein" rituals at home due to the pandemic.

The Islamic Charity Organization has been established with contributions from Azad Mittel by All States Muslims living standards among people living in poverty in the remote border towns of South Asia.

Shia Muslims commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions with the observation of Muharram rituals at home, the day of the lunar month of Muharram.

**Expert laments ignorance of tazieh**

"During the first ten days of the [lunar] month of Muharram everyone likes to photos with tazieh performances but when it in over, tazieh turns into a paraide," he said.

He lamented that tazieh has been omitted from university courses and also criticized the lack of any plan to record the tazieh performances and the death of any proper TV programs on the traditional dramatic art. The number of tazieh performances recently streamed online in Tehran and Qazvin has been welcomed. Of course, we find this dead, but the result was satisfactory and the troopers also found that they can find out more from average audiences through online performances.

He added that members of the association give tazieh performances at night, though their performances have been recorded ahead of time during the current situation of coronavirus spread.

"Although those days of the pandemic are the best days to record tazieh performances, veterans refuse to perform since most set their homes, although it is more vulnerable to the deceases and prefer home quarantine," he remarked.

"Unfortunately we are losing our veterans before their performances are recorded and registered for the interested youth and researchers," he noted.

He called tazieh a rich treasure which can attract many tourists to the country and added, "They would see our national culture and do not have much interest in watching foreign plays."

Galledarzadeh had earlier said that tazieh performances should not be halted, and such rituals can be performed during Muharram observing health protocols despite the pandemic.

"Tazieh is a ritual performance, which dates back centuries ago in Iran and is performed during Muharram. It is not only a kind of performance but also a ritual play people have belief in," Galledarzadeh had said.

Dowlat Tokhey was a place for seasonal Islamic ceremonies that was built during the reign of Qajar king Nassar ad-Din Shah near the Golistan Palace in downtown Tehran.

**Tajikistan Somoni exhibition honors more Iranian photographers**


**Hearing” director Amir-Reza Kuhestani prepares “Waiting for Godot” for open-air performance**

Director Amir-Reza Kuhestani at an unamed photo. (Theater 25)

**Irish animation “H2ope” to compete in two int'l. events**

A poster for Irish animation “Elapse”.

An all-star cast including Parviz Parastui, Leila Hatami, Hamed Behdad, Baran Kowsari, Ashkan Khatibi, Akbar Zanjanpur and Farrokh Nemati have lent their voices to the characters in the production.

The world-renowned Iranian vocalist Hooman Khosravi who composed the soundtrack and I hope we can organize the festival as a global event in upcoming years," he added. Only one-minute-long films and movies under three minutes are allowed to participate in the festival and submissions should be sent to the organizers for pre-screening. Films will be judged by a jury consisting of filmmakers Reza Mirikarimi and Narges Arabzadeh.

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A poster for Irish animation “Elapse”.

An all-star cast including Parviz Parastui, Leila Hatami, Hamed Behdad, Baran Kowsari, Ashkan Khatibi, Akbar Zanjanpur and Farrokh Nemati have lent their voices to the characters in the production.

The world-renowned Iranian vocalist Hooman Khosravi who composed the soundtrack and I hope we can organize the festival as a global event in upcoming years," he added. Only one-minute-long films and movies under three minutes are allowed to participate in the festival and submissions should be sent to the organizers for pre-screening. Films will be judged by a jury consisting of filmmakers Reza Mirikarimi and Narges Arabzadeh.

The festival also intends to highlight top Islamic clerics’ calls for conducting the "Death of Imam Hussein" rituals at home due to the pandemic.

The Islamic Charity Organization has been established with contributions from Azad Mittel by All States Muslims living standards among people living in poverty in the remote border towns of South Asia.

Shia Muslims commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions with the observation of Muharram rituals at home, the day of the lunar month of Muharram.