



**Tehran welcomes inter-Afghan talks**

**3**



**Golmohammadi calls for fans to support Persepolis**

**3**



**Iran's PGPIC among world's top 40 petchem companies despite sanctions**

**4**



**Iran's top photojournalists of the year honored**

**8**

# Iran ranks 26 worldwide for hi-tech industries



See page 7

## Iran: Bahrain's move to establish ties with Israel 'disgraceful'

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned in the strongest terms a U.S.-brokered deal between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Israel, saying the Palestinian people and Muslims around the world "will never accept" the normalization of ties with Israel. "Undoubtedly, the oppressed and rightful people of Palestine, along with free Muslims around the world, will never accept the normalization of relations with the usurper and rogue regime of Israel. This

disgraceful act will forever remain in the memory of the oppressed and suppressed nation of Palestine and the free nations of the world," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday. The statement called the normalization deal between Tel Aviv and Manama a "disgraceful and humiliating act" that sacrifices the Palestinian cause and the sufferings of the Palestinian people on the altar of the U.S. presidential election. ➔ **3**

## 30% of wastewater treatment equipment indigenized

**TEHRAN** — Iranian knowledge-based companies have managed to indigenize the knowledge for manufacturing about 30 percent of the equipment and parts used in the country's wastewater treatment plants, a director with South Tehran Wastewater Treatment Complex said. According to Seyed Morteza Ehteshami, the localization of the mentioned equipment has saved the country over €1.2 billion so far, and it is expected that by

the Iranian calendar year of 1403 (begins on March 21, 2024) over 60 percent of the equipment and parts required in this sector will be indigenized. "To achieve the goal set for the year 1403, knowledge-based companies and science and technology parks have been invited to cooperate, and we are currently negotiating with the Pardis Science and Technology Park to localize part of the complex' needs," Ehteshami said. ➔ **4**

## Fajr festival acknowledges Iranian cineastes' wins at global events in 2019

By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi

**TEHRAN** — The organizers of the Fajr International Film Festival held a ceremony on Friday evening at the Iranian Art Museum Garden to honor a number of Iranian cineastes who won awards or were selected for juries at international festivals and events during 2019.

The gala was scheduled to be held during the 38th edition of the festival, however, it was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Consequently, the organizers decided to hold the ceremony on Iran's National Day of Cinema, which was celebrated on Friday this year. ➔ **8**

By M.A.Saki  
Deputy editor-in-chief

## Rewarding war criminal

**B**ahrain has agreed to fully normalize relations with Israel. It was announced by U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday, September 11. The announcement came nearly a month after the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced it has decided to establish full diplomatic ties with Israel. No wise person should be unhappy with normalization of ties between countries. However, the point is that Israel is a thief. It has stolen the lands of Palestinians and been collectively brutalizing the Palestinians who have been struggling to liberate their lands from occupation.

The sad point of the story is that the UAE and Bahrain are normalizing ties with the Tel Aviv regime who has not even agreed to cease its plan to annex the West Bank, let alone return to the 1967 borders. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has only said it will suspend annexations in return for normalization of ties.

Khalil Jahshan, executive director at the Arab Center of Washington, has said Saudi acquiescence was key to Bahrain's decision. "It is a purely Saudi decision," Jahshan said, according to al Jazeera. Most probably, some other Arab nations will follow the UAE and Bahrain to establish ties with Israel. It is just a matter of time. Probably they would do so before the November 3 presidential elections in the U.S. in which Trump is seeking reelection.

The decisions by the UAE and Bahrain are an endorsement of the occupation of the Palestinian lands and injustice against the Palestinians.

Moreover, these countries are indirectly confirming Trump's decision in relocating the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem (which Palestinians want its Eastern part as their future capital), ordering the PLO to close its office in Washington, and recognizing the Israeli annexation of Syria's Golan Heights.

Even most European countries, which have been supporting Israel for decades, are pushing for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which oblige Israel to withdraw from the lands that it had occupied in the 1967 and 1973 wars. They are fiercely critical of Israel to annex the West Bank and have warned about moving embassies to Jerusalem before Palestinians and Israeli agree on the sharing of the city. ➔ **2**

## Bahrain normalization deal stokes fears of political exploitation in Israel and U.S.

**TEHRAN** — In a highly expected move, Bahrain and Israel agreed to normalize relations and exchange embassies. A West Asia expert tells the Tehran Times that the normalization deal is meant to serve internal interests in Israel, Bahrain, and the U.S.

On September 11, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he brokered a normalization deal between Bahrain and Israel, nearly less than a month after he brokered a similar deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates on August 13.

Under the deal, Israel and Bahrain have committed to begin the exchange of embassies and ambassadors, start direct flights, and launch cooperation initiatives across a broad range of sectors, according to a White House statement issued on September 11. The statement also said, "As the President's work continues, more Arab and Muslim countries will likely seek to nor-

malize relations with Israel."

The Bahrain-Israel deal comes on the heels of what the White House called a "historic diplomatic breakthrough" between Israel and the UAE. President Trump and many other U.S. officials have said that more Arab countries will seek to normalize diplomatic relations with Israel.

"Now that the ice has been broken, I expect more Arab and Muslim countries will follow the United Arab Emirates' lead," the White House statement quoted Trump as saying.

In the wake of the UAE and Bahrain deals with Israel, there has been speculation in the media suggesting that Saudi Arabia or Oman would be the next country to normalize diplomatic relations with Israel, although both countries have yet to take any official stance on the normalization of ties with Israel. The Emirati and Bahraini deals were met with widespread condemnation in the public opinion of the Arab world. ➔ **2**

## Black Lives Matter protests sweep UK as U.S. officers face court over George Floyd's death

Black Lives Matter (BLM) protesters have taken to the streets across the UK calling for an end to institutionalized racism.

Demonstrators marched as, across the Atlantic, the four officers charged over George Floyd's death went on trial.

Participants said they were determined to show that previous BLM demonstrations were not just "a moment".

Mass protests were staged across the world in May and June after footage emerged of police officer Derek Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck.

Chauvin and three of his now former colleagues are charged over the death but it is understood they will push for separate trials in order to diminish their roles in the incident, Standard reported.

Socially distanced events took place outside the U.S. embassy in London as well as in Manchester and Leeds on Friday.

Those involved were encouraged to "take the knee", which has become a symbol of solidarity with the BLM movement and a memorial to Mr Floyd.

Around 40 people gathered outside the embassy in Vauxhall, south London, where the flag was flown at half mast to mark the anniversary of 9/11.

Protesters carried placards bearing slogans including "Racism is not born, it is taught. End systemic racism," while passing motorists sounded their horns in solidarity.

Brian Richardson, a barrister and member of the Stand Up To Racism steering committee, said that racism in the UK also needed to be "called out".

"We wanted to come here and show our solidarity and continuing support for the family of George Floyd and the fight for justice," he told the PA news agency.

## 9/11 was a false flag operation planned by Zionist agents: French anthropologist

By Laurent Guyénot

**TEHRAN** — Laurent Guyénot, a French author and anthropologist, tells the Tehran Times that 9/11 was "a false flag" and a "network of super-sayanim closely connected" to the Zionists.

"9/11 was an operation planned and executed by Zionist agents infiltrated in the highest level of U.S. administration and controlling U.S. and European mainstream media, for the purpose of drawing the U.S. into wars against the enemies of Israel," says Guyénot, the author of "JFK-9/11: 50 Years of Deep State".

50 Years of Deep State".

Noting that Zionists have a significant influence on U.S. foreign policy, he says "Israel, understood as an international community, is a parasite that has taken almost total control of American foreign policy."

"Moreover," he adds, "Jewish Zionists have acquired control of all major news media. They control the narrative. In these conditions, it is very difficult for U.S. patriots to expose Israel's crime."

Here is the text of the interview with Guyénot:

■ Your book entitled "JFK-9/11" has gained a great attraction worldwide and surprisingly it was removed from Amazon. Please explain your motivation for writing this book?

A: I became aware of the gigantic lie of the 9/11 official story about ten years ago, as I was finishing my doctorate thesis on medieval history. I was appalled by the evilness of those who killed thousands of their own citizens in order to blame Muslims and to justify their neo-colonial wars. ➔ **5**



## Kashan, home to architectural wonders, labyrinthine bazaars

A photo collection depicts variety of architectural wonders such as atmospheric houses, covered labyrinthine bazaars, public bathhouses, madrasas, caravanserais, mudbrick wind-towers, cisterns, Persian gardens and boutique hotels scattered across the oasis city of Kashan.

Many travelers opt to bypass Kashan on their journeys between Tehran, Isfahan and Yazd, to visit its must-see destinations on the edge of one of the most beautiful deserts in central Iran.

## U.S. judge orders testimony from Saudi officials in 9/11 attacks lawsuit

A US judge has directed Saudi Arabia to make 24 current and former officials available for testimony about their possible knowledge of events leading up to the September 11, 2001 attacks.

In a written ruling, Federal Magistrate Judge Sarah Netburn in New York ordered testimonies from the Saudi officials, among them Prince Bandar bin Sultan Al Saud, the kingdom's ambassador to the U.S. from 1983 to 2005, and his longtime chief of staff Ahmed al-Qattan.

James Kreindler, a lawyer for the victims, called the decision a "major development" because the Riyadh regime had produced little documentation concerning its officials working in the United States before the attacks.

Although it is unclear how and when the witnesses will be deposed, the order means "we can start uncovering what they know," he added.

Andrew Maloney, another member of the legal team representing the 9/11 victims' families, said, "Saudi Arabia thus far has not agreed to produce the witnesses identified in the order and may still challenge or seek to minimize the implications of the ruling."

Brett Eagleson, a spokesman for the families, described the ruling as "a game changer."

"This is the most significant ruling we've had to date in this lawsuit. And to have this on the eve of the anniversary of 9/11, you couldn't script this any better. The families are elated."

Saudi Arabia has denied involvement in the 9/11 attacks, in which nearly 3,000 people were allegedly killed when hijacked planes crashed into New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon outside Washington, DC, and a field in western Pennsylvania.



## U.S. cannot force others to trigger snapback: New Hampshire University'

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Kurk Dorsey, a professor at New Hampshire University, has said that the United States cannot force other parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, to trigger snapback mechanism and restore sanctions against Iran.



"The U.S. cannot force the other states in JCPOA to snapback the sanctions. The other states have all made clear that they oppose such a move, and I do not think that the United States has the clout to force any of them to support such sanctions," Dorsey told ILNA in an interview published on Saturday.

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 European troika (the United Kingdom, Germany and France) has rejected the U.S. attempt to trigger snapback mechanism.

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

Dorsey also said that if Donald Trump is re-elected, there will be no more chance to save the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the JCPOA.

"If President Trump is re-elected then there would be no point for anyone to keep JCPOA in place, particularly for Iran," he said.

## Ayatollah Saanei passes away

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Ayatollah Yousef Saanei passed away on Saturday at the age of 83.

He was hospitalized at a hospital in Qom a few days ago due to pelvis and wrist fractures.

Reportedly, a source at the late ayatollah's office said he had cirrhosis liver, and was suffering from kidney problems.

## Rewarding war criminal

**1 →** If Israel really wanted peace with the Palestinians, its conflicts with Palestinians should not have lasted for more than seven decades.

This rush by Persian Gulf Arab states to normalize ties with Israel is surprising and suspicious. Most probably the decision to establish ties Israel has been taken long before but they are being formally announced now to increase the chances of Trump in the elections. They wish to reward Trump because he has introduced the harshest sanctions in history against Iran in accordance with his "maximum pressure" policy against Tehran.

The flattery by certain Arab states to placate criminal Netanyahu and deceptive Trump is annoying.

Arab countries, especially those on the southern shores of Persian Gulf, which don't share borders with Israel, are in need of ties with Israel. It is Israel which is buying legitimacy for its illegitimate acts.

The history will not forgive Bahrain, the UAE and other countries which are on the line to normalize ties with Israel.

They are truly rewarding Netanyahu who, according to the International Criminal Court (ICC), has allegedly committed war crimes in the occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

The ICC chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, announced in December 2019 that there was a "reasonable basis" to believe that Israeli authorities had committed war crimes by moving Israeli civilians into the West Bank to live in settlements.

These Arab states are even turning their back to the proposal by the late King Abdullah who put forward "land for peace" initiative.

Surely, Israel will go ahead with its annexation of the West Bank and will crucify more Palestinians regardless of ties with Bahrain, the UAE and others on the line.

The criminal is just get rewarded.

## Iran on U.S. medicine sanctions: White House has no sense of humanity

**TEHRAN (Press TV)** — President Hassan Rouhani has condemned U.S. sanctions which have obstructed Iran's access to medicines amid the coronavirus pandemic, saying the White House knows nothing about humanity.

Speaking during a meeting of the national task force for fighting the coronavirus on Saturday, Rouhani slammed Washington for blocking a request by the Iranian government for a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to combat the deadly outbreak.

"We requested a \$5 billion loan from the IMF and all members agreed, but America does not allow us to get the loan for medicines and treatment," he said. "They have distanced from humanity as far as this. The White House today has no sense of humanity. If it had a sense of humanity, it wouldn't have done this," he said.

The Iranian president also lashed out at what he called "friendly countries" that have frozen Iran's money in their banks.

"We have countries that are also our friends and our money is in their bank, [but] they have locked it three times and are not willing to release our money for our needs. They say that the Americans have pressured" them against unfreezing Iran's money and that they had retreated in the face of the U.S. bullying, Rouhani said.

Such a crime is unprecedented in history, with a country not being able to draw off its money deposited in a bank in a bid to cover its people's health needs, he underlined.

The Americans, he added, are angry about how the Iranian government is managing the country, so they are mounting their pressure despite the country's fight against the highly contagious virus.

Iran has been contending with the deadliest pandemic the world has seen in many decades amid U.S. sanctions, which have seriously hampered efforts to contain the outbreak.

More than 397,801 Iranians have been infected with COVID-19 in Iran. More than 22,913 have died, while 342,539 have recovered.

# Russia, China reject U.S. unilateral actions aimed at kill nuclear deal: Lavrov

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Friday that Russia and China reject the United States' unilateral actions aimed at collapse of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA.

"Today we discussed the situation around the joint comprehensive action plan to resolve [the situation around] the Iranian nuclear program. And of course we, Russia and China, as well as the overwhelming majority of UN Security Council members, reject American attempts to dismantle this most important international agreement for the world, which was approved by UN Security Council Resolution 2231," TASS quoted Lavrov as saying at a joint press conference following a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The Russian foreign minister stressed that both countries do not tolerate the illegitimate unilateral actions of the United States in connection with the situation around Iran's nuclear program.

In 2015, Iran signed the JCPOA with China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and the European Union. It required Iran to scale back its nuclear program and severely downgrade its uranium reserves in exchange for sanctions relief, including lifting the arms embargo five years after the deal's adoption. In 2018, the United States abandoned its conciliatory stance on Iran, withdrawing from the JCPOA and implementing headline policies against Tehran.



Nearly a week after the UN Security Council rejected a U.S. draft resolution to extend arms embargo against Iran in violation of Resolution 2231, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on August 20 that all UN sanctions against Iran will be reinstated on September 20 after the U.S. "activated the snapback mechanism".

However, the move was strongly denounced by other signatories of the nuclear deal including Iran, E3 (the European trio of Germany, France and Britain) as well as the EU, Russia, China, and non-permanent

members of the UN Security Council.

The U.S., which was left isolated at the UN Security Council when it said it wished to reimpose snapback sanctions, rejected the E3 position as crackers and pandering to what he called "terrorists".

The European nations argue that the U.S. was no longer a participant in the deal and so unable to act unilaterally.

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.

On Thursday, Britain, Germany and

## Iran-Japan relations rising: diplomat

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Ambassador to Japan, Morteza Rahmani-Movahed, has said that relations between Iran and Japan are growing.

"Mr. Abe [the outgoing Japanese prime minister] has made serious efforts to expand Japan's ties with Iran. We have no worry for change of Japan's prime minister, because relations between Tehran and Tokyo are moving on the path of progress," Rahmani-Movahed said during a press conference on Saturday.

Abe announced in August that he will resign for health issues. He suffers from colitis, a non-curable inflammatory bowel disease, which forced him to resign during his first stint as the country's leader from 2006 to 2007. He became Prime Minister again in 2012.

Abe Shinzo is Japan's longest-serving head of government in terms of consecutive days in office.

Rahmani-Movahed pointed to a visit by Abe to Iran in June 2019, calling the visit a successful effort in line with expanding relations.

Abe visited Tehran in June 2019 to deescalate tension between Iran and the U.S. which spiked after Donald Trump withdrew his country from the multilateral 2015 nuclear deal and slapped the harshest ever sanctions on

Tehran. He met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani.

**'Iran not concerned about U.S. presidential elections'**

Rahmani-Movahed also said that Iran is not concerned about the United States' presidential elections in November and it does not matter whether a Republican or a Democrat will take the presidency.

"As long as the United States continues hostile policies against the Islamic Republic, it makes no difference if the Republicans or Democrats rule over the United States," he stated.

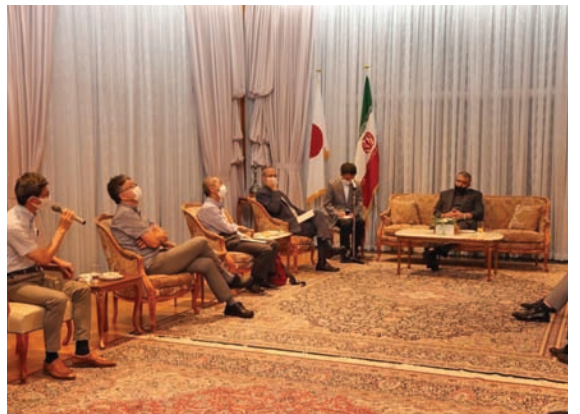
**'Iran hopes UAE would return from wrong path'**

The Iranian diplomat also expressed hope that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would return from the wrong path and revise its policy in normalizing ties with the Zionist regime of Israel.

The UAE and Israel reached an agreement in August to normalize ties.

Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement calling the action a "strategic stupidity".

According to Press TV, Palestinian factions unani-



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

## Defense chief: Iran constantly boosting missile power

Iran's defense power and continue to grow constantly, Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami said.

Speaking to Tasnim in Zanjan on Saturday, Brigadier General Hatami said one of Iran's main priorities has always been boosting the missile power.

"We continue to enhance this capability," he added.

The minister also noted that the two homegrown long-range missiles that were unveiled in August, named after former

IRGC Quds Force Commander Lt. General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, are of great significance for Iran.

He said the range of the two new missiles has been extended by three times compared to their previous generation.

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

to negotiations.

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

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

## Bahrain normalization deal stokes fears of political exploitation in Israel and U.S.

**1 →** As the U.S. president announced the Bahrain-Israel deal on Friday night, social media platforms in Arab countries including Bahrain were abuzz with anti-normalization rhetoric. In Bahrain, hashtags such as "Bahrainis against normalization" and "normalization is betrayal" in Arabic were trending on Twitter while President Trump was announcing that he secured a "historic deal" between Tel Aviv and Manama. This may be the reason why Saudi Arabia is still hesitant to jump on the bandwagon of normalizing relations with Israel.

Moreover, many countries and political groups in the region have denounced the Bahrain deal as a "betrayal" to the Palestinian people and cause. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry recalled its ambassador to Bahrain while denouncing the Bahrain-Israel deal as a "betrayal to al-Quds, al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Palestinian question."

Saeb Erekat, the secretary-general of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, has said that the normalization deals with Israel had nothing to do with peace in the region. Instead, they are parts of a plan to establish a strategic coalition, according to an Al Jazeera report. Iran also condemned in the strongest terms the U.S.-brokered deal between Bahrain and Israel, calling it a "disgraceful and humiliating act."

"Undoubtedly, the oppressed and rightful people of Palestine, along with free Muslims around the world, will never accept the normalization of relations with the usurper and rogue regime of Israel. This disgraceful act will forever remain in the memory of the oppressed and suppressed nation of Palestine and the free nations of the world," Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday. The statement also warned Bahrain against "any insecurity caused by Israel in the Persian Gulf", saying that the government of Bahrain and other accompanying governments will bear



U.S. President's senior adviser Jared Kushner meets Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during his visit to Manama, Bahrain, September 1, 2020.

the responsibility for the insecurity.

The government of Bahrain is really worried about the strong reactions to the normalization deal with Israel, according to Ja'afar Ghannadbashi, A West Asia expert.

"The rulers of Bahrain seek to strengthen their position and ensure the continuation of the West's support for Bahrain. However, they are really concerned about the reactions to their normalization deal with Israel. They are unwilling to have troubled or susceptible relations with Israel," Ghannadbashi told the Tehran Times, adding that the Bahraini regime is afraid of the reaction of its own people.

The expert further said, "Bahrain is a small but socially cohesive country. The Sunni and Shia people of Bahrain can give a political response to the normalization deal and make trouble for the Bahraini regime."

The expert also weighed in on the goals the Israelis and the Americans seek to achieve through signing the normal-

ization deal with Bahrain.

"The Zionist regime has been long dreaming of breaking its isolation by normalizing diplomatic ties with the Arab states. At the time being, it seeks to portray a powerful image of itself through making small achievements," pointed out Ghannadbashi, noting that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is in a weak position and he really needs diplomatic stunts to strengthen his political standing.

Donald Trump is in a similar situation, according to Ghannadbashi.

"With the U.S. presidential election less than two months away, Trump badly needs election aid and the backing of Zionist-affiliated media. Because he is under political pressure ahead of the presidential election," the expert stated.

Reports in Arab media outlets have also linked the normalization deals between Israel and Arab states to the U.S. presidential elections, with some outlets saying that the Trump administration is now focused on securing another normalization deal but this time between Saudi Arabia and Israel, a move that could send shock waves across the region, given Saudi Arabia's status as the custodian of Islam's holiest sites.

"Trump is betting on pushing Saudi Arabia to normalize relations with Israel before the elections, considering that such a move would constitute a big breakthrough," wrote Victor Shalhoub, a Lebanese analyst, in an opinion piece published by the New Arab newspaper.

The analysts said that the Emirati deal with Israel was a preparatory move meant to pave the way for other countries to normalize relations with Israel. He also said the normalization deals are, to a large extent and perhaps entirely, associated with the Trump's dire need to make domestic or foreign achievements, given his faltering campaign against his rival Joe Biden.



# Army chief: Homegrown equipment tested during the military exercise

## Iranian Army wraps up three-day drills

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Army on Saturday concluded a three-day military exercise, which kicked off in Iran's southern waters on Thursday.

A variety of surface and subsurface submarine units of the Navy, such as destroyers, missile launchers and Tariq, Ghadir and Fateh-class submarines displayed their strength during the last day of the drills, codenamed Zolfagar-99.

The exercise was attended by Army Chief Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi and a number of other top commanders of the Army as well as observers from Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base.

The Army Air Force displayed its aircraft which accompanied the surface and subsurface submarines.

The three-day war game showcased some of the latest achievements of the Army's units, which were produced to counter the threats by Iran's enemies.

Speaking to reporters after the drills, General Mousavi said the homegrown productions of the Army were successfully tested during the Zolfagar-99 exercise.

"What we witnessed was a joint exercise of the Army's quadratic forces and the Air Defense Base which, praise be to God, achieved almost all of its goals through very good coordination," Mousavi said, according to Mehr.

The commander warned the enemies not to make any miscalculation in the region as the Iranian armed forces enjoy the utmost readiness.

"The message of the military exercise for enemies and those who hold ill will in



**The Iranian military announced on Friday that it has intercepted three U.S. aircraft that had intruded into Iran's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in violation of rules that regulate large-scale naval exercises.**

their minds is that they should never test the Islamic Republic of Iran and never follow their miscalculations because they will regret the response," he asserted.

The commander also pointed out that the Iranian forces only showed part of their capabilities in the face of possible threats.

"Our defense industry and universities

are continually helping to build new and updated equipment," said the general, adding, "Collaboration [among armed forces] is increasing and thank God we are completely prepared."

The Zolfagar-99 drills kicked off under the command of the Army's Zolfagar base. It covered an area of two million square kilo-

meters in the eastern waters of the Strait of Hormuz, Makran coast, the Sea of Oman and North India Ocean up to 10 degrees north.

On Thursday, F-27 and P3F aircraft as well as reconnaissance drones conducted naval patrols to monitor the drills.

Iran's F-4 fighter-bombers conducted long-range flights from their bases to attend the war game. They destroyed surface targets using optimized precision strike missiles. The F-4 Phantoms stroke at mobile targets at sea and bombed their designated targets on the coast.

Navy commandos and marines carried out a complex operation on the Makran coast, making use of vessels, aircraft and amphibious personnel carriers backed up by bombers.

On Friday, the Army successfully fired an anti-ship coast-to-sea cruise missile, dubbed "Qader", at a mock enemy vessel over 200 kilometers from the coast.

Another anti-ship cruise missile, dubbed "Nasr", was fired from Iran's Najm missile boat to hit designated target in the southern waters of Iran.

The Army's first combat drone, named "Kaman-12", also conducted surveillance operations during the joint military exercise.

The Iranian military announced on Friday that it has intercepted three U.S. aircraft that had intruded into Iran's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in violation of rules that regulate large-scale naval exercises.

According to the military's statement, the aircraft, including P-8 Poseidon and MQ-9 and RQ-4 drones, were intercepted by a domestically-manufactured Karrar turbojet-powered drone, after they ignored warnings to stay away from the drills area.

## Russian deputy defense minister calls Iran 'partner and ally'

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Russian Deputy Minister of Defense Alexander Fomin described Iran as a "friend, partner and ally" of Russia during a meeting with Iran's ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali.

The two officials held a meeting in the Russian Defense Ministry to discuss bilateral cooperation between Iran and Russia in various fields such as military and defense cooperation as well as coordination on the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

The meeting comes on the heels of a recent visit by Iran's Defense Minister Amir Hatami to Moscow during which he discussed military issues with Russian officials.



"I am sure that the joint strategy adopted by Tehran and Moscow in solving the regional problems can bring peace, stability, and security to the region regardless of the United States' unilateral policies," Hatami said after he met with his Russian counterpart Sergey Shoigu.

For his part, Shoigu pointed out that it was essential to expand regional cooperation to establish peace and stability.

IRNA also said that during the meeting between Jalali and Fomin, the two sides emphasized the continuation of consultations, trips, and cooperation between the two countries to fight terrorism and establish peace and stability in the region.

## Muslims will denounce insult against Prophet Muhammad: Ghalibaf

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf says Muslims will denounce the French magazine Charlie Hebdo's insult toward Prophet Mohammad (S).

"Insulting the prophet of goodness once again showed the rooted enmity of the criminal arrogant toward the message of kindness and affection of the Great Prophet to the world," Ghalibaf wrote in a post on his Instagram account on Friday.

"The world's Muslims, in unison, will denounce this unforgivable and wicked sin," he added.

Charlie Hebdo on September 2 republished the same cartoons about Prophet Muhammad (S) that prompted a deadly attack on the magazine in 2015.

The cartoons were republished so as to mark the start of the terrorism trial of people accused as accomplices in the attack. The magazine posted the cartoons online on September 1 and they appeared in print the next day.

13 men and a woman accused of providing the attackers with weapons and logistics went on trial on charges of terrorism.

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

In recent days, people across Iran



attended rallies to condemn Charlie Hebdo's anti-Muslim move.

People of all walks of life gathered in Tehran's Imam Hussein Square on Thursday to protest the French satirical magazine's reprinting of insulting cartoons of the Prophet as well as desecration of the Quran in Sweden.

The protesters denounced the provocative moves as part of a global Islamophobic agenda pursued by the U.S. and the global Zionist lobby.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has also condemned the move, saying it once again exposed the enmity of the political and cultural centers of the Western world toward Islam.

"The unforgivable sin of a French magazine in insulting the Holy Prophet (S) once against exposed the enmity and the vile spite of the political and cultural centers of the Western world toward Islam and the Muslim community," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a message on Tuesday.

## Tehran welcomes inter-Afghan talks, warns of foreign intervention

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Tehran has welcomed the start of inter-Afghan negotiations attended by Afghanistan's government, political groups and Taliban in Doha, Qatar.

In a statement on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that all sides would be able to reach a lasting agreement by preserving the valuable achievements of the Afghan people.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes start of inter-Afghan talks between the Afghan government, political groups and the Taliban, and hopes that these talks will lead to the desired results for the establishment of lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan and security in the region without foreign intervention and in a comprehensive understanding between Afghans," the statement read, Mehr reported.

It also reiterated Iran's position that there is no military solution to Afghanistan's problems, emphasizing that the continued presence of foreign forces in Afghanistan is one of the main reasons behind the continuation of the war in the country.

"All issues and problems in Afghanistan can be resolved only through dialogue and negotiation and responsible withdrawal of foreign troops is an unavoidable prerequisite for achieving peace and security in that country," the ministry stated.

It further expressed the hope that all sides would be able to reach an agreement that would enable Afghan refugees to



return to their country and play a constructive role in reconstruction, growth and development of Afghanistan.

The Foreign Ministry added that Iran strongly denounces any political opportunism and business profiteering, especially the U.S. government's use of electoral exploitation of inter-Afghan talks.

Following nearly two decades of war that has killed tens of thousands, talks between the Afghanistan government and the Taliban opened in Qatar's capital on Saturday.

Key speakers at the opening ceremony at a hotel in Doha included Abdullah Abdullah, chairperson of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, Taliban deputy leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

According to Al Jazeera, the negotiations, where the two warring sides will sit face-to-face for the first time, will start on Monday.

For his part, Abdullah spoke about seeking a dignified and lasting peace.

## SPORTS

### Golmohammadi calls for fans to support Persepolis

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis head coach Yahya Golmohammadi has emphasized that despite what he has called as "the existing grievances", he and his side will fight for Persepolis success in the AFC Champions League (ACL), the Iranian Super Cup, and, the next season of the Iran Professional League (IPL).

Persepolis will face Saudi Arabia's Al Taawoun in Group C of the ACL on Tuesday. The Reds have just one point from their two previous matches after losing 2-0 to Qatar's Al Duhail and sharing spoils with UAE's Sharjah.

Persepolis claimed Iran league for the fourth time in a row with four games to spare and it was an achievement for Golmohammadi in his return to the team after an unsuccessful spell in 2013. Although his side failed to defend their title in the Hazfi Cup with a bitter loss against their old rival, Esteghlal, in the semi-finals.

But it did not stop the 49-year-old coach to attack the Persepolis hierarchy in the several interview at the end of the season.

After the departure of two influential players of the team, namely Mehdi Torabi and Ali Alipour, who reached agreement with Qatar's Al-Arabi and the Portuguese side Maritimo respectively, Golmohammadi complained of "mismanagement" at the club. He believes that mistake of the Persepolis directors was the main reason their stars to leave the team.

This argument didn't earn Golmohammadi much sympathy because Persepolis have signed seven new players in the current transfer window and extended contracts of most of the club's stars. Yet Golmohammadi showed discontent again because some of the players he wanted were not recruited by the club.

"We no longer think about why we lost the team's two attacking stars in the transfer window or why some players were not signed. We are Persepolis and when we are together, we will make great things," he published on his Instagram account.

### Esteghlal not allowed to bring back Stramaccioni

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football team are not allowed to bring back Italian coach Andrea Stramaccioni, the Iran Football League Organization said.

The Italian coach left Esteghlal in December 2019 due to a series of breaches, including payment irregularities and visa issues.

In the recent weeks, Esteghlal managers have started to negotiate with Stramaccioni to re-sign him but league organization has announced that Esteghlal are not allowed to hire the coach.

The league organization had already ratified the Iranian teams are not permitted to sign foreign coach and player in the 2020-21 Iran Professional League (IPL) after the teams failed to meet their financial commitment.

The current foreign coaches and players, who are working in Iran football, can extend their contracts with their teams.

Under leadership of Stramaccioni, Esteghlal earned seven wins, four draws and two defeats.

### Farhad Shahmiri becomes longest-serving volleyball referee

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian international volleyball referee Farhad Shahmiri has become the longest-serving referee in the world.

Russian referee Andrei Zenovich is set to move into the next phase of his career and help ensure the next generation of volleyball referees can match his high standards.

Zenovich was due to make the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games his final tournament after he received permission to extend his career past the 55-years of age cut off, Iranvolleyball.com reported.

Unfortunately, Tokyo 2020's postponement in light of the Covid-19 outbreak means he will not be able to referee in a fourth Olympic Games and he is in the running for a place on the European Volleyball Confederation (CEV) Refereeing Commission.

Now, Shahmiri is the longest-serving referee in the world. Shahmiri, who has recently turned 55, will officiate at the Tokyo Olympic Games for the last time and announce his retirement after the event.

He has already whistled in the two previous Olympics in London and Rio de Janeiro.

### Majid Hosseini linked with Porto

**TEHRAN** — Iranian international defender Majid Hosseini has been linked with a move to Porto.

The Portuguese giants have reportedly showed interest to sign the 24-year-old center back.

The Trabzonspor player had been previously linked with Serie A football club Sampdoria and media reports had earlier suggested that Trabzonspor had requested €5 million for the Iranian defender.

Porto have recently signed Iranian forward Mehdi Taremi.

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

### Iran launches women's beach volleyball competition

The women's beach volleyball competition was held in Tehran, capital of Iran for the first time ever.

The competition took place at the Takhti Stadium and brought a total of 44 teams together.

The players competed in the tournament while wearing the hijab.

The six-day event was held under the supervision of Tehran's volleyball committee on the two sand courts.

The women's beach volleyball will be also held across the country in the near future.

Iran's women's indoor volleyball team compete in the continental events for many years and now the country's beach volleyball are starting to make their way to the overseas competitions.

(Source: en.iranvolleyball.com)

## Iran: Bahrain's move to establish ties with Israel is 'disgraceful and humiliating'

### Iran strongly condemns Bahrain-Israel deal

**1→** On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he brokered what he called "a historic deal" between Israel and Bahrain.

Under the deal, Israel and Bahrain have committed to begin the exchange of embassies and ambassadors, start direct flights, and launch cooperation initiatives across a broad range of sectors, according to a White House statement issued on September 11. The deal comes on the heels of another normalization agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, which was also announced by President Trump on August 13.

The normalization deals were met with strong op-

position from regional countries as well as Arab public opinions. As Trump announced the Bahrain-Israel deal, many hashtags denouncing the normalization between Arab countries and Israel were trending on Twitter in the region, including in Bahrain, where Twitter users launched hashtags such as "Bahrainis against normalization" and "normalization is betrayal" in Arabic.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said the government of Bahrain has sought refuge in the occupying regime of Israel instead of seeking legitimacy from its own people.

"From now on, the rulers of Bahrain will be complicit in the Zionist regime's crimes as a perpetual source of

threat to security in the region and Muslim world and as the root cause of violence, slaughter, war, terrorism and bloodshed in oppressed Palestine and the region," the Iranian Foreign Ministry's statement said. "Certainly, the result of this act of the Bahraini government will be only the growing anger and lasting hatred of the oppressed people of Palestine, the Muslims, and the free nations of the world."

The statement also warned Bahrain against "any insecurity caused by Israel in the Persian Gulf", saying that the government of Bahrain and other accompanying governments will bear the responsibility for the insecurity.



## 30% of wastewater treatment equipment indigenized

**1 →** Noting that currently more than 500 major parts are imported for the South Tehran Wastewater Treatment Complex, the official said: “The program for indigenization of the equipment in this sector was launched back in [the Iranian calendar year] 1397 (started in March 2018) with the formation of an indigenization committee.”

Underlining the high quality of the locally produced items and equipment, the official said: “The localized parts are now installed in the treatment plant and there is no problem in their utilization,” he stressed.

“The equipment and parts receive the necessary standards and are installed in the treatment plant after detailed inspections,” he stressed.



Some parts and equipment required for the treatment plant need very high technologies and are not produced in the country, including the material required for sludge dewatering, the official said.

“We have already started negotiations with a local company in Yazd and their production material is being tested, of course, many of our problems will be solved if this material is localized,” he added.

## Corn imports reaches 4.5m tons since late March

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran has imported 4,527 million tons of corn since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 20), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced on Saturday.

Ruhollah Latifi put the value of imported corn during the mentioned period at \$1.096 billion, IRNA reported.

The IRICA spokesman further said that the clearance process is also running for 1.3 million tons of corn.

As previously reported, Iran has imported 6.941 million tons of agricultural and foodstuff products worth \$6.392 billion in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

## TEDPIX grows on Saturday after several days of falling

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, rose 27,483 points to 1.583 million on Saturday, which is the first day of the Iranian calendar week, IRNA reported.

It should be mentioned that the index had experienced several days of drop in the last month.

As reported, 6,788 billion securities worth 88,359 trillion rials (about \$2.103 billion) were traded at the TSE on Saturday.

The first market's index climbed 24,243 points and the second market's index rose 38,785 points.

In the past Iranian calendar week, TEDPIX fell four percent to 1.556 million points.

In this way, the index experienced the fourth weekly drop in a month.

## Over 6m tons of steel products produced in 5 months

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Production of steel products in Iran hit over six million tons during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), which was two percent higher than the figure of the same period of time in the past year, IRNA reported.

In a bid to prevent the exports of unprocessed minerals, creating more value-added and meeting the requirements of domestic producers for the raw materials, Iran has levied a 25-percent duty on the exports of raw minerals (especially iron ore) since September 23, 2019.

Industry Ministry believes that the duty is going to encourage the production of more processed minerals such as pellets and concentrate instead of selling the raw minerals.

## Annual sturgeon farming expected to reach 3,600 tons by March 2021

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran's annual sturgeon farming is anticipated to reach 3,600 tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) Head Nabiollah Khoun-Mirzaei told IRNA.



The official also said that 126 sturgeon breeding farms are now active in 21 provinces throughout the country.

Through the government's supportive measures and creation of required infrastructures, the country's fishery output has reached 1.282 million tons in the present year, which is a considerable figure, the IFO head further noted.

He went on to say that of the mentioned figure, 526,729 tons were related to aquafarming and 755,728 tons was the fishing output.

Khoun-Mirzaei said the country's fishery export stood at 146,000 tons worth \$538.9 million in the past Iranian year, while the import was 29,000 tons valued at \$98.9 million, so Iran's fishery trade balance was \$440 million in the previous year.

He further announced that 233,059 persons are currently working in the country's fishery sector.

# ‘National Rail’ a big step toward railway transport development

By Mahnaz Abdi

**TEHRAN** — It was six years ago in the Iranian calendar year 1393 (March 2014-March 2015), when for the first time Iran took a step for domestic production of rail tracks.

In that year, Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI), made an agreement with Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) on production of rail tracks.

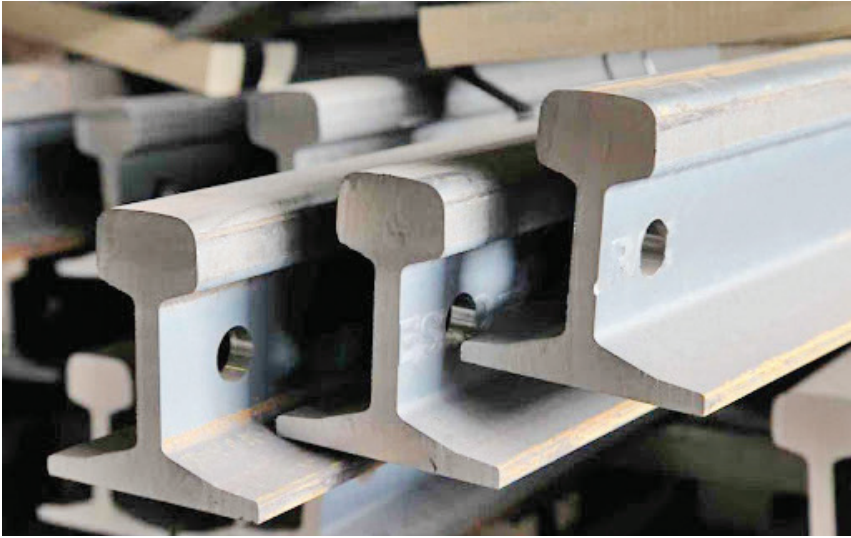
After the agreement, ESCO provided necessary equipment and infrastructure during a course of two years and in the Iranian year 1395, the company declared its complete readiness for the production of rail tracks required inside the country.

At that time, the company announced that it had the annual capacity for manufacturing 400,000 tons of rail tracks complying with the required standards.

In November 2016, ESCO signed a contract with RAI to produce 40,000 tons of U33 rails, and consequently launched its rail production line with €28.2 million plus 573 billion rials (about \$13.6 million) of investment.

In June 2018, the first domestically-manufactured rail tracks were handed over to RAI.

The consignment contained 500 tons of U33 rail tracks which were produced according to the latest global standards including engineering standards EN13674.



Mentioning the hand-over of the first domestically-manufactured rail tracks (known as National Rail) to the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, Iranian Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami said, “Moving toward self-sufficiency in this sector is a must and delivery of the first cargo of the National Rail has been a big achievement in this regard.”

He underscored that the country would become a major rail track producer in the region in near future.

Also speaking on the sidelines of the 20th edition of Iran's International Exhibition of Building and Construction Industry (Iran ConFair 2020) on Thursday, the minister said, “Applying National Rail in the railway network is an honor for the country's in-

dustrial sector.”

ESCO has also signed a deal with Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters for manufacturing 5,000 tons of rail tracks to be used by Khatam-al Anbiya in a major railway project.

The agreement was signed in a ceremony attended by Eslami, the former industry, mining and trade minister, and the Khatam-al Anbiya chief in late February.

As reported, the mentioned rail tracks are going to be used in the construction of a railway which connects Chabahar Port to Zahedan City (both in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan).

According to Eslami, the Chabahar-Zahedan railway project requires at least 50,000 tons of rail tracks, 5000 of which is going to be supplied under this deal.

Iran's sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021) stresses, among other things, the need to develop the rail transport network.

According to the country's former transport minister Abbas Akhoundi, Iran needs to build 1,500 kilometers of railroads, for which it requires 1.8 million tons of rails.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Railways says Iran needs an average of 300,000-400,000 tons of rails per year to meet the needs of this key transport sector.

## Iran's PGPIC among world's top 40 petchem companies despite sanctions

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) has been ranked 40th among the world's top 100 petrochemical companies based on Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (ICIS) 2020 ranking.

The giant holding has been ranked second in the region despite the maximum U.S. pressure to restrict the activity of the petrochemical industry in Iran, and without access to in-

ternational funding or investment, Shana reported citing the data released by the PGPIC.

According to a report published by ICIS, which has reviewed the world's top petrochemical companies, PGPIC is also ranked second based on the Index of Investment Costs following BASF, which indicates the company's continuous investment for maintaining and developing its competitive advantages in the global markets.

Also in terms of growth in research and development costs and the rise in asset growth, the company is among the top 15 companies in the list in 2019, which indicates increased production and sales in the coming years.

The ranking of PGPIC in the ICIS list for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, was 34, 44, 38, and 35, respectively.

PGPIC is the largest company listed in Tehran Stock Exchange and is the second-largest petrochemical company in West Asia.

## TCCIMA holds working group meeting on guilds issues

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA)'s guilds working group held a meeting on Saturday to discuss the problems of the mentioned businesses, TCCIMA portal reported.

As reported, the meeting was attended by the Deputy Chairman of the Government-Tehran Province's Private Sector Dialogue Council Mohammad Eydian, the Head of the Tehran Chamber of Guilds Qasem Nodeh Farahani, as well as managers and experts from some government agencies.

The mentioned working group has been formed at TCCIMA to address the problems caused by the economic hardships and the coronavirus outbreak for the country's guilds.

The results of these meetings will be compiled and submitted to the government and private sector dialogue council for review and follow-up.

Most of the problems that the guilds are currently facing are related to the supply of raw materials and machinery, the report said.

Speaking in the meeting, Eydian crit-

icized the government's executive bodies for their decisions regarding the business sectors, saying: “Most of the problems in the way of the business development of the country's enterprises and guilds are due to the wrong decisions made by the executive government bodies, which should be reviewed by experts during negotiations and discussions, and an executive solution should be provided to solve them.”

According to the official, one of the main challenges that the production units of various industries are currently facing is the lack of access to raw materials, while according to official reports, over 4.5 million tons of goods are deposited in the country's customs, most of which are raw materials and machinery needed by factories.

“This is while these raw materials and machines have been imported by the private sector... and due to the lack of foreign exchange allocation by the Central Bank, these goods have not been cleared by the customs; so in this regard, the Central Bank must take immediate measures to solve the problem of production units waiting to receive raw materials,” he explained.

## 5-month exports to Arab partners stand at \$2.5b

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The value of Iran's exports to its Arab trade partners in the region reached \$2.5 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), Farzad Piltan, the director-general of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)'s Office of Arabian and African Countries, said.

According to Piltan, the mentioned trade partners include Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Syria, Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, and Bahrain.

Among Iran's top trade partners, Iraq was ranked the second export destination with about \$1.834 billion worth of goods exported to the country, followed by UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Syria, and Qatar.

As reported, the exports to the mentioned Arab partners decreased by about \$3.5 billion in the mentioned period compared to the previous year following the outbreak of Coronavirus and the closure of Iran's borders with neighboring countries.

However, this decline is expected to be partially compensated by the end of this year (March 2021) following the re-opening of borders and the resumption



of international trade.

The value of Iran's total non-oil trade during the first five months of the current stood at \$24.6 billion, about \$5 billion more than the figure for the first four months.

According to the Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mehdi Mirashrafi, the significant increase in the value of trade was an indication that the negative impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on Iran's foreign trade has alleviated.

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

## IAC to take over 9 Oil Ministry's airports

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran Airports Company (IAC) is going to take over nine of the country's airports which have been operated by the Oil Ministry in oil-rich regions, IRNA reported.

“The take-over process of the Oil Ministry's airports will begin with Assaluyeh Airport and then other airports will also be handed over gradually,” Siavash Amirmokri said.

According to Amirmokri, the mentioned airports were initially established with the aim of transferring specialists and manpower to the oil-rich regions and areas with petrochemical facilities, however, some of these airports also play a limited role in transporting ordinary passengers.

Explaining the reasons for this decision, the official noted that Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company, as a specialized parent company, should be in charge of



managing, directing, developing, and equipping all airports across the country.

“[The hand-over] also separates the Oil Ministry from engaging in its non-specialized affairs and duties,” he added.

However, considering issues such as organizational structure, manpower integration, compliance to the infrastructure, technical and safety standards approved by the Civil Aviation Authority, this take-over should be planned in such a way that the airports would be upgraded in terms of safety and quality of services.

Iran Airports Company (IAC) is the holding and operating company for civilian airports and managing air navigation in Iran. Its headquarters is located at Tehran Mehrabad International Airport and it has offices at all airports in Iran.

## Trade via Chazabeh border to be conducted on all weekdays

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Activity in Chazabeh border between Iran and Iraq will be running in all days of the week as of Saturday, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi said, “From today (Saturday), the customs formalities are conducted for the exported commodities at this border crossing”, IRIB reported.

Trade was previously running via this border just on Sundays and Wednesdays.

An Iranian provincial official said last week that despite high customs duties enforced by Iraq, trade between Iran and Iraq

is rising via Chazabeh border.

Saeed Mousavi, a director in the Chamber of Commerce of Ahvaz (center of Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province), further underlined that rising trade via this border is happening while Iraq is enforcing high customs duties on some products such as tile, ceramic, marble, tomato paste, and plastic products.

He announced that Iran has exported products worth \$700 million to Iraq via Chazabeh border in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), and mentioned constructional materials, dairy products, and home appliances as the major

exported items.

The economic and political relations between Iran and Iraq has increased significantly in the past few years and the two neighbors are seeking ways to facilitate financial transactions and boost their trade ties.

The two countries have it on the agenda to increase the value of their bilateral trade to \$20 billion by 2021.

Heading a high-ranking politico-economic delegation, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi visited Tehran in late July.

During his two-day visit, al-Kadhimi discussed how to strengthen ties between

Iran and Iraq as well as their cooperation in a number of fields.

Several senior Iraqi officials including Minister of Finance and Prime Minister Assistant for Economic and Energy Affairs Ali Abdul Amir Allawi, Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, Petroleum Minister Ehsan Abdul Jabar, Health Minister Hassan Mohammad al-Tamimi, Minister of Planning Khaled Battal, Defense Minister Joma Enad, Electricity Minister Majed Hantoush, National Security Advisor Qassem al-Araji and Head of Trade Bank of Iraq Faisal al-Haimus accompanied the prime minister on his first visit to a foreign country since taking office.



# 9/11 was a false flag operation planned by Zionist agents: French antropologist

➡ I decided to explore all the possible angles of this historical event, and I spent hundreds of hours reading books and searching for information in 11/9 truth websites, with the aim, initially, of producing a short synthesis for the French public, since the French are notoriously poor in English language. As I tried to understand how a false flag of that magnitude was possible, I felt the need to study American recent history, and became fascinated by the JFK assassination, realizing that the official lie concerning JFK was the foundation that made the 11/9 deception possible. I also became increasingly aware that both 11/9 and the Kennedy assassinations (John's and Robert's) bear the signature of Israel. So, the main focus of my book, published in 2014, became to expose the Israel's role in those operations, and the way Israel came to control U.S. foreign and military policy through such operations.

■ Could you please tell us about the reactions to your book?

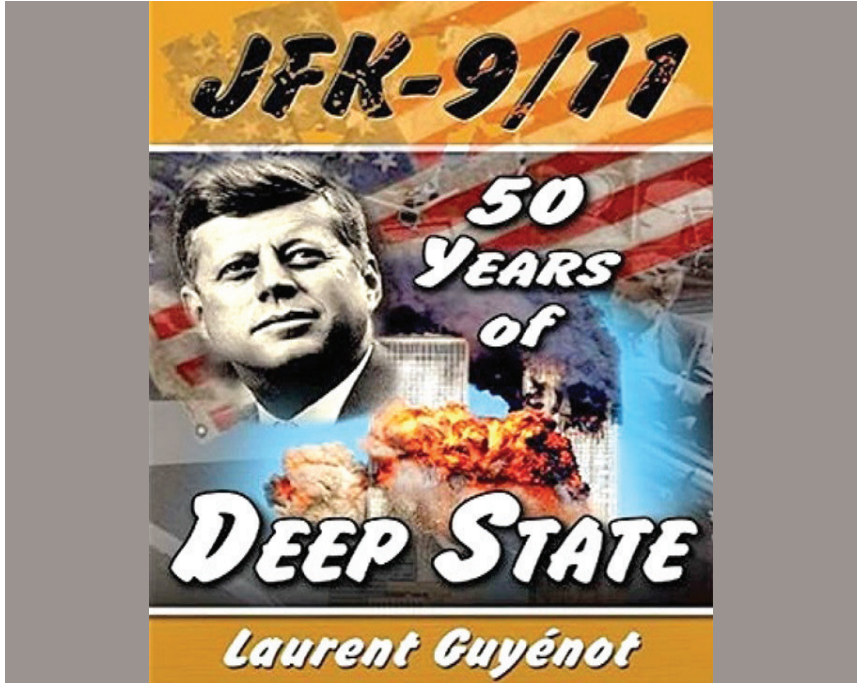
A: Predictably, my book was ignored by the mainstream media, but slowly gained notoriety by word of mouth, and became the best-seller of Progressive Press, with close to a hundred mostly positive comments on Amazon. A few months ago, though, Amazon suddenly deleted my book from all their sites, most probably as part of a general policy to censor books incriminating Israel.

■ Do you think 11/9 was a terrorist attack? Please give us your reasons.

A: 11/9 was a false flag operation planned and executed by Zionist agents infiltrated in the highest level of U.S. administration and controlling U.S. and European mainstream media, for the purpose of drawing the US into wars against the enemies of Israel. Osama Ben Laden had nothing to do with it, as he himself declared on several occasions in the Pakistani press.

It has been clearly proven that the official narrative about what happened on September 2001 ,11, is a web of lies. For example, members of Architects and Engineers for 11/9 Truth have demonstrated that it was impossible for plane crashes and jet fuel fires to trigger the collapse of the Twin Towers. It is also impossible that WTC7, another skyscraper (47 stories), which had not been hit by a plane, collapsed into its own footprint at near free-fall speed, unless by "controlled demolition."

When we examine closely the profile of those involved in the preparation of the attacks on the World Trade Center, we find a network of super-sayanim closely connected to the Likud and to Benjamin Netanyahu. The most representative of these super-sayanim is, of course, Larry Silverstein, the real estate shark who, with his partner Frank Lowy, leased the Twin



**“As I tried to understand how a false flag of that magnitude was possible, I felt the need to study American recent history, and became fascinated by the JFK assassination, realizing that the official lie concerning JFK was the foundation that made the 9/11 deception possible.”**

Towers from New York City in the spring of 2001. Silverstein is a leading member of the United Jewish Appeal Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, the biggest fundraiser for Israel. He also maintained "close ties with Netanyahu," according to Haaretz (November 2001, 21), to the point that "every Sunday afternoon, New York time, Netanyahu would call Silverstein."

■ What was the role of Neocons in 11/9?

A: Those who call themselves neoconservatives are Jewish crypto-Zionists posturing as American imperialists. These include dozens of high officials who took control of key positions under the administration of President George W. Bush. The most important were Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz and Douglas Feith in the Pentagon, David Wurmser at the State Department, and Philip Zelikow, Elliott Abrams, and later Eliot Cohen at the National Security Council. In 1996, the neoconservatives had founded the Project for the New American Century (PNAC), directed by William Kristol and Robert Kagan. They draped themselves in the super-patriotic discourse of America's

civilizing mission, but their duplicity is exposed in a document brought to public knowledge in 2008: a report published in 1996 by the Israeli think tank Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies (IASPS), entitled A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm, written specifically for the new Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, encouraging him to break with the Oslo Accords and expand Israel's territory. The team responsible for the report was led by Richard Perle, and included Douglas Feith and David Wurmser, who figured the same year among the signatories of PNAC.

■ How do you see the relationship between 11/9 and neocons' plan for the Afghanistan and Iraq invasions?

A: In its September 2000 report entitled Rebuilding America's Defenses, PNAC anticipated that U.S. forces must become "able to rapidly deploy and win multiple simultaneous large-scale wars." Unfortunately, according to the authors of the report, "the process of transformation [...] is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event—like a new Pearl Harbor." One year later, they

got exactly what they needed: 11/9 was their new Pearl Harbor. Just two hours after the pulverization of the North Tower, Jewish neocon (Lewis) Paul Bremer, the chairman of the National Commission on Terrorism, appeared on NBC to compare the event with Pearl Harbor and name bin Laden as prime suspect. Almost simultaneously, Ehud Barak was on BBC World to point the finger at bin Laden and concluded: "It's a time to launch an operational, complete war against terror."

Afghanistan was of no great interest to the neocons. Iraq was the first target, with Syria and Iran next on the list. That is why on September 19 and 20, Richard Perle's Defense Policy Board met in the company of Paul Wolfowitz and Bernard Lewis (inventor of the self-fulfilling prophecy of the "clash of civilizations") but in the absence of Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, and prepared a letter to President Bush, on PNAC letterhead, to remind him of his historic mission: "Even if evidence does not link Iraq directly to the attack, any strategy aiming at the eradication of terrorism and its sponsors must include a determined effort to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. Failure to undertake such an effort will constitute an early and perhaps decisive surrender in the war on international terrorism." This was an ultimatum. Bush was certainly aware of the leverage that the neocons had acquired over the major print and television media. He was blackmailed into endorsing the invasion of Iraq that his father had refused the Zionists ten years earlier.

■ Near two decades have passed since 11/9, and many questions remain unanswered. In your view, why is the U.S. delaying the truth about what happened on September 2001 ,11?

A: Israel, understood as an international community, is a parasite that has taken almost total control of American foreign policy. Moreover, Jewish Zionists have acquired control of all major news media. They control the narrative. In these conditions, it is very difficult for U.S. patriots to expose Israel's crime. Many were hoping that Trump would do it. He knows, of course, that 11/9 was not what the official story. On the very day of 11/9, he was interviewed, as a specialist of steel-framed skyscrapers and expressed his disbelief at the notion that the planes could penetrate the towers and cause their collapse. Unfortunately, Trump has not yet opened a new investigation, and I doubt that he will if he is reelected.

*Bush was certainly aware of the leverage that the neocons had acquired over the major print and television media. He was blackmailed into endorsing the invasion of Iraq that his father had refused the Zionists ten years earlier.*

## Warring Afghans meet to find peace after decades of war

After nearly two decades of war that has killed tens of thousands, peace talks between the Afghanistan government and the Taliban have opened in Qatar's capital.

Key speakers at Saturday's opening ceremony at a hotel in Doha included Abdullah Abdullah, chairperson of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, Taliban deputy leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

The negotiations, where the two warring sides will sit face-to-face for the first time, will start on Monday.

For his part, Abdullah spoke about seeking a dignified and lasting peace. "I believe that if we give hands to each other and honestly work for peace, the current ongoing misery in the country will end," Abdullah said, calling for a "humanitarian ceasefire".

Baradar, meanwhile, repeated his group's demand for the country to adopt an "Islamic system".

"We want Afghanistan to be an independent, developed country, and it should have a form of Islamic system, where all its citizens see themselves reflected."

## Resistance News

### Palestinians rally against Bahrain-Israel normalization

**INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN** — Palestinians in Gaza burnt pictures of Israeli, U.S., Bahraini and United Arab Emirates leaders on Saturday in protest over the two Gulf countries' moves to normalize ties with Israel.

Bahrain on Friday joined the UAE in agreeing to normalize relations with Israel, a move forged partly through shared fears of Iran but one that could leave the Palestinians further isolated.

The Gaza protest was organized by the ruling Islamic group Hamas, Reuters reported. "We have to fight the virus of normalization and block all its paths before it succeeds, to prevent it from spreading," said Hamas official Maher al-Holy.

Demonstrators set fire to pictures of U.S. President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the UAE's Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nayhan.

While the United States, Israel, the UAE and Bahrain hail the diplomatic moves as a major step toward Middle East peace and stability, the Palestinians see it as a betrayal.

### Bahrain-Israel normalization deal demonstrates Manama's submission to U.S.: Islamic Jihad

**INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN** — The Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement has strongly denounced the Israel-Bahrain normalization deal announced by U.S. President Donald Trump, stating that the agreement exhibits the Manama regime's capitulation to Washington.

"The agreement reflects the U.S. custody of Bahrain. The Bahraini monarch [King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah] and his government act upon U.S. instructions and orders," Dawood Shihab, a spokesman for the movement, said in an interview with Lebanon-based and Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network on Friday night.

He described the deal as "a new and expected political downfall," after the Arab League dropped a draft Palestinian resolution condemning the agreement between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel to establish full diplomatic ties, and became a sponsor of departure from Arab consensus, which seeks an end to the Israeli occupation and establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem al-Quds as its capital.

## Amnesty on Arab-Israeli normalization: Any process seeking 'just' solution to Palestinian issue must halt settlements

Amnesty International has reacted to the latest revelations of Arab-Israeli normalization, saying any process aimed at finding a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must include the removal of illegal settlements.

In a post published on Twitter on Saturday, the rights group said all Israeli systematic human rights violations against Palestinians must come to an end, while justice and compensation must be paid to victims of crimes as per international law.

No agreement "can change the legal duties of Israel as an occupying power in according with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, nor deprive the Palestinians of their rights and protections guaranteed by international law," the tweet added.

This came shortly after Bahrain declared it would follow the United Arab Emirates in normalizing ties with Israel.

On Friday, US President Donald Trump announced the normalization of diplomatic

relations between Bahrain and Israel.

It came roughly a month after a similar announcement by Trump on a deal between the UAE and Israel to forge formal ties.

The US president has pointed to both announcements as foreign policy achievements, which he is likely to tout in the 2020 presidential campaign's closing stretch.

Next week, Bahraini officials are expected to join Emirati and Israeli representatives at the White House for a formal signing ceremony.

First Announcement

1399.3121

**N.I.S.O.C**  
**NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN**  
**TENDER NO. : 01-31-9150037**

Items	Material Description	Quantity
32	PARTS FOR "AIRPACK" RECIPROCATING AIR COMPRESSOR TYPE HA-550-LT SERIAL. NOS. T-1995-00449-1 TO 00449/3 AIRPACK REFERENCE: 7356-COM REF. AIRPACK NEDERLAND B. V. 2 STAGE CYLINDER SET	318 Nos

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

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 2.288.000.000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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

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

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT  
 Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex  
 Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran  
 E.MAIL: [KALA.F.P@nisoc.ir](mailto:KALA.F.P@nisoc.ir) Tel. No.: **061 34 12 34 55** Fax No.: **061 3445 7437**  
 Public Relations [www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir) [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)  
 تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۹/۶/۲۳ نوبت دوم ۹۹/۶/۲۶

**N.I.O.C**  
**1399.3043**

Second Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)

Two Stages (semi compressed) tender

Subject of Tender: (CASING PIPES 13-5/8")

**National Iranian Drilling Company**

• **Tender descriptions:**

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Euro/Rial)
National Iranian Drilling Company	17985749	TenderNo. PFP/GACH/98/005 Indent No: 48-22-9822008	89,924,000,000

• **Qualitative evaluation of tenderers Method**  
Based on minimum scoring (50) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.

**Purchasing & Submitting**

Tender Documents Distribution by Company	<p>The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.</p> <p><b>Distribution Place</b></p> <p>A) Hall No.: 316, 3th floor, Foreign Procurement Dept. (DRILLING PROJECTS), National Iranian Drilling Company, After Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. 06134148329 B) jomhouri street , yaghma alley nioc 8th building floor no : 04 room no 428 –tehran -iran .02166700249</p> <p><b>Submitting Method</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of .. Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 Shaba No. IR520100004001114004020491 (in name of " NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund "issued by I.R .Of Iran Central Bank.</li> <li>Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender documents.</li> </ul>
Documents Receiving Method	<p><b>Closing date</b> : 14 Days after the last time of Purchasing.</p> <p><b>Address</b></p> <p>Hall NO.107,1st floor,Tender committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company ,Airport square ,Ahwaz ,IRAN. Tel34148569-61-98+ 34148580-61-98+ :</p>

• **Tender Guarantee**

Value of guarantee	3,299,000,000 Rial /25,336 Euro
Type of guarantee	<p>Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</p> <p>Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number) 4001114006376636 Shaba No. IR350100004001114006376636 (in name of " NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.</p> <p>"NIDC saving account "by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.</p>
Duration of credit & quotation	<p>Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.</p>

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)  
 More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: [www.nidc.ir](http://www.nidc.ir) [http://sapp.ir/nidc\\_pr](http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr)  
 تهران تایمز نوبت دوم ۹۹/۶/۲۳



## Iranian tourism, ancient civilization on show at China exhibit

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – A delegation of Iranian crafters and tour operators are attending China International Tourism Industry Expo (CITIE), promoting tourism destinations, arts, and rituals of the ancient land to visitors.

Over 1,000 companies from 40 countries are taking part at the three-day event, which opened its doors to the public on Friday at a fairground area as large as 30,000 square meters at [China Import and Export Fair Complex] in Guangzhou, according to Iran's Consular Office in the Chinese metropolis.



Iran's pavilion gives visitors a chance to be more familiar with examples of diverse and striking handicrafts, rituals, and highlights of tourism destinations including cultural, historical, and natural ones at the ancient land.

Being a professional platform for sharing worldwide information, purchasing product, and business development for exhibitors and buyers, CITIE facilitates building the Greater Bay Area into a world-class culture and tourism destination, according to organizers.

"The Islamic Republic is seeking to become a tourist destination for millions of potential travelers from China as the two countries are working on a 25-year comprehensive cooperation plan that includes boosting relations in the field of tourism," Tehran's ex-ambassador to Beijing Mehdi Safari said in June.

Pointing to the fact that some 200 million Chinese tourists visit different countries annually, he said "according to this agreement Iran will become one of the tourist destinations for Chinese travelers so that Iran can attract one to two million Chinese tourists to the country." "This will create a transformation in Iran's tourism industry and will create jobs and a large market for the handicrafts industry of the country," he added.

Last year, the Islamic Republic waived the visa requirement for Chinese nationals willing to visit the country. The decision was made to attract more foreign tourists to the country; however, it was a unilateral measure, because Iranian tourists visiting China still need visas.

The country 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.

China is widely considered one of the world's most important patrons of tourism. In 2019, close to 150 million Chinese nationals headed to tourism destinations outside the country with the government expecting the figure to amount to 178 million in 2022 if the situation in the world returns to normal once the COVID-19 pandemic is defeated.

## Deformed skull of ancient human unearthed in Isfahan

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – Iranian archaeologists have recently unearthed a deformed skull of an ancient human in a prehistorical mound in the central city of Isfahan.



The bizarre shape of the skull suggests it belonged to a disabled person who lived during the Parthian era, ILNA quoted Alireza Jafari-Zand who leads the archaeological survey was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

"Within one-meter distance to another skeleton, we came across a skull that has no lower jaw and is halved. The half-skull is also very strange because physically there is a state of insufficiency in the skull. We assume it belongs to a person with a disability....

We still don't know if it belongs to a woman or a man," Jafari-Zand explained.

Over the past weeks, a team of Iranian researchers, led by Jafari-Zand, has found a new range of discoveries that offer novel clues about the history of Isfahan. They have also found an ancient burial containing the remains of a horse -- estimated to be four years old was found near a place where a giant jar-tomb was unearthed weeks earlier.

"Tepe Ashraf is the second place after the Tepe Sialk (in Isfahan province) that has yielded the discovery of such jar tombs that offers valuable clues to uncover the obscure history of pre-Islamic Isfahan," according to the archaeologist.

Excavations at Tepe Ashraf initially began in 2010 when Jafari-Zand announced his team found evidence at the site suggesting that the Sassanid site had also been used during the Buyid dynasty (945–1055). "We stumbled upon a reconstructed part in the ruins of the castle, which suggests that the structure had been used during the Buyid dynasty."

The Parthian Empire (247 BC – 224 CE), also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power in ancient Iran. The Parthians largely adopted the art, architecture, religious beliefs, and royal insignia of their culturally heterogeneous empire, which encompassed Persian, Hellenistic, and regional cultures. At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to eastern Iran.

# 'Irresponsible' activities banned in Qeshm Geopark to save UNESCO tag

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – Any form of 'irresponsible' activities across Iran's Qeshm Geopark has been ruled to be terminated across Qeshm Geopark, which is on the verge of losing its UNESCO status due to years of misconduct.

"Any land operation and activity within the Qeshm GeoPark was ruled to be terminated by [Hormozgan] province's council for the protection of treasury rights in national lands and natural resources," Ali Salehi, a top judiciary official, said on Saturday.

Speaking at a press conference, Salehi attached great importance to the Qeshm Geopark as the sole geopark in West Asia, which is also home to Namakdan Cave that is one of the longest salt caves in the world.

"This unique and exceptional phenomenon (Qeshm Geopark) requires great care and attention to be preserved because this natural attraction is a valuable heritage for the future [generations] and a big asset for the country."

Registration of this important site as a UNESCO World Heritage points to its special prominence, which is a great honor for the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly for Hormozgan province, the official added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salehi emphasized the need for the protection of the rights of investors who have financed shrimp farming



projects in these lands, noting "Damages to investors should be determined to compensate their losses or allocate them suitable pieces of land in other locations outside the Geopark."

Initially added to the coveted network in 2006, Qeshm Geopark was dropped from the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) in 2013 due to the authorities' failure to address the site's problems, such as underdeveloped infrastructure and unenforced environmental regulations.

After years of back and forth and dis-

cussions with UNESCO experts, Iranian authorities submitted the geopark's dossier for review last year and it received the provisional approval during the Seventh International Conference on UNESCO's Global Geoparks Network in Torquay, England.

In 2017, the geopark managed to reclaim its global status, after 10 days of deliberation by UNESCO's Executive Board in Paris. Seven other geological sites were also added to the list, according to a press release on GGN's website.

## Language of art could attract more tourists to Iran: official

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Houshang Bazvand, the governor general of the western Kermanshah province, has said that introducing the cultural heritage and civilization of Iran in the language of art could attract more tourists to the ancient country.

He made the remarks during the closing ceremony of the World Wood Day Regional Event, which was held in the historical site of Taq-e Bostan on Thursday.

Pointing to a carved wooden board from the UNESCO-registered Bisotun bas-relief, an exceptional testimony to the distinctive visual arts in prehistoric Iran, he also noted that such handmade craft is an innovative and creative work to introduce the ancient heritage of Kermanshah.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites, of which Bisotun and Taq-e Bostan are both on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

He also expressed his hope that the province will be hosting such events during next year if the disease has been controlled by then.

However, he noted that the province's economy has taken 100 trillion rials (over \$2 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) hit from the coronavirus outbreak and the virus brought the province's tourism industry into a standstill.

Inscribed into the base of a towering cliff, Taq-e Bostan

comprises extraordinary Sassanian bas-reliefs of ancient victorious kings divide opinions. Late afternoon is the best time to visit, as the cliff turns a brilliant orange in the setting sun, which then dies poetically on the far side of the duck pond.

Bisotun is a patchwork of immense yet impressive life-size carvings depicting the king Darius I and several other figures. UNESCO has it that Bisotun bears outstanding testimony to the important interchange of human values on the development of monumental art and writing, reflecting ancient traditions in monumental bas-reliefs.

The inscription, measuring about 15 meters high and 25 meters wide, was created on the order of King Darius I in 521 BC. It bears three different cuneiform script languages: Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian.

According to legend, the figure represents Gaumata, the pretender to the throne whose assassination led to Darius' rise to power. This symbolic representation of the Achaemenid king in relation to his enemy reflects traditions in monumental bas-reliefs that date from ancient Egypt and the Middle East, and which were subsequently further developed during the Achaemenid and later empires.

Another popular historical site of the province is the Temple of Anahita in the city of Kangavar, which is believed to have



been built circa 200 BC. Several column bases and ruins of a wall remain from the magnificent Greek-style temple.

The temple was used during the Parthian era (248 BC-224) as well as the Sassanid era (224-651).

The monument was damaged as it was used for various purposes by the Seljuk, Ilkhanid, Safavid, and Qajar dynasties, which ruled in Iran over the past centuries.

The Temple of Anahita was seriously damaged by an earthquake in 1957. Afterward, people invaded the perimeter of the site, using stones from the temple to rebuild their homes at that location.

## Meeting on Iran's tourism potential held in Bangkok

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – Iran's embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, held a one-day meeting on Iran's tourism capacities and potential on Friday.

Entitled "Iran Travel and Tourism Industry", the meeting was attended by representatives of 10 Thai travel agencies, while representatives of two Iranian travel agencies participated in the event through video conference, ISNA reported.

Iranian Ambassador Seyyed Reza Nobakhti said that the embassy is fully prepared to issue visas for Thai travelers as well as contact with Iranian tourism agencies to facilitate cooperation.

However, he stressed that planning for tours needs to be done after the coronavirus crisis subsides.

In July, Iranian authorities set new rules and regulations for traveling to Iran including



holding a COVID-19 negative PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test for all passengers to get the entry to the country.

Not issuing visas on arrival for tourists, specific mandates for testing, tracing, receiving of a traveler test/vaccine certificate, identifying infected travelers, and removing them from the travel ecosystem and putting them in quarantine were among the regulations. Iran has suffered an average 15.8 percent

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

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

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

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

## Museums, heritage sites ready to display private collections

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Museums, palaces, and other heritage sites affiliated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts all over the country are ready to display the collections owned by the private sector.

"By preserving valuable historical artifacts and relics, collectors make a great contribution to the best preservation of a part of the country's culture and historical identity.... therefore the tourism ministry is ready to fully support the collectors," tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said during a meeting with the private collectors on Tuesday.

"I believe that collectors are people who work with love and passion, and considering the value of their work, they need to be introduced and promoted properly."

The minister also suggested that the private collections could be included on the comprehensive tourism portal, which introduces the tourist attractions and historical and cultural capacities of the country in five languages.

He also stressed that donated collections will be displayed in the name of their collectors.

Pointing to the valuable private collections he said that



these are some exquisite treasures which, as a part of the Iranian history of civilization and historical identity, could attract more domestic and foreign tourists to the country and make it an important tourism hub in the world.

Some three million historical objects are currently being kept in Iranian museums which are affiliated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

"There are many historical relics that are owned by pri-

vate collectors and entities and the government cannot act in order to preserve them in the museums; therefore, we made efforts that this [cultural] heritage to be conserved and showcased in private museums," according to Mohammadreza Kargar who presides over the ministry's museums and historical properties department.

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing settlements dating back to 4000 BC.

The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (550 – 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistorical sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa and Chogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.

From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633–656) that put an end to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224–651) was a turning point in the history of the nation.

## Police confiscate ancient relics from illegal excavators, antique dealers

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Iranian authorities have recently seized several ancient relics from the home of an illegal excavator in northern Iran. And the objects are estimated to date back to the Parthian and early Islamic eras.

"[A total of] 13 relics dating from the

Parthian and early Islamic eras have been recovered from the home of an unauthorized digger in Rasht (the capital of Gilan province) and seven people have been detained in that regard," IRNA quoted deputy provincial tourism chief Vali Jahani as saying on Saturday.

The relics had been unearthed from

archaeological sites in Gilan province, the official said, adding the northern province is home to some 3,000 historical relics, monuments, and sites.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once

within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.



# Iran ranks 26 worldwide for hi-tech industries

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — Iran is placed 26th worldwide for the share of its hi-tech industries in the national production, surpassing the regional countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey, according to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 report.

Every year, the Global Innovation Index ranks the innovation performance of more than 130 economies around the world. The GI 2020 with a theme of “Who Will Finance Innovation?” discusses how the state of innovation finance is changing rapidly. This chapter reveals and analyzes the annual GI innovation rankings—by top-performing economies, regions, and innovation components.

According to this report, Iran is ranked second among 10 countries in the Central and South Asian region.

In this region, India (48th), Iran (67th), and Kazakhstan (77th) are ranked first to third, respectively. Iran is also ranked 19th among 37 middle-income countries.

Iran is significantly leading the countries in the region in terms of global innovation, for example, in the “number of trademark applications” index, Iran is ranked first in the world, and Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar are ranked 17, 111 and 125, respectively.



In the indicators of human capital, including “the share of basic science and engineering graduates in the total graduates of higher education”, Iran is ranked 3 and also 30 in “higher education

registration”.

These indicators represent the country’s readiness for technology development and innovation.

In the higher education registration

index, countries in the region such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are ranked 32 and 54, respectively.

The total ranking of Iran is 67 in the GI 2020 report, which was 61 in 2019.

Iran ranked 43rd among 100 most vibrant clusters of science and technology (S&T) worldwide for the third consecutive years.

The top 100 clusters are located in 26 countries, 6 of which including Brazil, China, India, Iran, Turkey, and Russia represent middle-income economies.

Iran also experienced a three-level improvement compared to 2019.

Tehran also ranked 9th among top regions (clusters) of science and technology in middle-income countries, surpassing Berlin, Zurich, Bangalore, Delhi, Lausanne, Vienna, Istanbul, Sao Paulo, Ankara, and Mumbai.

The ranking published by the WIPO, which is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information, and cooperation. It is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 191 member states.

It aims to lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.

## Autumn seen with lower than normal rainfall

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** —

Precipitation in Iran is expected to meet normal or lower than normal averages over autumn, Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management, said.

Stating that during a period of three weeks (September -15 October 5), the main rainfall will pour over the northern part of the country, including the coastal provinces of the Caspian Sea, northwestern West Azarbaijan and East Azarbaijan provinces, and northeastern North Khorasan province, he said that precipitations will be less than normal, and although the precipitations slightly increase a week later, it follows a negative trend.

He said that the monsoon summer rains that move from India and Pakistan to the southeast of Iran will continue, adding that monsoon causes the country’s rainfall to start later than ever. Therefore, there is a high probability that precipitation in Iran during the fall is less than normal.

The monsoon of South Asia is among several geographically distributed global monsoons. It affects the Indian subcontinent, where it is one of the oldest and most anticipated weather phenomena and an economically important pattern every year from June through September, but it is only partly understood and notoriously difficult to predict.

According to climatic models, precipitation in Western Europe during the fall is normal and above-normal. As a result, rainfall is weak throughout West Asia, including Iran.

According to Iran’s rainfall patterns, November has always been the month of rainfall for the northwest and west of the country, but it is predicted that these areas will experience relatively low rainfall in



November and December” he explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the temperature conditions and said that it is predicted that the temperature in the western part of the country will be 3-1 degrees Celsius higher than normal and in the east about 2-1 degrees lower than normal and cooler than usual.

The temperature in the central regions of the country, including the provinces of Tehran, Alborz, Qazvin, Isfahan, etc., is forecasted to meet normal levels during the first month of autumn, he concluded.

■ **Iran short of rain compared to previous water year**

Since the beginning of the current water year (September 2019 -23), the whole country received 297.7 mm of rainfall, which is 29.1 percent higher than the long-term average but 6.3 percent short of rain compared to the past year.

Gilan, Mazandaran, and Lorestan provinces surpassed other provinces in terms of high rainfall rates over the aforesaid period.

Precipitation in Yazd, South Khorasan, and Isfahan received the lowest amount of rainfall among all provinces.

Precipitation in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, and Kermanshah have declined relative proportion of both the long-term average and past year.

## Iranian COVID-19 vaccine to undergo clinical trial soon

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — The Iranian-made coronavirus

vaccine has passed the initial laboratory phase and will be tested on humans over the next 2 months, Jalil Kouhpayehzadeh, the chancellor of Iran University of Medical Sciences, has announced.

Pointing to the numerous researches done on COVID-19 vaccines at the international level, he said that over 10 groups are working on vaccine production, two of which achieved better results.

The vaccine will enter the clinical trial in the next one or two months, he noted, adding, if this step is done successfully, the vaccine will be mass-produced.

He predicted that Iran will be able to obtain internationally-approved vaccine samples by autumn or early winter.

Of course, these vaccines may also be imported, depending on the time, he highlighted.

Health Minister Saeed Namaki said in late June that a home-grown vaccine, meant to confront COVID-19, is set to begin its third and final trial in the near future.

■ **Vaccine development**

Researchers around the world are developing more than 165 vaccines against the coronavirus, and 31 vaccines are in human trials, The New York Times reported. The report adds that typically vaccines require years of research and testing before reaching the clinic, but scientists are racing to produce safe and effective vaccines by next year.

Hundreds of millions of eggs – the traditional medium for incubating the viruses before they are inactivated and made into vaccines – are delivered to laboratories, and production continues throughout the spring until the syringes are filled in the summer.

The procedure of vaccine testing before



final approval is divided into five steps: Stage I, Phase I, II & III, and Stage 2. The first clinical trials started in March, and now there are some 30 tests underway.

Before human trials testing the coronavirus, vaccines began with injection into mice or monkeys to see how they respond. After animal tests turned out well, researchers enlisted volunteers for a Phase I trial.

Scientists give the vaccine to a small number of people to test safety and dosage as well as to confirm that it stimulates the immune system.

■ **COVID-19 mortality in Iran**

In the press briefing on Saturday, Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 2,139 new cases of Covid-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 399,940. She added that 344,516 patients have so far recovered, but 3,768 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 116 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 23,029.

Lari added that so far 3,532,873 Covid-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

She said the high-risk “red” zones include Tehran, Mazandaran, Gilan, Qom, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi, East Azerbaijan, Kerman, North Khorasan, Semnan, Yazd, Zanjan and Qazvin provinces.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## Iran to implement food safety program

A food safety document will be approved and implemented in the future in the country, Vahid Mofid, an official with the Food and Drug Administration has stated.

The document is consisting of standards through which food safety is best ensured; the whole food production process from cultivation to markets will be under control, it also identifies and controls hazards in the production, manufacturing and handling of food rather than relying on end product standards alone, he explained.

The standards enable the country to oblige food businesses to meet the document principles, they will be subject to periodic observations by a suitably qualified food safety auditor, he added.

## اجرای سند ایمنی غذا در حال پیگیری است

مدیرکل فرآورده‌های غذایی و آشامیدنی سازمان غذا و دارو درباره وضعیت فعلی سند ایمنی غذا گفت: سند ایمنی غذا در حال تکمیل شدن است و تا پس از طی مراحل اداری اجرا شود. وحید مفید روز جمعه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: با این سند، نظارت بر کل حلقه‌های تولید در زنجیره غذا از مزرعه تا سفره تحت کنترل بخش‌های مختلف درمی‌آید و میزان سموم مصرفی، انواع کودهای مصرف شده و چگونگی حمل مواد غذایی و توزیع آن، نوع آب و آبیاری زمین‌ها در سند ایمنی غذا تعریف شده است چراکه این عوامل در کیفیت محصول غذایی تاثیرگذار هستند.

مدیرکل فرآورده‌های غذایی و آشامیدنی سازمان غذا و دارو اظهار داشت: این استانداردها کشور را قادر می‌سازد که تولیدکنندگان غذایی به رعایت اصول سند مجاب کند، و شرکت‌های تولیدکننده مواد غذایی هر دوره توسط یک سازمان ایمنی مواد غذایی کنترل خواهند شد.

## ‘Doomsday glacier’ melting due to warm water channels, scientists say

Scientists studying a giant mass of ice in Antarctica known as the “doomsday glacier” believe they have discovered why it is melting so rapidly and pushing up sea levels.

A team of UK and US researchers have found a series of deep channels beneath Thwaites Glacier thought to be acting as pathways for warm ocean water to melt the underside of the ice.

Around 80 billion tonnes of ice from the glacier is currently draining out into the Amundsen Sea each year – accounting for around four per cent of the planet’s annual sea-level rise.

The runaway collapse of Thwaites – which is around the size of Great Britain – could lead to an increase in sea levels of around 65cm, and scientists want to find out how quickly this catastrophic scenario might happen.



A series of missions by the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration (ITGC) – using ship and aircraft – mapped the sea channels underneath the glacier in detail for the first time, and found they were far deeper than previously thought.

“I was shocked to fly over the glacier and see all the debris left behind as the ice shelf has collapsed – it was stunning,” said Dr Tom Jordan, an aero-geophysicist from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) who led the airborne survey.

He told The Independent: “You look out the window and you see the broken-up fragments of the former ice shelf. It was breathtaking. It brought home how much how much this natural system has been damaged and is breaking up.”

Dr Jordan is in no doubt carbon emissions from human activity have contributed to the warming of the ocean in Antarctica. “It’s generally accepted that the warming of the ocean is part of what is driving the retreat at Thwaites Glacier,” he said.

“It is part of the changing climatic system, which is an anthropogenic effect. That’s the scientific consensus – that the changes relate to human-caused climate change.”

British and American researchers from ITGC project began collecting data from the glacier and adjoining ice shelves last year. While one team collected airborne data flying over the glacier and ice shelf in a British Antarctic Survey Twin Otter aircraft, the other mapped the sea floor at the ice front from the US Antarctic Program’s icebreaker vessel RV Nathaniel B Palmer.

“For the first time we have a clear view of the pathways along which warm water can reach the underside of the glacier, causing it to melt and contribute to global sea-level rise.”

Dr Hogan, author of one of the newly-released research papers on the work in west Antarctica, said the channels were up to 600 metres deep – the equivalent of six football pitches back to back.

Thwaites Glacier covers around 74,000 square miles and is particularly susceptible to climate and ocean changes. In the 1990s the glacier had been losing around 10 billion tonnes of ice each year, but is now losing around 80 billion tonnes annually.

It was only because of the rapid break-up of ice in the early part of 2019 that the team on the RV Nathaniel B Palmer were able to survey over 2,000 square kilometres of sea floor at the glacier’s ice front.

The area surveyed had previously been completely hidden beneath part of the floating ice shelf extending out from Thwaites Glacier, which broke off in 2002, and in most subsequent years the area was inaccessible due to thick sea-ice cover.

“Flying over the recently collapsed ice tongue and being able to see first-hand the changes occurring at Thwaites Glacier was both awe inspiring and disconcerting,” said Dave Porter from LDEO Columbia University, who helped carry out the airborne survey.

“But [it is] also gratifying to know the airborne data we were collecting would help reveal the hidden structures below.”

## LET’S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 23)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

● Exercise 3. Write the positive forms of “to be” in the first part

and “to have” in the second part:

۱. من آنجا استاد ..... و یک اتاق .....

۲. شما اینجا دانشجو ..... و سه دفتر .....

۳. این خانم استاد ..... و هفت کتاب .....

۴. ما شش دانشجو ..... و اینجا مکالمه .....

۵. آن استاد خیلی خوب ..... او اینجا کلاس .....

۶. استاد کجا ..... ؟ دانشجو چند کتاب ..... ؟

🗣️ **Sentence Stress** – The stress of positive sentences under

normal conditions falls on the predicate:

شما دانشجو هستید.

شما دانشجو هستید؟

In negative sentences the stress is placed on the negative verb:

شما دانشجو نیستید.

شما دانشجو نیستید؟

Stress falls on the question word in interrogatives:

این اتاق چند در دارد؟

Apart from the normal condition, the speaker may place the stress on any other word required by the specific situations.



INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
www.tehrantimes.com

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» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
» Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
P.O. Box: 14155-4843  
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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Try to compete with one another in good deeds and hurry to seize the opportunities, and forget the good deeds that you haven't hastened to do.

Imam Hussein (AS)

## American critic Godfrey Cheshire's book on Kiarostami published in Persian

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — American critic and filmmaker Godfrey Cheshire's book, "Conversations with Kiarostami", has recently been published in Persian in Tehran. Lega is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Saleh Najafi.

The book originally published by Woodville Press in 2019, carries a series of interviews with the world-renowned Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami.

Conducted during the 1990s, these in-depth conversations offer a film-by-film account of Kiarostami's views of his artistic development from his first short "Bread and Alley" in 1970 to the 1999 feature "The Wind Will Carry Us".

It also covers his lesser known, and seldom written about, shorts from earlier in his career, along with the masterworks that made him world famous, such as the Koker Trilogy — "Where Is the Friend's House?", "And Life Goes On" and "Through the Olive Trees" — and "Close-Up" and "Taste of Cherry".

# Fajr festival acknowledges Iranian cineastes' wins at global events in 2019

→1 Host Amir Esfandiari said, "Our great artists have been in the limelight at global events since long ago, and have attracted the world media's attention to Iranian culture and its humane cinema, which is still moving ahead admirably."

The first part of the celebration was dedicated to honoring those Iranian cineastes who were picked for juries by international festivals. Among them were the actresses Vishka Asayesh and Behnaz Jafari, and directors Puran Derakhshandeh and Majid Majidi. However, none of them could attend the ceremony due to prior commitments.

In this section, director Reza Mirkarimi was honored for his participation in the jury of the 16th Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival in Armenia, and actress Fatemeh Motamed-Arya was praised for her collaboration as the president of the international jury of the 24th International Film Festival of Kerala in India.

The celebration went on with honoring Reza Jamali for winning the Spirit of Asia Award by the Japan Foundation Asia Center for his debut movie "Old Men Never Die" during the 32nd Tokyo International Film Festival.

Director Saied Rustai and actor Navid Mohammadzadeh were also honored. Rustai had won the award for best director for "Just 6.5" and Mohammadzadeh had been crowned best actor for his role in the movie at the Tokyo festival.



Iranian cineastes pose after being awarded for their wins at international film events during a special ceremony organized by the Fajr International Film Festival at the Iranian Art Museum Garden in Tehran on September 11, 2020. (FIFF)

Screenwriter Hamed Rajabi received a plaque of honor for winning the best screenplay award at the Rabat International Author Film Festival (FICAR) in Morocco for "Dressage" by director Puya Badkubeh. Tehran-based Afghan brothers Jamshid

and Navid Mahmudi were the next honorees for winning the Cultural Diversity Award under the Patronage of UNESCO at the 13th Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Brisbane, Australia. Mahnaz Mohammadi was honored

for her fiction-feature debut movie "Son-Mother", which received the special jury award at the Alice nella Città section of the 14th Rome Film Fest.

Soha Niasati, the young star of Iranian director Rasul Sadr-Ameli's drama, "My Second Year in College", received a plaque of honor for taking the best actress award at the 41st Moscow International Film Festival for her role in the film.

"These honors help us step with more confidence on this new path," Niasati said after accepting her award and added, "I was not able to attend the Russian festival, but now since I am here, I dedicate my award to my mother."

Director Narges Abyar's win at the 23rd Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival in Estonia was also acknowledged at the ceremony. Her drama "When the Moon Was Full" received the audience award at the festival.

Director Reza Mirkarimi and actor Hamed Behdad were also praised at the celebration for their triumphs at the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival. Mirkarimi had been selected best director for his film "Castle of Dreams" and Behdad had won the award for best actor for his role in the movie.

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi and Tehran Mayor Piruz Hanachi also attended the celebration. In his brief speech, Hanachi promised to build a special palace for the Fajr Film Festival.

## Iran's top photojournalists of the year honored

By Manijeh Rezapoor

**TEHRAN** — Top photojournalists of the year were honored during the Fourth Iran Press Photo Awards in a special ceremony that went online on Instagram Friday.

The Best Single Photo Award in the Environment Section went to Ehsan Fazli Asanlu, and the Best Single Photo in the Sports Section was given to Ahmad Moini-Jam. Both photographers are working for IRNA.

Mohsen Kaboli was honored with the Best Photo Series Award in the Sports Section.

A collection by Ruhollah Vahdati won the award in the Portrait Section. A single portrait by Zohreh Sabbaghnejad also received an award in this section.

In the News Photo Section, a series by Mohammad-Hossein Moheimani with IRNA depicting the floods in Iran during

March 2019 was awarded. The Best Single Photo Award in this category went to Mona Hobahfekar.

In addition, veteran photographers Seifollah Samadian and Bahram Mohammadifar were honored for their lifetime achievements. The winners were selected by a jury panel composed of Mehrdad Oskui, Arash Khamushi, Karan Firuz, Mohammad Quchani and Newsha Tavakolian.

Speaking at the ceremony, Oskui said that in the single photo section, the participating photos were much stronger and better compared to those in the photo series category.

Firuz also confirmed that the photos in the series section were not good enough, and it would be better that the photographers submit only their best photos for the series section.

Tavakolian also proposed that the photojournalists choose new topics for their photos and find more interesting and untold stories to narrate.

## "Careless Crime" wins best original screenplay at Venice festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — "Careless Crime", the latest production by Iranian director Shahram Mokri, has won the best original screenplay at the 77th Venice Film Festival.

The film was an entry to the Orizzonti section of the festival, which is dedicated to films that represent the latest aesthetic and expressive trends in international cinema.

"Careless Crime" goes back to forty years ago, during the uprising to overthrow the Shah's regime in Iran, when protesters set fire to movie theaters as a way of showing opposition to Western culture. Many cinemas were burned down. In one tragic case, a theater was set on fire with four hundred people inside, most of whom were burned alive. Forty years have passed

and, in contemporary Iran, four individuals also decide to burn down a cinema. Their intended target is a theater showing a film about an unearthed, unexploded missile.

Mokri delivered a speech on Iranian cinema in the program "European Union for the Future of World Cinema" held at the Spazio Incontri on the margins of the festival last week.

He said how the U.S. sanctions on Iran have put a big obstacle in the way of countries and companies eager to cooperate with Iran in the film industry.

Mokri called Iran a land of rich literature full of myths and legends, enjoying a four-season climate, with cinema experts and a 110-year-long history in filmmaking.

## Iranian cartoonist Mojtaba Heidarpanah finishes runner-up at Serbia's Animalcartoon

By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

**TEHRAN** — Iranian cartoonist Mojtaba Heidarpanah has won second prize at the 5th International Contest Animalcartoon in Serbia.

His cartoon depicts a primitive man who has hatched out from a monkey's head, igniting fire on its shoulder.

Earlier in August, Heidarpanah took second place at the 28th International Satire and Humor Festival City of Trento in Italy.

The Animalcartoon organizers put their spotlight on an animal in every edition of the contest, and monkeys were the theme of the 2020 edition.

First prize worth €500 euros was awarded to Serbian cartoonist Sava Babic,



This cartoon by Iranian artist Mojtaba Heidarpanah won second prize at the 5th International Contest Animalcartoon in Serbia. whose winning cartoon shows a monkey family waiting for a car to take them to a zoo as they see their home destroyed in the jungle by the cutting down of trees.

Romanian cartoonist Doru Axinte won third prize worth €300.

Iranian cartoonist Khodayar Marui and Ali Mirai along with 12 other artists from around the world were also awarded honorable mentions.

Cartoonist Masud Shojai-Tabatabai from Iran was a member of the jury, which was composed of Marco De Angelis from Italy, Zhu Cheng from China, Lazo Sredanovic Dikan Montenegro and Serbian artists Toso Borkovic, Marija Soldatovic, Milomir Djukanovic and Jovo Skomac.

Nearly 2,000 works by 668 cartoonists from 72 countries were submitted to the Animalcartoon contest. With 113 cartoonists, Iran had the largest number of participants in the competition.

## Resistance festival announces lineup for "Festival of Festivals"

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — A lineup of 12 films has been selected to go on screen in the Festival of Festivals section of the 16th Resistance International Film Festival, the organizers have announced.

The Festival of Festivals section plans to review movies produced over the past 40 years on the Islamic Revolution, Sacred Defense and resistance.

The lineup includes "The Glass Agency", "From Karekheh to the Rhine" and "The Scout" by Ebrahim Hatamikia, "The Survivor" by Seifollah Daad, "Journey to Chazzebah" by Rasul Mollaqlipour and "Standing in the Dust" by Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian.

"The Fateful Day" by Shahram Asadi, "Track 143" by Narges Abyar, "Kimia" by Ahmadreza Darvish, "Villa Dwellers" by Monir Qeidi, "Child of the Soil" by Mohammad-Ali Basheh Ahangar and "Hoor on Fire" by Azizollah Hamidnejad are also included. "The organizers actually plan to study topics related to resistance

and the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war at the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the war to find out more about the interests of the cineastes in such topics," the director of the section, Nasser Bakideh, earlier said.

The festival is organized every year to commemorate the anniversary of the Sacred Defense.

Feature, short and animated films and a number of music videos will be selected to be screened in the Festival of Festivals category. The 16th edition of the event will go online due to a spike in the coronavirus cases in the country.

The festival is scheduled to be organized in two stages, the first of which will take place during the Sacred Defense Week from September 21 to 28.

The second part of the festival will be held from November 21 to 27 to celebrate the anniversary of Basij Day, which falls on November 25.



Visual Stories  
from Ashura

Those who accompanied Imam Hussain (AS) were the winner of moral and inner conflict.

Hurr ibn Yazid bin yazid al Riyahi was a brave commander who had a high position among soldiers

He joined Imam Hussain (AS)

and came as the winner of inner conflict.

Hurr ibn Yazid bin yazid al Riyahi, a brave commander, who had a high position among soldiers, joined Imam Hussain (AS) and came as the winner of inner conflict.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei