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The University of Tehran

By Mohammad Homaeefar
Tehran Times journalist

Charlie Hebdo and the making of terrorists

In a reckless, provocative move, the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo on Wednesday republished the same cartoons about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that prompted a deadly attack on the magazine in 2015.

The cartoons were republished so as to mark the start of the terrorism trial of people accused as accomplices in the attack. The magazine posted the cartoons online on Tuesday and they appeared in print on Wednesday.

"We will never lie down. We will never give up," director Laurent "Riss" Sourisseau wrote in an editorial to go with the cartoons in the latest edition, France 24 reported.

"The hatred that struck us is still there and, since 2015, it has taken the time to mutate, to change its appearance, to go unnoticed and to quietly continue its ruthless crusade," he said.

Twelve people, including some of France's most famous cartoonists, were killed on January 7, 2015, when two French-born brothers of Algerian descent, Said and Cherif Kouachi, went on a gun rampage at Charlie Hebdo's offices in Paris.

The brothers identified themselves as belonging to the terrorist group al-Qaeda and cited "avenging the prophet" as their reason for the attack. The attack touched off a wave of killings claimed by Daesh (ISIS) terrorist group across Europe.

On January 9, 2015, Said and Cherif's friend, Amedy Coulibaly, took hostages and killed four people at a kosher supermarket in Paris. Coulibaly and the Kouachi brothers, who were in contact during the attack, were killed in standoffs with the police.

10 months later, in November 2015, a group of Daesh gunmen and suicide bombers killed 130 people and injured more than 400 at multiple sites across Paris, which became the deadliest of the attacks.

On Wednesday (Sept. 2), 13 men and a woman accused of providing the attackers with weapons and logistics went on trial on charges of terrorism.

Throughout the world, many Muslims see the publication of the cartoons as a renewed provocation by Charlie Hebdo, which has a history of publishing material considered racist and anti-Muslim. **→3**

Schools set to open Sept. 5 amid pandemic

By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN — When it comes to opening the schools in Tehran after the summer vacation, this year special considerations have been taken into account due to the coronavirus pandemic. The priority is the safety of students, teachers, and the school staff.

Minister of Education Mohsen Haji Mirzaee, announced that all schools for the new academic year will start September 5 (15 Shahrivar). He said urban and rural schools with high population density will be divided into two groups, with attendance diverted into odd-even days. He added that low-density population areas with lower risk will have a normal routine.

All educational centers in Iran were closed from late February and reopened on May 16, after almost three months of closures in the wake of the pandemic after a TV announcement by the education minister. The schools also ran the final year exams in the third week of May.

President Hassan Rouhani announced plans to reopening mosques simultaneously with schools in areas that have been consistently free of the coronavirus.

In order for students to keep in touch with their studies, the Ministry of Education launched a homegrown mobile application on April 9, called SHAD, providing students with distance learning programs. He added that more than 60 percent of students and 94 percent of teachers attended 64 percent of classes through the SHAD app, whose acronym in Persian translates as the Students Education Network.

Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) also began to broadcast televised educational programs on a daily basis after school closures. **→7**

U.S. protests: Seven police officers suspended over Black man's death

By staff & agencies

Seven Rochester, New York police officers were suspended over the asphyxiation death of a Black man who they arrested in March in a brutal incident only revealed in videotape footage made public this week.

The tape, which was recorded by an officer's body camera, shows a group of officers putting a mesh hood over Daniel Prude's head as he kneels naked and restrained on a Rochester street and snow falls around him, Reuters reported.

The recording was released on Wednesday by members of Prude's family, who called for the arrest of the officers. Prude, 41, died seven days after the March 23 arrest in Rochester, a city of roughly 200,000 on Lake Ontario.

The incident has become another flashpoint in a summer of sometimes violent demonstrations over what activists say is an epidemic of police brutality and racism against African-Americans.

Protests broke out on Wednesday in downtown Rochester and on Thursday, some 300 miles to the south, several dozen people demonstrated in Times Square in New York City, demanding justice for Prude and police reform.

"I'm filled with grief, and anger at myself for all the failures that lead to his death."

Warren, who is Black, said that "institutional and structural racism" led to Prude's death but insisted she did not become aware of the circumstances around the arrest until August.

Rochester's mayor and police chief have also faced questions over why the officers did not face discipline until the videotape became public five months after the incident.

"Mr. Daniel Prude was failed by our police department, our mental health care system, our society, and he was failed by me," Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren told reporters on Thursday.

500 hotels under construction across Iran

TEHRAN — Over 2,400 tourism-related projects, including the construction of 500 hotels, are currently being implemented across the country with a total estimated cost of 1,370 trillion rials (around \$32 billion). This volume of investment indicates that investors recognize the growing tourism sector as a new economy in the country and have high hopes for it, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said on Friday, IRIB reported.

Pointing to the foreign arrivals as one of the

important indicators of the tourism sector he said that 8.6 million foreign nationals visited the country during the previous Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended March 20), almost 200 percent increase compared to 4.8 million during the Iranian calendar year 1395 (March 2016-March 2017).

He also noted that the ecotourism has developed rapidly and the number of the eco-lodge units increased from 400 units in 2017 to over 2,000 units at the beginning of 2020.

The tourism industry of the country was grow-

ing and progressing well but unfortunately, it has faced the coronavirus outbreak, which brought the industry into a standstill, he added.

However, on Wednesday the minister said that responsible tourism is a workable solution for holidaymakers to get assured of safe traveling during the coronavirus pandemic.

He mentioned that people's health is the ministry's top priority and the ministry is in full coordination with the Ministry of Health, which is at the forefront of the fight against coronavirus. **→6**



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Iran capable of producing over 38,000 military parts

TEHRAN — Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami has said that despite the sanctions Iran is capable of producing more than 38,000 military equipment and hardware parts.

Iran's enemies have made every effort over the past years to stop Iranian factories from operating, Hatami said on Thursday during the opening ceremony of a military exhibit in Tehran. **→2**

Iran-Turkey relations have not reached the desired level, but progressing: Turkish expert

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — Kadir Ertach Chelick, a Turkish academic, believes that cooperation between Tehran and Ankara has been progressing despite that fact that the two countries' relations have not reached the desired level.

Noting that Iran and Turkey have not experienced any serious conflict or crisis since the 1648 Kasri Shirin agreement, Chelick tells the Tehran Times that "there are serious historical and political ties between Turkey and Iran, a destiny that has brought unity and cultural geography."

The following is the text of the interview:

Q: Border disputes between Turkey and Greece have taken new dimensions due to the discovery of vast gas resources in the Eastern Mediterranean. What does natural gas discovery mean for Turkish foreign policy?

A: First, it should be noted that the issue is not a border dispute. The problem here is more about maritime sovereignty areas than the border issue. Based on Greece and Turkey's continental borders and territorial waters in the Aegean Sea, there are disputes regarding the arming of disputed islets and islands by Greece. These problems between the two countries started, especially after the 1980s, and caused crises involving conflict risk.

In this context, it should be noted that according to both the 1982 Maritime Law Convention and other legal texts, the Greek side acts against international law and fairness. In the Eastern Mediterranean issue, it is seen that Greece follows a revisionist and illegal foreign policy. **→5**

Iran blocked to sell a drop of oil in exchange for food, medicine

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The director of the Planning and Budget Organization said on Thursday that Iran is facing bans harsher than oil-for-food sanctions as it is being prohibited from selling its oil in exchange for food or medicine.

“The harshest phase of sanctions were oil-for-food sanctions but today we are in a condition in which these murderous and malicious [powers] prohibit the sale of a drop of oil for even food or medicine,” Mohammad Bagher Nobakht said, according to Press TV.

“Even if there is a sale of oil, they seek to make financial transactions impossible,” Nobakht added.

Widespread economic sanctions, imposed on Iran after Washington withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal in 2018, target much-needed humanitarian aid and related finances from reaching the Islamic Republic.

The U.S. has since continuously imposed additional sanctions on the country’s various economic sectors as part of its campaign of “maximum pressure” against Iran.

Washington even ignored humanitarian pleas to suspend sanctions as the country initially sought to import foreign medical supplies to counter the COVID-19 pandemic, before resorting to manufacturing its own.

Donald Trump has admitted that sanctions against Iran are unprecedented in history.

Last month, Washington led a failed attempt to trigger the so-called snapback provision in the 2015 nuclear deal aimed at reinstating UN sanctions against Iran despite no longer being party to the landmark Iran nuclear deal.

Speaking on Thursday, Nobakht said that Iran has been able to withstand the sanctions even though such a brutal sanctions regime would have been enough to overwhelm other countries.

“Everyone, especially the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, know that we face a tough year ahead of us,” he said.

“We must make the enemy understand that the more they seek to pressure us, we show the world more resiliently and actively that we are managing the country at the height of sanctions,” he added.

Referring to Ayatollah Khamenei’s “Jump in Production” slogan of the year, Nobakht said that the government will push on with programs encouraging indigenous production, regardless of the U.S. sanctions.

He said the Iranian government is currently following up with a one-year program - approved by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution - to conclude unfinished economic projects.

Guardian Council rebuffs reports of Jannati contracting Covid-19

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – In a tweet on Thursday, Abbasali Kakhodaee, the spokesman for the Guardian Council, rebuffed rumors claiming that Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the head of the Council, has contracted Covid-19.

“Few minutes ago, I spoke by phone with Ayatollah Jannati. Thank God, he was in good health. He asked about some administrative issues and I answered his questions. We agreed to follow up on the issues Saturday at the Council,” tweeted Kakhodaee.

The public relations office of the Guardian Council also dismissed the reports of Jannati contracting the novel coronavirus as untrue, according to a Fars news agency report.

Earlier, a Twitter account claiming to be affiliated with the deputy editor-in-chief of the Fars news agency claimed that Jannati was infected with Covid-19. However, the agency said the account had nothing to do with it.

On Friday, Sima Sadat-Lari, the spokeswoman for Iran’s Health Ministry, announced 118 new Covid-19 deaths in the past 24 hours, raising the total number of fatalities to 22,044. The spokeswoman also announced 2,026 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of infections to 382,772.

Iran is one of the hardest-hit countries that struggles to contain the coronavirus pandemic while making efforts to shield the economy from the pandemic’s impact.

Reports of Zarif resignation untrue: IRIB

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) news agency rebuffed on Friday reports that Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has resigned.

Citing “informed sources”, the IRIB news agency said the news about the chief diplomat’s resignation on social media platforms was untrue.

On Friday, some news channels on Telegram Messaging app, including a channel closely associated with the reformists, broke the news that Zarif has resigned. The news sparked a wave of speculation over the possible reasons behind the resignation, with some media outlets highlighting the foreign minister’s absence from the cabinet meetings over the past few weeks.

However, the IRIB alluded to Zarif’s recent public activities as a reason that Zarif is still the foreign minister of Iran. On Thursday, he held a telephone conversation with his Pakistani counterpart, Shah Mahmood Qureshi during which the two foreign ministers discussed the latest bilateral and regional developments.

Zarif is also expected to meet with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis, who will be visiting Iran on Monday.

Zarif himself responded to speculations over his absence from the cabinet meetings, saying that he, along with his colleagues in the Foreign Ministry, was busy all the time confronting the efforts of U.S. President Donald “Trump’s regime and the Zionists” to impose pressure on Iran.

“While the Trump regime and the Zionists have done their utmost to impose economic, political, and security pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran, my colleagues in the Foreign Ministry and the missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and I have dedicated our time around the clock to foil these pressures,” Zarif told reporters on Wednesday after a cabinet meeting.

Last year, Zarif resigned from his post as foreign minister, but his resignation was rejected by President Rouhani. Since then, rumors have surfaced about Zarif’s resignation on many occasions, but all were rebuffed.

Iran rejects Russian offer to directly negotiate with U.S.

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran rejected on Friday an offer made by Moscow to facilitate “direct negotiations” between Tehran and Washington amid simmering tensions between the two sides.

“We have no intention of negotiating with the Americans, and we have declared our stance very clearly,” said Mahmoud Vaezi, the Iranian president’s chief of staff, in response to a Russian offer to help launch direct negotiations between Iran and the U.S.

Vaezi was responding to a question from the Tasnim news agency on the Russian offer, which was made by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during a speech delivered to an audience of teachers and students of MGIMO University on Tuesday.

“We support direct negotiations between Iran and the U.S. and stand ready to help them begin the negotiations,” the chief Russian diplomat said. “We are ready to hold talks with the two sides in order to pave the way for the direct talks [between Tehran and Washington] if they both are interested [in negotiations]. We think that it’s better to directly address differences and issues and



get answers.”

Vaezi said Lavrov wasn’t the only person to have proposed a direct negotiation between Iran and the U.S., saying other countries have made similar offers.

“Americans must return to the JCPOA and speak within the framework of the JCPOA, otherwise, no other action would yield result,” he noted.

Vaezi also pointed to U.S. sanctions on

China says U.S. illegal attempt against Iran will not succeed

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying has said that the United States’ “illegal” attempt to trigger snapback mechanism and restore UN sanctions against Iran will not succeed.

Pointing to a JCPOA Joint Commission meeting in Vienna on Tuesday, she said the background of this meeting was that the U.S. wanted to hijack the UN Security Council to take illegal actions against Iran, the Chinese Foreign Ministry’s official website quoted her as saying in a press conference on Wednesday.

“The meeting sends out an unequivocal message of upholding the JCPOA and the authority of the Security Council. All participants of the meeting stressed that when the U.S. unilaterally announced withdrawal from the JCPOA, it forfeited its right as a JCPOA participant state and with that, the right to call for a snapback of sanctions. All parties reiterated that they would continue discussing

the implementation of the deal under the framework of the Joint Commission and welcomed the consensus reached on the safeguards implementation issue between the IAEA and Iran,” she said.

Hua added, “The Chinese side pointed out at the meeting that the U.S. has reneged on its international legal obligations, unilaterally walked away from the JCPOA, reinstated illegal unilateral sanctions, imposed long-arm jurisdiction against Iran, and spared no effort in obstructing other parties’ implementation of the deal.”

The Foreign Ministry spokeswoman went on to say “This is the root cause of the tensions in the Iranian nuclear situation. The U.S. illegal attempt at the Security Council has met with extensive opposition and won’t succeed.”

She said, “China reiterated its consistent position that all parties should remain committed to resolving differences through dialogue and consultation within the framework

of the Joint Commission and called on all parties to support the implementation of the consensus on safeguards implementation issue between the IAEA and Iran.”

China supports the establishment of “an alternative multilateral dialogue platform on the premise of firmly safeguarding the efficacy and authority of the JCPOA on the Iranian nuclear issue, where all parties can forge new consensus on maintaining regional peace and stability,” she explained.

Hua said China will stand on the “right side of history” and defends multilateralism and backs diplomacy to resolve issues.

“To sum up, China will continue working with other parties to stand on the right side of the history, firmly uphold multilateralism and make relentless efforts to advance the political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue.”

EU should side with Iran against U.S.: CISS director

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Ali Sarwar Naqvi, executive director of the Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS), has said that the European Union should side with Iran against the United States’ aggressive approach against Iran.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA on Wednesday, Naqvi said that the U.S. faced a huge humiliation at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

“The United States wanted to extend arms embargo on Iran which was rejected by almost all members of the international body,” said the expert.

Naqvi, who served as Pakistan’s ambassador to United Nations Washington,



London, Paris and Brussels from 1970 to 2006, added that the U.S. even failed to get the support of its European allies at the Security Council.

Russia reiterates support for Iran’s full membership in SCO

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Russian president’s special representative for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Bakhtiar Hakimov has reiterated support for Iran’s full membership to the bloc, ISNA reported on Friday.

Hakimov reiterated Russia’s support for full membership during a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali.

In a meeting with Jalali in February, Hakimov had also said Russia supports Iran’s full membership in the SCO.

Hakimov and Jalali also exchanged views about fight on terrorism, countering unilateralism and developing

economic cooperation.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has supported Iran’s full membership in the SCO.

“Iran is an observer and we are supportive of the Iranian request for full membership,” CNS News quoted Lavrov as saying in February during a speech at a geopolitics forum in New Delhi.

He added, “And most of the [SCO] countries support this request and I’m sure this would be satisfied.”

The SCO is a Eurasian political and economic organization that was founded in 2001 in Shanghai by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and

Uzbekistan.

China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and India are its main members, and Iran, Mongolia, Afghanistan, and Belarus are observers.

Iran applied for full membership in the organization on March 24, 2008. However, because it was under sanctions levied by the United Nations at the time, it was blocked from admission as a new member. The SCO stated that any country under UN sanctions could not be admitted. After the UN sanctions were lifted, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced its support for Iran’s full membership in the SCO during a state visit to Iran in January 2016.

Collapse of nuclear deal will be harmful to Europe, says expert

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — A senior political analyst has said that a collapse of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, will fuel chaotic situation in the West Asia region which will be harmful to Europe.

In an interview with IRNA published on Friday, Davoud Hermidas Bavand said that the European countries are aware that collapse of the JCPOA will not be beneficial to them.

Bavand, a former diplomat, also noted that success of the United States’ attempt to extend arms embargo on Iran is very unlikely.

Washington’s attempt is violation of international law and the UN resolution that confirmed the nuclear deal, he pointed out.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has

announced that all UN sanctions against Iran will be reinstated on September 20 after the U.S. “activated the snapback mechanism”.

However, the claim was strongly denounced by other signatories of the nuclear deal including Iran, the EU, Russia, China, and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Niger, the president of the UN Security Council for September, has reaffirmed a rejection of a U.S. complaint against Iran at the Security Council.

Chinese Mission to UN said in a tweet on Wednesday that the United States cannot initiate process of reinstating UN sanctions on Iran.

“A fruitful meeting of #JCPOA Joint Commission at a critical juncture. All participants

reaffirmed the importance of preserving the agreement and its full implementation. It is the common belief that US cannot initiate the process of reinstating UN sanctions under #UNSCR2231,” said the tweet.

Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Chang Hua also said in a tweet on Wednesday, “It is the common belief that US cannot initiate the process of reinstating UN sanctions under #UNSCR2231.”

Helga Schmid, secretary general of the European External Action Service (EEAS), wrote on Tuesday that the parties to the nuclear deal are “united in resolve” to preserve the agreement.

“Just finished chairing #JCPOA Joint Commission. Important to see that participants are united in resolve to preserve



the #IranDeal and find a way to ensure full implementation of the agreement despite current challenges,” Schmid tweeted after the meeting.

The participants to the Joint Commission of the JCPOA met in Vienna on Tuesday.

Iran capable of producing over 38,000 military parts

1 → The Defense Ministry, despite all sanctions and pressure, has so far succeeded in making great progress in producing different equipment, he said, Tasnim reported.

Hatami said the Islamic Republic is self-reliant and currently is capable of manufacturing over 38,000 military gear parts and equipment without the help of other countries.

Ever since the victory of Iran’s Islamic Revolution in 1979, the United States and its allies have been taking the country under indiscriminate economic and trade sanctions.

The U.S. lifted the nuclear-related ones among the bans after the conclusion of a multi-national nuclear accord between Iran and world powers in 2015.

In 2018, however, it unilaterally and illegally left the deal and returned the sanctions.

Over the past years, Iran has made major breakthroughs in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in producing military equipment and hardware despite sanctions and economic pressures imposed on the country.

Swiss FM to visit Iran on Monday

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Swiss **d e s k** Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis will pay a visit to Iran on Monday to discuss bilateral and regional issues, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

“On Monday, 6 September, Dr. Zarif will be hosting Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis and the accompanying delegation in Tehran. Bilateral relations, regional development, and international issues are among important topics that will be discussed by the two sides,” tweeted Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iranian Foreign Ministry.

During his two-day visit, Cassis will meet with several high-ranking Iranian officials including President Hassan Rouhani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani, and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, according to a report published by the international unit of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SBC), SWI swissinfo.ch.

The Swiss foreign minister’s visit comes at a time when tensions between Iran and the U.S. are on the rise since Washington resorted to a highly controversial mechanism built into a deal the U.S. quit more than two years ago. The mechanism — known as snapback- is designed to allow par-



ticipants to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), to restore all UN sanctions on Iran in case it didn’t uphold its obligations under the 2015 nuclear deal.

On August 20, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo traveled to New York to “notify” the UN Security Council of Iran’s “significant non-performance” of its commitments under the deal as defined in UN Security Council Resolution 2231. The U.S. measure was met with firm opposition from almost

all members of the Security Council. Thirteen of the 15-member UN body declared that the U.S. had no legal authority to trigger the snapback mechanism as it withdrew from the nuclear deal on May 8, 2018.

Switzerland currently holds “protecting power” mandates to facilitate contacts between Iran and the U.S., Canada, and Saudi Arabia. It has represented U.S. interests in Iran since 1980 and has acted as a go-between to deescalate tensions between Iran

and the United States. Switzerland also played a major role in paving the way for prisoner swap deals between Tehran and Washington.

On September 2, Cassis discussed his upcoming visit to Iran with Pompeo via telephone.

“In view of my trip to Iran, we discussed the Swiss financial channel for humanitarian goods. [The] U.S. is a major partner: our relations are rich in tradition & highly diverse,” tweeted Cassis after he held a telephone conversation with his American counterpart.

Swissinfo.ch also reported that Cassis will be discussing a humanitarian aid channel that Switzerland launched in coordination with the U.S. to allow Swiss-based companies to send medicines and other essential goods to Iran without running afoul of U.S. sanctions on the country. The first transaction through the channel, officially known as the Swiss Humanitarian Trade Arrangement (SHTA), was done in July. The transaction involved exporting a cancer drug used to treat iron overload caused by repeated blood transfusions.

The Swiss foreign minister’s talks in Tehran will also include discussions on the latest developments surrounding the JCPOA, human rights, and political developments in West Asia, according to Swissinfo.ch.

Charlie Hebdo and the making of terrorists

1→ Tehran on Thursday strongly condemned the French magazine, saying any insult against the prophet of Islam and other divine prophets is not acceptable at all.

“The French magazine’s offensive move, which has been repeated on the pretext of freedom of speech, has hurt the feelings of the world’s monotheists, is a provocative move and an insult to the Islamic values and beliefs of over one billion Muslims in the world,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement.

Khatibzadeh defended freedom of speech but also suggested that the issue regarding the Charlie Hebdo controversy is not about free speech but it’s about an attack against the “peaceful coexistence of human beings”.

“Unlike the offensive move made by the magazine, freedom of speech is a great value which must be used in a constructive way in line with the peaceful coexistence of human beings and further understanding among religions,” the spokesman said, according to the Foreign Ministry website.

What is usually ignored

The wave of attacks in Europe prompted a heated worldwide debate about the limits of freedom of expression and whether offending the sacred values of the followers of a religious minority counts as one.

One point should be made clear: There’s no question that acts of terrorism are condemned, and in fact, Muslims and Islamic leaders across the world vehemently do so.

However, many missed the big questions, such as: “What makes people terrorists?” and “what countries and cultures turn people into terrorists?”

For decades, anthropologist Scott Atran has studied the roots of terrorism committed in the name of Islam. He has interviewed numerous terrorists across the world, especially in West Asia.

To put it in a nutshell, Atran has come to the conclusion that terrorism is a culture of mostly young men who are willing to kill and die for each other, rather than for a cause or a religion.

“Terrorists, for the most part, are not nihilists but extreme moralists—altruists fastened to a hope gone haywire,” Atran argues in his book “Talking to the Enemy: Religion, Brotherhood, and the (Un)Making of Terrorists”.

He has also drawn a comparison between the socio-economic status of Muslims living in Western Europe



with that of African-Americans in the United States.

“Unlike the United States, where immigrants achieve average socioeconomic status and education within a generation, in Europe even after three generations, depending on the country, they’re 5–19 times more likely to be poor or less educated,” he told Scientific American in the aftermath of the November 2015 Paris attacks.

“France has about 7.5% Muslims and [they make] up to 60–75% of the prison population,” he said, arguing, “It’s a very similar situation to black youth in the United States.”

Atran, who is Research Professor of Public Policy and Psychology at the University of Michigan, has maintained that many draw the wrong inference from these figures, namely that Islam encourages criminal behavior.

In his book, he has explained that the predictive factors for Muslims entering European prisons are pretty much the same as for African Americans entering U.S. prisons, namely lack of employment, schooling, political representation, and so forth.

“Foreign-born Muslims are five to seven times more likely to be poor than non-Muslims in Britain, France, and Germany and nearly ten times more likely to be poor in Spain,” he said.

Terrorism in the name of Islam in Europe has other mostly ignored roots as well, one of which is the history of Muslims suffering under European countries’ colonial rule.

In 1834, France annexed Algeria which had an estimated Muslim population of about two million. It also split Morocco with Spain in 1904. After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, France received a League of Nations mandate, under which Lebanon and Syria were handed over to the French.

Britain also seized Aden on the Arabian Peninsula

in 1839, and occupied Egypt in 1882. The League of Nations ratified Britain’s right to maintain its armies in the area and to rule Transjordan and Iraq after World War I.

With Lord Balfour’s Declaration in 1917, Britain gave Jews a homeland in Palestine, which in turn led to what has been described as “the mother of all problems”.

“The roots of the current confessional and territorial conflicts in the region emanate from these divisions,” Atran argued in his book.

Clash of cultures is yet another significant issue that needs to be studied in order to understand terrorism in the name of Islam. That France, which has an intolerant culture toward religion in general and Islam in particular, has turned into a radicalizing center for young Muslims should not be neglected.

France has for long tried to impose its own secular culture on its Muslim population, but this has disastrously backfired.

With this regard, Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has said that the West’s imposition of its culture on others is a form of “silent violence” against those people, saying that terrorist groups such as Daesh are the result of such cultural invasion.

“I do not deny the importance and value of cultural interaction,” Ayatollah Khamenei wrote in an open letter to the youth in Western countries after the November 2015 attacks.

“Whenever these interactions are conducted in natural circumstances and with respect for the receiving culture, they result in growth, development and richness. On the contrary, inharmonious interactions have been unsuccessful and harmful impositions.”

“Vile groups such as Daesh are the spawn of such ill-fated pairings with imported cultures,” he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei maintained that if the issue of terrorism was simply theological, “we would have had to witness such phenomena before the colonialist era, yet history shows the contrary.”

“Historical records clearly show how colonialist confluence of extremism and rejected thoughts in the heart of a Bedouin tribe, planted the seed of extremism in this region,” he said

“How then is it possible that such garbage as Daesh comes out of one of the most ethical and humane religious schools which as part of its inner core, includes the notion that taking the life of one human being is equivalent to killing the whole of humanity?” Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

Tehran, Moscow discuss joint production of coronavirus vaccine

the Russian Direct Investment Fund.

For his part, Dmitriev expressed satisfaction with close cooperation between the two countries in developing COVID-19 vaccine, saying the mass-production of vaccine in collaboration with Iran would be soon put on Russia’s agenda.

In an interview with Tasnim in August, Russian Ambassador to Tehran Levon Jagarian said his country was ready to

provide Iran with the Russian vaccine for coronavirus.

Meanwhile, the death toll from COVID-19 in Iran surpassed 22,000 on Friday, while more than 330,000 positive cases have recovered from the disease.

Speaking at a daily press briefing on Friday, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said the coronavirus has taken the lives of 118 patients during the

past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 22,044.

The number of people tested positive for COVID-19 in Iran has risen to 382,772 after the detection of 2,026 new cases since Thursday, she added.

The number of people infected with COVID-19 across the world has exceeded 26.1 million and the death toll has surpassed 867,000.



1→ and expressed the hope that the process of joint production of the vaccine would begin soon under the auspices of

Navy’s destroyers to get vertical-launch missiles, official says

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Head of the Iranian Defense Ministry’s Marine Industries Organization Rear Admiral Amir Rastegari said the Army’s destroyers are planned to be equipped with vertical-launch cruise missiles.

Speaking on the sidelines of a military exhibition in Tehran on Thursday, Rear Admiral Rastegari highlighted Iran’s progress in manufacturing destroyers and submarines, adding that long-range vertical-launch cruise missiles will be mounted on the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy’s destroyers.

He further said that the Defense Ministry has good potential to export various types of military and non-military gears worth billions of dollars to other countries.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great headways in manufacturing a broad range

of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in the arms sphere.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran’s defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.

Back in February 2018, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei called for efforts to maintain and boost Iran’s defense capabilities, hitting back at the enemies for disputing the country’s missile program.

“Without a moment of hesitation, the country must move to acquire whatever is necessary for defense, even if the whole world is opposed to it,” Ayatollah Khamenei said at the time.



SPORTS

Tractor lift Iran’s Hazfi Cup

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Tractor football team defeated **d e s k** Esteghlal 3-2 to win Iran’s Hazfi Cup in a hectic final on Thursday for the second time.

Star-studded Tractor had claimed the title for the first time in 2014 and seize the accolade once again after six years.



Tractor got direct entry to next year’s AFC Champions League as the Hazfi Cup winners and Esteghlal will have to participate in ACL qualifying play-offs.

Mohammadreza Khanzadeh gave the lead Tractor in the 17th minute in Mashhad’s Emam Reza Stadium.

Tractor midfielder Ashkan Dejagah made it 2-0 in the 34th minute and Akbar Imani scored Tractor’s third goal in the 41st minute.

Mehdi Ghaedi reduced the deficit for Esteghlal six minutes into the second half and substitute Arsalan Motahari scored Esteghlal’s second goal in the 79th minute.

Soon after, Esteghlal put Tractor under pressure but failed to score the equalizer.

Esteghlal are the most decorated football team in Hazfi Cup, winning seven titles.

“We deserved to win the title and I would like to congratulate our fans. I wish Tractor continued success in the competitions ahead,” Tractor coach Saket Elhami said.

I don’t want to waste my time: Dragan Skocic

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — National football team head **d e s k** coach Dragan Skocic says that he doesn’t want to waste his time in Iran.

The Croat was named as new head coach of Iran in early February as a replacement for Belgian coach Marc Wilmots but he has not led the team in a single match for more than six months.

Iran national football team sit third in Group C of the 2022 World Cup qualification and must win their four remaining matches.

“The all competitions were postponed due to coronavirus and we don’t know when we can hold our training camp but it will happen in the near future,” Skocic told the reporters in Mashhad.

“The first match will be held on Oct. 8 against Uzbekistan and it can help us to improve the condition,” he added.

“I have to explain my philosophy to my players but it is not possible without playing football and the condition has become unbearable. This is a key issue that need to be taken into consideration,” Skocic added.

“We have analyzed the league and Hazfi Cup matches to identify the best players for the National Team. This is my duty to know my team’s weaknesses since I don’t want to waste my time,” the Croatian coach concluded.

Amir Ghalenoei named Gol Gohar coach

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Amir Ghalenoei has been named **d e s k** as new head coach of Gol Gohar football club on Thursday. The 57-year-old coach had resigned as Sepahan coach last month following poor results.

Ghalenoei replaced Majid Jalali in Sirjan based football team. No other details have been released.

Ghalenoei is one of the most successful coaches in Iran Professional League, winning five league and two Hazfi Cup titles.

Persepolis star Torabi linked with Qatari teams

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Persepolis iconic midfielder **d e s k** Mehdi Torabi has been reportedly linked with a move to Qatari teams.

Torabi canceled his contract with Persepolis last week and is reportedly joining a Qatari club.

Local media have reported that he will join Al Duhail and some say Al Arabi is his destination.

Torabi played a key role last season, helping Persepolis to win Iran Professional League for the fourth time in a row.

IRIVF technical committee to hold session on choosing coach

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Technical committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran Volleyball Federation (IRIVF) will hold its first session on Saturday to choose the head coach for the national team.

IRIVF president Mohammadreza Davarzani had already said the Iran’s head coach will be selected by the technical committee.

Iran national volleyball team are without a coach since parting company with Montenegrin coach Igor Kolakovic in late March.

“Iran volleyball team plan to finish among the top four in Tokyo Olympic Games. To make our dreams come true, we have to work hard,” Davarzani said. The federation’s technical committee will choose the head coach and the first session will be held on Saturday.

Team Melli will meet Japan, Poland, Italy, Canada and Venezuela in Pool A at the Olympic Games.

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

Development projects inaugurated at Yasouj Airport

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami inaugurated some development projects worth 450 billion rials (over \$10 million) in Yasouj Airport in the southwestern Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad Province.

Eslami was accompanied by the Head of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company Siavash Amirmokri and some of the mentioned province's officials in the inauguration ceremony, ILNA reported.



The projects included the development and improvement of runways, completion of runway lighting, improvement of the terminal, completion of buildings, and upgrading of the safety and operational infrastructure of the airport.

As reported, the development and improvement of runways and runway lighting costs were estimated as 300 billion rials (about \$7.14 million), with the implementation of which the length of the runway has been increased from 2600 to 3200 meters and the runway's pavement classification number (PCN) has also improved from 26 to 46.

With the implementation of the said projects, the airport's category has improved from C3 to C4.

It is worth mentioning that the costs of implementing terminal improvement projects, and airport buildings and infrastructure upgrades have been estimated to be 150 billion rials (about \$3.5 million).

‘Government to interfere in issue of housing rental’

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami said that the government will interfere in the issue of housing rental.

Making the remarks on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting, the minister also said that ceilings have been set for the rent prices which all people are obliged to comply with them, IRIB reported.

As previously announced by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), rent price in Tehran city has increased 27 percent in the fourth Iranian calendar month Tir (June 21-July 21) from its previous month.

The CBI report also showed that the rent price in the capital city has experienced a 31-percent rise in the fourth month of this year compared to the same month in the past year.

The housing market is experiencing inflation and rise in prices, both in terms of rentals and sales, but the rise in prices is not going to be like the last year's sudden surge, Hesam Oqbaei, the deputy head of Tehran Real Estate Association, said on May 2.

“Last year, when house prices experienced a 100-percent growth, rent prices rose by as much as 30 percent. Of course, this year we anticipate that rent growth will not reach inflation and will stay below the inflation rate,” the official added.

According to Oqbaei, 37 percent of the country's urban population are tenants, who are from the low and middle classes of the society and their salary increase has been up to 22 percent, so if the rent prices were supposed to grow along with the house prices people won't be able to afford it.

Oqbaei underlined the lack of balance in supply and demand as the main reason for the upward trend in housing prices and said since there are not enough bank facilities available to homebuyers, more people will stay as tenants and the demand for house rents increases, so consequently rent prices will also rise in areas where there is an imbalance between supply and demand.

Non-oil goods worth over \$300m exported from Markazi Province in 5 months

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The value of non-oil exports from Iran's central Markazi Province reached \$306.53 million during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), a provincial official announced, Mehr news agency reported.

“Markazi Province exported commodities to 80 countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey, the UAE, Azerbaijan and Pakistan during the mentioned period”, Saeed Farrokhi, the province's deputy governor for the economic affairs, stated.

The official further put the value of imports to the province at \$124 million in the first five months of this year and named China, Turkey, the UAE, India and Taiwan as the main exporters of goods to the province.

As announced by Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mehdi Mirashrafi, the value of Iran's non-oil trade during the first five months of the current year has reached \$24.6 billion, about \$5 billion more than the figure for the first four months.

The official has said that the significant increase in the value of trade indicates that the negative impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on Iran's foreign trade has alleviated.

“The impact of the pandemic on Iran's trade has decreased from 54 percent in late March to 27 percent in August,” Mirashrafi said.

As reported, in the mentioned five months, Iran imported \$13.7 billion worth of goods, while exporting \$10.9 billion.

The volume of traded goods was estimated at about 52 million tons, of which over 38 million tons were related to exports and about 13.8 million tons were imported goods.

Iran's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were China with over \$3 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$2.406 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$1.554 billion, and Afghanistan with \$871 million as well as Turkey with \$513 million, so the country's top five export destinations remained the same in comparison to previous months.

The top five sources of imports during this period were China with \$3.552 billion, the UAE with \$3.186 billion, Turkey with \$1.475 billion, India with \$941 million, and Germany with \$548 million worth of imports.

Rouhani inaugurates energy projects worth over \$210m in 3 provinces

1 → The solar power plants, one with a capacity of 0.2 MW and the other with a capacity of 1.5 MW were inaugurated in Ardebil province.

The 0.2 MW power plant with a cumulative electricity output of 326,000 kWh is going to save 0.11 million cubic meters of natural gas consumption annually and emit 274 tons of carbon dioxide.

The 1.5 MW solar power plant with a cumulative output of 244,000 kWh will save 0.85 million cubic meters of natural gas, and also prevents the emission of carbon dioxide equivalent to 2056 tons per year while saving 655 cubic meters of water in the year.

The 310-megawatt gas unit of Dalahou

Combined Cycle Power Plant in Kermanshah Province was also among the inaugurated projects, which was put into operation with a total investment of 109 million euros (about \$130 million).

Kalghan Chai dam in the city of Bostanabad in East Azarbaijan was the third project inaugurated via video conference in the presence of Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian.

With a total capacity of 21 million cubic meters, the mentioned dam was constructed with 13.2 trillion rials (about \$31.4 million) of investment.

■ 30 million people to enjoy free electricity

Speaking on the sidelines of the inaugura-



tion ceremony, President Rouhani announced that the directive for the implementation of a program to award free electricity to 30 million low-consuming people will be referred to the Energy Ministry over the next two months.

“This program, which will be implemented in the next two months, is a gift from the government to the people of our country, especially the residents of the villages, who are mainly among the low-consuming households,” Rouhani said.

Prices of refinery feedstock modified fairly: Zanganeh

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh has said that the process for pricing of the feedstock for the country's refineries has been modified so that all refineries can access their required feed with a fair price.

“Regulations on calculating the prices for selling crude oil and feedstock to refineries and purchasing products from them were amended in a fair way that is in line with the interests of both the government and the refineries,” Zanganeh told IRIB.

Pointing out that the price of crude oil and feedstock for refineries was determined based on the FOB price of the Persian Gulf nations in the past, Zanganeh said: “Currently, the Persian Gulf FOB prices do not match the reality of the Iranian market.”

The Oil Minister also announced the inauguration of several new projects in the upcoming week and said that one of these projects will be inaugurated in Kermanshah province.

In early July, Oil Ministry announced that the base price of ethane, which is a major feedstock for petrochemical



complexes, was reduced by 10 percent.

The decision for amending the petrochemical feed prices comes as the global oil prices have fallen significantly due to the outbreak of the coronavirus and consequently the value of other products like petrochemicals has also declined in

Agriculture Ministry to implement program to improve cultivation

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iranian Agriculture Ministry is going to implement the first phase of a program called “Cultivation Pattern” to improve the country's agricultural output in the new crop year in the country, an official with the ministry said.

According to the Advisor to the Agriculture Minister Saeed Saadat, with the implementation of this program, an important part of the farmers' and producers' problems, including unplanned and excess cultivation will be eliminated, IRIB reported.

Referring to the importance of food security in the country, Saadat said: “Ensuring 90 percent of the country's food security is the responsibility of the Agriculture Ministry.”

During the last Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), \$5.8 billion worth of agricultural products were exported from the country and the share of the agricultural sector in employment was 18 percent, the official stressed.

He further noted that 32.5 percent of the country's value-added share is related to agricultural businesses, which shows the important role that this sector plays in the country's economy.

“Also last year we experienced a growth of 8.8 percent in this sector,



while the economic balance was negative in many other areas,” he added.

Pointing out that about 125 million tons of agricultural products were produced in the country last year, Saadat said 80 percent of the country's food is produced in the agricultural sector.

Noting that due to the limited water resources and the dryness of most parts of the country, the efficiency in the agricultural sector should be increased, the official explained, adding, “The efficiency in the agricultural sector has increased from 920 grams per cubic meter to 1450 grams per cubic meter since [the Iranian calendar year] 1392 (started in March 2013). Also, during this period, irrigation efficiency has increased from 39 percent to 45 percent.”

Emphasizing that increasing the quality of food should be a priority, Saadat said: “The quality of the country's products is currently desirable.”

TEDPIX drops for 4th consecutive week

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

The index stood at 1.631 million points at the end of the past week, IRNA reported.

As reported, most of the trades were conducted through the indices of National Iranian Copper Industry Company,

Ghadir Investment company, Bank Saderat, Mobarakeh Steel Company, and Bandar Abbas Oil Refining Company.

TEDPIX had also experienced a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 28, an 11.3-percent drop in the week ended on August 21, and a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 14.

It should be mentioned that the index had hit the record high of two million points on August 2, and while it had

‘Domestic manufacturers able to build 5,000 buses by Mar. 2021’

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iran's Acting Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Jafar Sargaeini said the country's manufacturers have the capacity to produce 5,000 buses for the country's urban transportation fleet by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

“Manufacturing companies have announced their readiness to supply 5,000 buses for this program in the remaining months of this year; this is while 1,000 buses must enter the transport fleet annually to keep the age of this fleet at 10 years old,” Sargaeini said in a meeting on the renovation of the country's transportation fleet.

Earlier, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami had announced that his ministry is going to implement a program for renovation of the country's road transportation fleet in collaboration with the Industry Ministry.

Sargaeini called for the participation of all municipalities in the country in the implementation of this plan and announced a committee to follow up and implement the provisions of this plan should be formed in the program and budget organization.

He noted that all the country's major manufacturers will do their best for the realization of the goals of this program, adding: “In this regard, municipalities and village administrators should notify the Industry Ministry about the specifica-



tions and number of buses needed for the current year and next year, so that based on the provided data and with the participation of all producers, this plan could be operational.”

Back in May, Eslami had unveiled a portal for the owners of worn-out vehicles to register in the renovation program.

Speaking in the unveiling ceremony, the minister said the government's program for renovating the country's road transport fleet is going to reduce the average age of the fleet to 14.5 years.

The official noted that in order to accelerate the implementation of the plan, 25 domestic companies are going to participate in the program.

Domestic companies can participate in the renovation of up to 1,000 vehicles a year, while large-scale companies are also allowed to purchase and import up to 100 foreign vehicles to renovate their fleet, he said.

Individual shareholders account for 60% of stock market's trades

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The vice chairman of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE)'s board of directors said that 60 percent of the trades are conducted by the individual shareholders at this exchange.

Making the remarks in a radio program, Mahmoud-Reza Khajeh-Nasir underlined that the individual shareholders have generally played a larger part in the capital market compared to the institutional shareholders in the current [Iranian calendar] year (began on March 20), IRIB reported.



A report released last week by Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry indicated that the number of trading accounts in Iran's stock market has reached 48.5 million by the end of the last Iranian calendar month (August 21), while the figure was 9.086 million at the end of the same month in the past year.

The head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said that 4.5 million new trading accounts have been opened in the country's stock market during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21).

Hasan Qalibaf-Asl said it is while the number of trading accounts opened in the stock market was 820,000 in the past year and 50,000 in its preceding year.

The SEO head further announced that the new shareholders have entered the stock market with the average capital of 100 million rials (about \$2,380) – 150 million rials (about \$3,571).

It should be noted that in late February, SEO set new regulations for the opening of trading accounts for the new shareholders in the country's stock market.

News

Conflict in Syria requires political solution without foreign interference: Lavrov

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has stressed the need for a political solution to the conflict in Syria, saying the settlement of the conflict must be in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and without foreign interference.

Speaking in a meeting with UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen in Moscow on Thursday, Lavrov stated that Russia, as a guarantor country for Syria peace talks in the Astana format, supports UN efforts to facilitate the work of the Syria Constitutional Committee in line with Security Council Resolution 2254.

UNSC Resolution 2254 was unanimously adopted on December 18, 2015. It calls for a ceasefire and political settlement in Syria.

It calls for the formation of a "credible, inclusive and non-sectarian" government and UN-supervised "free and fair elections."

According to Press TV, Moscow, Tehran, and Ankara have been mediating peace negotiations between representatives from the Damascus government and Syrian opposition groups in a series of talks held in Kazakhstan's capital, Nur-Sultan, formerly called Astana, since January 2017.

Russia has also hosted parallel talks in the resort city of Sochi aimed at solidifying the three countries' cooperation towards returning peace and stability to Syria.

Turkey says France's Macron 'hysterical' over Syria, Libya, East Med

Turkey's foreign minister said Friday that French President Emmanuel Macron had become "hysterical" over developments in the Libyan and Syrian conflicts and a dispute over maritime boundaries in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Relations between NATO allies Turkey and France have deteriorated over conflicting policies in Syria, Libya and Turkey's dispute with Greece over energy resources, and the two sides have traded barbs in recent weeks, Reuters reported.

Ankara accuses Paris of politically backing Libya's Khalifa Haftar against the Tripoli-based government recognised by the United Nations, having previously given him military assistance to fight Islamist militants. Paris denies this.

"In Libya they (France) supported the putschist Haftar and made a grave mistake," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said "Things changed, balances shifted, Haftar was defeated and Macron became hysterical." Turkey and France also almost came to blows in June after a French warship attempted to inspect a Turkish vessel as part of a U.N. arms embargo against Libya.

U.S. states told be ready to distribute vaccine by Nov. 1

The Trump administration has urged US states to get ready to distribute a potential Covid-19 vaccine by November 1, in the latest sign of the accelerating race to deliver a vaccine by year's end.

"CDC urgently requests your assistance in expediting applications for these distribution facilities," read an August 27 letter from Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dallas-based wholesaler McKesson Corp. has a deal with the federal government to set up centers to distribute a coronavirus vaccine when it becomes available, AFP reported.

The CDC, "if necessary, asks that you consider waiving requirements that would prevent these facilities from becoming fully operational by Nov. 1, 2020," two days before the US presidential election, said the letter.

Hamas urges Palestinian unity against U.S., Israel schemes

➔ Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority, also addressed the gathering via video-link from the city of Ramallah in Israel-occupied West Bank.

"We are going through an unprecedented and dangerous stage" that harbors a "strategic threat for the Palestinian cause and the region," Haniyeh said before going on to enumerate some of the sources of menace. The Palestinian official cited the controversial U.S.-devised "deal of the century" – a plot that U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled in January, thus announcing Washington's support for extraordinary violations by Tel Aviv against the Palestinians.

According to Press TV, Haniyeh pointed to the favors that rub off on Israel under the deal, including the U.S.'s support for Israel's annexation of the parts of the West Bank, upon which the Israeli regime has been building settlements since occupying the territory in 1967.

He also referred to a fledgling trend of détente between some Arab regimes and Israel that saw the United Arab Emirates and the occupying regime announcing normalization of their relations on August 13.

He also referred to a fledgling trend of détente between some Arab regimes and Israel that saw the United Arab Emirates and the occupying regime announcing normalization of their relations on August 13.

Resistance News

Abbas: The Palestinian cause no longer needs anyone's guardianship

INTERNATIONAL DESK TEHRAN — Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Authority (PA) president, said on Thursday evening, the Palestinian people are the ones who scuttled the deal of the century and the annexation project, stressing that the Palestinian cause no longer needs anyone's protection or guardianship.

Abbas added, during a speech at the meeting of the secretaries general of the Palestinian factions in Ramallah and Beirut: «We affirm that our national decision is our own right and we will not accept anyone speaking in our name and we will not authorize anyone to do that.»

On a related note, Abbas said that a ministerial delegation will arrive in Gaza on Friday along with 20 trucks loaded with medicines to confront the Corona pandemic.

The meeting of the secretaries-general of all Palestinian factions took place on Thursday at the PA presidential headquarters in Ramallah, and in the Lebanese capital Beirut, through a video conference. The meeting discussed mechanisms to end the national division and achieve reconciliation along with means of unifying a national strategy.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, the official and presidential spokesperson, said that the main goal of the meeting is to start important steps on the road to crystalizing unity to foil the annexation plan, apartheid, settlement and Judaizing Jerusalem.

Iran-Turkey relations have not reached the desired level, but progressing: Turkish expert



Through establishing good relations with the West as well as the East, Turkey can help to alleviate the crisis in the region and can offer a greater contribution to the solve the problems.

religious conflicts, terrorist organizations, and imperialist powers in the Middle East (West Asia).

➔ Given its geopolitical ties with neighboring countries, how does Turkey define its economic relations with its neighbors, including Iran and Cyprus?

A: Turkey is trying to develop friendly relations with all countries in the region. It acts with a peaceful foreign policy. This also includes economic relations. The win-win economic approach in relation to all neighboring countries, including Iran, is developing in Turkey. Thus, an improvement in the region's welfare and the development of economic relations contribute to the peaceful resolution of other political problems. Relations with the Greek Cypriot side are on a different scale. First of all, the Greek Cypriot side claims that the whole island belongs to itself by violating Cyprus's agreements, especially the Guarantee Agreements. This is against international law. There are two states on Cyprus's island: the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Greek state. Because of the violation of law by the other side, Turkey has no economic and diplomatic relations with Greece.

However, based on legal provisions, we can find a peaceful settlement on the island because of its economic and geo-strategic significance, and it may contribute to taking steps forward in the future.

➔ Last November, Turkey signed an agreement with Libya on maritime borders in the Mediterranean, which was opposed by Greece, Egypt, and Cyprus. Now Ankara criticizes the agreement between Egypt and Greece. What is the main problem between Turkey and these countries?

A: The agreement signed between Turkey and Libya is valid and legitimate internationally and in the UN's eyes. It

also gives more sovereignty areas to other Mediterranean countries, especially Egypt. However, the agreement that Greece made with Egypt is problematic in three aspects. First, Greece and Egypt are not neighbors in the Mediterranean. Therefore, they don't have the right to make such an agreement. Secondly, bilateral agreements concluded under international law cannot affect the agreements of other states. Thirdly, with this agreement, Greece violates all Eastern Mediterranean countries' sovereignty areas, including Egypt. In other words, we face an occupation by the agreement.

Because the agreement is against the Law of the Sea Convention and general principles of law and fairness, Turkey, at this point, protects Egypt and other countries' rights. After all, the problems between the countries mentioned in the question have different dimensions. The UAE supports Egypt, and follows a policy which is clearly against Turkey. Egypt needs to maintain the Emirates' economic support, so it defends its stances, and both countries are uncomfortable with Turkey's stance against non-democratic governments. They also play a role in designing the region according to the will of global powers. Turkey confronts imperialist states in the Middle East (West Asia), and some states do not feel comfortable. Egypt and the UAE represent these imperialist states in the region.

➔ Once Turkey raised the slogan of "zero problems with neighbors," while today, some observers talk about "nothing but problems". What is your comment?

A: After the First World War, Turkey was established when under the motto of "peace at home, peace in the world," as Atatürk said. Recently, it has been expressed as a policy of "zero problems with neighbors". So, Turkey is peaceful, and the status quo is in favor of non-revisionist foreign policies that respect international law. This policy continues today. Turkey is not formed based on the problem or crisis. Even today, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has declared that it supports negotiations with Greece without any preconditions. Greece is the most recent example of a state that is creating a problem with Turkey. However, in Turkey, fighting the actors disrupt the peace in the region is seen as an international responsibility.

For example, it opposes Israel's measures in persecuting Palestinians. If some states say this is a problem, I think it is an honorable position. Another example was against the Saudi blockade against Qatar. This is also an honorable foreign policy. The best example to be given in this regard is the Astana Process. Turkey did its best to solve the problems through cooperation with Russia and Iran. Therefore, these comments towards Turkey does not carry good intentions and is unfair to Turkey.

➔ How would President Erdogan regulate Turkey's economy and foreign exchange to balance its relationship with the U.S. and Russia? Is Turkey turning towards the East?

Turkey is a bridge between the East and the West. It is an important center. For this reason, it should improve its relations with both the West and the East. We call this multi-directional foreign policy. Also, the East-West divide is a separation of the Cold War era. However, today there is a different international system. The Turkish state has seen this fact. Therefore, it follows a balanced foreign policy with all actors, which is rational. Thus, Turkey will not become dependent on any state. Turkey will be stronger and more independent. There are also benefits for the region through Turkey's foreign policy. Through establishing good relations with the West as well as the East, Turkey can help to alleviate the crisis in the region and can offer a greater contribution to the solve the problems.

Emirati rulers have to satisfy U.S. to remain in power

TEHRAN — A Canada-based human rights activist believes that rulers in the United Arab Emirates have announced normalization with the Israeli regime so as to satisfy the U.S. and secure their own seats.

"Saudi, Emirati, and Bahraini rulers have to satisfy the Americans, so they can be secured in their seats," head of Canadian Defenders for Human Rights Firas al-Najim told Mehr News Agency in an interview regarding the Israeli-Emirati deal.

U.S. President Donald Trump recently announced that he had brokered an agreement between the United Arab Emirates and the Israeli regime for normalization of ties. The agreement was widely con-

demned by Palestinians and countries of the Resistance Axis such as Iran as a "betrayal to the Palestinian cause."

Asked about the reasons behind these normalizations, al-Najim said that the measure was adopted by the UAE as an "instruction from above, from masters who helped establish the UAE" and some other Persian Gulf states.

As leaders of imperialism, the U.K. and U.S. first instructed Oman to 'open the doors' to Zionists, and UAE came next, he said.

"The reason why they chose these countries in the PGCC before other countries are based on studies of which countries are more beloved within the Arabic and Muslim society," said the activist.

They first chose Oman to 'break the ice' as Oman is "always known to be the country that helps mediate peace and reduce tensions happening in the Middle Eastern (West Asian) countries."

The next country was the UAE as "so many Muslims and Arabs that have lived there or either have family members that are still working there or have investments in there ... so that they knew people would not speak out very loudly against the UAE."

The U.S. is preparing Persian Gulf countries for normalization "slowly and slowly and one by one," he said, noting that ties between some PGCC states and Tel Aviv "were very old."

The activist said that the announcement came "at a perfect time for Trump because he is sinking in a quagmire" as he "has not gained anything in the foreign level."

Al-Najim referred to some of Trump's failures in foreign policy, such as the so-called 'deal of the century' or "the most foolish move in the history of his party in assassinating Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis."

Iran's response to the assassination that came in the form of a missile attack against a U.S. base was unprecedented since World War II and showed U.S. "weakness in front of the world," he added.

"Say a bully bullies around, and nobody says nothing about it; when the first person beats that bully or stands up to that bully, this opens the door for everybody else, especially for response and retaliation."

Trump had said he would strike 50 sites in Iran, but his failure to fulfill the promise proved how weak he is, added al-Najim.

The UAE move will somehow give Trump a bit of strength in front of the people who are fooled obviously by this so-called peace deal and "he can use it



as a card to gain more voters," he said.

"People that are ruling under illegitimate systems such as the UAE are all tribal tyrannical systems, and they're far away from giving the nations the right to choose their leader or to have any opposition; so for them, they have to hold on to evil regimes that will support them so they will do whatever it takes to stay in power and keep their seats stable from any insecurities or any destabilization so they will do these type of moves to satisfy the American Congress to keep them in power."

Abu Dhabi claimed that Tel Aviv has agreed on stopping the annexation plan; however, the regime's PM Benjamin Netanyahu said the plan is still on the table.

UAE rulers are "well aware that Israelis don't care about any law as they have the green light to do any crime or to steal anything from anyone," he said.

"Obviously Zionists are not stopping with their annexation and taking over areas this is their history, this is the way they live," said the activist, adding that the regime tries to "find the right time to conduct its crimes."

Pointing to opposition against the deal as reflected in social media, he said that these "would lead to the collapse of the UAE," the activist said that the UAE has "already enough problems with the Yemeni people and their war crimes in Yemen."

First Announcement



Brief Notice of Two-stage General

International

Tender No. 9803750

It is hereby respectfully notified tht Esfahan Steel Company intends to purchase **200 pcs. Purge Blocks**. Prospective bidders specialized and experienced in the said area may visit Esfahan Steel Company's website at www.esfahansteel.ir to get tender documents no later than **20/09/2020** and deliver their bids max. up to **09/11/2020** to the following address : ESCo's Confiednetial Secretariat Office, Near to Bank Melli, Esfahan Steel Company, End of Zob-Ahan Highway, Esfahan, Iran. or Email address toa@esfahansteel.ir. For further information, prospective bidders may contact us through Tel. No. **0098-31-5257-2017**.

Public Relation of Esfahan Steel Co.

500 hotels under construction across Iran

➔1 “Therefore, one of the solutions that can help us in the time of coronavirus is adopting smart travels or responsible travels.”

Last month, Mounesan proclaimed: “If the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic is contained, all the tourism businesses across the country will have the capacity to fully resume their activities both in domestic and foreign markets.”



“Many tourism projects have been completed, or are being implemented, showing that a very good capacity has been created in the field of tourism in the country and [this trend] should not be stopped,” he explained.

In August, the tourism minister said the coronavirus pandemic should not bring traveling to a complete standstill. “Corona is a fact, but can the virus stop tourism? Certainly not. For us, the coronavirus is a new experience in dealing with crises that teaches tourism experts around the world how to deal with such a disaster, and thankfully governments are turning this into an opportunity for better planning.”

Talking about losses to the travel and hospitality industry of the country, the minister said that the virus decease has caused damage to many countries around the world, and our country’s travel sector has so far suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bath-houses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025. The latest available data show eight million tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2019).

Iranian dishes you need to try: Ash Reshteh

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — For many Iranians, Ash Reshteh (Persian greens, bean and noodle soup) is a sign of the arrival of spring. The thick soup is served during the festivities leading up to Noruz, the Persian New Year, which usually falls on March 20.

The flavor of this beautifully spiced vegetable soup is mainly characterized by two uniquely ingredients: the first one is Reshteh, or flat noodles, which are starchier and saltier than their Italian counterparts, and as they cook, the starch they release thickens the soup.

And the second is kashk, a form of dried, drained yogurt or whey, which is saltier and sourer than Greek yogurt or sour cream. More like feta than yogurt, kashk gives ash its distinct, satisfying flavor.



- **Ingredients (Yield: serves 6-8)**

1/2 cup canola oil

2 onions, thinly sliced

1/2 cup each dried kidney and cannellini beans, chick-peas, soaked overnight, drained

1 1/2 tbsp. ground turmeric

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

6 cups chopped spinach

1 cup chopped parsley

1/2 cup brown lentils

1 bunch chives, finely chopped

2 cups reshteh or dried linguini

8 cloves garlic, thinly sliced

2 tbsp. dried mint

1/4 cup powdered whey (optional; see recipe, mixed with 4 tbsp. water)

■ **Recipe**

Heat 1/4 cup oil in an 8-qt. saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onions, and cook until caramelized, about 20 minutes. Transfer half the onions to a bowl; set aside for garnish. Add all beans, turmeric, and salt and pepper to onions in pan; cook, stirring, for 5 minutes. Add 12 cups water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook, covered, until beans are barely tender, about 50 minutes. Add spinach, parsley, lentils, and chives; cook for 20 minutes. Add noodles, and cook until noodles and beans are tender, about 12 minutes more.

Meanwhile, heat remaining oil in a 10” skillet over medium-high heat. Add garlic; cook until lightly browned and crisp, about 3 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer to paper towels to drain. Return skillet to heat and add mint; cook until fragrant, about 1 minute. Ladle soup into bowls; top with reserved caramelized onions and garlic chips, then drizzle with the mint oil and whey.
- # Newly-unearthed ‘Parthian lady’ to be transferred to Isfahan museum
- TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — A human skeleton which has recently been discovered during excavations at Tepe Ashraf in Isfahan and is believed to belong to a Parthian-era (247 BC – 224 CE) lady, will be transferred to the city’s Museum of Decorative Arts.
- “Skeleton of Parthian-era lady will soon be transferred to the Museum of Decorative Arts in Isfahan from the site it was unearthed [a couple of weeks ago],” senior archaeologist Alireza Jafari-Zand said on Thursday.
- A team of experts will be conducting an extensive study on the skeleton at the museum, a room of which has recently been dedicated to archaeologists, said Jafari-Zand who leads the archaeological survey at Tepe Ashraf.
- The ancient hill originally measured some 13 ha in area, however, only seven hectares of it has been remained being owned by the provincial administrations (some six ha has been tuned into modern urban spaces).
- Over the past weeks, a team of Iranian researchers, led by senior archaeologist Alireza Jafari-Zand, has found a new range of
-
- discoveries that offer novel clues about the history of Isfahan. They have also found an ancient burial containing the remains of a
- horse -- estimated to be four years old was found near a place where a giant jar-tomb was unearthed weeks earlier.
- ## A brief history of locks, locksmiths in Iran
- HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Available evidence suggests that locks have been made in Iran since at least the second millennium BC.
- The most ancient lock, dating to the 13th century BC, was excavated at Tchogha Zanbil, a UNESCO World Heritage in southwest Iran. The lock consisted of a bolt and a tumbler and was probably used on a wooden door, according to Encyclopedia Iranica.
- Experts say it is possible that the stone door of the tomb of the Achaemenid Artaxerxes III (r. 359-38 BC) built into the mountainside at Persepolis was secured by such a lock. The doors of the tomb consist of two solid stone slabs about 1.5 m high and 1.5 m wide with upper and lower corner pivots that revolved in round holes: a circular keyhole about six cm in diameter is on one panel, and a boxlike catch on the other. It can be assumed that the only mechanism that would work in such circumstances was a toothed-bolt lock, probably made of wood with a metal key.
- Numerous mechanisms are found in Iranian padlocks, including barbed spring, bent spring, helical spring, shackle spring, notched shackle, hook and revolving catch, and notched shackle with rotating discs, as well as combination and multiple mechanisms.
- Until not long ago, every bazaar had a section for locksmiths (bazaar-e ghoflsazha), but the importation of machine-made locks from the West drove the locksmiths out of the city bazaars. Those in the villages, however, managed to survive until the 1970s.
- Locks have also played an important role in popular beliefs. Pregnant women were hoping to prevent miscarriage, wearing a small lock on a cord around their waist.
- In addition to animals, many new shapes for locks made of steel were inspired by objects and vessels such as the cradle, kashkul (a bowl in which dervishes put the alms and food given to them), suitcase, and lantern, as well as all kinds of
- geometric shapes.
- Talismanic locks constitute a great number of locks and come in all shapes. These are often small and made of silver or steel inscribed with talismanic writing, and they have various functions, such as protecting a child from the evil eye, “locking” an enemy’s tongue, and so forth.
- Large wooden fixed locks, known in Iran as kolun, were and are still used on the entrance doors of houses and gates in villages, bazaar series, and caravansaries, and they are all made of wood with metal or wooden keys.
- Fixed locks for chests and small boxes, however, are made of metal. It seems that for such containers Iranians have preferred padlocks (golf-e aviz) rather than fixed locks, since only a few metal fixed locks have come to light so far, among them is a fish-shaped steel padlock of the Timurid period (15th century).
- In contrast to the rarity of surviving fixed locks, padlocks have been made in great numbers in Iran. The earliest existing padlocks are from the Sasanian period (ca. 224-651 CE). One from this group, which is now in the National Museum of Iran, was unearthed in Rudbar, not far from the Caspian Sea, in 1966.
- In addition to the above-mentioned padlocks, the door of the tomb of Esther and Mordechai in Hamadan belonging to the Seljuk period (1040-1194) may have been locked by a padlock. This door, a solid slab of stone (about 1.20 x 90 m), is believed to have been originally from a structure of the time of Xerxes I (r. 486-65 BC). The present method of securing the door consists of an iron bar that rests inside the wall when the door is open and comes out of the wall when it is locked. To gain entry, the person outside must reach the padlock through a hole in the door.
- Throughout the Islamic period in Iran, locks were made in all shapes and sizes. In the first centuries after the introduction of Islam (7th-9th centuries) in Iran, locks followed the same style as those of the Sasanians.
-
- An Iranian bronze padlock in the shape of a ram
- According to the Encyclopedia, from the 10th century onward, however, lock making went through major changes. In addition to the previously mentioned shapes, figural locks in the form of animals and birds became popular. Nearly all animals, such as the horse, lion, goat, ram, camel, rabbit, and water buffalo, as well as fish and all kinds of birds, were fashioned in locks.
- With the rise of the Safavids (1501-1722) to power, there was a major evolution in lock making. The Safavids’ love of steel arms and other steel implements encouraged locksmiths to use this metal for locks, which were previously made of bronze and brass.
- ## Museums to offer free admission during Tehran Week
- TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — On the occasion of Tehran Week, entry to all museums across the Iranian capital will be free from September 28 to October 5.
- Several cultural programs are also scheduled to be held during the week with the motto of “School of Tehran”, the Tehran City Council announced on Thursday.
- The need to get acquainted with the customs, culture, ethics, literature, and social behavior of people in Tehran is one of the requirements living in this city and this week and such ceremonies aim at meeting this need, said Tehran City Council member Ahmad Masjed-Jamel.
- He also considered lunar month of Mu-
-
- harram as a great opportunity to get to know the traditions and culture of Ashura in Tehran as well as its tekyehs, venues for the gathering of mourners who honor the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS).
- “Ashura culture in Tehran is very deep and has been part of the lives of citizens since
- ancient times, and now there is a good opportunity to get to know the city’s tekyehs, religious bodies, and Ashura customs and culture and promote them more properly.”
- Appreciating medical staff and health workers for their round-the-clock efforts during the coronavirus outbreak in the country will be one of the most important programs in this week.
- Half-priced tickets for Iranian movies on the screen, free membership of libraries, holding public sports, and cleaning the mountains are also among the programs scheduled for Tehran Week.
- The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century
- chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray.
- Ray, in which signs of settlement dates from 6000 BC, is often considered to be Tehran’s predecessor. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.
- Tehran has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.
- ## Ardebil ready to jumpstart tourism after coronavirus
- TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The tourism sector of Ardebil province, northwestern Iran, is prepared to recover after the coronavirus crisis ends, a provincial tourism chief has said.
- As all countries will compete in the field of tourism to bring prosperity back to the industry after the coronavirus crisis, innovative plans and programs to attract more tourists are needed, Soghra Farshi announced on Thursday.
- Implementing tourism-related projects, developing tourism infrastructure, focusing on domestic tourism, constructing tourism complexes, and facilitating hot spas in the region are among the province’s tourism department plans for boosting the tourism industry, the official added.
- Back in April tourism authorities of the province announced that they have developed extensive plans to draw more tourists during the winter season to the province and
-
- make it the winter tourism hub of the country. In December 2019, provincial tourism chief Nader Fallahi
- ## Persian Gulf Regional Museum to be inaugurated in Bushehr
- TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The Persian Gulf Regional Museum in Iran’s southwestern Bushehr province is ready to be inaugurated within a month, a provincial tourism chief has said.
- With a budget of 400 billion rials (some \$9.5 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials), the museum has been built in an area of eight hectares and will be inaugurated during tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan’s visit next month,
- IRNA quoted Nasrollah Ebrahimi as saying on Thursday.
- As one of the country’s modern museums, Persian Gulf Regional Museum has 15 galleries and will display relics from different historical eras, the official added.
- The main building of the museum is located in the former British Consulate, which was built in the Qajar era (1789–1925).
- With over 6,000 years of history and
- significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr Province is one of Iran’s most important historical centers.
- Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.
- The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as
- gardens.
- When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

God will help the person who cares about other people's needs, both in this world and the hereafter.

Imam Hussein (AS)

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

■ A collection of paintings named "Lost Land" by Parisa Shabani is currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until September 15 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.

■ Vista Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Qader Mansuri.

The exhibit named "Wilderness of Atal" will run until September 14 at the gallery that can be found at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.

■ Amir-Hossein Bayani is hanging his latest paintings in an exhibition at Mohsen Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "Fidelity: Numbers of Politics" runs until September 23 at the gallery located at 42 East Mina Blvd., Naji St., off Zafar St.

■ Saleh Gallery is currently showcasing paintings by Yahya Gomar in an exhibition titled "Self Pleasant".

The exhibition will be running until September 22 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

Sculpture

■ An exhibition of sculptures by a group of artists, including Zahra Asiyani, Amin Aqai, Atusa Vahdani, Saman Naqifam and Hamid Mashmesmael, is currently underway in an exhibition at Negah Gallery.

The exhibit runs until September 16 at the gallery located at 64 Ghaffari St., Jam St., Motahhari Ave.

Photo

■ The Silk Road Gallery is displaying photos by Sara Sassani in an exhibition titled "Monotony".

The exhibit runs until September 20 at the gallery located at No. 210, Vesal St., Keshavarz Blvd.

Multimedia

■ A large collection of artworks in various media selected by Mahsa Qasemi and Reza Shah-Hosseini is on display in an exhibition at Sa Gallery.

The exhibit named "Crossing" will continue until September 9 at the gallery located at No. 134, 8th Bustan off Pasdaran Ave.

■ A collection of drawings, paintings, paintings, sculptures and photos by Bahman Mohasses, Ardeshtir Mohasses, Abbas Kiarostami, Sohrab Sepehri, Hossein Zenderudi and several other artists is on view in an exhibition Dastan Basement Gallery.

Sculptor Parviz Tanavoli is the curator of the exhibit that will be running until September 25 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.

■ An exhibition of artworks in various media by Atefeh Pakravan, Mnasureh Tajvidirad, Tara Ghaffarinejad, Yasmin Zandieh, Zahra Rahimi, Ava Nedai and several other artists are underway at Ehsan Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "Time of No Time" will run until September 9 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

■ Ayrik Gallery is currently displaying an exhibition of artworks in various media by Adel Mehrdad, Elaham Saberian, Sahar Safareh, Nasrin Rostami, Zahra Soleimani and several other artists.

The exhibition titled "Another Frame" will run until September 9 at the gallery, which can be found at Ayrik Center on East Ferdows Blvd.

Japanese artist Noriyuki Haraguchi, creator of Tehran museum's "Oil Pool", dies at 74

A R T **TEHRAN** — Japanese artist Noriyuki Haraguchi, whose sculpture "Oil Pool" is on display at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA), has died at 74, TMCA director Ehsan Aqai has said on Thursday.

"Oil Pool" was exhibited to great acclaim at "Documenta 6" in the German city of Kassel in 1977 and was soon afterwards acquired by the TMCA, where it remains installed to this day.

Haraguchi visited "Oil Pool" at the museum in October 2017 at an invitation of the TMCA to carry out the restoration of the artwork. He expressed his hope that the museum would preserve the artwork for many years to come.

He also held a meeting with the then TMCA director Ali-Mohammad Zare' and noted that the culture of Iran and Japan enjoy a common perspective that causes the museum to keep the artwork.

Zare' also expressed happiness over the artist's visit to the museum and said that the restoration would help the sculpture remain at the museum for a long time.

Haraguchi's trip to Iran to restore the



Japanese artist Noriyuki Haraguchi glances at his sculpture "Oil Pool" on display at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) on October 21, 2017. (Honaronline/Gata Ziabari)

sculpture inspired Iranian filmmaker Hooman Zarif to make the documentary "In Search of Lost Time" that studies the 40-year history of "Oil Pool".

Composers Alan Kushan and Peyman Khazani, narrator Nader Daahi and artist Farhang Baqai collaborated on the project.

Haraguchi's career started in the late 1960s when he joined the group of 20th-century Japanese artists called "Mono-ha".

"Mono-ha" ("School of Things") was a pioneering art movement that emerged in Tokyo in the mid-1960s whose artists, instead of making traditional representational artworks, explored materials and their properties in reaction to what they saw as ruthless development and industrialization in Japan.

Their work was stridently anti-modernist: primarily sculptures and installations that incorporated basic materials such as rocks, sand, wood, cotton, glass and metal, often in simple arrangements with minimal artistic intervention.

More experiential than visual, "Mono-ha" works tended to demand patience and reflection. Many were also ephemeral.

Brazilian magazine Supapo publishes Trump cartoons by Iranian artist Masud Shojaei

A R T **TEHRAN** — Supapo, a Brazilian digital magazine of humor, has released its latest edition with works by Iranian cartoonist Masud Shojaei on Donald Trump.

"Iran's Missile Force against Trump's Frightening Eyes" and "The U.S. Private's Ultimate Decision" were published with the editorial of the magazine.

Speaking to the Persian service of MNA on Thursday, Shojaei said, "Supapo is an anti-U.S. and anti-Zionist magazine, and this edition also carries works by Palestinian cartoonist Naji al-Ali."

In its previous edition, Supapo also published cartoons by Shojaei, who was an organizer of the International Holocaust Cartoon Contest in Iran.

He is the director of the Art Bureau's Visual Arts Office, which organized the international cartoon exhibition "I Can't Breathe" during June to highlight protests against racism in the U.S.

Shojaei organized the International Trumpism Cartoon and Caricature Contest in 2017 and 2019 to criticize U.S. capitalism and hegemony around the world.



A graphic design shows the Brazilian digital magazine of humor Supapo carrying Iranian cartoonist Masud Shojaei's works "Iran's Missile Force against Trump's Frightening Eyes" and "The U.S. Private's Ultimate Decision".

"Castle of Dreams" receives three nominations at Imagineindia film festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Reza Mirkarimi's award-winning drama "Castle of Dreams" has received nominations in three categories, including best script, at the 19th Imagineindia International Film Festival in Spain.

Co-written by Mohsen Qarai and Mohammad Davudi, the film is about two young children whose mother has just died, and their father, Jalal, after long years of absence, returns to sort things out, but he does not want to take the children with him.

Hamed Behdad was nominated for the award for best actor for his portrayal of Jalal while the film also was nominated for its music composed by Amin Honarmand.

Earlier in November 2019, Mirkarimi won the award for best director at the 56th Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival while



"Castle of Dreams" by Reza Mirkarimi.

Behdad was picked as best actor at the Turkish event.

The Imagineindia festival was first scheduled to take place in the Spanish capital of Madrid during May, but, due

to the COVID-19 pandemic, was postponed and will be held from September 24 to October 8.

Iranian actress Mahtab Keramati, the star of the acclaimed movie "Mazar-i-Sharif", has been selected as the jury president. The jury also has Iranian filmmaker Mehdi Rahmani.

Keramati won the award for best actress at the 2015 Imagineindia for her performance in "Ghosts" by acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Dariush Mehrjui.

She also was named best actress at the International Film Festival of Tamilnadu in Chennai, India in 2016 for her role in director Hassan Barzideh's drama "Mazar-i-Sharif" about Taliban terrorism in Afghanistan.

The jury also is composed of Indian film expert Modhura Palit, Polish filmmaker

Hanna Polak, Afghan actress Leena Alam, Australian producer Bridget Ikin, Indian professor Anjali Monteiro, Kazakh filmmaker Olga Korotko, British-Indian writer and director Sandhya Suri, Kazakh producer Olga Khlaseva and German producer Daniela Creutz.

The Iranian films "Old Men Never Die" by Reza Jamali, "A Man without Shadow" by Alireza Raisian, "The Warden" by Nima Javidi, "Driving Lessons" by Marzieh Riahi, "Dog" by Hesam Salehbeig and "Still" by Anis Naseri will be screened in the various sections of the festival. The films failed to receive a nomination in any category.

The Festival Imagineindia is mainly devoted to promote friendship and cooperation among the Indian Subcontinent, the rest of Asia and Spain, and along with it the European Union.

Bookstores share Thomas Moore's "A Life at Work" with Persian readers

C U L T U R E **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of Thomas Moore's book "A Life at Work: The Joy of Discovering What You Were Born to Do" has recently been published by Nashre No Publications in Tehran.

The book has been rendered into Persian by Mohammadreza Salamat.

"A Life's Work" is a beautiful rumination, realistic and poignant, and a comforting and exhilarating guide to one of life's biggest dilemmas and one of its greatest opportunities.

"A job is never just a job. It is always connected to a deep and invisible process of finding meaning in life through work," the author says.

"A Life's Work" is about finding the right job, and it is also about uncovering and becoming the person you were meant to be."

Moore reveals the quest to find a life's work in all its depth and mystery. All jobs, large and small, long-term

and temporary, he writes, contribute to life's work.

"A particular job may be important because of the emotional rewards it offers or for the money. But beneath the surface, the labors are shaping the destiny for better or worse," the book says.

Moore explores the often difficult process in this book, the obstacles, blocks and hardships of one's own making.

He teaches readers patience, models the necessary powers of reflection and gives one the courage to keep going.

Thomas Moore is the author of the bestselling book "Care of the Soul" and twenty other books on deepening spirituality and cultivating the soul in every aspect of life.

He has been a monk, a musician, a university professor and a psychotherapist. He has a Ph.D. in religion from Syracuse University and has won several awards, including an honorary doctorate from Lesley University and the Humanitarian Award from Einstein



Front cover of the Persian translation of Thomas Moore's book "A Life at Work".

Medical School.

He also writes fiction and music, and often works with his wife, artist and yoga instructor, Hari Kirin. He loves to explore ancient monasteries in Ireland where he visits family and friends.

"Careless Crime" director Shahram Mokri to discuss Iranian cinema at Venice festival

The Orizzonti section is dedicated to films that represent the latest aesthetic and expressive trends in international cinema.

"Careless Crime" will go on screen on September 18 with Mokri, the film's producer, and actors in attendance.

In addition, two more Iranian films, "Sun Children" and "The Wasteland", have been selected to be screened in various sections of the festival now underway on the Italian Lido.

Directed by Majid Majidi, "Sun Children", also known as "The Sun", will be screened in the official competition of the event, which will until September 12.

The drama about child labor in Tehran won the Crystal Simorgh for best film at the 38th edition of the Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in February.

"The Wasteland" by Ahmad Bahrami will be competing in the Orizzonti section.

It is about an old brick manufacturing factory that is going to be shut down, and all that matters to the factory supervisor is to keep his lover unharmed.

Forty years ago, during the uprising to overthrow the

Shah's regime in Iran, protestors set fire to movie theaters as a way of showing opposition to Western culture. Many cinemas were burned down. In one tragic case, a theater was set on fire with four hundred people inside, most of whom were burned alive. Forty years have passed and, in contemporary Iran, four individuals also decide to burn a cinema down. Their intended target is a theater showing a film about an unearthed, unexploded missile.

Iranian filmmakers are frequent visitors to the Venice Film Festival.

Iranian drama "No Date, No Signature" won Vahid Jalilvand the best director award in the Orizzonti section at the 74th Venice International Film Festival in 2017.

The film's star Navid Mohammadzadeh also received the award for best actor in this category.

The Venice festival will be the first major international film event to be held physically since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

Several major festivals such as Cannes and Telluride were canceled over the pandemic.



Iranian director Shahram Mokri attends the 70th Venice Film Festival in 2013. (AFP)

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Shahram Mokri, whose latest drama "Careless Crime" is an entry in the Orizzonti section of the 77th Venice Film Festival, will deliver a speech on Iranian cinema during a meeting at the event on Sunday, a public relations team of the film announced on Friday.