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**By Farrokh Hessabi**  
Tehran Times journalist

## Esteghlal's uncertainty ahead of ACL resumption

Despite Farhad Majidi's departure as the head coach of Esteghlal, the club are following their programs in the transfer window.

After the defeat of his side in the Hazfi Cup final against Tractor, Mjidi resigned from his position as head coach of the Blues by posting a message on Instagram in which he fiercely criticized the management of the club.

Further, on Sunday, Majid Namjoo Motlagh was appointed as Esteghlal football team interim coach.

Namjoo Motlagh, Majidi's assistant, will lead Esteghlal in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League in his first challenge, in which the Tehran based team will face the UAE' Al Wahda in Doha, Qatar, on Sept. 17.

Although the Iranian giants' fans will be disappointed by Majidi's departure, they are hoping for the promise of the club's General Manager, Ahmad Saadatmand, to bring Andrea Stramaccioni back to Esteghlal.

Under the stewardship of the Italian coach in the last season, Esteghlal got good results in the Iran Professional League (IPL) for a while, and he became very popular with the Esteghlal fans. However, Stramaccioni left the Iranian famous football team on Dec. 8 after the club failed to pay his salary.

The promise made by Saadatmand about Stramaccioni's return may come at a hefty price for him, in case the Italian coach would not return to Esteghlal.

Besides, Namjoo Motlagh as the interim coach, will be under tremendous pressure to deliver results quickly, given that some key players of Esteghlal intend to leave the team, as what happened about the defender Aref Gholam who terminated his contract with the club. It's while the club's directors have signed some new players without coordination with the next head coach or asking the technical staff's opinion.

Esteghlal, at the moment, want to do their best to satisfy the fans and it's makes the job difficult for the club.

The struggles between the club's directors and the head coach and technical staff have dealt a severe blow to Esteghlal in the recent years.

As the representative of Iran in the AFC Champions League, the club are expected to gain focus pretty quickly and manage a potentially damaging and debilitating few weeks of a transition period. And, already, the clock is ticking.

## Rent exemption to ease pandemic impact on private tourism businesses

**TEHRAN** – The Iranian government has approved a plan to exempt the private sector operating historical sites and monuments from paying tax until the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2021) in a bid to mitigate the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

"With regard to the coronavirus outbreak so many businesses in the tourism sector have been suffering financially so we proposed the government to grant rent exemption till the yearend [March 20, 2021]," tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said.

"Based on our calculations, the [impact of] virus pandemic has inflicted a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) since its outbreak till the month of Mordad (July 22-August 21) and it has also increased the number of unemployed in this sector."

Late in August, Mounesan underlined that "people's health is our first priority", adding

his ministry is in full coordination with the Ministry of Health for strictly implementing health protocols in travel destinations, hospitably centers, and museums, amongst others. Speaking in a radio program, he said that travels that are not within the framework of tours are highly probable to spread the coronavirus. This issue has prompted the Ministry of Health to ask people not to travel.

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, Mounesan explained.

According to the tourism minister, 2,451 tourism-related projects worth 1,370 trillion rials (around \$32 billion) are currently being implemented across the country that "signals a prosperous future for Iran's tourism sector." **→6**

## U.S. protests: As protests rock U.S. cities, Jacob Blake speaks out

Jacob Blake, the black man who was shot in the back by a white police officer in Wisconsin last month, spoke out for the first time from his hospital bed as dueling demonstrations over racial justice and policing continued to roil U.S. cities.

In a video posted on Twitter, Blake, dressed in a green hospital gown, described being in constant pain after the shooting that left him paralyzed from the waist down, Sydney Morning Herald reported.

"I got staples in my back, staples in my damn stomach," he said in the video posted by his attorney, Ben Crump, late on Saturday. "It hurts to breathe, it hurts to sleep, it hurts to move from side to side, it hurts to eat."

The August 23 shooting of Blake, 29, reignited protests over racism and police brutality that have swept the United States since May when another black man, George Floyd, died after a

Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

The demonstrations have coincided with widespread upheaval over the social and economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed nearly 190,000 people in the United States, the highest death toll in the world.

The protests have also moved to the forefront of President Donald Trump's campaign to be re-elected on November 3.

At the start of the three-day Labor Day weekend, police in Rochester, New York, used tear gas to disperse some 2000 protesters in the fourth night of unrest over the death of Daniel Prude, a black man who died after an encounter with police in March.

Nine people were arrested and three police officers were treated at local hospitals for injuries sustained during the clashes, the Rochester police department said on Sunday.

## Iran, Turkey, and Qatar can form alliance: Hamas representative in Tehran

**By Mohammad Mazhari**

**TEHRAN** – Khaled al-Qaddoumi, the Hamas representative in Tehran, believes that Iran, Turkey and Qatar can form an economic and political alliance in the region.

According to Qaddoumi, the region is in dire need of a strong front to resist and reject foreign interventions.

"Turkey, Iran, and Qatar and all others who want to participate in such front can form an alliance," Qaddoumi tells the Tehran Times.

The following is the text of the interview:

■ What are the details of a deal to decrease tension between Hamas and Israel?

A: Actually, I prefer not to call it a deal, rather it is step to enforce the ceasefire, which has been achieved by the mediation of Egypt in 2014. However, Israel always breaches and violates deals and repeatedly breaks its promises. They have never fulfilled any promise they had pledged before. They sign deals, pledge to take actions, and everybody celebrates, but later we face vi-

olations. They keep killing and keep targeting the civilians.

Today the resistance front, especially Hamas, besides other brothers in Gaza, exercises its pressure through different means against the Israeli enemy, and we have found that after the people of Gaza have sent all those balloons, have invited all those dignitaries from different corners of the world to mediate for the enforcement of ceasefire between the enemy and us. **→5**



© File photo

## Nearly 300 Rohingya refugees land in Indonesia's Aceh after 6 months at sea

Almost 300 Rohingya refugees believed to have been at sea for six months landed in Indonesia's Aceh province in the early hours of Monday, Indonesian authorities have confirmed.

Acehnese police said a wooden boat carrying the Rohingya was spotted by local fishermen several kilometers off the coast of Lhokseumawe, before landing at Ujung Blang Beach just after midnight. Among them were 181 women and 14 children, Iptu Irwansya, a local police chief, said. **→5**

## Lavrov lands in Syria for talks with Assad

**By staff & agencies**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrived in Damascus on Monday for talks with President Bashar al-Assad and Syria's foreign minister, the RIA news agency reported.

Meanwhile, Bashar al-Assad on Monday received a Russian delegation headed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov in presence of a number of Russian diplomats, on top Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Before leaving for Syria, Lavrov reiterated the necessity of solving the crisis in Syria politically in accordance with UN Resolution 2254 through a Syrian-Syrian dialogue and without external interference.

Lavrov said at the start of his meeting in Moscow, with Geir Pederden, the special envoy of the UN secretary-general for Syria, Russia, as a guarantor country within the framework of Astana, supports UN efforts to facilitate the work of the Committee of discussing the constitution in Geneva in line with Security Council Resolution 2254, and it considered that the third round it concluded last Saturday in Geneva "It was very successful and useful".

UN Resolution 2254, issued in December 2015, affirms that the Syrians are the ones who determine the future of their country on their own, without any external interference, and that terrorist organizations are outside any political process.

Lavrov stressed the need to preserve Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to continue the war on terror in it until it is finally defeated, pointing out that there are big difficulties that are facing the humanitarian issue in Syria, especially in light of the spread of Coronavirus epidemic, which requires lifting the coercive western economic measures imposed on it.



## Iran, New Zealand hold cooperation commission meeting

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran and New Zealand held their 7th cooperation commission meeting on Monday.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his New Zealand counterpart chaired the meeting held through videoconference.

Various topics, including bilateral political and economic issues, sanctions, latest developments around the 2015 nuclear deal, exchange of experiences in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, and the two countries' position on regional and international issues were discussed during the meeting.

Araghchi thanked the New Zealand government for supporting the nuclear deal and welcomed its membership in the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors.

He also expressed Iran's readiness to maintain and boost the trade ties with New Zealand with new mechanisms under the pressure of sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak.

## Iraq not to allow foreign pilgrims for Arbaeen: ambassador

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Ambassador to Baghdad Iraj Masjedi has said that Iraq will not allow foreign pilgrims to visit the country for the Arbaeen ceremony.

In an interview with IRNA published on Monday, he said that Iraq will not allow foreign pilgrims due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Arbaeen pilgrimage, which is one of the largest religious gathering in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Each year, a huge crowd of people flock to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to perform mourning rituals. This year Arbaeen falls on October 8.

## Parliamentary by-elections to be held on Friday

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Esmail Mousavi, the spokesperson for the Interior Ministry elections headquarters, said on Monday that the Iran's parliamentary by-elections will be held on Friday.

Mousavi said that the elections will be held in East Azarbaijan, Isfahan, Ilam, Alborz, Zanjan, Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, and Golestan.

He also noted that strict health protocols have been set by the Ministry of Health and the Guardian Council to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

All polling stations will be disinfected, he added. Mousavi said that the people who want to cast vote must wear face masks and sanitary gloves at the polling stations.

The parliamentary elections was held on February 21.

Government spokesman Ali Rabiei said in August that the elections would be preceded by week-long campaigns, which must be conducted without any gatherings in compliance with the health protocols.

According to Tasnim, the parliamentary by-elections in Tehran and two other cities will be held next year with the nationwide presidential and city council elections.

## Swiss FM calls talks with Zarif 'fruitful'

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis has called his Monday talks with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tehran "fruitful".

"Peace, economic development and human rights - fruitful discussion with my counterpart @JZarif. I'm glad we could establish together the Swiss Humanitarian Channel for the transfer of food and medical supplies to the people of Iran," he tweeted.



Zarif also said in a tweet, "Pleased to host Swiss FM @ignaziocassis on centennial of diplomatic relations—ties that endure based on mutual respect. Excellent talks on bilateral, regional & global issues. While appreciating Swiss efforts to mitigate US sabotage, a return to normal trade is global priority."

Cassis traveled to Iran, on a three-day visit, to mark the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and Switzerland.

Switzerland, which also represents the United States' interests in Iran, hosts a so-called humanitarian channel, known as the Swiss Humanitarian Trade Arrangement (SHTA), that is meant to help Tehran avoid American sanctions. According to some reports, Cassis' stay was also expected to help expand the channel, according to Press TV.

Cassis met with Iran's Parliament speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf on Sunday. He was expected to meet with President Hassan Rouhani and Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council.

Upon arrival in the Islamic Republic, the Swiss official went to the central city of Isfahan, where he visited historical and cultural monuments and underlined the need for developing scientific and tourism relations with Tehran.

# History has shown Iranians do not give in to bullying: Rouhani

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani said on Monday that history has shown that the Iranians do not give in to bullying of a power.

Rouhani made the remarks during a meeting with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis.

"It has been for many years that the United States has been seeking to eliminate the Islamic Republic system and interfere in Iran's internal affairs. In a miscalculation, Mr. Trump imagined he could bring the Islamic Republic's system to knees in three months through imposing pressure and economic war on Iran," Rouhani stated.

Rouhani added that Washington has become aware that it will achieve nothing by imposing sanctions on Iran.

However, Rouhani said, "The path is open for the United States whenever it decides to stop making mistakes and make up for its illegal actions and return to the 2231 resolution and the JCPOA."

The president said Iran has been committed to international and multilateral agreements and will remain so.

Rouhani also urged the friendly and free-



dom-seeking countries not to keep silence against the U.S. illegal acts against Iran.

Elsewhere, the president called for

expansion of relations between Iran and Switzerland in all areas.

Rouhani also said it is necessary to make

the Swiss Humanitarian Trade Arrangement (SHTA) more active in the light of sanctions on Iran.

The president also called for cooperation in areas of science, health and environment between Iran and Switzerland.

**■ Swiss FM says all countries must observe international rules**

For his part, Foreign Minister Cassis described the relations "friendly" and "very good" and attached great importance to deepening ties.

Cassis said that Switzerland stands beside Iran in solving the problems, noting that the Swiss financial channel has been launched in this respect.

He also said that all the countries must be committed to international law.

Cassis has visited Iran to celebrate the centenary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"All countries in the world should be assured that a strong legal system works in the world so that they can live in tranquility and that is why that all countries, especially powerful countries, should be fully committed to international rules and regulations."

## Iran's response to any move by Mossad in region will include UAE, says aide to parliament speaker

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — In a clear warning to the United Arab Emirates, Hussein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament on international affairs, said Iran's response to any provocative move by the Israeli intelligence services would include the UAE.

"Since the UAE disclosed the normalization of its relations with the fake regime of Israel, Iran's response to any overt or covert move by Israel's Mossad spy agency or their agents in the Islamic Republic or the region will not be directed at the Zionist entity only, but the UAE will also be part of the response," Amir-Abdollahian told al-Alam news network.

The special aide was referring to a recent U.S.-brokered normalization deal between the UAE and Israel, which was announced on August 13 during a ceremony at the White House attended by senior U.S. officials including President Donald Trump.

Under the deal, officially known as the Abraham Accords, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed "agreed to the full normalization of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates," according to a joint statement issued by the U.S., Israel and the UAE.

The two leaders have also "committed to the exchange of embassies and ambassadors, and to begin cooperation in a broad range of fields including education, healthcare, trade, and security," the White House said in a statement on August 13.

Amir-Abdollahian said the UAE has not only endangered its security by cooperating with Israel, but it also has put the security of the whole region in danger, including the security of both energy supply routes and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"Netanyahu has treated the leaders of the Emirates so derogatorily that he felt the entire Emirates was like a Zionist settlement that he was going to unveil. This is a humiliation that was brought about by Mohammad bin Zayed to the people of the Emirates and the people of the entire region. We strongly deplore this. And we really hope that the sages of the Emirates change tack," Amir-Abdollahian said.

He also warned Saudi Arabia against cooperation with Israel, saying his warning to the UAE also applies to Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis have committed a "big betrayal" to the cause of Palestine by opening their airspace to an Israeli airline to fly over Saudi Arabia en route to the UAE, Amir-Abdollahian noted, referring to the first direct commercial flight operated by the Israeli airline El Al between Israel and the UAE on August 31.

The special aide warned that the Israelis sought to normalize relations with Arab countries to gain broad access to Arab and Muslim countries to disintegrate the region's countries including the UAE itself.

The Israelis want to carry out their "big Zionists plot," which aims to disintegrate the region as soon as possible, said Amir-Abdollahian, adding that Israel plans to partition even a small country like the UAE.

"Saudi Arabia will conclude from its relationship with the Zionist entity that the U.S.-Zionist plots to disintegrate Saudi Arabia will be implemented faster, and there is a similar view about the UAE as well. You might say that the UAE is not a big country, but the Zionists want, through their secret plots, to divide the UAE into seven separate states or regions, and this is what they have sought to achieve in recent years against Iran, Iraq, Syria, and even Egypt and Turkey," the Iranian official warned.

Iran has strongly criticized the UAE for deciding to sign normalization deal with Israel to normalize ties with Tel Aviv, calling it a "strategic stupidity" and a "treason" against the Palestinians.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran considers this 'shameful' action of Abu Dhabi in normalizing ties with the fake, anti-human and illegitimate Zionist regime a dangerous action and warns about any interference of the Zionist regime in equations of the Persian Gulf region and announces that the government of the Emirates and other accompanying governments must admit responsibility for consequences of this action," Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on August 14.

Iranian high-ranking officials including President Hassan Rouhani has warned the UAE against giving Israel a stronghold on Iran's doorstep, a move that could



further ratchet up tensions between Iran and the UAE.

"They thought that if they approach the Zionist regime, their security and economy would be ensured, while this is wrong and 100% condemned, and it is a clear betrayal to the Palestinian people, the cause of al-Quds and Muslims," the presidential website quoted President Rouhani as saying, days after the UAE announced the normalization deal with Israel.

"The rulers of the United Arab Emirates should know that they have gone in the wrong direction if they think that they can buy security for themselves by getting closer to the enemies of Islam and Iran," the president said, warning that "unfortunately, the United Arab Emirates has made a big mistake and we hope it would change its wrong tack. We warn them against giving Israel a foothold in the region, then they will be treated differently."

In a separate warning to the UAE, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hussein Bagheri also warned that the UAE would bear the responsibility for any harms to the national interest of Iran. He said that Iran will fundamentally change its approach toward the UAE.

"Definitely, the Iranian nation's approach towards this neighboring state [the UAE] will change fundamentally, and the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces will also deal with that country according to different calculations," the top general warned.

## UK considers extending Iran arms embargo as 'tool'

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — UK's Secretary of State for Defense Ben Wallace said that the arms embargo against Iran can be used as a tool to contain the country in the region.

Speaking to Saudi-owned al-Arabiya, Wallace accused Iran of conducting 'destabilizing behavior' in the region, noting that London could explore the option of extending the arms embargo on Iran as a means to bring Tehran 'into line'.

"Whoever breaches it [the Iran nuclear deal], causes us problems so we have to try and get to a place where we bring people back into line. Returning to the arms embargo, or not lifting the arms embargo, it



is one of the tool that we can all explore. For now we are trying to bring them back into compliance. The arms embargo doesn't

come out for a few weeks, that is where we can make other decisions," he said.

UK was one of the countries that abstained from voting on a draft resolution proposed by the United States to extend the UN arms embargo against Iran for an unlimited time.

The UK minister accused Iran of 'supporting terrorism' in the region "from the Lebanese Hezbollah, all the way to the Houthis in Yemen", adding that UK has no military ties with Iran.

Claims made by this minister against Iran are not surprising as London has a long history of implementing policies

imposed by Washington. From the other hand, his remarks reflect those made by German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas who had supported the extension of the arms embargo against Iran while also voicing support for the Zionist regime.

This shows that European countries are still incapable of pursuing an independent foreign policy, easily giving in to U.S. pressures.

According to the JCPOA, the arms embargo against Iran will expire on October 18. China and Russia have clearly voiced their opposition against any extension of the sanctions.

## Iran, Brazil to cement parliamentary cooperation

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Iranian envoy to Brasilia Hossein Gharibi congratulated the 100th anniversary of Brazil's independence, and said that Tehran-Brasilia parliamentary friendship group resumed activities at the country's National Congress.

The group comprises 93 senators and representatives from various political parties and resumed its activities after a two-year closure.

The parliamentary friendship group is seeking to set the ground for parliamentary relations aiming at promotion of political, economic and cultural ties.

The Iran and Brazil relations and joint efforts to remove economic damages in post-coronavirus era are of great importance for the group.

In relevant remarks last week, Special Advisor to Iran's Parliament Speaker for International Affairs Hossein Amir Abdollahian highlighted the importance of promotion of



Ian-Brazil ties, and lauded the South American country's independent policy.

"There are good grounds for bolstering of Iran-Brazil

ties in various fields," Amir Abdollahian said in a meeting with the Brazilian envoy to Tehran, Rodrigo de Azeredo Santos.

He praised Brazil's independent and impartial policy and underlined paying attention to Palestinians' rights.

The Iranian official pointed to Iran-Brazil friendship group in the 11th parliament, saying friendship groups play important role in facilitating relations.

"Iran-Brazil parliamentary friendship group and experts commission in Iranian parliament welcome exchanging delegations and consultations with counterparts in Brazil," he went on to say.

Azeredo Santos, for his part, said that there are common grounds for economic cooperation which can pave the way for deepening of relations.

He also discussed regional developments especially the Palestinian issue with the Iranian official.



# No doubt on Russian intent but Tehran doubtful of U.S., Iran says of Lavrov's talks offer

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Foreign desk Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh ruled out the possibility of dialogue with the U.S. following an offer to mediate between the two countries by Russia.

"We have no doubts about the intention of our friends in Russia, but what is doubtful is the U.S. intentions," Khatibzadeh said at a press conference on Monday.

"The United States has no shame to say that it is seeking [to cause] a nation's hunger," he deplored.

In recent remarks at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow was ready to hold talks with both sides to pave the way for direct talks between Tehran and Washington if both sides were interested.

"We believe that it is better to raise differences and issues directly and receive direct answers," the Russian foreign minister said.

He also pointed to the U.S.'s attempt to trigger the snapback mechanism under the 2015 Iran nuclear pact to reinstate the UN sanctions on Iran, saying that the attempts are doomed to failure.

Lavrov added that Washington has lost all its rights by withdrawing from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

**■ 'Swiss foreign minister's Iran visit not related to U.S.'**

In his Monday remarks, Khatibzadeh also said the visit by Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis to Iran has nothing to do with Iran-U.S. relations, ruling out any change in Tehran's approach toward Washington.

He ruled out any possibility of change in Iran's stance toward the U.S. as media speculation.

"We are aware of the U.S.'s intentions," he said, adding that this is while the Swiss government has hosted the financial chan-



nel for humanitarian goods with goodwill, honesty and transparency.

Cassis started a three-day tour of Iran starting with a visit to the touristic city of Isfahan on Saturday. He had visited Iran to celebrate centenary of diplomatic ties between Switzerland and Iran. In his talks with top officials in Tehran on Sunday and Monday, the sides discussed bilateral and regional issues.

Switzerland has represented U.S. interests in Iran since 1980 and has acted as a go-between to deescalate tensions between Tehran and Washington. It has also played a key role in paving the way for prisoner swap deals between the two countries.

Cassis's visit comes amid heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington, with the latter having recently resorted to a political ploy to reimpose the UN sanctions

on Iran under the 2015 nuclear agreement it ditched in May 2018.

The U.S. move, which comes under a mechanism commonly known as "snapback", has been rejected vehemently by other parties to the deal, including Iran on the one side and Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany on the other.

**■ Tehran welcomes legal, professional co-op with IAEA**

On Iran's recent granting of access to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to two places, Khatibzadeh said the measure was not related to the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The recent access was given under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA), he said. "As long as interactions are done legally and professionally, we will continue our relations with the Agency."

On August 26, at the end of IAEA chief Rafael Grossi's visit to Tehran, Iran and the IAEA issued a joint statement on agreements and the results of high-level talks between the two sides.

According to the statement, the IAEA and Iran "agreed to further reinforce their cooperation and enhance mutual trust" to facilitate the full implementation of Iran's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) and the Additional Protocol (AP) thereto, which is provisionally applied by Iran since January 16, 2016.

"After intensive bilateral consultations, Iran and the IAEA reached an agreement on the resolution of the safeguards implementation issues specified by the IAEA, in good faith. In this regard, Iran is voluntarily providing the IAEA with access to the two locations specified by the IAEA and facilitating the IAEA verification activities to resolve these issues," the statement said.

**■ Indian foreign minister to meet Zarif on Tuesday**

Elsewhere in his remarks, Khatibzadeh said Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar is scheduled to meet his counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tehran on Tuesday.

"Tomorrow, the Indian foreign minister will have a short visit to Tehran for a few hours on his way to Moscow, and will meet with the Iranian foreign minister," he said.

He pointed to a recent visit to Tehran by India's defense minister, saying Tehran and New Delhi have good bilateral defense relations.

"Our relations with India is multilayered and deep," he said, adding, "One of the aspects of our cooperation is fighting terrorism and providing security in the region."

The spokesman further said that Iran, as one of the region's powers, wants to play its role in establishing security in the region.

## Britain's debt to Iran not linked with imprisoned nationals, says MP

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Spokesman of the Majlis desk National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has reiterated Tehran's position that the issue of Britain's debt to Iran is not related to dual nationals' release from Iranian prisons.

"The British government's debt to the Iranian government is for the purchase of Chieftain tanks before the [Islamic] Revolution and this debt is completely clear and there's no ambiguity about it," Mehr on Monday quoted Abolfazl Amouei as saying.

Amouei said the money owed by the UK belongs to the Iranian people and should be paid back.

"There is no relation between the issue of some prisoners and the issue of Britain's debt to the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

The MP also hinted that the British government should first show its own goodwill toward Iran if it expects the Islamic Republic to show goodwill.

British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace has acknowledged for the first time that he is actively seeking to pay a debt to the Iranian government owed over a decades-old arms deal to secure the release of British dual nationals including Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

Wallace assured lawyers acting for the families that the



government was exploring every legal avenue to pay the debt, which for the first time he formally acknowledged the government owes. The Guardian reported on Friday.

The UK is thought to owe as much as £400m to the Iranian government arising from the non-delivery of Chieftain tanks ordered by the late Iranian Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

International arbitration in 2008 ruled the UK owed the debt, but in subsequent protracted court battles, lawyers

acting for International Military Services, the Ministry of Defense's now-defunct arms sales agency, have questioned not only the debt's size but at times whether any debt was payable.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Saturday that Britain's debt to Iran has no connection to the case of Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a dual British-Iranian national who is jailed in Iran, and other dual nationals imprisoned in the country.

"The British government has a definite 40-year long debt to Iran and it doesn't matter whether a British official acknowledges this debt or not," Khatibzadeh said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, through different communication lines and in all talks that it has had with the British side, has emphasized that this definite debt must be paid by the British government and this issue is not related to any other issue," he said.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 41, has been detained in Iran for more than four years on charges of trying to orchestrate a soft overthrow of the Islamic Republic.

The prosecutor general of Tehran had stated in October 2017 that she was being held for running "a BBC Persian online journalism course which was aimed at recruiting and training people to spread propaganda against Iran."

## Russian diplomat says U.S. has no chance to trigger snapback mechanism

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Mikhail desk Ulyanov, Russia's permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, has said that the United States has no chance to trigger the snapback mechanism and restore all the UN sanctions on Iran.

"Almost, all the member states to the Security Council have announced clearly that the United States cannot be considered a participant to the JCPOA [the 2015 nuclear deal]," he told IRNA in an interview published on Monday.

He added that the U.S. is trying to say that the snapback mechanism has been launched and that it can announce on September 20

that all sanctions can be returned.

However, it is only the interpretation of the U.S.

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 September 2 that the United States cannot initiate process of reinstating UN sanctions on Iran.

## Raisi: U.S., Europe backing drug traffickers

**1→** The actions of international organizations in support of Iran in the fight against narcotics do not go beyond words, and they do not have a serious resolve to eradicate narcotics and the problem of addiction, he said.

This is while, the Judiciary chief continued, it is no secret that Iran has the most honest approach in this regard.

"If we fight narcotics with power, authority, coordination and collective cooperation, we can resolve this issue in spite of all the wickedness of the U.S. and Europe and their support of the narcotics mafia," he said.

He also said the issue of narcotics is one of the most prioritized issues in the country, and dealing with it requires public determination.

Today, the issue of narcotics threatens the foundation of the families and the youth, and it has become a problem that has created many challenges in cultural, social, economic and moral spheres, and everyone must deal with it with

sensitively, Raisi maintained.

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

Brigadier General Eskandar Momeni, chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Drug Control Headquarters, said in July that Iran seized some 1,000 tons of narcotics in the previous Iranian calendar year (which ended on March 20, 2020), putting the country in the first place in the world.

The UNODC has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

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



**The actions of international organizations in support of Iran in the fight against narcotics do not go beyond words, and they do not have a serious resolve to eradicate narcotics and the problem of addiction, the top judge says.**

## SPORTS

### Fakhri appointed Iran's Chef de Mission for Asian Beach Games

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — The Executive Board of Iran's desk National Olympic Committee (NOC) has appointed Peyman Fakhri as the country's Chef de Mission for the Asian Beach Games 2020.



Fencing coach Fakhri also is Director of the National Teams' Monitoring Center in the NOC.

More than 2,000 athletes from more than 40 countries are expected to compete next year in 19 sports.

Iran will participate in the soccer, volleyball, handball, wrestling, athletic, kabaddi (men and women), sport climbing, water polo, swimming and 3x3 basketball (women) in the Games.

The 6th Asian Beach Games, originally slated for November in Sanya, China, will be postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic. The event will now be held from April 2 to 10, 2021.

The first edition of the Asian Beach Games took place in Bali, Indonesia, in 2008, and was followed by events in Muscat, Oman, in 2010, Haiyang in China in 2012, and Phuket, Thailand in 2014.

### Namjoo Motlagh named Esteghlal interim coach

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Majid Namjoo Motlagh has desk been appointed as Esteghlal football team interim coach.

Namjoo Motlagh was Farhad Majidi's assistant and took charge of the team after Majidi's resignation.

He will lead Esteghlal in Group A of the AFC Champions League.

Esteghlal, who sit third in the group, will meet the UAE's Al Wahda, Al Shorta of Iraq and Saudi Arabian Al Ahli.

Ex-Werder Bremen coach Alexander Nouri has been reportedly nominated to lead Esteghlal in the new season of Iran Professional League.

### Mojtaba Hosseini appointed Naft Masjed Soleyman coach

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Mojtaba Hosseini has been desk appointed as Naft Masjed Soleyman coach on Monday.

At the end of the last season, Mehdi Tartar walked away from his role as the team's head coach and Hosseini was chosen to replace him.

He has most recently headed First Division team Mes Kerman.

Hosseini, 46, has also worked in Persepolis as assistant coach and Zob Ahan as coach.

He also was a candidate to take charge of Zob Ahan for the Iran Professional League (IPL) upcoming season.

Naft Masjed Soleyman finished in eighth place last season under tutelage of Tartar.

### Persepolis midfielder Resan happy to extend contract

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iraqi international midfielder desk Bashar Resan is so happy after signing a two-year contract extension in Persepolis.

The 24-year-old midfielder joined Persepolis in 2017 and has won three Iran Professional League titles with the Reds as well as a Hazfi Cup and a Super Cup.

Resan had been linked with a move to Qatari football teams but will remain in Persepolis.

"I am very happy to stay in the club and I want to make our fans happy. First, we have to participate at the AFC Champions League and we concentrate on our four remaining matches. Then, we want to win Iran Professional League for the fifth time in a row."

The Iraqi international can help Persepolis qualify for the AFC Champions League knockout stage, where the Reds have been drawn with Al Taawoun of Saudi Arabia, Qatar's Al Duhail and Sharjah of the UAE.

### Esteghlal defender Gholami linked with Boavista

**Tasnim** — Esteghlal football team defender Aref Gholami has been linked with a move to Portuguese football team Boavista.

The 23-year-old center back, who joined Esteghlal in 2019 from Foolad, has canceled his contract with the Tehran-based football team.

Media reports suggest that Gholami is going to join Boavista.

Gholami had also been linked with Shahr Khodro but he will reportedly sign a contract with the Primeira Liga club.

Boavista are one of the oldest clubs in Portugal and play in the Primeira Liga, Portuguese football's top flight.



## Tire production increases 27% in 5 months yr/yr

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN**— Production of tire in Iran has risen 27 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As reported by IRNA, 115,983 tons of tires have been produced during the five-month period of this year.

It terms of number, 10,232 million tires have been produced, showing a 26-percent growth year on year.

Of the mentioned figure, 62,968 tons were the passenger car tires, which shows a 28-percent rise.

Some 9,268 tons of van tires were manufactured, indicating a 13-percent growth.

Also, 21,237 tons of bus tires were manufactured, showing a 10-percent rise.



Manufacturing of the tires of light agricultural machinery experienced a growth of 123 percent to stand at 2,223 tons, and that of the heavy ones rose 42 percent to stand at 7,832 tons.

Meanwhile, 2,401 tons of road building machinery tires were manufactured, with a 17-percent growth compared to the first five months of the past year.

The bicycle tire output stood at 772 tons, indicating 80 percent growth. Earlier last month, an official with Iran's Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry said that increasing the amount of investment making for the production of tire in the country is a necessity.

Kamran Kargar, the acting head of planning, supplying, and market regulating office of the ministry, said the consumption of tire is noticeable in Iran due to the country's big transportation fleet.

"Now the ground is properly prepared for the production of light and heavy vehicles tires in the country, and investment making will play a significant role both for the establishment of new production units and for launching development projects", the official noted.

Having the annual production capacity of 426,000 tons of tire, Iran accounts for 41 percent of tire output in the West Asian region, according to the deputy director of the non-metal industries office of the Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry.

Mohsen Safdari has said that 11 tire production units are active in the country creating jobs for 14,500 people.

He said 426,000 tons is the nominal capacity, while the real output is less than this figure as some units are working with 60-70 percent of their capacity.

"Iranian tire industry is dependent on foreign raw materials by 40 percent, so we are self-reliant by 60 percent in this field", the official announced.

## Non-oil exports via Chabahar port up 95%

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Export of non-oil products via Chabahar port, in southeast of Iran, has increased 95 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Behrooz Aqaei, the director-general of Sistan-Baluchestan Province, where the strategic port lies, said that the rise in the exports has been resulted through providing some equipment and preparing some infrastructure in the port, IRNA reported.

Lying on the coast of the Gulf of Oman in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Chabahar is the country's only oceanic port and given its strategic location in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) development of the port is of high significance for Iran.

Chabahar is believed to be the best and economical transit route into Afghanistan and Central Asian countries.

## TEDPIX drops 40,570 points on Monday

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, fell 40,570 points to 1.607 million on Monday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 5,322 billion securities worth 46.159 trillion rials (about \$1.099 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

The first market's index dropped 37,940 points, and the second market's index fell 48,539 points.

TEDPIX dropped five percent to 1.631 million points at the end of the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index 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.

## More than 700,000 tons of apple exported in a year

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran exported 700,000 tons of apples in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), the head of the Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran announced.

Saying that Iranian apple has been exported to Russia and Eurasian Economic Union's member countries in the past year, Ali Tahmasbi said exports of apple has had a proper status in the recent years, ILNA reported.

Tahmasbi said that 50 percent of the exported apples was produced in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province.

He also put the country's apple output at over four million tons in the previous year.

Iran's agricultural production stood at 125 million tons in the past year, according to the Agriculture Minister Kazem Khavazi.

The minister has said that the agricultural production is expected to reach 130 million tons in the current year.

"This year, the government is paying special attention to the agricultural sector for achieving self-sufficiency in most agricultural and strategic products," the official said.

He noted that apart from increasing production, the Agriculture Ministry also seeks to increase productivity by developing processing industries in this sector.

# Energy projects worth \$187m inaugurated

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Numerous energy projects worth over \$187 million were inaugurated in three provinces of Iran on Monday, IRNA reported.

In a ceremony attended by Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian, projects including establishment of some electricity transmission lines, power stations, and solar plants were inaugurated through video conference in Yazd and Kerman provinces.

Of the mentioned projects, 13 were put into operation in Yazd province, central Iran, with a total cost of 2.83 trillion rials (about \$67.3 million).

Seven projects, including a 400-KV electricity substation, were also inaugurated in the southeastern Kerman province, in which a total of 4.34 trillion rials (about \$103.3 million) was invested.

Meanwhile, 152 gas supply projects with a total cost of about 700 billion rials (about \$16.6 million) were inaugurated



in the western Kermanshah province in the presence of Oil Minister Bijan Nam-

dar Zanganeh and National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s Managing Director

## Small mines reviving program seriously followed up

By Ebrahim Fallahi

**TEHRAN** — Following the implementation of a program for reviving idle small mines across Iran, the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has revived 42 such mines in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

Based on the data released by Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company (IMPASCO), during the mentioned period, 510 mines across the country have been identified and prioritized under the framework of the small-scale mining reviving activation and development program.

Holding more than 10 joint technical committee meetings with investors, as well as holding meetings to activate the country's copper mines with the help of the National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) were reported as other measures taken in this program

during the past five months.

In early August, IMPASCO announced that the company has it on the agenda to revive and develop 1,020 mines, and construct 25 mineral processing units in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021).

According to the IMPASCO Head Vajihollah Jafari, the company has signed 32 memorandums of understanding for the development of the mining sector's various fields.

"These memorandums include 16 investment memoranda, eight research and training memorandums, six financing memorandums, and two memorandums related to startup development," he explained.

Back in April, the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Mining Committee had announced that more than 146 idle small mines were revived by the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on

## Annual pistachio output expected to rise up to 55,000 tons

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Chairman of Iran Dried Fruit Exporters Association (IDFEA) said the country's pistachio production is expected to increase by up to 55,000 tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021) compared to the previous year.

"This year's production is going to be better than last year and the output is expected to reach at least 200,000 to 230,000 tons from the last year's 175,000 tons," ILNA quoted Mohammad-Hassan Shams Fard as saying.

The official noted that despite the increase in production, the producers are facing some problems in exporting their products and receiving their payments.

"Sanctions have affected all of our activities, because we can hardly collect our export money; before the sanctions, Iranian traders used to have active bank accounts around the world, but this is no longer the case and this has led to problems for the exporters," Shams Fard said.

According to the IDFEA head, China was the first destination for Iranian pistachios in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended



on March 19), followed by Europe in second place and Arab countries in third place.

"Currently, some of our European trade partners are taking advantage of the U.S. sanctions; for example, when we export goods, they use the excuse of banking problems to delay our payment and say that there is no possibility of formal and legal exchanges. They know that if they do not pay, nothing special will happen and Iranian businessmen will not be able to do anything."

About the latest situation of the global market for the mentioned product market, Shams Fard said: "Last year, each ton of pistachio was sold for \$8,000 and now the prices have fallen to \$6,500 because the United States has lowered the prices for its products."

## Railway fleet receives 70 domestically-made, renovated wagons, locomotives

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian railway fleet received 70 new domestically-made or renovated locomotives and wagons on Monday, IRNA reported.

As the fifth stage of a program for renovation of the country's railway fleet in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), 59 freight wagons, two renovated passenger wagons and nine locomotives joined the railway fleet on the mentioned day.

The current Iranian calendar year is named the year of "Surge in Production" by Leader of Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei, and since the year start, the national railway fleet has constantly received new domestically-made locomotives and wagons.

At the first stage, which was on April 28, the fleet received 56 new domestically-made locomotives and wagons.

As reported by the portal of Transport Ministry, over 1.25 trillion rials (about \$29.7 million) was invested by six domestic companies for the manufacturing of the mentioned wagons and locomotives.

As for the second stage, 88 wagons

Hasan Montazer Torbati.

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

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

Back in August, Ardakanian said that in the second phase of the A-B-Iran scheme 250 projects are going to be inaugurated by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

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

March 20).

According to Bahram Shakouri, in addition to reviving and developing small-scale mines, 2,130 small mineral zones were also identified and 364 projects were defined for them.

Earlier in January, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Head Khodadad Gharibpour had mentioned the plan for reviving idle mines as one of the most significant plans of "Resistance Economy", saying that his organization was strongly determined to pursue it.

Holding 68 types of different minerals, Iran stands at the 10th place in the world in terms of diversity of its mineral reserves.

The country has over 60 billion tons of untapped mineral deposits, of which 40 billion tons are proven reserves, placing Iran at the 15th place globally.

and locomotives were added to the fleet, while in the third round 65, and in the fourth stage 50 wagons and locomotives joined the fleet.

In total, since the beginning of the current year, 778 wagons and locomotives worth 12.7 trillion rials (over \$302 million) have joined Iran's railway fleet.

According to the Iranian Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami, all the locomotives and wagons added to the country's railway fleet have been made by domestic companies.

In late December 2019, the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways celebrated the addition of 243 domestically-made wagons and locomotives to the country's fleet.

Valued at 3.4 trillion rials (about \$80.9 million), the mentioned wagons and locomotives were made by three different companies namely, Wagon Pars, Iranian Rail Industries Development Company, and Foolad Derakhshan Arak Company.

Back in September 2019, another 213 domestically-made wagons and locomotives had been added to the country's fleet.

## 250 production companies ready to join stock market

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** - Iranian Deputy Industry Minister Saeed Zarendi said that 250 production companies have announced readiness for offering their shares in the stock exchange, ILNA reported.

"The goal is to use capital market capacities to boost production, and now 250 companies have announced their readiness to enter the stock market," Zarendi said.

Mentioning the problem that the industry sector is facing for funding its projects, the official noted that the banking system, alone, cannot provide enough capital for the industry sectors so new sources of capital are to be utilized.

"According to our calculations, we needed 5.75 quadrillion rials (which is about \$137 billion) to manage the industry sectors like the previous year (ended on March 19) even without considering the goals of the surge in production [for the current year], and the banking system has announced that only 3.25 quadrillion rials

(about \$77.3 billion) can be allocated to this sector so we have moved towards using the capital market," he explained.

The first step in this direction was to acquaint the production units with the steps for entering the stock market, he said.

The official further stressed that to remove barriers in the way of the production, it is necessary for all governmental bodies to amend their perspective, and to focus their strategies and policies on the development of advanced industries, and on industries with higher value-added.

In early June, Zarendi had said that 100 production companies were expected to be listed on the stock exchange of the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

Making the remarks during a meeting on expanding financial resources for the production sector through the

capital market, the official noted, "The industrial data for the previous years indicate that the main problem in industry and production sectors and also trade sector is lack of liquidity, and it is while the country is facing a high volume of liquidity."

The current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20) is named the year of "Surge in Production" by the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

While materializing this motto requires all-out cooperation between the state-owned and private bodies, the country's stock market is taking some big steps to play a significant role in this due.

The market is trying to attract the liquidity existing in the society toward production and development projects, and many ministries and organizations including the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development have already announced that they are planning to fund their development projects through the stock market.

## Export from Kermanshah province increases 9%

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN**— Exports from Iran's western Kermanshah province rose nine percent in terms of weight during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to a provincial official.

Khalil Heidari, the director-general of Kermanshah Customs Administration, said 2.23 million tons of goods have been exported from the province during the five-month period of

this year, Mehr news agency reported.

The official put the value of exported products at \$902.14 million, indicating one percent growth year on year.

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.



# Implications of a Biden victory for Iran?

By Mohammad Mazhari

Only about two months are left to the U.S. presidential election. According to opinion polls, the presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden has a better chance of winning the November 3 elections.

Due to such predictions, some politicians have cherished the Democratic nominee's possible victory, thinking that Biden would revive international deals, especially the 2015 nuclear deal.

Beyond that, some observers say the Iranian presidential elections in 2021 will be affected by the result of presidential elections in the United States.

How realistic is such a speculation about the next year's presidential election in Iran is not the subject of this article. The question is whether a Biden victory will mean the return of the United States to the nuclear deal.

On May 8, 2018, Donald Trump pulled out of the nuclear deal and imposed sweeping economic and financial sanctions on Iran.

The U.S. administration declared that it follows the policy of «maximum pressure» on Tehran to force Iran to agree to a new nuclear deal. Following the imposition of sanctions, after a year of strategic patience, Iran began to reduce its obligations under the terms of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the nuclear agreement.

The U.S. claimed that its exit from the JCPOA is intended to «restrict Iran's regional influence.» After the pullout, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo set out 12 tough demands for inclusion in a new nuclear treaty with Iran.



**Unlike the Trump term, it is expected that process of pushing Iran toward a new nuclear deal would accelerate if Biden wins due to the policies that Democrats pursue.**

The most important conditions he put forward were changing Iran's regional policy, stopping its missile defense program, and making some of the restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities permanent.

Almost the same conditions are unequivocally agreed upon by the Democrats, who also believe that Iran's power and influence in the region need to be brought under control.

Like Republicans, they also see Tehran as a challenging player in West Asia.

Countries' macro-strategies and foreign policies seldom undergo fundamental changes in short period of time, and the U.S. is no exception.

That is why the Democratic Party's draft for the 2020 elections, although it includes a return to the nuclear deal, puts emphasis on other restrictions, including the need for missile and re-

gional talks with Iran.

The recently published 80-page 2020 Democratic Party Platform clearly specifies most of these restrictions if the nuclear deal is to be revived.

Democrats also explicitly have stated that they will never remove the option of sanctions and war from the table against Iran.

European countries also agree with the Republicans and Democrats in following such a policy. However, the difference is how to implement these policies.

Europe has been a junior partner of the United States from the very beginning of nuclear negotiations with Iran, and it has not played an independent role throughout this process.

Unlike the Trump term, it is expected that process of pushing Iran toward a new nuclear deal would accelerate if Biden wins due to the policies that Democrats pursue. In that situation, a coalition may emerge against Iran on both sides of the Atlantic.

It seems that the nuclear deal is practically over. Even if the Democrats win, it is very unlikely that they would return to the deal without setting new terms or conditions. They will sit at the negotiating table only if changes are made to the nuclear deal, changes that would include new conditions.

Accordingly, it can be said that there is no drastic differences between Trump and Biden's approaches towards the nuclear deal. While some in Iran and abroad have bet on the results of American elections to resolve the problems facing the world, policies by the Republicans and Democrats suggest that the U.S. hardly changes its long-term strategies.

## Iran, Turkey, and Qatar can form alliance: Hamas representative in Tehran

➔ Regarding the ceasefire details, I should say that it is not an ideal situation, but this is a victory for our people who have always exercised their right to live in peace like any other nation in the world.

In fact, it was a step to regulate the situation through borders and checkpoints. It is to allow more power supply to Gaza. Today we only have 4 hours of electricity, and in the remaining hours we have a power cut. We have decided to establish a new electricity plant that is powered by gas.

Therefore, we also are going to get access to medical facilities and get permission for the fishermen to move beyond 12 miles.

This is not the ideal situation we are looking for, but we have achieved a formula that will decrease the violations of deals as Israel targets the civilians, kills them and bombards them without being punished. If they want calm for their own citizens, they have to think of other people who live on the other side of the land. They (Palestinians) are legal owners of the land but they are suffering; so their lives matter and should be secured. I think we can consider this formula a victory for the resistance movement.

■ What is the stance of Hamas towards the normalization of ties between Israel and the Emirates?

A: First of all, we have condemned and still condemning this sort of deal not only between the Emirates and the Israeli enemy but between any country in the region and Israel, because this enemy has to be punished and not to be rewarded. They must understand that they have committed crimes and they should abide by the rules, regulations and resolutions passed in favor of the victims (Palestinians). We should not go and reward them for killing our kids through normalizing ties with them. This deal simply is a concession given by the Emirates to Netanyahu and Trump, two persons who are suffering a lot of political crises in their own regimes.

Trump today is suffering a total fiasco at all levels; at social and medical spheres, he cannot even deal with the millions who are infected by a virus. He has nothing to offer for the voters in the upcoming election. He thought that he could present himself as someone who



could help to secure Israel and create a good record for himself to use in the election campaigns.

On the other hand, the extremist and rightist prime minister of the Israeli regime, Netanyahu, faces a trial in a corruption case, a crisis that disqualifies him to run for the fourth election. Now, his government is the weakest in history of Israel.

Today this deal may grant him some help to move forward, but this deal is a big mistake committed by the Emirates against our people. It is nothing to favor our people as they claim, and it is nothing even to favor their own people. It is nothing to benefit any country in the region. It is the repetition of Camp David I and Camp David II's bad experience, and today they are making the same mistakes and moving in the wrong path and approach to deal with the conflict and deal with the disaster happening inside the Middle East (West Asia) and Palestine. In fact, Israel, instead of being punished, is rewarded by the normalization of ties.

■ Why countries like Turkey, Iran, and Qatar have not formed an alliance to resist the Israeli occupation? Do you expect such an alliance in the future?

A: Yes, I do agree with you. We are in dire need of a strong coalition in the region to repel any threat and reject all foreign interventions; we can stand solid and strong in all areas, including economy, culture

and politics. You are very right that Turkey, Iran, and Qatar, and all others to join such a coalition. It is the right recipe for the dignity and prosperity of the region and Islamic countries.

Nothing should prevent them because they make billions of dollars annually. From an economic point of view, they are successfully managing their trade and economy, but unfortunately we still haven't reached a common view on the political situation in the region. And I emphasize this point that we absolutely need to move forward together. Because today all of us face the same threat by Israel. Israel is directly involved in the destabilization of the countries you mentioned, collaborating a coup, expanding its soft power in these countries, and smart attacks against different Muslim and Arab capitals. So it is the time to move forward, and I believe that the Palestinian cause can unite all of us regardless of the differences in terms of race or sect.

We can have a consensus on the Palestinian issue, and we are ready to unite all those members and brothers. The only enemy is the Israeli regime.

■ How do you evaluate Iran-Hamas relations in the current time?

A: I believe we are enjoying an ideal situation, a very good strategic relationship. Today and after 23 years of relations, we are moving with common understanding to face one enemy, which is involved in many destabilizing activities in our countries, including Iran. The decision-makers in Iran knew, and now they see that we all have the same destiny, and we face the same enemy, and we need to remove it from the region.

This entity is the only cause of instability. Our relations are multi-dimensional today. It is not only at the military level, it is also at political level, planning level, and we have a common understanding of many political issues. There are collaboration at the discussion level, meeting level, and this collaboration is also being implemented practically in multi visits between Iranian brothers and us either in Tehran or in the region. I hope that we move towards more proper and more strategic steps in favor of the unity of Muslim Ummah and facing the common enemy (Israel).

Maria Schmid.

Following the meeting, the Commission released a statement and reaffirmed the importance of preserving the agreement recalling that it is a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture.

Participants also "reaffirmed that the United States unilaterally announced its cessation of participation in the JCPOA on 8 May 2018 and that it had not participated in any JCPOA-related activities subsequently... therefore [it] could not be considered as a participant State."

Earlier, Washington announced plans to trigger the snapback mechanism to reinstate all UN sanctions against Iran after failing to get the UN Security Council to pass a resolution aiming to extend the arms UN embargo on Iran indefinitely.



The meeting of the Joint Commission to the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was held on Tuesday. It was co-chaired by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and European External Action Service Secretary-General Helga

## Iraq War supporter wants a tripling of U.S. population to 'beat the Chinese'

In a book to be released this month, a controversial case is presented for America reasserting itself on the global stage by sheer numbers alone. The argument carries a number of dangerous trapdoors that need to be exposed.

According to RT, occasionally a book comes along that captivates the imagination of the establishment gatekeepers less by the intellectual foundation upon which it is built than by its extreme ideological tilt. 'One Billion Americans' by Vox journalist Matt Yglesias promises to be that book. The premise is simple to the point of absurdity, and I quote: "To stay on top, we probably need to grow the country threefold – to one billion Americans."

The author has a quintessentially liberal solution for reaching that astronomic number – "more immigrants and more programs to support people who want ... additional children." Before delving into that proposal, what emergency could be so pressing that the United States needs another 700 million Americans vying for living space on an already crowded planet?

## India passes Brazil for world's second most virus cases

India overtook Brazil Monday as the country with the second highest number of confirmed coronavirus cases, even as key metro train lines re-opened as part of efforts to boost the South Asian nation's battered economy.

India has emerged in recent weeks as the new global pandemic hotspot, although cases continue to soar across the globe with reported infections worldwide nearing 27 million and deaths surpassing 880,000, AFP reported.

France, Israel and Australia were among the nations forced in recent days to extend travel restrictions or impose new ones to try and contain fresh surges.

India, home to some of the world's most densely populated cities, has been reporting the highest single-day rises in the world and Monday it confirmed a new record of nearly 91,000 new cases.

## UK-EU tensions mount ahead of fresh Brexit talks

Brexit trade talks have plunged into crisis on the eve of a penultimate round of negotiations in London, after the United Kingdom warned the European Union that it could effectively override the divorce deal it signed unless the bloc agrees to a free trade deal by October 15.

Tensions mounted on Monday, with chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier saying he was "worried" about negotiations, and that he will seek clarification from London about plans to renege on commitments, al Jazeera reported.

The UK is reportedly planning new legislation that will override key parts of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement - a step that, if implemented, could jeopardise a treaty signed in January and stoke tension in Northern Ireland.

Sections of the internal market bill, due to be published on Wednesday, are expected to "eliminate the legal force of parts of the withdrawal agreement" in areas including state aid and Northern Ireland customs, the Financial Times newspaper said on Monday, citing three people familiar with the plans.

## Belarus protest leader 'abducted' after mass anti-gov't march

Belarusian protest leader Maria Kolesnikova has been abducted by unidentified individuals in central Minsk, according to the Belarusian Tut.By media outlet, citing a witness.

Masked men took her and drove off in a minivan, said Tut.By.

The development on Monday came hours after security forces arrested 633 protesters following a mass anti-government rally on Sunday, the latest since the disputed August election.

Police in Minsk said they had not arrested Kolesnikova, according to Russia's Interfax news agency.

Kolesnikova is the last one left in Belarus of three female politicians who joined forces before the August 9 presidential election to challenge longtime leader Alexander Lukashenko.

## Resistance News

## Sheikh Sabri warns of Israeli intents to close Aqsa Mosque

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN**— Sheikh Ekrima Sabri, head of the Higher Islamic Council in Occupied Jerusalem, has warned of Israel intents to exploit the coronavirus crisis in order to close the Aqsa Mosque to Muslim worshippers.

"The occupation is using the coronavirus pandemic as a flimsy pretext to escalate the situation at the Aqsa Mosque, carry out its plans, take the Mosque's affairs off the hands of the Islamic Awqaf and shut it down," Sheikh Sabri said, affirming that the Islamic Awqaf would not allow such thing to happen.

He expressed his regret that the Aqsa Mosque has no presence on the agendas of the Arabs and Muslims, whose "compass has deviated from Jerusalem."

Sheikh Sabri made his remarks after the Hebrew media revealed Israeli intents to shut down the Aqsa Mosque and prevent Muslim prayers at the pretext of fighting the virus.

## U.S. has no credibility in UN Security Council

**TEHRAN** — A former Iranian diplomat, Abdolreza Faraji-rad, says what happened in the UN Security Council was a historic defeat for the U.S. after World War II and destroyed Washington's credibility.

In an interview with Mehr News Agency, Faraji-rad elaborated on U.S. recent failure in the UN Security Council.

Referring to U.S. efforts to adopt an anti-Iranian resolution to reinstate UN sanctions within a so-called 'snapback mechanism', Faraji-rad noted that the U.S. failed twice in UN Security Council in recent weeks, which is considered a historic defeat for the country.

"The Europeans are very pleased with [IAEA chief] Rafael Grossi's visit to Iran and the agreement between the two sides, which led to more cooperation between

Tehran and IAEA to protect JCPOA," he added.

He went on to say that if Europe assumes that Joe Biden will be winning in the next presidential election, it will continue its current path.

"Europeans may be forced to change their stance out of fear if anything happens that increases the chances of Donald Trump winning the election," he highlighted.

The former diplomat maintained that the agreement between Iran and the IAEA was a positive move and prompted Russia, China, and Europe to bolster their support for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Faraji further noted that Trump's team would escalate tensions with Iran if they think that they have less chance than Biden to win the next presidential election.



## Rent exemption to ease pandemic impact on private tourism businesses

➔ **1** Mounesan 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.”



Over the past couple of years, tens of historical places and monuments have been similarly ceded to the private sector. Upon an initiative scheme, the Fund (known by its Persian acronym Saabta) provides the opportunity for privately-owned businesses to run certain old structures to be maintained and repurposed into hotels, traditional restaurants or lodging places. According to cultural heritage officials, this sort of investment seems to be attractive for private investors, because accommodation in [well-preserved] monuments is attractive for both domestic and foreign tourists.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced last December that of the numerous historical buildings and structures that are scattered across Iran, some 2,500 ones need restoration.

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

## 1953 Citroen ends round-the-globe rally at Royal Cars Museum in Tehran

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A 1953 Citroen participating in various car rallies including one around the world in 80 days has ended up being kept at the Royal Cars Museum in northern Tehran.

The classic car was belonging to a Switzerland-based Iranian couple, who wanted to take part in a car exhibit in 2011. However, it became deserted for years at Bazargan border customs initially to get a license plate.



However, the owners could not clear the car through customs in the span of several years so it was to put on the auction according to the law.

In the long run, with the efforts of the office of the museums and historical properties at the tourism ministry in collaboration with the Touring and Automobile Club of Iran, the deserted car was handed over to the tourism ministry back in August.

The car has been registered as a historical and classic car in Switzerland and has been exhibited in several museums in this country. It has also participated in all major world classic rallies including ones being held in France and Germany.

On Sunday, it was eventually delivered to the Royal Cars Museum, which is located at the Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex in northern Tehran. Sprawled on about 110 hectares of a mountainside parkland, the Sa'dabad complex was once a royal summer residence during the Qajar era (1789–1925) and its subsequent Pahlavi epoch (1925–1979).

## Ancient handicrafts of Iran: Hasir Bafi

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — With its several-thousand-year-old history, Hasir Bafi, or mat weaving, is one of the oldest handicrafts. It is not known when and where this craft was first invented.

But archeologists have discovered traces of mat weavings on plaster pieces that belong to six thousand years ago. The oldest piece of Hasir in Iran belongs to Shahdad of Kerman province.

Mat weaving, that is wearing thin reeds through cotton yarns, has not changed from ancient Egypt until today. Booria Bafi, that is a kind of mat weaving, is still considered an important craft and is used as the roof cover of clay houses. Therefore, Hasir Bafi, which also includes Bambo Bafi and Morvar Bafi, is a very ancient craft and include products woven by leaves, stems and foliage of plants. Since parts of plants are used in it, it is considered as the first products of human that was created with the beginning of sedentary lifestyle and agriculture.

Depending on the geographical environment, the raw material of Hasir in different parts of Iran are: leaflets of Date trees, leaflets of Wild Date trees or Porak, female Wild Date or Daz, stems of reeds from tropical lagoons of Khuzestan, cold regions of Zarivar lake, Anzali lagoon, lands surrounding Hamun Lake, wheat stems from provinces of Zanjan, Azerbaijan and etc.

The tools of Hasir Bafi are very simple and limited including sickle, file, scissors, needle and stitching awl. This art-craft is common in provinces of Sistan and Balouchestan, Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Hormozgan, Bushehr, Kerman, Yazd, Fars, Mazandaran, Gilan and Tehran.

# UNESCO assessor to visit Uraman landscape in western Iran

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — A senior **d e s k** expert affiliated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization will arrive in Iran in September to visit and review the current status of the Uraman rural landscape in western Iran, which is a candidate for becoming a World Heritage site in 2021.

“An assessor of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization will be traveling to Kord-estan by the end of [the Iranian month of] Shahrivar (which ends on Sep. 21) in order to review the status of Uraman rural landscape for [possibly] being registered in the UNESCO World Heritage list,” IRAN quoted Pouya Talebnia, the director of the cultural landscape, as saying on Monday.

“We are finalizing [preparation] the villages of the Uraman region before the UNESCO assessor pays a visit,” Talebnia said, adding “Previously, a UNESCO adviser visited the region and provided us with a report on what changes and works needed to be done.”



“That will be the last [field] step for the global registration of Uraman, and the UNESCO evaluator [will probably] recommend us to solve issues within six months, and next year, on such days, a voting session will be held for the registration of Uraman on UNESCO list.”

The visit, which was scheduled for

late May and early June, was postponed to late in summer over the coronavirus outbreak in the country, Kermanshah tourism chief Omid Qaderi announced on Early in May.

Iran submitted the UN body a dossier for the Uraman cultural landscape in 2019. Some eighty experts in various fields com-

pleted and developed the dossier in terms of anthropology, archeology and history, natural sciences, architecture, historical documents, and other related fields.

Local officials believe that inscription of the property on the prestigious list of the UN body could jumpstart tourism in the region and also look at it as a tool for better conservation of its natural landscapes and unique cultural scenes for the next generations, saying its unique rural texture, architecture, lifestyle, and agriculture is a prominent example of the integration of man into nature.

Uraman is considered a cradle of Kurdish art and culture from the days of yore. Pirshalyar, which is named after a legendary local figure, is amongst time-honored celebrations and rituals that are practiced annually across the region.

Stretched on a steep slope in Uraman Takht rural district of Sarvabad County, the village is home to dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness.

## Archaeological survey finds prehistorical hatch to Apadana Palace in Persepolis

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Archaeologists have recently discovered a prehistorical hatch to Apadana Palace, a majestic ruined royal complex within the UNESCO-registered Persepolis, southern Iran.

“The hatch was discovered in the eastern part of Apadana Palace, and it was created during the Achaemenid period to repel the surface water of the courtyard, and after this period, it was hidden due to the destruction of the complex,” said archaeologist Ali Asadi who leads a survey at the ruined palace, IRNA reported on Monday.

This vent, like its other counterparts across the Palace, measures 40 cm by 40 cm, connecting the yard surface to underground ducts, Asadi explained.

The archaeologist expressed hope that by sloping the space around the vent, the problem of overflowing at the eastern courtyard of Apadana Palace could be solved, and through this, a better situation could be created to protect this section of Persepolis.

Last month, the remains of 13 ancient skeletons, 11 of which human remains, were discovered at olden water ducts of Persepolis, shedding new light on the way of life in the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid

Empire (c. 550 -330 BC).

By far the largest and most magnificent building is the Apadana, begun by Darius and finished by Xerxes, which was used mainly for great receptions by the kings. Thirteen of its seventy-two columns still stand on the enormous platform to which two monumental stairways, on the north and on the east, give access.

They are adorned with rows of beautifully executed reliefs showing scenes from the New Year's festival and processions of representatives of twenty-three subject nations of the Achaemenid Empire, with court notables and Persians and Medes, followed by soldiers and guards, their horses, and royal chariots.

Delegates in their native attire, some completely Persian in style, carry gifts as a token of their loyalty and as a tribute to the king. These gifts include silver and gold vessels and vases, weapons, woven fabrics, jewelry, and animals from the delegates' own countries.

Although the overall arrangement of scenes seems repetitive, there are marked differences in the designs of garments, headdresses, hairstyles, and beards that give each delegation its own distinctive character and



make its origin unmistakable.

Persepolis was occupied and burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as a revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

## Collector donates Sassanid silver coins to national museum

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian **d e s k** collector has donated over 50 silver coins dating back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) to the Astan Quds Razavi Museum, a vast cultural heritage exhibition located in the holy shrine complex of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad, northeast Iran.

“The silver coins, donated by Hossein Mahmoudian, date back to the Sassanid era and bear depictions of kings Peroz, Kavad I, Khosrow I, Hormizd IV, amongst others,” a curator of the museum said.

“Hossein Mahmoudian, the benefactor, has previously donated the museum



several precious works including a handwritten copy of the holy Quran, and rare

manuscripts,” the curator added.

In many ways, Iran under the Sassanian rule witnessed tremendous achievements of Persian civilization. Experts say that the art and architecture of the nation experienced a general renaissance during Sassanid rule.

In that era, crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, as scholarship was encouraged by the state; many works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the official language of the Sassanians.

Of all the material remains of the era, only coins constitute a continuous

chronological sequence throughout the whole period of the dynasty. Such Sassanian coins have the name of the king for whom they were struck inscribed in Pahlavi, which permits scholars to date them quite closely.

The legendary wealth of the Sassanian court is fully confirmed by the existence of more than one hundred examples of bowls or plates of precious metal known at present. One of the finest examples is the silver plate with partial gilding in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The dynasty was destroyed by Arab invaders during a span from 637 to 651.

## Oriental Institute and its Persian expeditions in 1930s

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — During the winter of 1930-31, the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago organized a Persian Expedition to conduct excavations in the largely unexplored mountainous regions east and southeast of the Mesopotamian plain.

James Henry Breasted requested, and was granted, a concession to excavate the remains of Persepolis, an Achaemenid royal administrative center in the province of Fars, according to the Oriental Institute.

Thanks to an anonymous benefactress, work started the same year under the direction of Ernst Herzfeld, Professor of Oriental Archaeology at the University of Berlin. Herzfeld served as director of the Persian Expedition until the end of 1934, when he was succeeded by Erich Schmidt, who continued to excavate in the region until 1939.

Over an eight-year period, the Persian Expedition worked not only in the royal center of Persepolis, but also at a number of sites that fell within a radius of 10 km. - the two prehistoric mounds of Tall-e Bakun, an Achaemenid tower and tombs of the Achaemenid kings at Naqsh-e Rostam, and portions of the Sasanian/Islamic city of Istakhr. In addition, Erich Schmidt led two air-reconnaissance and ground expeditions into the mountains of Lurestan in 1935-36 and 1937.

### ■ Persepolis

Persepolis was founded as a royal administrative center by the Achaemenid king Darius I between 520 and 510 BC and was destroyed by the troops of Alexander the Great in 330 BC.

The Oriental Institute cleared and investigated most of the buildings that stand on the Achaemenid terrace, including the gatehouse of King Xerxes, the great audience hall (Apadana) with its monumental eastern stairway begun by Darius and finished by Xerxes; the treasury of the Persian kings; the residential areas; and fortifications including garrison quarters along the eastern edge of the terrace.

### ■ Naqsh-e Rostam

Over the course of several seasons, the Persian Expedition conducted archaeological excavations at Naqsh-e



A view of Naqsh-e Rustam, a royal necropolis in southern Iran.

Rustam and recorded the major monuments on the site.

Darius the Great and his three successors chose the imposing cliff face at Naqsh-e Rostam, north of Persepolis, as the site of their rock-cut tombs. Near these tombs stands a square tower, which may have been built by Darius I to shelter the royal fire of the Achaemenid monarchs. Both the tower and the royal tombs were enclosed in a sacred precinct, whose outer wall, with rounded towers, was traced by Herzfeld. Further Oriental Institute excavations within the precinct revealed occupation extending from the Achaemenid into the Early Islamic period (ca. 500 BC-800 CE).

During the early Sasanian period (third-fourth centuries CE), numerous reliefs were carved into the foot of the rock-cut tombs, indicating that the site continued to play a significant role during the reigns of later rulers.

### ■ Tall-e Bakun

The Oriental Institute excavated the two low mounds of Tall-e Bakun, southeast of Persepolis, in 1932 and 1937. Mound A was found to contain at least four levels of prehistoric houses dating roughly to 4000 BC.

The main level was surprisingly well preserved, suggesting a sudden abandonment of the settlement. The walls of some of the houses were preserved to a height of 6-7 feet and bore the remains of geometric wall paintings

in red and yellow. Resting on the floors, as though still in use, were knives and other household utensils, including cooking pots that still contained the bones of the meat that was being prepared in them. Much of the pottery found on Mound A bore elaborate painted designs of extraordinary beauty and sophistication.

Mound B was comprised of earlier remains (ca. 4600 BC) of a culture that used only unpainted wares.

### ■ Flights over ancient Iranian cities and the Holmes expeditions to Lurestan

On August 7, 1935, a Waco biplane, donated by Erich Schmidt's wife, Mary-Helen Warden Schmidt, arrived in Teheran. Over the next two years, Schmidt used the plane, which he christened “Friend of Iran,” to photographically document the sites he was excavating and to make aerial explorations of other parts of the country.

In 1935-36 and 1937, Erich Schmidt led two expeditions into the rugged mountains of Lurestan. Both endeavors combined aerial surveys from the plane with archaeological excavations in an attempt to learn as much as possible about this little explored region of Iran.

In addition, the group prepared maps and compiled data concerning temperature, altitude, landscape, and the local population. They conducted brief excavations at more than a dozen sites, one of the most interesting of which was Surkh Dum-e Luri in the Kuhdasht plain.

Here they cleared several levels of a sanctuary dating to the first half of the first millennium BC. The shrine contained quantities of votive offerings to the goddess Ninlil, including cylinder and stamp seals and quantities of bronze pins with elaborately decorated heads.

The Oriental Institute's collection of bronzes from Surkh Dum-e Luri is a unique corpus. It is the only large collection of excavated Lurestan bronzes in the world. The vast majority of “Lurestan Bronzes” are of unknown origin, and forgeries are common among them. The Oriental Institute's collection plays a pivotal role in all efforts to define the characteristics - both stylistic and scientific - of excavated Luresstan bronzes against which those purchased on the art-market can be evaluated.



# Iran outlines measures to combat food insecurity caused by COVID-19

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Zahra Abdolkhani, director of the community nutrition improvement office of the Ministry of Health, described the country's measures taken against food insecurity caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the report of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating effects along with domestic conditions such as inflation and economic shocks increase the risk of food insecurity and hunger in the world. Malnutrition plays an important role in COVID-19 development, people with weakened immune systems or non-communicable diseases are more vulnerable to the disease.

COVID-19 has negatively affected all aspects of food security, including food availability, accessibility, productivity, and stability.

Decreased purchasing power due to job loss, rising food prices, inflation, domestic and international conditions lead to the consumption of food without nutritional value and reduced physical activity which will cause malnutrition along with obesity and overweight.

Iran is trying to implement the support programs while maintaining the achievements in significantly reducing malnutrition in children under five years, which is the result of recent efforts in the country, protect the nutritionally vulnerable groups including pregnant women, children under five years, and the elderly, against COVID-19, she explained.

She went on to note that according to the results of national surveys conducted in five-year periods, during two short decades, nutritional short stature, which is caused by chronic malnutrition, has decreased from about 20 percent to about 4 percent, and children's underweight from about 17 to 3.8 percent.

Iran's measures toward a 75 percent reduction in the prevalence of child malnutrition have been officially recognized and praised by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), she highlighted.

Among the measures being taken in the current context of the corona crisis in the country is the identification of children



under the age of five with malnutrition through electronic health records and their introduction to support organizations, she stated.

Since the coronavirus outbreak, about 47,000 financially struggling families with malnourished children under the age of five received livelihood assistance, she added.

Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation provides monthly food purchase assistance to the caregivers of 40,000 malnourished children under the age of five, identified with the Ministry of Health, and seeks to increase the number of children covered, she further said.

The nutrition support program for pregnant women with malnutrition is being implemented by the Ministry of Health, and efforts are being made to meet the nutritional needs of mothers by issuing a defined food purchase card on a monthly basis. So, 80,000 pregnant women are covered by nutritional support, she also explained.

Micronutrient supplement program is under implementation, under which supplements like vitamin D, iron, folic acid, multivitamin minerals are distributed free of charge among pregnant women, children under two years, the elderly, and students

to strengthen the immune system against the virus, she added.

At a time when some countries are exposed to food insecurity due to the economic consequences of the pandemic, Iran has put the issue of food security on the agenda and by implementing support programs for vulnerable groups despite credit constraints and oppressive sanctions, she concluded.

The number of people diagnosed with coronavirus in Iran reached 388,810 on Monday, of whom 22,410 have died and 335,572 recovered so far. Over the past 24 hours, 2,152 new cases of people having the virus have been identified, and 117 died, Sima Sadat Lari ministry of health's spokesman said.

Currently, 3,737 patients with coronavirus are in critical condition, she added.

## ■ Hunger increases worldwide

A new report jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO shows that currently around 690 million people, or 8.9 percent of the world population are hungry. Compared to the previous figures, this number is up by 10 million people in one year and by nearly 60 million in five years.

"The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020" also indicates that the

number of people affected by severe food insecurity has experienced a similar upward trend over the last five years. In 2019, close to 750 million—or nearly one in ten people in the world—were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity.

The figures reveal that about 2 billion people in the world did not have regular access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food in 2019.

Considering the widespread impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is estimated that the pandemic may add between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world in 2020 depending on the economic growth scenario.

Also, the nutritional status of the most vulnerable population groups is likely to deteriorate further due to the health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

While the burden of malnutrition in all its forms remains a challenge for the world, current estimates reveal that in 2019, 21.3 percent (144 million) of children under 5 years of age were stunted, 6.9 percent (47 million) wasted, and 5.6 percent (38.3 million) overweight.

The report states that healthy diets are unaffordable to many people, especially the poor, in every region of the world. The most conservative estimate shows they are unaffordable for more than 3 billion people in the world. Healthy diets are estimated to be, on average, five times more expensive than diets that meet only dietary energy needs through a starchy staple.

Under current food consumption patterns, diet-related health costs linked to mortality and non-communicable diseases are projected to exceed USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2030.

On the other hand, the diet-related social cost of greenhouse gas emissions associated with current dietary patterns is estimated to be more than USD 1.7 trillion per year by 2030.

## ■ Iran's undernourishment prevalence

According to the report, Iran experienced a relative reduction in the prevalence of undernourishment in its total population, dropping from 5.2 percent in the period of 2004-2006 to 4.7 percent in the period of 2017-2019. However, despite this improvement, the net number of people experiencing undernourishment increased from 3.6 to 3.9 million.

## 850,000 Iranians lose jobs amid coronavirus

**1 →** In the agricultural sector, about 20 percent of the businesses bearded the consequences, and 3 percent of the labor force became unemployed, he lamented, adding, approximately 12,500 to 13,500 people were added to our pension population throughout the country, but now it is raising.

In fact, more than 850,000 people claimed to have lost their jobs due to the disease, he regretted.

A new system was piloted in 5 provinces called the comprehensive labor relations system, so that both inspections and payments can be carried out in accordance with the law for individuals who must receive a stipend, he highlighted.

## ■ \$24b earmarked to shield economy against coronavirus

The government has allocated 1,000 trillion rails (about \$24 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to help lessen



impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the national economy.

The President Hassan Rouhani said that 120 trillion rials (about \$3 billion) has been allocated to the health sector and 50 trillion rials (about \$1.2 billion) has been allocated to the unemployment fund.

Moreover, 750 trillion rials (about \$17.8 billion) will be paid in low-interest loans to businesses, Rouhani noted, adding, finally, 80 trillion rials (about \$1.9 billion) will be paid in cash handouts to low-income families.

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Currently, 3,737 patients with coronavirus are in critical condition, she added.

## ENGLISH IN USE

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## Iran pioneer in cancer innovation, research among Islamic countries

Iran has the most research and innovation in the field of cancer both in the region and among Islamic countries, deputy health minister Reza Malekzadeh has stated.

Referring to the great progress in cancer research, he said that "We have been able to play a role in this area globally."

He added that one of the hopes for early detection of cancer is the use of urine and blood tests for people who are susceptible to cancer.

"We have conducted researches in the field of blood and urine biomarkers, which will help control cancers in the country," he said.

Pointing out that there are about 250,000 cancer patients in the country, Malekzadeh noted that 50,000 people die each year from the disease and 125,000 new patients develop cancer, so that the number of people with the disease increases each year.

## ایران بیشترین نوآوری و تحقیقات سرطان را بین کشورهای اسلامی دارد

معاون تحقیقات و فناوری وزیر بهداشت، درمان و آموزش پزشکی گفت: ایران هم در منطقه و هم بین کشورهای اسلامی بیشترین میزان تحقیقات و نوآوری ها در حوزه سرطان را داشته است.

دکتر رضا ملک زاده روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا با اشاره به اینکه ما در زمینه تحقیقات سرطان پیشرفت های خیلی خوبی داشتیم، گفت: ما در سطح جهانی هم توانستیم در این حوزه نقش آفرین باشیم.

وی افزود: یکی از امیدهای خیلی روشن برای تشخیص زودرس سرطان، استفاده از آزمایش ادرار و خون برای افرادی است که استعداد سرطان را دارند.

معاون وزیر بهداشت گفت: در ایران تحقیقات خیلی خوبی در زمینه بیومارکرهای ادراری و خونی در دست اجرا داریم و امیدواریم با این کار، امکان کنترل سرطان ها در کشور میسر شود.

ملک زاده با اشاره به اینکه در حال حاضر تعداد ۲۵۰ هزار مبتلا به سرطان در کشور داریم، گفت: هر سال حدود ۵۰ هزار نفر بر اثر این بیماری می‌میرند و ۱۲۵ هزار بیمار جدید اضافه می شوند. در نتیجه هرساله تعداد مبتلایان این بیماری بیشتر می شود.

## Anthropogenic wildfire extinguished in Hamoun wetland

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — A man-made wildfire burning 10 hectares of Hamoun International Wetland in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province was extinguished after several hours of efforts, the head of the provincial department of environment (DOE) said on Monday.

Vahid Pourmardan said that the fire on the Zabol-Nehbandan road started at 3 p.m. on Sunday, but was put out after several hours of efforts by the DOE forces.



Due to the drying up of Hamoun Wetland and wildfire risk, people and locals refrain from lighting fires near the dried pastures, he noted.

Hamouns are transboundary wetlands on the Iran-Afghan border made up of three lakes: Hamoun-e Helmand, which is entirely in Iran, Hamoun-e Sabari on the border, and Hamoun-e Puzak, almost entirely inside Afghanistan. The three lakes are linked and fed by water from the Helmand River which starts in the Hindu Kush Mountains in Afghanistan.

In the last two decades, once fertile wetlands have drastically dried up. The Taliban government closed the sluices to the Kajaki Dam on the Helmand until 2002, which aggravated the impact of the worst drought the region has experienced in many decades, brought about partially by climate change and warming temperatures.

## Magnitude 5.1 quake hits northern Iran, leaving 34 injured

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale shook northeastern Golestan province on Monday, leaving 34 injured.

The quake occurred in the city of Ramian at 2:04 a.m. at a depth of 9 kilometers, according to the University of Tehran Seismological Center.

There have so far no reports of fatalities or major injuries in the aftermath of the quake.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes. About 2 percent of the earthquakes of the world occur in Iran but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes. This shows the high level of vulnerability in Iran, according to Mehdi Zare, a professor of engineering seismology.

Most recently, an earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale shook the western province of Kermanshah on August 9.

On November 12, 2017, a destructive earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale hit Sarpol-e Zahab in the western province of Kermanshah. Some 90,000 houses were partly or completely damaged by the tremor. Sadly, the quake took over 660 lives and left more than 10,000 injured.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 19)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

● Exercise 6. Join the letters into words:

- man, gentleman, Mr, sir ← آ + ق + ا \*
- desk ← م + ی + ز \*
- woman, lady, Miss, Mrs ← خ + ا + ن + م \*
- chair ← ص + ن + د + ل + ی \*
- window ← پ + ن + ج + ر + ه \*
- excuse me ← ب + ب + خ + ش + ی + د \*

■ **Contraction of است:** Note how است is contracted after چه  
چی : and چه / چی + است ← چیست

### Writing

● Exercise 1. Rewrite in the correct form:

- من دانشجو هستم.\*
- دفتر این است.
- ما استاد هستیم.
- شما دانشجو نیستیم.
- است آن کتاب؟
- شما دانشجو هستیم؟

### Vocabulary

آن	← [اون]	بفرمایید	← [بفرمایین]
بُند	← [بُند]	چه	← [چی / چه]
چیت	← [چیّه]	مُتَشَكِّرم	← [مُتَشَكِّرم]
نیستید	← [نیستین]	نیست	← [نیست]**]
هستید	← [هستین]	هست	← [هست]**]
یک	← [یه / یک]		



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SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGAvoid doing things that would make you apologize;  
since a believer won't commit a wrong action that  
would make him/her sorry. *Imam Hussein (AS)*

## Farhad Hassanzadeh's "I Love You" published in Baku

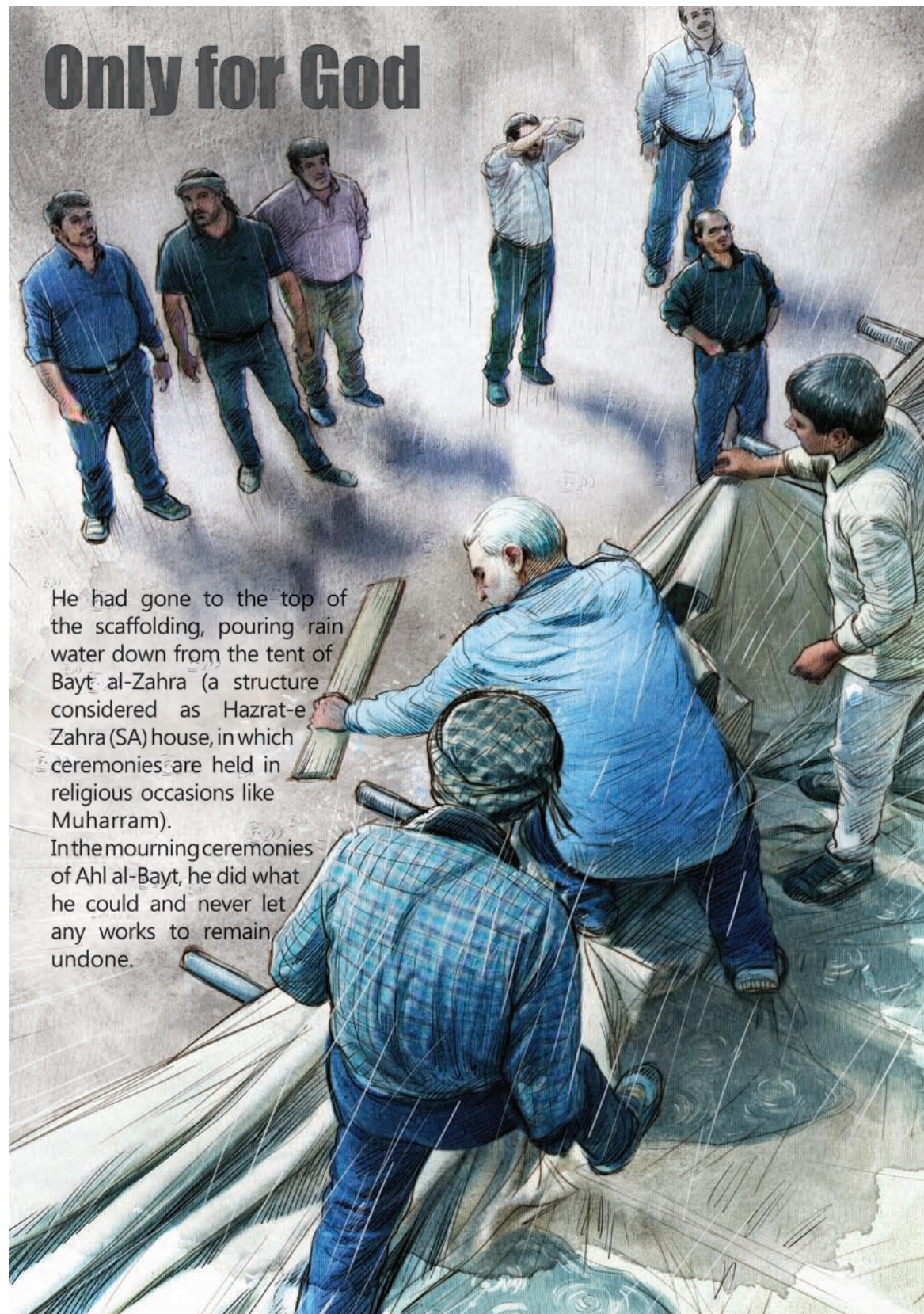
**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — The Azerbaijani magazine Goy Qursagi published Iranian author Farhad Hassanzadeh's book "I Love You" in its September edition.

Nasim Yousefi exclusively translated the book into Azerbaijani for the magazine, which is being published by the Baku Children's Library.

"I Love You" tells the story of a snowman who loses his eyes because of the curiosity of a baby crow.

Hassanzadeh has authored over 80 books in various genres from comedy to tragedy, including "The Backyard", "An Umbrella with White Butterflies", "Kuti Kuti Stories", "Watermelon with Love", "Hasti", "Snow and the Sun" and "Call Me Ziba".

Hassanzadeh's books have been rendered into different languages, including English, Arabic, Turkish and Armenian.



He had gone to the top of the scaffolding, pouring rain water down from the tent of Bayt al-Zahra (a structure considered as Hazrat-e Zahra (SA) house, in which ceremonies are held in religious occasions like Muharram). In the mourning ceremonies of Ahl al-Bayt, he did what he could and never let any works to remain undone.

## "Sun Children" director Majidi storms presser at Venice with criticism of sanctions on Iran

➔ "What is portrayed in the film is a global issue that is not limited to one country, but the damage some West Asian countries are facing due to wars is more serious," Majidi lamented.

"Our country has been under severe sanctions imposed by the U.S. government over the past 40 years, and at present, since coronavirus is a mutual affliction all over the globe, one of our most serious problems is that these sanctions threaten access to certain medicines," he added.

He said that children and families are most vulnerable to wars and political upheavals, and added, "Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey and our other neighboring countries are always suffering from wars and political crises."

One of Iran's serious problems is that people have illegally emigrated from these countries to Iran as a result of the wars and regional crises.

The cast members of "Sun Children", Shamila Shirzad and her brother, Abolfazl, are two children born to an Afghan family in Iran.

These two, as well as other child members of the cast, were selected through auditions that Majidi held among the children making



Iranian director Majid Majidi attends a photocall for the film "Sun Children" during the 77th Venice Film Festival on the Italian Lido on September 6, 2020. (AFP/Tiziana Fabi)

a living from peddling in the Tehran metro. "A key topic the film intends to emphasize is the social responsibility people have in their societies," Majidi said and added, "Governments are not my problem in this film, but I want to say that people should fulfill their own social duties and responsibilities on each issue."

In their Twitter accounts, Cinema Organization of Iran director Hossein Entezami and Fajr Film Festival president Ebrahim Darughezhadeh praised Majidi's remarks during the press conference at the Venice festival.

"An artist is the voice of the people," Entezami commented, while Darughezhadeh wrote, "Majidi used the opportunity at the Venice festival to condemn the oppression of the Iranian people and violation of their rights."

Celluloid Dreams, a major French film production and distribution company, is handling international sales. "Sun Children" premiered during February in Tehran at the 38th edition of the Fajr Film Festival, which honored it with the Crystal Simorgh for best film.

Co-written by Majidi and Nima Javidi, the film also won the award for best screenplay.

## Exec warns of Iranian Artists Forum closure due to finances



A view of Iranian Artists Forum.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) director Majid Rajabi-Memar has warned that the forum is facing financial problems and will face closure if no immediate and serious actions are taken.

Earlier last month, he also talked about the financial

problems of the forum and asked the Tehran Municipality, and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance for financial support, however no positive steps have been taken to date.

Hossein Mosafer-Astaneh and Iraj Raad, members of the center's policymaking council, have also expressed their concerns over the probable closure of the forum if no serious decisions are made.

Rajabi-Memar once again stressed that the forum is on the verge of a shutdown 21 years after its establishment.

He pointed to the high status of the forum in which all types of artists have a share, and it has had good relations with many other international artistic organizations.

"After the spread of the coronavirus in the country, the forum has lost almost all of its sources of income, while it used to make money through art exhibits, theatrical performances, film screenings, cafes, restaurants and the handicrafts shop. Other costs were paid partly by the financial support of the Tehran Municipality, but this year

there is no source of income and the municipally has not been able to help because of its own financial problems," he explained.

"During these difficult days, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance as well as the Planning and Budget Organization have also had no support. I must say we are not in good financial condition; we have not been able to pay the salaries of all the employees, and have also had problems in paying their insurance fees," he added.

"The forum has had a key role in promoting art and culture, and has never been a profit center, and as long as it can meet a portion of its costs, that has been enough," he said.

He added, "We know all the jobs and careers have faced financial problems, however, art and the artists have faced the greatest loss. In all countries artistic activities are supported by the governments and the municipalities, but the government here has given many promises while none has come true. And the forum as well as other artistic venues are still facing financial problems," he concluded.

## Iran to honor cineastes who gained global recognition for Iranian cinema in 2019

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — A number of Iranian cineastes whose films were acclaimed in 2019 at international events or were selected for juries at the festivals will be honored during a ceremony on Iran's National Day of Cinema, which will be celebrated on September 12 this year.

Every year, the Iranian House of Cinema organizes the Iran Cinema Celebration to commemorate Iran's National Day of Cinema. However, it will not be holding the 22nd edition of the celebration as in previous years, and instead plans to divert funds allocated for the event to its members.

The honoring ceremony was due to take place during the 38th Fajr International Film Festival in May, however, it was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition, the Iranian cineastes who were selected to judge the international events in 2019 will be honored along with the cineastes.

Numerous Iranian films were honored at international events in 2019.

Iranian filmmaker Mohammadreza Vatandoost's film "Lotus" was awarded as best documentary at the Sharjah Film Platform (SFP) in December 2019.

The film is about an old woman who is waiting for a permit to enter an island after 12 years to visit her son's grave.

"Here My Village" written and directed by Abbas Aram won awards in four categories, including best director and best story, at the 5th Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth (SIFFCY) in New Delhi, India in December.

"Here My Village" is about Farhad, a 12-year-old village boy who is crazy about photos and magazines. He tries to work hard to buy a second-hand camera, but he does not succeed.

Also in December, Narges Abyar's acclaimed movie "When the Moon Was Full" won the grand prize at the 2nd edition of the Carcassonne International Political Film Festival in France.

The film also received the student jury award for the best film, while the best performance award was awarded to the star of the



A scene from "When the Moon Was Full" by Narges Abyar.

film, Elnaz Shakerdoost.

"When the Moon Was Full" tells the story of a woman from Tehran who marries a man from an Iranian province near the border of Pakistan. Soon after, she discovers that her new brother-in-law is a religious extremist trying to recruit her husband for his bloody cause.

Amir-Hushang Moin's acclaimed short film "Am I a Wolf?" won first prize at the 5th Animation Marathon, an animation and audiovisual arts festival in Athens, Greece in November.

The movie is about a group of children who perform the familiar story of the wolf and the yearlings in school as a puppet show. The nanny goat grieving for its yearlings and the angry wolf in its solitude face each other.

Actress Fatemeh Motamed-Arya presided over the international jury of the 24th International Film Festival of Kerala, India.

Saied Nejati, the Iranian director of the acclaimed short film "It Rains Slowly", was selected as a member of the jury for the 15th International Short and Independent Film Festival (ISIFF), in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## Cinema Vérité 2020 to go noncompetitive in international section

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The 14th edition of Cinema Vérité, Iran's major international festival for documentary films, will be noncompetitive in its international section as the organizers published their annual announcement calling for submissions on Sunday.

The entries to the international section will only be screened at the festival, which will be organized entirely online during December due to a spike in coronavirus cases in the country.

Earlier in August, the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC), the main organizer of the festival, announced its plan to organize a review of movies acclaimed in previous editions of the festival.

A plan to dedicate a special section for



A logo for the Cinema Vérité festival.

screening documentaries on the pandemic and COVID-19 was also discussed in a DEFC meeting.

The organizers plan to design platforms to guarantee the festival entries against piracy.

Earlier DEFC director Mohammad Hamidi-Moqaddam had announced the festival's plan to pay tribute to celebrated filmmaker Khosro Sinai who died of coronavirus on August 1.

Cinema Organization of Iran director Hossein Entezami has previously announced that the organization is searching for a safe platform to organize the 39th edition of the Fajr Film Festival online if the pandemic continues until February 2021.

He also said that there is no platform in Iran that can guarantee protection of the festival entries from piracy.

"If we cannot have a platform that ensures the safety of films during the festival, it will be impossible for us to organize the event online," he noted.