

Iran strongly protests European embassies' interference **2**

Golmohammadi optimistic ahead of Al Taawoun match **3**

Iranian, Chinese SMEs to expand cooperation **4**

Resistance festival unveils doc lineup **8**

Iran able to produce stable isotopes



See page 3

Iran unveils homegrown dual-fuel locomotive engine

TEHRAN — Iran Heavy Diesel Manufacturing Company (DESA) unveiled the country's first dual-fuel locomotive engine in a ceremony on Sunday, the Transport and Urban Development Ministry's portal reported.

The unveiling ceremony of the 4,000-horsepower heavy engine was attended by the Head of the Islamic Re-

public of Iran Railways (known as RAI) Saeed Rasouli.

Speaking in the ceremony, Rasouli said that in the past few years, the quantitative and qualitative development of the country's railways has intensified and several provinces, including Kermanshah, Hamedan, Urmia, and Gilan, have been connected to the country's rail network. **→4**

Yoshihide Suga succeeds Shinzo Abe as new Japan PM

TEHRAN — After getting the backing of the majority of his party lawmakers and representatives, Yoshihide Suga, the chief Cabinet secretary of outgoing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is on the course to become Japan's new leader on Wednesday.

In a vote at a meeting of ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers, he was elected as the party's new president, a move that paved the way for him to take over as Japan's new prime minister. The top government spokesman faced two rivals in the LDP vote. Former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba

and former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida both contended against Suga but failed to receive the majority vote of the LDP. Suga, Kishida, and Ishiba received 377, 89, and 68 votes respectively.

Suga campaigned on keeping a balance between fighting the coronavirus pandemic and shoring up economic activities and unexpectedly won by a landslide in the LDP presidential election Monday. Abe imagined that Kishida would succeed him and the public initially favored Ishiba. **→2**

International Academy of Ceramics signs up as Iranian biennial "spiritual sponsor"

TEHRAN — The National Biennial of Contemporary Iranian Ceramic Art announced on Monday that the International Academy of Ceramics (IAC) has become the "spiritual sponsor" of the 11th edition of the showcase.

"The sponsorship is an international credit to the biennial," the president of the biennial, Hirbod Hemmat-Azad said in a press release published on Monday.

"As a major organization, the academy supports international events based on its constitution," he added and noted that the biennial has obtained the sponsorship with the help of jury member Jacques Kaufmann, the former president of the academy.

Based on an agreement with the academy, the biennial is allowed to publish its posters with the logo of the academy, he said. **→8**

By Mahnaz Abdi
Head of Economy Desk

Creating necessary infrastructure in industrial parks on agenda

Strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance is the most important program that Iran is following up in its industry sector in a bid to nullify the effects of the U.S. sanctions on its economy.

To this end, the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20) has been named the year of "Surge in Production", and all governmental bodies as well as the private sector are moving in line with the materialization of this motto.

Regarding its significant role in the realization of the mentioned goal, the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry has already defined its main programs for supporting the domestic production in the current year.

The ministry's seven main axes of the surge in production are going to be pursued under 40 major programs.

Developing technology and promoting knowledge-based industries, development of domestic production, managing imports and development of non-oil exports, improving the business environment, development of financing and investment and finally development of logistics are the seven major axes of the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry's works in the present year.

In this regard, the development of industrial parks and supporting the units located in these areas is one of the major programs underway by the ministry.

While this program is being seriously pursued, lack of necessary infrastructure in the industrial parks is impeding their development, therefore, the creation of needed infrastructure in the industrial parks has been put on the agenda.

A number of measures have been already taken in this regard.

Earlier this month, the Iranian energy minister announced that water supply to the country's industrial parks will be expedited.

Reza Ardakanian said, "Water is properly supplied to the industrial parks in the regions, where there is no shortage in terms of water resources, but for the areas with lack of water resources, we have started a program to plug up the illegal wells and pay some percentage of the resulted savings to the governorates of the provinces to be allocated to supply water to the industrial units." **→4**

How U.S.-led Iranophobic propaganda contributed to Arab normalization deals with Israel

TEHRAN — In the wake of normalization deals between some Arab states and Israel, former and current U.S. officials sought to put the deals in the broader context of confronting Iran's influence in the region, a move seen by some experts as an attempt to propagate Iranophobia across the Arab world.

As Bahrain announced a normalization deal with Israel on September 11, Jason Greenblatt, the former U.S. special representative for international negotiations who played a major role in devising President Trump's "deal of the century", sought to convince the West that Iran, not Israel, is the major threat to peace and stability in the region.

"The Abraham Accord was motivated in part by an Arab and Israeli concern with Iran's unquenchable thirst for regional hegemony and nuclear weapons. While the UAE has said that the deal was not directed at Iran in particular, it is clear that the regional threat of Iran has

become the foremost point of common interest for" the UAE and Israel, wrote the former American official in an opinion piece published by the CNN website on September 11.

He even went further to cast Iran as an "occupation" force in the region, instead of Israel.

Greenblatt stated, "Today, our focus must be on the 'Iranian Occupation': what I find to be the best term for Iran's sprawling influence across the region.... In the United States and western Europe, complaints about so-called 'occupation' have been misdirected for years against Israel. In reality, Arab populations have now developed a different concern: They recognize the brutal and devastating 'Iranian Occupation' in Lebanon, Gaza, Iraq, Yemen, and Syria."

Some experts and commentators believe that the U.S. seeks to expand its influence in the region by magnifying the threats allegedly posed by Iran. **→2**

U.S. protests: Protests erupt in Lancaster, Pennsylvania as police fatally shoot man

Black Lives Matter activists have taken to the streets of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, demanding "justice" for 27-year-old Ricardo Munoz, who was killed by police after he charged at an officer with a knife.

People have been flooding to the police station in Southwest Lancaster City, chanting "Don't shoot" and other BLM slogans after an officer-involved shooting earlier in the day.

Facing backlash over the shooting, Lancaster County District Attorney's Office released body cam footage from the incident. The video starts with a woman running out of the house screaming. In the next second, Munoz rushes out of the door with a knife in his hand and charges at the responding officer, with the latter firing several shots at Munoz, who then falls to the ground.

Munoz was pronounced dead at the scene. Lancaster DA said that they have been "investigating" the shooting to determine if the use of

force was justified, but noted that the preliminary investigation indicates that the knife-wielding victim posed a immediate danger to the officer's life before being killed.

District Attorney Heather Adams said that her office would release all other details pertaining to the incident "in a timely manner," urging protesters to "remain peaceful" since "violence and destruction of property will become headlines and serve no purpose for the safety and wellbeing of our citizens and neighborhoods."

The incident took place around 4:15 pm local time, as the officers were responding to an alleged domestic disturbance.

While there is nothing in the DA's message to suggest that Munoz was mentally incapacitated, activists have alleged that the man was autistic. Protesters have also accused police of leaving the his body lying in the street "for hours" before it was taken away.

Home-grown transplant medicine saves \$20m annually

TEHRAN — A knowledge-based company has succeeded to save up to \$20 million annually by domestic production of a drug needed for organ transplantation, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

The domestic medicine, called Iminorol, is meeting 95 percent of the country's need and is prescribed to patients who have had a transplant, and it is responsible for suppressing the body's immune system so

that the patient's body does not reject the transplanted organ.

The annual production and sales value of this product in three doses of 25, 50, and 100 mg is over 600 billion rials (about \$14 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) per year.

Iminorol is 40 percent cheaper than similar foreign samples, however, in several tests, its high quality has been approved.

With the support of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology and the Inno-

vation and Prosperity Fund, the necessary facilities for the development of production lines for this company have been approved.

Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of Food and Drug Administration said in January that Iranian pharmaceutical industry and scientists are capable of producing any kind of medicine over a two-year period.

Iran also produced drugs confirmed to be effective in the coronavirus treatment, including, Remdesivir, Tocilizumab.



File photo

The day Siamand Rahman dazzled everyone

TEHRAN — September 14, 2016 is an unforgettable day for the history of Paralympic sports in Iran and the world.

Siamand Rahman lifted the unprecedented 310 kg in Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. And as everyone says, it will be very difficult to break this record for many years.

Throughout 2014-2016, Rahman broke the Paralympic world record nine times, including a pivotal moment in Rio when he became the first Paralympian in history to lift over 300kg — lifting 75kg more than his closest rival.

In the 2012 London Paralympic Games, he claimed his first Paralympics gold by lifting 280 kg in the men's over 107kg. **→3**

Abadan Museum Garden to be inaugurated in Sacred Defense Week

TEHRAN — A museum dedicated to the Sacred Defense (the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war) will be inaugurated in the southwestern city of Abadan on September 23 on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week (starting September 21).

During the war, Abadan was besieged for 12 months, but never captured by Iraqi forces, until the Iranians broke the siege. However much of the city, including the oil refinery, which was the world's largest refinery, was badly damaged or destroyed by the siege and by bombing.

The museum will be a memorial for Iranian generations to come to promote the sacrifices and great deeds the previous generation did for the sake of Islam and Iran, ILNA quoted Gholamreza Shariati the governor-general of Khuzestan province as saying on Sunday.

There are such museums across the country including the Sacred Defense Museum and the Peace Museum in Tehran.

The Sacred Defense Museum showcases a patchwork of domestically-manufactured armaments such as rockets, tanks, and artillery pieces. The complex has vast garden areas, water features, and children's play areas as well.

The Tehran Peace Museum is a member of the International Network of Museums for Peace. The main objective of the museum is to promote a culture of peace through raising awareness about the devastating consequences of war, with a focus on the health and environmental impacts of chemical weapons. **→6**

Vaezi says meeting between heads of three branches of power is promising

Rouhani, Ghalibaf and Raisi hold talks on pressing issues

POLITICAL TEHRAN — The heads of the executive, legislative and judicial powers, namely Hassan Rouhani, Ebrahim Raisi and Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, met late on Sunday to hold talks on the most important issues facing the country in the light of harsh illegal sanctions.

Economic issues were the cornerstone of the talks between the three senior officials.



The three senior officials spoke before the cameras after the meeting.

Rouhani said cooperation between the three branches of government can help resolve the problems.

"Undoubtedly, Majlis and Judiciary, on the side of government, can help resolve people's problems," the president remarked.

The president said economy was the main focus of talks.

The talks centered on foreign currency, revenues from non-oil products, liquidity and what plans should be implemented, Rouhani stated.

"We also talked about direction of liquidity (toward production sector) which can lead to decrease in inflation" the president added. Also, there were fruitful talks on investment and removing impediments to the production sector as the Supreme Leader has suggested.

The president also said they held talks on regional issues and the plots engineered by the United States and the Zionist regime of Israel.

Rouhani was indirectly referring to the normalization of ties between the UAE and Qatar with the Israeli regime brokered by the Trump administration.

Presidential chief of staff Mahmoud Vaezi on Monday praised the meeting, saying the government needs the cooperation of other branches of power to manage the country.

"For managing the country and overcoming problems the government undoubtedly needs the cooperation and support of other branches and such promising meetings herald close cooperation between the three branches of power for development of the country," Vaezi wrote on his Instagram page.

Raisi: The enemy seeking to disappoint people through psychological warfare

Judiciary chief Raisi also said the enemies are seeking to make the Iranians disappointed through their psychological, economic and media warfare against the country.

"In such a situation, cooperation between the three branches for tapping all the country's potential is inevitable," the top judge remarked.

For his part, Ghalibaf said the main concern of all officials including the heads of the three branches of government is to resolve problems facing the people in different sectors.

"I hope, through the decision that was made, we would be able to regulate foreign currency market, stock exchange, direction of liquidity, and commodity market," the parliament speaker pointed out.

The speaker said the parliament and the Judiciary will help the government to regulate economy and reduce problems facing the people.

Ghalibaf also pointed to the developments in the region, saying Washington and Tel Aviv are "forcing the Persian Gulf states to normalize ties with the Zionist regime and these move will certainly cause insecurity."

The three senior officials said the consultations will continue in the future.

Zarif dismisses Arab normalization deals with Israel as election photo op

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday that Donald Trump, wading through a reelection year with a troubled campaign, "desperately" needed a photo op with certain Arab rulers to boost his reelection chances.

Zarif said Jared Kushner, the U.S. president's son-in-law and senior advisor, is blackmailing rulers of regional countries into giving Trump a photo op ahead of the November 3 presidential election.

"Donald Trump desperately needed a campaign photo. His son-in-law blackmailed their regional clients into giving him one," Zarif tweeted.

Taking a jab at Bahrain and the UAE's past dealings with Israel, including a secret visit by Saudi Crown prince Mohammed bin Salman to Israel in 2017, Zarif asserted that Arab countries currently signing normalization deals with Israel were not at all foes of it. Instead, they are allies of Israel.

"Peace agreements being signed are NOT between foes but longstanding allies. What a diplomatic coup! Stay tuned for more..."

Iran strongly protests European embassies' interference

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Deputy Judiciary Chief for International and Human Rights Affairs Ali Bagheri has strongly protested against interferences by the European embassies in Iran's internal affairs.

"If you [the European embassies] do not know anything about righteousness, justice and fairness, at least respect diplomatic norms and avoid becoming a loudspeaker to spread lies like an opposition group," he said during a meeting of the Judiciary's high council on Monday.

His comments came after a number of European embassies and envoys to Iran, including the German ambassador, made comments in reaction to the execution of 27-year-old Navid Afkari who had received a death sentence for murdering a citizen in 2018 in Shiraz.

Tehran dismisses Politico report, says Iran committed to diplomatic principles

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh on Monday rejected a report by Politico claiming that Iran is seeking to avenge assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, calling the report "customer-made, biased and purposeful".

In a report published by Politico on Sunday, it is claimed that Iran is plotting an assassination attempt against the U.S. ambassador to South Africa to retaliate for Soleimani's assassination.

Noting that Politico has tried to portray its claim as real by referring to the remarks of an "apparent American official", Khatibzadeh said, "We advise the United States' officials to stop resorting to repeated and decayed methods to create anti-Iran commotion at the international arena."

He noted that Iran is a "responsible" member of the international community and has always been committed to international diplomatic principles.

Calling the new report part of the Trump administration's "disinformation campaign" against Iran, Khatibzadeh said, "The United States regime's resort to leveling accusations and spreading lies against Iran on the eve of the United States' presidential elections concurrent with the pressures that this regime is applying to exploit the United Nations Security Council's mechanisms with the purpose of increasing pressure on the



Iranian people was predictable."

Elsewhere, Khatibzadeh said that Iran will never forgive or forget assassination of Soleimani and will pursue the case legally.

On January 3, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered airstrikes that martyred General Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis,

the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), in Baghdad's international airport.

Soleimani was recognized internationally as a legendary commander in the war against terrorist groups, especially Daesh (ISIS). Only Daesh celebrated Soleimani's

Khatibzadeh says Iran will never forgive or forget assassination of Soleimani and will pursue the case legally.

assassination.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Legal Affairs Mohsen Baharvand said in June that Iran will pursue the Soleimani assassination in international bodies.

"Diplomatic complaints have been filed through sending letters to the [UN] Security Council and UN Secretary-General [Antonio Guterres]. We are pursuing the case and completing our investigation in the Foreign Ministry. After that, international actions will be taken," Baharvand told the IRIB in an interview.

Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaeili said during a press conference in January that Iran will file lawsuits against Trump and the U.S. government for the assassination of Soleimani.

"We intend to file lawsuits in the Islamic Republic, Iraq and The Hague Court (International Court of Justice) against the military and government of America and against Trump," he said.

Judiciary Chief Hojjatoleslam Ebrahim Raesi said in August that Iran's Judiciary and Foreign Ministry are adamant in legally pursuing the assassination of Soleimani.

"Blood of martyr Soleimani has affected elements behind his terror, and the regional people's awareness will lead to the United States' exit from the region," the chief judge said during a meeting of the Judiciary's supreme council.

Grossi welcomes Iran-IAEA agreement

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Rafael Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has said that he welcomes an agreement between the Agency and Iran which he hopes "will reinforce cooperation and enhance mutual trust".

"We reached agreement on the resolution of the safeguards implementation issues raised by the Agency. The Agency subsequently conducted a complementary access, under the Additional Protocol, at one of the two locations specified by us. Our inspectors took environmental samples which will be analysed. A complementary access at the second specified location will take place later this month," the IAEA's official website quoted Grossi as saying in an introductory statement to the Board of Governors.

He also said, "My report on Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 covers our activities in the last few months in verifying and monitoring Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action."

"The Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement. Evaluations regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities for Iran continue."

Grossi said, "You have also received my report entitled NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which describes the Agency's efforts to clarify questions relating to the correctness and completeness of Iran's declarations under its Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol."

"Last month, I had discussions in Tehran with President Rouhani and other senior officials aimed at making concrete progress in addressing the Agency's outstanding questions, and in particular at resolving the issue of access to two locations in Iran," he added.

Grossi visited Tehran on August 24 and 25 and held talks with senior Iranian officials. On August 26, at the end of his visit, Iran and the IAEA issued a joint statement on agreements and the results of high-level talks between the two sides.

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

"After intensive bilateral consultations, Iran and the IAEA reached an agreement on the resolution of the safeguards implementation issues specified by the IAEA, in good faith. In this regard, Iran is voluntarily providing the IAEA with access to the



two locations specified by the IAEA and facilitating the IAEA verification activities to resolve these issues," the statement said.

In its quarterly report on September 4, the IAEA announced that Iran has granted the Agency's inspectors access to one of the two sites it agreed the previous week for verification purposes.

The report added that the IAEA inspected the sites and took environmental samples there while the agency's inspectors would visit the other site "later in September 2020 on a date already agreed with Iran, to take environmental samples.

How U.S.-led Iranophobic propaganda contributed to Arab normalization deals with Israel

1 → The U.S. is making efforts to besiege Iran's influence in the region, according to Mehdi Motaharnia, a university professor of international relations.

"What we see in the region is the creation of a meaningful space to limit international cooperation with Iran and besiege its regional influence. During the past four decades, Iran laid the groundwork for a resistance axis against Israel as an unacceptable regime. On the other side, the U.S. established an axis in support of Israel," Motaharnia told the Tehran Times, noting that the U.S. portrayed Iran as a threat through magnifying its regional influence and nuclear program. Motaharnia added that the U.S. also propagated Iranophobia in the region and beyond.

According to the professor, Iranophobia and the magnifying of Iran's influence in the region have created a common ground between Arab states and Israel, which led to the normalization of relations between Israel and some Arab states such as the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

The U.S. has recently brokered two normalization deals between two Arab states and Israel. On August 13, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he brokered a "historic



deal" between the UAE and Israel to normalize their relations, the first such deal between Israel and an Arab country since 1994. The last time an Arab country signed a deal with Israel to normalize relations was on October 26, 1994, when Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel. U.S. officials hailed the UAE deal as a "historic diplomatic breakthrough."

Less than a month later, President Trump announced that he once again brokered a similar deal between Bahrain and Israel. Under the Bahrain deal, which was announced on September 11, Tel Aviv and Manama 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 normalize relations with Israel."

Some news reports in Israeli media claim that Oman is preparing to join the UAE and Bahrain in signing a normalization deal with Israel, a move that could cast a shadow over Oman's good relations with Iran. The Israeli newspaper Israel Hayom quoted a diplomat as saying that Oman didn't establish ties with Israel because of concerns that this move would harm its relations with Iran.

"The reason it hasn't yet agreed to full and open relations is the reasonable possibility that this could harm its relations with Iran significantly," the diplomat said.

Oman has welcomed Bahrain's deal with Israel, expressing hope that the deal contributes to Israeli-Palestinian peace. "[Oman] hopes this new strategic path taken by some Arab countries will contribute to bringing about a peace based on an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and on establishing an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as capital," the Oman government said in a statement.

Oman has long sought to use relations with Israel as leverage to help end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands through engagement with Israel. It could soon follow the UAE's lead in normalizing diplomatic ties with Israel to achieve its goals. However, an Omani normalization deal with Israel could yield no results in terms of bringing peace to the Palestinian people because Israeli and U.S. officials don't seem to be viewing the normalization deals as a step toward establishing peace in Palestine. Instead, they see them as a step toward building a coalition against Iran.

"The UAE and Israel both recognize Iran as this great threat, so they have now found a way to build out a relationship which can build out a coalition to ultimately make sure that this threat [Iran] never reaches American shores or harms anyone in the Middle East," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in an interview with Fox News.

"An anti-Iran bloc is being established in the region under the leadership of the U.S.," said Motaharnia, pointing out that the U.S. still seeks to form what came to be known as the Arab Nato against Iran, an alliance that the Trump administration sought to establish over the past few years with no success.

Yoshihide Suga succeeds Shinzo Abe as new Japan PM

1 → "We must inherit and promote the efforts that Prime Minister Abe has made so that people can overcome the crisis and live a safe and stable life," Suga said. "It is important to rebuild the economy while also containing the coronavirus at the same time. It's not something I will do as soon as the virus is brought under control either."

Suga's rise came after Abe, the longest-serving prime minister in Japan's history in terms of consecutive days in office, announced on August 28 that he will be stepping down due to a relapse of an intestinal disease called ulcerative colitis. Therefore, his tenure as LDP president would be limited to a little bit more than a year. Because Abe's current three-year term will end on September 2021 and that new election must be held on October 21 that year.

Suga was born on December 6, 1948 in Akita Prefecture to a farmer father and schoolteacher mother. During his childhood, he worked with his father in strawberry fields reluctantly as he was unwilling to become a farmer and

eventually "ran away from home" to find work in Tokyo after he finished high school. He later enrolled at Hosei University in 1969.

Suga is known for his aversion to the spotlight. That's why he was unknown to the public until April last year, when his unveiling of Japan's new imperial era name earned him the nickname "Uncle Reiwa" along with a popularity boost, according to the Japanese Kyodo news agency.

The chief cabinet secretary is taking the helm at a time when the country is grappling with the coronavirus pandemic and economic slump. So he is expected to take measures to promote economic activities while mitigating the pandemic's negative impacts on the country.

As a top spokesman for the government under Abe, Suga has expressed Japan's positions on a range of foreign policy issues including Iran. When Abe paid a visit to Iran in June 2019, Suga constantly made remarks about Abe's mediation efforts between Iran and the U.S. He said at the time that Abe

has discussed tensions around a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers twice.

Back then, Abe sought to mediate between Iran and the U.S. in a bid to calm tensions in the region. The then-prime minister also delivered a message from U.S. President Donald Trump to the Iranian leadership. But Iran refused to reply.

Recently, Kyodo revealed that Abe "secretly proposed the barter of Iranian crude oil for U.S. grain via Japan last year." According to Kyodo, "The plan envisaged circumventing U.S. sanctions on Iran by exchanging U.S. corn and soybeans procured from the United States by Japan for Iranian crude oil, and to transport these after obtaining U.S. approval."

The Abe mediation efforts hit a dead end due to U.S. refusal to lift the sanctions on Iran before entering any negotiations with the country. However, Suga has said that he will be continuing the policy of his predecessor in terms of seeking diplomatic solutions to crises. And that Suga may resume the Abe mediation efforts once he took over.

Tehran, Washington fighting at ICJ over sanctions

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Tehran and Washington are slated to face off the latest round of their battle over the U.S. sanctions, which were imposed by the administration of Donald Trump, at the United Nations' top court on Monday.

Back in 2018, Tehran dragged Washington to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) after Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the historic 2015 nuclear deal that was signed under his predecessor Barack Obama.

Following the withdrawal, Washington imposed what it called "the harshest ever sanctions" on Tehran under the banner of a "maximum pressure" policy intended to pressure Iran into negotiating a new deal.

Iran argues that the sanctions brought back by the Trump administration breach the 1955 "Treaty of Amity" between the two countries, signed before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

In October 2018, Iran won an early victory when the ICJ ordered sanctions on humanitarian goods to be eased until the overall lawsuit is dealt with.

At the time, President Hassan Rouhani Hassan Rouhani termed the ICJ's ruling as "unique".

"Our nation has the upper hand politically and legally. The public opinion considers Iran a country which abides by its com-



mitments and the U.S. a country which is not loyal to its promises and violates the international regulations," Rouhani said.

According to the Associated Press, the U.S. is scheduled to first address the court on Monday about whether judges have jurisdiction in the case, while Iran will speak on Wednesday.

The two sides are also clashing over a

separate case over the Islamic Republic's bid to unfreeze \$2 billion in assets frozen in the U.S.

In February 2019, the court gave its go-ahead to the case. It came in rejection of a U.S. claim that the Islamic Republic's "backing for terror groups" should disqualify its lawsuit.

The nuclear agreement, officially called the

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was signed between Iran and six world powers – the U.S., China, Russia, France, Britain and Germany – on July 14, 2015.

All other participants of the JCPOA have strongly opposed the U.S. withdrawal and its reimposition of sanctions on Tehran.

However, the U.S. has not backed down from its unilateral anti-Iran measures. In its latest move, Washington attempted last month to reimpose the UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

The U.S. move to trigger what is known as the "snapback" mechanism came a week after its efforts to extend the UN arms embargo on Tehran failed miserably. Only the Dominican Republic joined Washington in voting yes.

The United States argues that it can trigger the sanctions snapback process because the 2015 Security Council resolution still names it as a nuclear deal participant.

However, in a joint letter to the Security Council hours after the U.S. submitted its complaint, Britain, Germany and France said: "Any decisions and actions which would be taken based on this procedure or on its possible outcome would also be devoid of any legal effect."

Russia and China voiced even stronger opposition to the move.

Israel will perish according to God's promise: Judiciary chief

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Zionist regime will perish according to God's promise, Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday.

He made the remarks as a response to the recent normalization of relations between Bahrain and Israel.

"The normalization of relations of some Arab countries with the illegitimate regime that has occupied Quds is a result of the lack of belief in God among rulers of these countries," Raisi said, ISNA reported.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Friday 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.

This deal came roughly a month after the normalization agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates. Bahraini officials are expected to join Israeli and Emirati representatives at the White House for a formal signing ceremony on Tuesday.

Palestinians have declared Tuesday a "day of rage" over the Arab country's betrayal. The Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has also denounced the move.

Iran summons German ambassador over meddlesome tweets

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran's Foreign Ministry has summoned Germany's ambassador over the meddlesome tweets of the German embassy in Tehran.

According to a statement by the Foreign Ministry, the Foreign Ministry director-general for Europe has strongly condemned the tweets of the German embassy as "undiplomatic" and interference in Iran's domestic affairs.

Interfering in the Islamic Republic's laws and judicial processes is not acceptable and will not be tolerated, the Foreign Ministry official said according to Mehr.



He said Iran expects the German embassy to acknowledge its diplomatic duties and do not act beyond them.

The German ambassador said he will reflect Tehran's protest to Berlin.

'No military solution to Afghan crisis'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Foreign Ministry Director-General for West Asia has said that there is no military solution to the Afghan crisis.

"Yes, there is no military solution to the Afghan crisis, but it must be acknowledged that the political solution is not to pursue the same goals pursued militarily," Rasoul Mousavi wrote in his Twitter account on Monday.

"The political solution is forgiveness and consensus in the National Interests," he added.

Talks between the Afghanistan government and the Taliban opened in Qatar's



capital on Saturday.

In a statement on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that all sides would be able to reach a lasting agreement.

Nuclear chief: Iran able to produce stable isotopes

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has said that despite the acts of sabotage by the arrogant powers, Iran is currently among the countries that have acquired the technology to produce stable isotopes.

Ali Akbar Salehi broke the story as he was speaking at a ceremony in the Shahid Ali Mohammadi nuclear site in Fordow to launch the second phase of the project in producing stable isotopes via gas centrifuge. "In addition to uranium, there are some other elements in the Mendeleev table that they have about 256 stable isotopes," said Salehi, a nuclear physicist. "In accordance with uranium enrichment project we

can enrich those elements," Salehi stated, adding that the stable isotopes of the mentioned elements have a wide range of applications in the fields of industry, health, agriculture, cultural heritage, and archaeology. He said Iran is now using IR1 centrifuges to enrich stable isotopes such as tellurium and xenon on a pilot basis, and it intends to take this to the industrial level. According to the top nuclear official, Iran has taken great steps in producing stable isotopes, and in this regard, the country stands among the few countries that have achieved this technology.

Hailing the AEOI's great achievements in the fields of health, radiopharmaceuticals, monitoring new technologies including quantum technologies, en-

richment, stable isotopes, exploration and extraction, and new power plants, he said. "We have acquired the science of stable isotope enrichment as well as its related technology."

Pointing out that the design of the arrangement of the stable isotope enrichment is done by experts, Salehi explained these Iranian engineers and specialists have written great soft wares that one of which is, for example, 300,000 lines.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he described the AEOI as one of the symbols of the power of the Islamic Republic, stressing, "Although peaceful activities have always been challenges to the arrogant powers of the world, it (AEOI) has always shone gloriously."

Trump's Iran policy is a 'dangerous failure,' says Biden

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — U.S. presidential candidate Joe Biden has strongly criticized the Trump administration's Iran policy, saying this past month has proven that Donald Trump's Iran policy is a "dangerous failure".

"At the United Nations, Trump could not rally a single one of America's closest allies to extend the UN arms embargo on Iran," Biden wrote in an opinion piece published by the CNN on Sunday.

"Next, Trump tried to unilaterally reimpose UN sanctions on Iran, only to have virtually all the UN security council members unite to reject his gambit," he wrote, adding, "We urgently need to change course."

According to Biden, the U.S. president has repeatedly ratcheted up tensions, risking another war in West Asia without a realistic strategy or endgame.

He also said Trump's "maximum pressure", which he imposed on Tehran after he withdrew from the Obama-reached nuclear deal, has been a boon to the Islamic Republic and a bust for America's interests.

Saying that Trump has repeatedly brought Americans to the brink of a new war, the Democratic presidential candidate said, "If this is what Trump considers success, I would hate to see what failure looks like."

Trump quit the nuclear deal in May 2018 and introduced the harshest ever sanctions in history on Iran as part of his administration's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

On May 8, 2019, exactly one year after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, Tehran said its "strategic patience" is over and began to gradually reduce its commitments under the pact to both retaliate for Washington's departure and Europeans' failure to honor their commitments.

On January 5 of this year, Iran took a fifth and last step in reducing its commitments and said it would no longer observe any operational limitations on its nuclear industry, whether concerning the capacity and level of uranium enrichment or research and development. However,



Iran has insisted if the Europeans honor their obligations it will immediately reverse its decisions.

"If Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal, the United States would rejoin the agreement as a starting point for follow-on negotiations," said Biden, who was vice president during the Obama administration.

He also said if elected president he will also take steps to make sure U.S. sanctions do not hinder Iran's fight against Covid-19.

At the same time, Biden argued that

there's a better way to confront Iran. "There is a smart way to be tough on Iran, and there is Trump's way," he said.

He also claimed that Iran is much closer to building a nuclear one than when Trump took power.

"Now – because Trump let Iran off the hook from its obligations under the nuclear deal – Tehran's 'breakout time' is down to just a few months," he said.

The commotion over Iran's nuclear program was made by the U.S. and its allies while Iran has repeatedly ruled out any intention to develop nuclear weapons.

Based on a fatwa (religious decree) of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, it is illegitimate to produce or use nuclear weapons and it has no place in Iran's security doctrine. Iran has on numerous occasions repeated such position.

Last month, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif pointed to the fatwa, saying, "We've never been after nuclear weapons and will never do so."

He said Iran regards the development of nuclear weapons as a morally wrong act and a wrong strategic move.

SPORTS

The day Siamand Rahman dazzled everyone

1→ He was on track to compete in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games and had vowed to set a new world record.

The Iranian died of cardiac arrest in his hometown Oshnavieh on March 1.

The 31-year-old legend is remembered as role model to many powerlifters and other athletes in the Paralympic movement – an athlete who has always pushed limits, setting world records on the way and inspiring umpteen sportsmen and women in the process.

Rahman started his professional career in 2008 with a gold at the IWAS Junior World Games in the US followed by three more in 2010 – two world titles in Libya and Malaysia, and one Asian gold in Guangzhou, China.

At the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Para Games, he set another World record in the over 100kg category, lifting 287.5kg, and won gold medal. In 2011, Rahman finished as a gold medalist in Jordan's International Open.

In the same year, he broke his own record once more, during IWAS World Games lifting 291kg in the United Arab Emirates. During the London 2012, he broke the Paralympic record with a lift of 280kg.

In April 2014, Rahman registered a 285kg win at the World Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates while he beat his own Asian record by 3.00kg registering 290kg during the Asian Para Games in Incheon, South Korea in the same year.

Lifting 295kg, he took another gold in the men's over 107kg world record at the 2015 IPC Powerlifting Asian Open Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The world's strongest Paralympian, who had lifted 296kg at a World Cup in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, February 2016, was widely expected to break the 300kg barrier after years improving his marks.

In Rio 2016, he made history by clearing the bar at 310kg in the men's over 107kg, setting a new world record and claiming his second consecutive Paralympic gold.

At the 2018 Asian Para Games, Siamand came first at the Men's Over 107.00 kg with 295kg. In the same year, he comfortably won the men's over 107kg at the Asia-Oceania Open Championships in Kitakyushu, Japan.

After winning gold medal in Mexico City 2017, he clinched the third Worlds title, in his last international appearance, in Nur-Sultan 2019.

With a slew of achievements to his credit, Rahman was also awarded the best male athlete award at the 2017 Paralympic Sport Awards held in Abu Dhabi, and was also shortlisted for the prestigious Laureus Sportsperson of the Year with a disability award.

Rahman who was preparing to compete in his third Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020, where he wanted to set a new world record in World Para Powerlifting, will always be remembered for his kind smile and enthusiasm - An epitome of hope, humanity, faith, love and peace, Paraympic.org wrote.

Golmohammadi optimistic ahead of Al Taawoun match

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi is fully aware that the match against Al Taawoun is very deciding match for them but he is optimistic they can defeat their rivals.

Iran's Persepolis and Saudi Arabia's Al Taawoun will lock horn at Education City Stadium in the second 2020 AFC Champions League Group C fixture on Tuesday.

Persepolis resume their continental duties on a high, having secured their fourth consecutive Iran Pro League title with a 14-point margin. Al Taawoun, meanwhile, survived a domestic scare, managing to avoid relegation on the final day of the season, having finished third in 2018-19.

On the AFC Champions League front, Al Taawoun started brightly, winning their opening two matches against Emirati team Sharjah and Al Duhail of Qatar.

"We are ready for this match since we are Persepolis and are obliged to fight for the win. It will be a tough match since they are table toppers but our players are well-prepared for the match," Golmohammadi said in the pre-match news conference.

"We're a team with a big heart and our players try to make the team proud. Mehdi Torabi and Ali Alipour have left us and it could be a blow to us but we have signed several new players and they can fill their empty places," the ex-Iran defender added.

"We didn't have enough time to prepare the team but I am optimistic about the match and know that our players will do their best to win the game," he concluded.

Iran's Persepolis, Saudi Arabia's Al Taawoun to lock horn

Iran's Persepolis FC and Saudi Arabia's Al Taawoun FC lock horns at Education City Stadium in the second 2020 AFC Champions League Group C fixture on Tuesday.

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On the AFC Champions League front, Al Taawoun started brightly, winning their opening two matches, with Faisal Darwish settling the away tie against Sharjah while goals from veteran Mohammed Al Sahlawi and Abdulmajeed Al Swat downed Al Duhail SC 2-0.

A win on Tuesday will see the Saudis take an important leap towards qualification to the Round of 16 for the first time in their history, their only previous appearance in the competition culminating in a group stage exit in 2017.

Persepolis need to collect as many points from their two back-to-back ties against Al Taawoun if they are to keep their chances of advancing to the knockout stage alive and to avoid a disappointment similar to that of last year when they exited in the group stage having been finalists the year before.

Coach Yahya Golmohammadi's men face Saudi opposition for the sixth time in the AFC Champions League, having won once, drawn as many and lost three, while Al Taawoun face their second Iranian opposition in just their second appearance in the AFC Champions League - their first being Persepolis' fierce rivals Esteghlal FC who bettered them home and away in Group A in 2017.

(Source: the-afc)

Iran ranks 1st in world oil, gas discovery in 2019

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) ranked first among the world's largest oil companies in terms of total oil and gas discovery in 2019, with the discovery of 4.973 billion barrels of equivalent hydrocarbon reserves, Shana reported on Monday.

Seyed Saleh Hindi, the NIOC's director of exploration, stated in a letter to NIOC Managing Director Masoud Karbasian: "The National Iranian Oil Company is the number one in oil and gas discovery in the world."

According to a report by the prestigious Wood Mackenzie International Institute, published under the title "Global Discovery 2019 - Continuation of Profitability", the National Iranian Oil Company in 2019 in terms of total oil and gas exploration, discovered 4.973 billion barrels or equivalent extractable hydrocarbon reserves which put the company first among the world's major oil companies, including national and international oil companies.

This figure is equivalent to 31 percent of the total volume of hydrocarbons discovered in the world in 2019.

TEDPIX gains 29,300 points on Monday

ECONOMY TEHRAN — TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, rose 29,300 points to 1.607 million on Monday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 7.814 billion securities worth 97.456 trillion rials (about \$2.32 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

In the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), TEDPIX fell four percent to 1.556 million points.

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

TEDPIX had also experienced a five-percent decrease in the week ended on September 4, a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 28, an 11.3-percent drop in the week ended on August 21, and a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 14.

Iran unveils homegrown dual-fuel locomotive engine

ECONOMY TEHRAN — "We have been able to provide opportunities for investment making in the rail industry by offering support packages. The move has prompted numerous requests from the private sector for investment making in this industry, some of which are in progress and some are at the stage of signing agreements and contracts," the official said.

He stated that if the required funding is provided, RAI would be able to put 1,000 kilometers of new railways into operation by the end of the current government's incumbency.



The official stressed that the manufacturing of this engine is a significant success for the country's rail industry and would play a significant role in reducing the industry's reliance on foreign sources.

Back in June 2019, Iran's Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami had unveiled an Iranian-made freight locomotive on the sidelines of the 7th International Exhibition of Rail Transportation, Related Industries, and Equipment, dubbed RAILEXPO 2019.

The development of rail transport infrastructure is crucial for sustainable development and economic growth in any country, and Iran has been heavily focusing on expanding its railway infrastructure in recent years.

In 2018, during the same exhibition, Iran unveiled the first-ever Iranian-made locomotive engine.

Currently, Iran has over 13,000 kilometers of railway laid and based on the country's Sixth National Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2021), the railway network is due to expand to more than 16,400 kilometers.

5-month copper concentrate output stands at 500,000 tons

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Production of copper concentrate in Iran stood at 493,000 tons during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), IRNA reported.

As reported, production of the copper concentrate in the five-month period of this year was one percent higher than that of the previous year's same time span.

Copper concentrate output in the fifth month of the present year stood at 89,000 tons, which was four percent more than the figure for the fifth month of the past year.

In its outlook plan for the mining sector in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), Iran plans to produce 1.427 million tons of copper concentrate.

The country had planned to produce 1.198 million tons of copper concentrate in the past year, while the output reached 1.18 million tons.

Iran has seen its copper exports doubled in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade of lucrative metals.

A senior official at Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has said that the value of exports for main copper products reached more than \$1 billion over the past year.

Mohammad Aqajanlou said that total sales of the National Iranian Copper Industry Company (NICICO) topped 220 trillion rials (about \$5.2 billion), a milestone in the 48-year-history of the company.

Aqajanlou added that total turnover for the Iranian copper industry exceeded \$4.5 billion over the past year and the NICICO posted a return on investment of 143 percent.

Creating necessary infrastructure in industrial parks on agenda

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Also as announced last week by the spokesman of the Energy Ministry, 10,000 megawatts (MW) of new power capacity has been allocated to 24 substations in the country's industrial parks.

Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said that the development of electrical substations in the industrial parks is one of the prioritized programs of the ministry.

He further underlined the Energy Ministry's approach for helping the development of industrial parks in the current year, which is the year of surge in production.

Such supportive measures are hoped to flourish activity in the industrial parks and provide the condition for the inactive units to come back to the production cycle.

An official with Iran's industry sector has recently announced that 545 idle industrial units have been revived throughout the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Asghar Mosaheb, the deputy head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) for small industries



affairs, also said that reviving the mentioned units has created jobs for 9,800 persons.

Saying that out of the 45,000 small and medium industrial units in Iran's industrial parks, 9,500 units are currently inactive, the official announced that ISIPO plans to

revive 1,500 units in the current Iranian year.

As the result of the 545 units coming back to the production cycle, the ISIPO's plan for reviving the small and medium industries in this year has come true by 36 percent, Mosaheb noted, adding that the organi-

zation has planned to create 27,000 jobs through reviving such units in the current year, and by reviving the above-mentioned units, its plan in this due has been realized by 36 percent as well.

As previously announced by Mosaheb, ISIPO managed to revive 1,185 idle production units across the country during the past Iranian calendar year.

According to the official, the mentioned units returning to operation created direct jobs for 21,618 persons.

The ISIPO head has recently said that 21 percent of the country's idle production units have been revived by the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry.

Mohsen Salehnia also said: "Despite all the limitations, we are currently witnessing an increase in production in some units for example those active in the field of home appliances; also, according to the plans made and by solving the problems in the way of the production and industrial units, we will realize the motto of "Surge in Production" by the end of this year."

CBI governor, private sector representatives discuss forex issues

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) held a meeting with the board of directors of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) to discuss issues related to the reinjection of the private sector's foreign currency incomes into the economy.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, in the meeting, the two sides agreed on four major axes about the process of re-injecting export revenues into the country's domestic Forex Management Integrated System (locally known as NIMA).

As the first part of the agreement, it was decided that representatives of the private sector, government organizations, and the central bank would hold weekly meetings on

various export sectors to review the problems of each area.

Secondly, the two sides decided to adjust the base export value for various sectors based on an agreement between the CBI, ICCIMA, and the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

In the third case, special arrangements were made for the return of foreign exchange earned from agricultural exports, and finally, they agreed that special conditions should be considered for exports to countries in the region, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, with which the trade exchange is not in U.S. dollars.

Speaking in the meeting, the ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie said that committed exporters have no reason

not to meet their commitments for returning their export revenues into the country's economic cycle.

"Mutual understanding of the problems of the central bank and exporters by the two sides is essential to overcome the difficult situation in the country, and holding such meetings will help increase this convergence," Shafeie said.

The CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati for his part expressed appreciation for the ICCIMA performance in following up on the return of export revenues.

Hemmati stressed that the Central Bank has it on the agenda to interact more with exporters and will not hesitate to cooperate with them in order to facilitate the return of their export incomes.

Over 1.7m tons of steel exported in 5 months

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran exported 1.786 million tons of steel during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), IRNA reported.

As reported, the monthly steel export stood at 507,320 tons in the fifth month of this year. Iran's steel production is expected to reach 30 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20), of which over 10 million tons will be exported.

The World Steel Association (WSA) has announced that Iran's crude steel production climbed 30 percent in 2019 while the average global growth in this sector stood at 3.5 percent.

According to the global organization, Iran produced 31.9 million tons of crude steel in 2019, while the figure was 24 million tons in 2018.

The data and reports released by Iranian organizations also show that the country's steel sector is still experiencing growth in output and export despite the U.S. sanctions.

In its outlook plan for the Iranian calendar year 1404 (2025-2026) Iran has envisaged production of 55 million tons of steel per annum, and to achieve this target the country requires to produce 160 million tons of iron ore concentrates.

Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has announced that production of iron ore concentrate in Iran reached 47,306 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, registering a four-percent rise compared to the preceding year.

The country has extracted 64.274 million tons of iron ore during the past year, according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

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.

Mehran border terminal operational on all weekdays

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Activity in Mehran border between Iran and Iraq has increased from four days to all weekdays, according to an Iranian provincial official.

Ruhollah Gholami, the director-general of the customs department of western Ilam province, also announced that 250 Iraqi trucks are allowed to enter Mehran terminal every day to transport Iran's exports to Iraq, Mehr news agency reported.

The border crossing stopped operation earlier this Iranian calendar year (began on March 20) after the coronavirus pandemic broke out in the countries.

The terminal has been resuming operation gradually. The terminal started operation for two days a week in July before increasing the working days to four in late August.

On August 25, another official in Ilam province announced, "Iran has exported 18,884 tons of commodities to Iraq through Mehran border since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year."

Mahnaz Hemmati, the head of standard department of Ilam province, also said that 158,000 tons of goods were exported to Iraq from this border point in the past Iranian year.

She added that the main exported goods were constructional materials, chemicals, and auto parts.

Shahid Soleimani border point, also known as Mehran border point, only 230 km away from Baghdad, is the closest Iranian border point to the Iraqi capital.

Last week, Mehr news agency reported that Iran and Iraq resumed trade through Mandali (Soomar) border which had been closed for about five months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Mazen al-Khuzai, the director of Mandali Region, announced the reopening of the mentioned border crossing, the Al-Malumah news site published.

Accordingly, dozens of trucks, passing from the Iranian border, headed towards Mandali border, the official added.

Iranian, Chinese SMEs to expand cooperation

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) and China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the expansion of industrial and commercial cooperation.

The MOU was signed during an online ceremony attended by ISIPO Head Mohsen Salehnia and Wu Hong, the Chinese Deputy Director-General of the Department of Industry and Information Technology of Guangdong Province.

Speaking in the signing ceremony, Salehnia said: "Considering that Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks

Organization and China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair have had successful cooperation in recent years, sufficient ground and experience has been formed for the development of industrial and trade relations."

"So far, more than 50 Iranian companies have participated in this exhibition and offered their products to the Chinese market that the result of which was signing some successful cooperation agreements," Salehnia said.

"At present, we are trying to improve the cooperation of the Iranian companies with the Chinese side in the framework of concluding this memorandum of understanding",

he added.

Wu Hong, for his part, thanked ISIPO for its cooperation in recent years, considering Iran as an important economic and trade partner for China in West Asia due to its excellent cooperation with his country in the economic and trade fields.

Underlining the signing of the Iran-China MOU as a symbol of joint efforts for developing the two countries' long-term cooperation, the official stressed that through inking the mentioned MOU, a new chapter in international events, as well as joint ventures of the two countries, will be opened.

SPGC ready for sustainable gas supply during cold season

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Head of Health and Safety Executive (HSE) at South Pars Gas Company (SPGC) said that the annual overhaul program for the complex refineries are underway based on schedule and the complex will be ready for sustainable gas supply during the cold season.

"Despite the sensitivity of the overhaul this year due to the outbreak of coronavirus, the repairs are being done according to the plan and all the refineries of the complex will be ready for production at full capacity in winter," Mohammad Masoudnia told ISNA.

Noting that the overhaul of the South Pars Gas Complex is being carried out with the implementation of health protocols, he said: "following strict health and safety protocols, the overhaul of the South Pars refineries is being carried out in safe conditions."

He stated that the overhaul of the first, second, third, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth refineries has been completed. "The fourth refinery has undergone

several repairs in three stages and the final repairs are currently underway," Masoudnia added.

According to the plan, the overhaul of the sixth refinery will begin on September 21, and after that, this year's overhaul program will be completed, he said.

South Pars Gas Company is operating 14 gas refineries in Southern Iran that are currently processing the gas extracted from the country's giant South Pars gas field which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

The mentioned gas field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which, called South Pars, are in Iran's territorial waters. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field, currently divided into 24 standard phases in the Iranian side, is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

TPO inks MOU with IEIC to support innovation in exports, foreign trade

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Iran Export and Investment Center (IEIC) for supporting the private sector's innovative ideas for improving the country's exports and foreign trade.

The memorandum was signed by TPO Head Hamid Zadboum and the IEIC Head Alireza Shirmohammadi, TPO portal reported.

Based on this MOU, IEIC will promote the TPO's services and introduce the country's export capacities by participating in specialized international exhibitions in Tehran and provinces.

Cooperation with the TPO for the presence of this center in domestic and foreign international events and exhibitions, as well as exchanging trade and marketing delegations, holding seminars, and trade conferences were other areas agreed in this one-year memorandum.

Speaking in the signing ceremony, Zad-

boum pointed to this MOU as a symbol of constructive cooperation between the two sides and said: "This memorandum is a turning point in the cooperation between the government and the private sector in the field of international trade, and IEIC can be a center of gravity in the modernization of foreign trade by promoting international marketing and the etiquettes of international trade."

"This memorandum can help the development of foreign trade and non-oil exports in line with the general policies of the resistance economy," he added.

The Deputy Industry Minister further noted that the signing of this memorandum is a significant step for supporting and development of the private sector initiatives in this center, adding: "An important part of the tasks performed in the IEIC was once the responsibility of the government, and the execution of these tasks by this center shows that the private sector has matured and should be supported."

Persian Gulf states' hypocrisy is being revealed: Iraqi politician

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — The spokesman of the al-Sadeghoun movement in Iraq says that the normalization of ties between some Arab countries with Israel has revealed these regimes' hypocrisy.

"They are regimes that their hypocrisy has been revealed completely to their people and the world," Mahmoud al-Rabi'i tells the Tehran Times.

He also says Trump is brokering deals between Arab states and Israel to gain Israeli lobbies' backing for his election campaign.

Al-Rabi'i also says normalization of ties between Persian Gulf states and Israel will not change their regional status.

The following is the text of the interview:
Q: What is your comment on Bahrain's move to normalize ties with Israel, following the Emirati decision?

A: Normalization with Israel, this usurping entity created by arrogant global superpowers in the heart of the region, is a major betrayal of Palestine's cause and its occupied capital Jerusalem.

It is also a betrayal of the patriotic and national principles that have been cherished by Arab and Islamic governments and nations for a long time. It was an end to the central cause of the Arabs and a bias to the will of Zionism against the will of Palestinians and their stolen rights.

Regarding the UAE and Bahrain's normalization of ties with this usurping entity, it must be said that these countries' governments are client states installed by Britain to rule the areas they occupied.

These governments do not represent their people and have confiscated their will. They follow the American policies and its great project in the region, which aims to protect the Zionist regime's security.

Also, what happened by declaration of normalization was nothing but the fall of the last masks that were worn by the rulers of these countries who have been in a relationship with this regime for a long time.



We firmly believe that the main reason that pushed towards normalization in this period is Netanyahu's failure to impose his authority on Tel Aviv. On the other hand, the United States, in particular Trump, needs to take steps to promote the U.S. position in the region after his policies failed in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen.

Moreover, Trump's failure to fulfill his electoral promises, which paved the way for him to reach the White House, pushed him to accelerate the normalization process.

These deals are nothing but attempts to promote America and Israel's position in the region by means of their servants and clients in the (Persian) Gulf.

Q: Do you expect Saudi Arabia to join the UAE and Bahrain?

A: Saudis may not join the process of normalization formally at this time period, but we know that the path that is taken by Bin Zayed, and after him, Al Khalifa will be followed by Saudi Arabia and its Crown Prince bin Salman.

Bin Salman has turned Saudi Arabia into a milk cow that fulfills all of Trump's ambitions in the region.

Saudi Arabia may postpone the declaration of normalization, but just for a while.

The last measure it took to open airspace to the Israeli airplane clearly reveals the ma-

licious intentions of this regime, whose hands are stained with the blood of Arabs in Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Libya, and others.

Q: What is the Trump administration's goal in accelerating ties between the Persian Gulf states and Israel?

A: Regarding the goals that Donald Trump seeks to achieve, I think that he tries to gain the Zionist lobby's approval that controls the political mainstream in the United States.

As we approach the election date, Trump increases pressure on his agents in Bahrain and the Emirates to announce normalization of ties during this period.

In fact, he likes to demonstrate his ability to control the paths of normalization of ties between Arab countries and Israel.

Q: Why are the U.S. and Israel insistent on strengthening relations with dictators?

A: America and Israel, as a fake regime, claim that they want to export democracy and defend human rights, but the facts show the falsehood of these claims.

They have long sought to protect totalitarian dictatorial regimes that confiscate peoples' wills and plunder their wealth and money for the benefit of ruling families submissive to the American will.

It seems that the contradiction between "say" and "fact" has become a feature of American policy in the world in general and

the Middle East (West Asia) in particular.

Q: What will be the fate of normalization agreement with Israel? Do you think that Israel is able to control the region?

A: The current normalization of ties between these countries and Israel will not change their regional status in any way, as they are regimes that their hypocrisy has been revealed completely to their people and the world.

America is fully aware that the real force that threatens its plans in the region is the power of the axis of resistance led by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the resistance movements in Iraq that existed before the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

The Islamic resistance in Iraq could end the American military occupation after 2003, and it is the same forces from which Hashd al-Shaabi emerged in response to the call of the religious authority.

The Islamic resistance could undermine terrorism in Iraq, especially Daesh.

Not to mention the strength of the Islamic resistance in Lebanon (Hezbollah) and Ansar Allah in Yemen, as well as the heroic steadfastness of the Bahraini revolutionaries and the youth of Al-Ahsa and Al-Qatif in Saudi Arabia, which stand in the face of the rule of Al Saud.

Here lies the power of truth that Washington, Tel Aviv, and the (Persian) Gulf rulers cannot overcome in all cases.

Q: What is your prediction of the Arab peoples' attitudes towards normalization?

A: The Arab and Islamic peoples are experiencing a great awakening today, and the arrogance of Americans and their hostile plots to Islam and humanity that violate rights and plunder the wealth of Muslims have been revealed.

Therefore, there is a great popular rejection of these treacherous agreements because they do not serve the interest of Muslim peoples and do not serve the just causes, they seek to achieve, foremost among which is Palestine's liberation and salvation from the usurper Israeli regime.

Japan's Suga wins party leadership race, headed for premiership

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, a loyal aide to outgoing prime minister Shinzo Abe, won a landslide victory in a ruling party leadership election on Monday, paving the way for Japan's first change of leader in nearly eight years.

Suga, 71, who has promised to continue Abe's key policies, said his big win would give him the backing to pursue his reform goals - including deregulation and breaking down bureaucratic silos - and that containing the coronavirus and reviving the economy were conditions for calling a snap general election.

"As I got big support in numbers today, the environment in which I can pursue my policy agenda in a stable manner has been secured," Suga told a news conference.

Suga won 377 votes out of 534 votes cast, and 535 possible votes, in the leadership election by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members of parliament and representatives of its 47 local chapters.

According to Reuters, rival Shigeru Ishiba, a former defense minister, won 68 votes and ex-foreign minister Fumio Kishida got 89.

UN warns of 'further war crimes' in Myanmar's Rakhine

Myanmar's apparent continued targeting of civilians in the country's Rakhine and Chin states could constitute additional war crimes and crimes against humanity, the UN rights chief said Monday.

Michelle Bachelet demanded action to remedy the serious rights violations suffered by Myanmar's Rohingya minority in particular.

Military operations in 2017 forced some 750,000 Rohingyas to flee from conflict-torn Rakhine state to Bangladesh in violence that now sees Myanmar facing genocide charges at the UN's top court.

Speaking at the opening of the 45th Human Rights Council in Geneva, Bachelet decried that the abuses against the Rohingya and other minorities in the country were ongoing, AFP reported.

"People from the Rakhine, Chin, Mro, Dajngnet and Rohingya communities are increasingly affected by the armed conflict in Rakhine and Chin States," Bachelet said.

Netanyahu heads to U.S. amid outrage in Israel over general coronavirus lockdown

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has headed to the United States amid protests in the occupied territories against his mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic that prompted a second general lockdown.

The Israeli regime on Sunday reimposed a second general coronavirus lockdown, which will begin on Friday, after daily infections exceeded 4,000 for the first time last week since the outbreak began.

Speaking in a briefing before his trip to Washington in which he would sign a normalization agreement with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, Netanyahu announced that Israel was about to enter a three-week lockdown.

But he was happy saying, "I've got to fly to Washington now... I'm going on a historic mission."

Haaretz slammed the premier over "a shocking detachment from the reality Israelis are experiencing."

Netanyahu also faced protests on Sunday, as demonstrators gathered outside Ben-Gurion Airport in Jerusalem al-Quds in an attempt to prevent him from traveling.

EU plays the money card as Johnson faces Brexit revolt in parliament

The European Union on Monday ramped up pressure on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to step back from breaking the Brexit divorce treaty, delaying a key decision on London's euro clearing just as he faces a rebellion in the British parliament.

The European Union says Johnson's plan would wreck trade talks and propel the United Kingdom towards a messy Brexit while former British leaders have warned that breaking the law is a step too far that will tarnish the country's image, Reuters reported.

The House of Commons is due to vote on moving the Internal Market Bill, which the EU has demanded London scrap by the end of the month, to its next amendment stage after a debate that Johnson will introduce.

As Johnson prepared to try to persuade lawmakers that his plan to explicitly break international law was worth supporting, a derivatives industry source said the European Commission had delayed a decision on euro clearing.

Resistance News

Hamas: Attempts to obliterate the right of return will not succeed

INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN — Hamas Movement said that all attempts will not succeed in obliterating the right of return, just as the Oslo Agreement did not succeed in that, stressing that armed resistance is the only way to defeat the Israeli occupation, thwart its plans and liberate Palestinian land.

In a statement on Sunday, on the 27th anniversary of the signing of the Oslo Accords, Hamas emphasized that the right of return will remain guaranteed for every Palestinian who was displaced from his land regardless of the succession of generations.

Hamas opined that the Oslo Agreement had brought "our cause and our people into a labyrinth of political absurdity" and dragged upon it the scourge of agreements which have only forced more concessions on the Palestinian people.

Hamas affirmed, meanwhile, that the path of normalization which some Arab countries have accelerated, is a stab in the back of the Palestinian cause and Palestinian people and that those who went through with it will only gain disappointment.

It also stated that confronting the growing normalization project will only be achieved by what Hamas has been requesting for a long time ago and has been ready for it at all times, namely the unified Palestinian decision and action.

China, Russia, and Iran have their say in the region: Russian analyst

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — The naval exercise in 2019 carried jointly by Iran, Russia and China in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman sent a clear message to the U.S and its allies in the Persian Gulf region that these three countries "have their own policies in the region," says a Russian expert on the Middle East at the Russian International Affairs Council.

"The joint naval exercise in 2019 definitely sent a signal to the U.S. and its allies in the (Persian) Gulf that China, Russia, and Iran have their say in the region," Alexey Khlebnikov tells the Tehran Times.

Khlebnikov says that Iran, Russia, and China are partners and are interested in improving their bilateral relations while simultaneously trying to resist U.S. policies in the region.

This is the text of the interview:

Q: Some analysts and politicians argue that Russia, China, and Iran are forming an alliance against Washington's bullying, sanctions pressure, and use of dollar as a weapon. They cite the Iran-China-Russia joint naval exercise in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman in December 2019 as the signs of the emergence of such an alliance. What is your comment?

A: I would not rush into such conclusions because there is no such alliance between China, Iran, and Russia.

Apparently, they are partners and develop their bilateral relations while simultaneously trying to withstand U.S. pressure on their economies. There is a common vision of how the international relations system should evolve to move towards polycentrism and respect for state sovereignty.

The joint naval exercise in 2019 definitely sent a signal



"People in both countries (Russia and Iran) do not know much about each other, and the majority of them receive information from Western media, which creates a rather dubious, if not negative, image."

to the U.S. and its allies in the (Persian) Gulf that China, Russia, and Iran have their say in the region.

However, in order to be a serious factor, such format has to become regular, but not ad hoc. Moreover, there

is no military agreements or alliance between the states, which means that if an attack on one of them occurs, the rest are not obliged to assist it. That is to say that it is too premature to talk about the formation of the China-Iran-Russia alliance against the U.S.

Q: Economic and scientific ties between Iran and Russia are not commensurate to their political ties. This is despite the fact that the two countries are immediate neighbors with rather large populations and great untapped potential. What are the impediments?

A: In the first place, it is the similarity of the structure of the countries' economies. Both are energy exporters with limited technological and financial capabilities. This is why there are natural limits for developing ever-growing economic ties.

The second reason is tough Western sanctions (especially U.S.) on Iran, which impede many Russian businesses from entering Iran.

The third is a lack of information about Iran in Russia and vice versa. People in both countries do not know much about each other, and the majority of them receive information from Western media, which creates a rather dubious, if not negative, image.

Q: Please give your view of the U.S. failure at the UN Security Council to extend an arms embargo against Iran.

A: The U.S. acted in violation of the existing regulations, which was also opposed not only by Russia and China but also by some European countries.

This is why it is pretty logical that the U.S. attempt to extend the embargo failed. However, the U.S. can always resort to unilateral sanctions and use secondary sanctions to prevent third countries from selling arms to Iran.

U.S. is fascist police state run by Wall Street crowd

By Stephen Lendman

The Washington Post wrote a very surprising editorial piece, by their editorial page editor, really surprising. The Post and the Times and most of the U.S. media go all out to bash Trump, not for the right reasons, for the wrong reasons. It's unusual to take on a member of this regime and bash that person, but that's exactly what the Washington Post did.

Last week they wrote an editorial piece bashing Pompeo calling him, "the worst Secretary of State in U.S. history." Well, I couldn't have said it any better myself. I

thought Hillary Clinton was the worst while she was around. And I do believe that very strongly. And Pompeo -- it was mostly -- I didn't know anything about him, he was a congressman but you know there were 435 of those. So, none of them really stands out that much. Some more than others but they're really faces in the crowd for the most part.

But when Trump first picked him to be CIA director, where he said that "We lie we cheated we stole" in his remarks. Amazing he would say anything like that, which is true. And then, Trump kicked him up to be the Secretary of State, which, that position is responsible for forming U.S. foreign policy on a global basis. Trump is a geopolitical-know-nothing and I've stressed that many times. Pompeo, I don't know what he knows about geopolitics, but he's in charge of it anyway. And I agree, he is the worst, the most dangerous, that's the way I would put it, the most dangerous U.S. Secretary of State. He is not a diplomat. He's an anti-diplomat. And he's alienated one country after another. Doesn't matter if he alienates U.S. adversaries, but there are a lot of people in Washington they would get the Post to write an article like this because he has alienated U.S. allies and that's a no no.

The November 3 election, there is an all-out campaign in the media. There are

exceptions but the great majority of what I call establishment media in the U.S. are going on all out to see that Biden is elected and Trump doesn't get a second term.

Well, I asked, "Why do we only have a choice between these two which is no choice at all?" I call the choice between Biden and Trump choosing between death by hanging or a firing squad and that's what it comes down to. When it comes to major issues, wars, NTPs, pro-wars, corporate empowerment, police state laws, things like that, both wings are what I call the U.S. war party, they're on the same page.

They support the same policies. The difference between Trump and Biden on these issues in style and party label, other than that, they are the same. The difference in other issues, but they're all important, but some are more important than others, but certainly the ones I mentioned, go right to the top of the list of what's most important. And those Biden and Trump are the same. I don't know what Biden knows about foreign policy. He has been around in Congress, and his vice president since 1973, nearly half a century.

Anytime the voters throw out the bums in Washington the only thing they get is new bums, following the same policy, what I called continuity, like dirty business as usual, and that will be the result of the November

3 elections, whoever's elected president, whoever wins key congressional votes.

There are some good people in Congress, but there are very, very few and nobody in power is anything but a dirty-business-as-usual-politician. And these are the ones that will run the country next January whether it's Trump, Biden or anybody else. It's the way it's always been in the U.S. There was one exception.

And he didn't go into office that way, and the exception was Jack Kennedy, who was far out of the programs. He would really turn things around in the U.S. and geopolitically. He was anti-war. He wanted all U.S. forces out of Vietnam. He supported Palestinian rights. He wanted denuclearization, and normalize relations with Russia. And for those reasons and others, the CIA killed him and killed his brother Bobby for the same reason. It killed Dr. Martin Luther King for the same reason. That's the disturbing truth about how America is run. It's a fascist police state, a fantasy democracy. Never the real thing. And the founders that created the country. Today we would call them a Wall Street crowd. That's exactly what they were. There was nothing glorious about them. It's a disturbing situation. One day, either we find a new way to change things in Washington, or we may all be doomed.

Extraordinary Villa In Elahieh
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Abadan Museum Garden to be inaugurated in Sacred Defense Week

→ 1 Iran-Iraq War, (1980–88), prolonged military conflict between Iran and Iraq during the 1980s. Open warfare began in September 1980, when Iraqi armed forces carefully advanced along a broad front into Khuzestan, taking Iran by surprise. Iraq's troops captured the city of Khorramshahr but failed to take the important oil-refining center of Abadan, and by December 1980 the Iraqi offensive had bogged down about 50–75 miles (80–120 km) inside Iran after meeting unexpectedly strong Iranian resistance.



Iran's counterattacks using the revolutionary militia (Revolutionary Guards) to bolster its regular armed forces began to compel the Iraqis to give ground in 1981.

The roots of the war lay in a number of territorial and political disputes between Iraq and Iran. Iraq wanted to seize control of the rich oil-producing Iranian border region of Khuzestan, a territory inhabited largely by ethnic Arabs over which Iraq sought to extend some form of suzerainty.

Fighting was ended by a 1988 cease-fire, though the resumption of normal diplomatic relations and the withdrawal of troops did not take place until the signing of a formal peace agreement on August 16, 1990.

Masonry arch bridge undergoes urgent restoration

TOURISM TEHRAN – The 19th-century Moshir arch bridge, made of mortar and bricks, has undergone urgent restoration in southwestern Bushehr province, the provincial deputy tourism chief has said.

A budget of 3.5 billion rials (over \$80,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the restoration project of the bridge, which has been damaged due to the passing of large volumes of surface water after heavy rains in the region, Nasrollah Ebrahimi announced on Monday.

The project involves repairing and strengthening the bridge's span and arches as well as its rooftop, the official added.

Built in the late Qajar era (1794–1925) on the Dalaki River, Moshir Bridge connected Fars province to Bushehr for maritime trade.



With over 6,000 years of history and significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr Province is one of Iran's most important historical centers.

Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.

Three-story cruise boat to promote marine tourism in Bushehr

TOURISM TEHRAN – A three-story cruise boat is being built in Bushehr as part of a program for promoting marine tourism in the southwestern province.

"Measuring 33 meters in length and eight meters in width, the cruise boat is being made by private investors... and it is some 30 percent complete," provincial tourism chief Mohammad-Hossein Arastouzadeh said on Monday.

"Maritime tourism is one of the most important tourism potentials in Bushehr and it can guarantee employment in the province, so that 13 people have been directly employed for the construction of this vessel."



Maritime trade, shipping and shipbuilding have long been practiced in Iran. There have been many small or big shipyards across the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. Entering a shipyard is like stepping back into the ancient times, with some local artisans working on gigantic timbers to shape a reliable vessel.

Such expertise of the Iranian shipbuilders was registered on UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2011 under the title "Traditional skills of building and sailing Iranian Lenj boats in the Persian Gulf."

Archaeologists to save relics before Iron Age cemetery submerged in dam waters

HERITAGE TEHRAN – A team of archaeological experts, and diggers plan to recover ancient human remains and relics from an Iron Age cemetery in Mersin, Semnan province, before the cemetery is disappeared under the waters of a nearby dam.

Historical relics, which are relating to Iron Age III, will be relocated from Mersin cemetery in Mahdishahr county before the Fenek dam starts operating, senior archaeologist Mehrdad Malekzadeh said on Sunday.

The cemetery bears corps and relics from Medes, a branch of Indo-European people, who entered northeastern Iran probably as early as the 17th century BC and settled in the plateau land that came to be known as Media. And it was also used during the Achaemenid era (c. 550–330 BC), according to Malekzadeh who will lead the salvage operation.

A number of potteries and personal ornamentations have so far been discovered from the cemetery which bears over 2,000 tomb chambers, the archaeologist said, according to the provincial tourism and cultural heritage department.

The cemetery at Mersin is located along the southern slopes of the Alborz mountain range, east of the village of Talajim, near the Sefidrud River. The site was discovered during a rescue ar-



archaeological survey in the Fenek Dam basin area. Based on surface materials,

the cemetery was dated to the late Iron Age III and early Iron Age IV (c. 600–400

BC). To corroborate this dating, a radio-carbon date was obtained from human collagen from several graves.

As the Iron Age culture in Semnan province has not been well recognized, in August 2014 the Iranian Centre for Archaeological Research organized regular excavations at the site under the direction of Malekzadeh. Three trenches were excavated, covering a total of 235 square meters. Within trench 3 (10×5m) fifteen human graves were found, distributed in a regular pattern. Some burials were disturbed, but common features were easy to recognize, including the rectangular shape of the grave and the presence of a single body buried in each grave, being interred in an extended position on the back. Most graves had large stones delimiting the burial place and all contained grave goods except grave 4 that was, however, disturbed.

The graves can be divided into two general categories, being either covered by large flat slabs and wood (like graves 5 and 10) or covered only by soil. There is no uniform orientation of the body within the burial. Grave goods were variable and there were, among others, pottery vessels of different types, such as single-handled pitchers, bridge spout bowls, pots with spouts and handles, small jars, pedestal bowls, and twin joined small jars.

Iran eyes drawing more travelers from France: deputy tourism minister

TOURISM TEHRAN – Iran eyes to attract more travelers from France as it has long been imprinted in the minds of French people particularly those interested in historical and ancient destinations, deputy tourism minister Vali Teymouri said on Sunday.

"Apart from success in attracting sightseers, France is also a special source for outbound travelers, sending tourists to different countries... And Iran is known as a historical and cultural destination in the minds of tourists of this country... Therefore, it is considered as one of the main travel markets for the Islamic Republic of Iran," Teymouri noted.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Tabatabaei, the newly-appointed cultural attaché to France, adding: "Under one of articles of the strategic plan for [the development of the national] tourism industry, which is recently declared to take effect by

the government, Iran's cultural attaches also double as tourism attaches of the Islamic Republic that enables them to concurrently work on portraying the real image of Iran and trying to help eliminate Iranophobia."

Tabatabaei for his part welcomed proposals the deputy minister put forward. He also expressed readiness to make maximum use of the existing capacities for the development of tourism in the Islamic Republic.

Teymouri had previously announced that anti-Iranian sentiment or Iranophobia, which has long been forged and spread by some Western governments and media, has not prevented foreign travelers from visiting the country. "I, as an expert, who have been working in the field of tourism for the past twenty years, believe that the main challenge of our travel industry is that Iran is internationally unknown. Moreover, over the past years, an Iranophobia project [orchestrated] by our enemies have been added too."



Archaeological excavation starts at centuries-old Sheikh Danial Tomb

TOURISM TEHRAN – The first round of archaeological excavation has recently commenced at the 13th-century Sheikh Danial Tomb in the city of Khonj, southern Fars province.

Dating back to the Ilkhanid era (1256–1353), the tomb and its surrounding area is a complex of the magnificent architecture of the time.

Although parts of the complex including the tomb's minaret and entrance gate have been restored in recent years, other parts are buried under the rubble, which needs to be excavated, the head of the archaeological excavation Samira Jafari announced



on Monday. The project aims at revealing the original map and architecture of the complex along

with its surroundings in detail, she added. The tomb and its minaret are made of stone and mud brick. It also has eight inscriptions. Some decorations were also added to the complex during the Safavid era (1501–1736).

Sheikh Danial was one of the prominent mystics in the 13th century. He was respected and honored in Fars province and the islands of the Persian Gulf both during his life and after his death.

The ancient region of Fars, also spelled Pars, or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital

at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

The capital city of Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking into this provincial capital which was the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Hafezieh (mausoleum of Hafez, an illustrious 14th-century Persian poet), the UNESCO-registered Persepolis, and Sadi mausoleum are some of the most-visited sites in the province.

Yazd's outer ramparts, towers to be restored to former glory

HERITAGE TEHRAN – A restoration project has been commenced on ancient mudbrick ramparts and towers, which were once parts of defensive fortifications around the city of Yazd, which is now a UNESCO World Heritage.

The city walls of Yazd are one of the finest expressions of a vital tradition of military architecture in central Iran, witnessed in varying scale from fortified villages, road outposts, provincial castles, imperial citadels to ramparts enclosing entire cities.

Those fortification, ramparts, and towers are one of the characteristic features of Yazd, provincial tourism chief Ali-Asghar Samadiani said on Sunday.

These ramparts and towers are parts of Yazd's historic neighborhood which were constructed in 432 AH..., the official noted.

A junction of both inter-city and regional trade routes, Yazd has predictably been a fortified settlement since its inception in the Sassanid period. However, the larger military strategic importance of its geographical location within the



desert region led to its successive building and expansion as one of Iran's most famed city fortifications.

Built largely of mud brick and mud straw mixture reinforced with timber, the Yazd walls demonstrate a visual continuity in color, scale, and form with the built fabric of

the town. The Yazd city walls form a large part of the earliest known descriptions of the city, dating from the tenth century which describes a well-built, fortified city with iron gates.

The city walls of Yazd have traditionally been the last shelter of threatened and eventually displaced Persian imperial dynasties. It was one of the last bastions to hold out against the Islamic, Seljuk, Mongol, Timurid, Safavid, and Afghan invasions of Iran over the past millennium.

More impressive and richer in architectonic qualities than the similar mud brick city walls of Bam (in southeast Iran), Yazd's walls were built before the active use of gunpowder in warfare. The influx of war technologies introduced by invading armies gave birth to circular, larger, and more closely spaced barbican towers that allowed defenders to target the invader's vulnerable flank. Protected crenellations with arrow slits provided defensive positions while series of sluices allowed invaders to be discouraged by boiling oil or burning pitch. The walls were double layered with a high protective external curtain supported by a lower inner wall.

Excavations resume on Piranshahr's historical sites

TOURISM TEHRAN – New rounds of archaeological excavations have been commenced on 10 historical sites around Zab River in the city of Piranshahr in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The project aims at identifying, protecting, and preserving the city's ancient and historical monuments and hills, Jalil Jabbari announced on Monday.

Exploring and studying previously discovered sites is also a part of the project, the official added.

He also noted that the excavations started in 2016 and several excavation

seasons have been carried out since then in the region.

The oldest remains discovered in the area show that the region was inhabited in prehistoric times and the history of human presence in the region dates back to about 30,000 years ago.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Teppe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region has been the seat of several ancient civilizations. It formed part of



Urartu and later of Media. In the 4th century BC, it was conquered by Alexander

the Great and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. The area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE. The Arabs controlled Azerbaijan from the 7th century until Turkish nomads overran it in the 11th century. Thenceforth the inhabitants of the region were Turkish speakers. The region was overrun by the Mongols in the 13th century, and, under the ruler Hulegu, Azarbaijan became the center of a Mongol empire extending from Syria on the west to the Oxus River (now Amu Darya) on the east.

FAO, FRWO sign MOU to counter SDSs

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO) of Iran inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Sunday to eradicate sand and dust storm (SDS) hotspots in the country.

Iran is one of six countries partnering in the FAO international coalition to strengthen coordinated action on sand and dust storms.

The project is to be funded by the FAO in three dust hotspots in Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, China, Mongolia and Algeria in West Asia, North China and North Africa with the aim of investing in dust control for productivity in the agriculture sector.

Developing a comprehensive executive plan in these countries and identifying the international and national resources are important outcomes on the agenda of the technical cooperation project.



The cooperation document was signed by FRWO director Massoud Mansour, and FAO representative in Iran Gerold

Boedeker, the FRWO website reported.

FAO earlier has helped Iran to establish a country-specific agricultural drought monitoring system, enabling the national authorities to detect periods of water stress and forecast crop yields more accurately in the Lake Urmia basin.

Moreover, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has provided an additional \$200,000 to further strengthen Iran's technical capacity to control Desert Locust.

Signed by FAO and Iran's Plant Protection Organization (PPO) on March 19, the \$300,000 Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) "Urgent action for capacity building to control desert locust infestation in Iran", now totals \$500,000.

FAO is the lead UN agency dedicated to increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods and food systems and supports its member countries in their efforts to develop and establish agricultural early warning early action systems.

'Passion for affection' begins to help students in need

SOCIETY TEHRAN — A national plan titled Shoor-e d e s k Atefeha, literally meaning 'passion for affection', has been launched concurrent with the start of the new school year to encourage the public participation for supporting deprived students across the country amid the outbreak of the coronavirus.



Within the framework of a broader campaign called Iran-e Hamdel, literally meaning sympathetic Iran, the plan started on Saturday and will run through October 2.

The first phase of the 'sympathetic Iran' campaign was launched at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan (April 23) aiming to provide financial assistance to the needy affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has collected 1.5 trillion rials (nearly \$35 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

The second phase of the sympathetic Iran movement with the aim of cooking and distributing warm foods among the deprived started on Eid al-Ghadir Khumm (August 9) until the end of Safar (the second month of the lunar-based Islamic calendar).

The third phase also started on Sunday and continue until October 2.

Providing tablets for online school courses for about 750,000 students is on the agenda, and besides that, efforts are being made to provide other educational items such as stationery, clothes, and shoes to needy students. Seyed Morteza Bakhtiari, the head of the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, said.

Iranian benefactors, charity centers, and religious organizations take part in the campaign by cash and kind contributions.

Schools reopened under strict health protocols
A week earlier, over 15 million students attended schools nationwide for the new school year under strict health protocols to protect teachers, staff, and students against the coronavirus pandemic.

Each year, Iranian students start the school year on September 23, which marks the first day of autumn on the Iranian calendar, after three-month summer vacation, while this year, in the light of the pandemic, the school year was started 18 days earlier.

This year, education is followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based, but our priority is school attendance, all schools should strictly follow the health regulations so that the students are protected, Education Minister Mohsen Haji Mirzaei said.

Students have been banned from morning ceremonies and sports activities in schools this year.

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

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

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

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 25)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

Questions with a question word have a falling intonation:

این چیست؟

One یکی، یکی

The number یک precedes the noun; however, یکی is always used by itself:

چند مداد دارید؟ یکی. یکی دارم. = یک مداد. یک مداد دارم.

Exercise 5. Join the letters into words:

1. خ + ر + ف + * → letter (of the alphabet)
2. ح + ر + و + ف + * → letters
3. ب + ز + ر + گ + * → big, large
4. چ + ط + و + ر + * → how
5. ل + ط + ف + آ + * → kindly, please
6. ص + ح + ی + ح + * → correct, true

Writing ⇒ workbook

Exercise 1. Rewrite in the correct form:

1. ما چهار کیف ندارم.
2. استاد کیف یک دارد.
3. من پنج خودکار ندارم.
4. شما صندلی چند دارید؟
5. کلاس این شش میز دارد؟
6. شما کتاب دارد یا دفتر؟

WHO provides Iran with COVID-19 antibody tests

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The World Health Organization (WHO), through a donation by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) in Germany, has provided Iran with over 67,500 enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) tests.

The tests, which measure the amount of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) in individuals, will be used for research and surveillance in Iran.

"These kits will be used for seroepidemiologic studies in populations in different provinces to help us gain better insight into the prevalence of the disease in populations under study," said Ali Akbar Haghdoust, deputy health minister for education.

A new working group has been established within the Epidemiology Committee of the National COVID-19 Headquarters, endorsed by the Minister of Health, to coordinate seroepidemiologic studies in the country.

Some of the tests were distributed based on the seroepidemiology workgroup's recommendation to the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) to ensure the quality of donated plasma. Tests were also provided to the Pasteur Institute of Iran for research on the immunity of key populations and assessing the quality of domestic diagnostic kits, and to the Pediatric Infections Research Center at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences



in Tehran for a study on the prevalence of the epidemic among children.

Additional tests will be distributed by the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization is currently storing extra kits, and further distribution will be done according to recommendations by the committee.

"Seroepidemiologic studies on SARS-CoV-2 are becoming ever more important, for further steering effectively public health measure, for better understanding of immunological reactions, for vaccine development and new treatment options. WHO will continue to provide

strong support to the Ministry of Health in these areas, together with other partners such as the Robert Koch Institute," said Christoph Hamelmann, WHO Representative in Iran.

"Although this is the first time WHO supports the IBTO in COVID-19 response, this organization has contributed to controlling HIV, hepatitis C and other bloodborne infections in the recent decade through procedures conducted on donated blood products and counseling provided to donors as a strategy for ensuring blood safety," said Omid Zamani, WHO National Professional Officer for Communicable Diseases.

Usually, antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 develop during the course of COVID-19 in infected patients. In the absence of a vaccine, they indicate a current or past infection, irrespective of whether the individual had a severe or mild disease or even an asymptomatic infection. It is not yet clear for how long after the infection the acquired antibodies will remain detectable in the blood, and to what degree they contribute to immunity.

The IBTO High Institute for Research and Education in Transfusion Medicine has been a designated WHO collaborating center since September 2013. The organization is screening blood donors nationwide and prepares plasma therapy kits for treating COVID-19 patients in hospitals.

UNICEF provides anti-corona equipment to children without effective caregivers in Iran

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided self-protective equipment and sanitary items to the children without effective caregivers residing in settlements across the country.

The items included 421 pulse oximeters, 293 digital gun thermometers, 76,500 latex gloves, 4,000 N95 masks, 2,354 boxes of diapers, and 6,640 liters of surface sanitizers.

In response to the request of the State Welfare Organization (SWO) and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare (MCLSW) to focus on preventing the spread of the virus as a first priority during the COVID-19 outbreak, UNICEF has procured these items through its central

Supply Hub in Copenhagen, which was distributed among SWO rehabilitation centers and nurseries, benefiting children with disabilities and children without caregivers in 31 provinces.

These items were procured with funds from the government of Japan, UNICEF's Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund (GHTF), and the Korean Committee for UNICEF.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the already-existing vulnerabilities of families and communities are expected to increase with a double impact on children. The director of a nursery for children without caregivers in an eastern province of Iran says that, following the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of



new children admitted to the nursery has increased due to heightened tension and new harms emerging in at-risk families.

"With UNICEF-procured health and protective items, we now feel more secure about preserving the health of our children, both mentally and physically, during the

COVID-19 outbreak," says the nursery director, adding that the nurses of the center routinely check the warehouse to ensure there are enough sanitizing items, during the time of the pandemic.

There are groups of children who require extra care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, such as children living with disabilities who have been dealing with the challenges of moving around in society even before the pandemic.

Apart from the above-mentioned procured items, UNICEF is also providing parenting packages and capacity-building programs for social workers to improve the quality of service provision to vulnerable children.

ENGLISH IN USE

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2 billion tons of soil erodes annually in Iran: expert

Iran loses 2 billion tons of soil per year as a result of land use changes, rainfed agriculture, and overgrazing, Hossein Akhiani, environmental and botanical expert has announced.

"Sometimes, to support agriculture, land use changes permits are issued, while being unaware of its dire consequences on the soil," he lamented, YJC reported on Saturday.

"Iran is responsible for the loss of 10 percent of the world's total soil erosion per year due to unsustainable agriculture, overgrazing, destruction of natural reservoirs (interconnected sources of water supply such as rivers crossing the mountains)," he said, regretting, humans with uncontrolled interference, such as damping numerous wells have led to the collapse of these connections and prevented water from reaching some regions of the country.

فرسایش سالانه ۲ میلیارد تن خاک در ایران

کارشناس محیط زیست و گیاه شناس گفت: سالانه ۲ میلیارد تن خاک در ایران به دلیل تغییر کاربری زمین، کشت دیم و چرای بی رویه فرسایش می‌شود.

به گزارش خبرنگار حوزه محیط زیست گروه اجتماعی باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، حسین آخانی اظهار کرد: برخی زمان‌ها برای حمایت از کشاورزی اجازه تغییر کاربری به زمین داده می‌شود، اما غافل از این هستیم که به دلیل ناپایداری خاک ده‌ها برابر خسارت ناشی از آن را باید تحمل کنیم.

وی بیان کرد: ایران ده درصد کل فرسایش خاک جهان را دارد و این به دلیل کشاورزی ناپایدار، چرای بی رویه، از بین بردن شبکه هیدرولوژیک (منابع تامین کننده آب از طریق شبکه رودخانه و زیر زمینی که هردو با هم در ارتباط هستند)، انسان با دخالت‌های بی رویه از جمله سد سازی و حفر چاه منجر به بر هم خوردن این ارتباط‌ها شده است و باعث نرسیدن آب به مناطق مختلف ایران شود.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Gain people's praise with your efforts and successes, and do not expose yourself to people's blames through laziness and lethargy.

Imam Hussein (AS)

Iranian artists join tour of Italy

A R T TEHRAN — The Sakoo Art School in Tehran announced on Monday that the Iranian artists Shohreh Damestani and Yeganeh Khosravi have joined a group of artists touring Italy to display their latest artworks.

The art tour organized by the Artissima Art Gallery in Dubai has embarked on the Marguttiana Arte Forte dei Marmi in Tuscany on September 7, will continue at the MIIT Guido Folco in Turin and will finally come to an end in Arte Spazio Tempo in Venice on October 2.

A number of art critics, curators and art managers will be participating in the tour.

Artissima Art Gallery managing partner Aurela Cuku is the curator and coordinator of the art tour.

The works will be judged by a panel of world artists at the end of the exhibit.

Resistance festival unveils doc lineup

A R T TEHRAN — The 16th d e s k Resistance International Film Festival has announced the lineup for the documentary competition on Monday.

Over 20 short and feature documentary films will be screened in this section.

The short documentaries include "A Letter from Damascus" by Mehdi Ebrahimkhani, "Imilia" by Ruhollah Akbari, "Lotus" Mohammadreza Vatandoost, "Persian Island" by Mohammad-Ali Sadrinia, "Saru" by Mohammad Abdollahi and "Noah's Ark" by Sudabeh Babagap.

Among the feature documentaries are "The Last Days of Winter" by Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian, "Women with Gunpowder Earrings" by Reza Farahmand, "Life on High Altitude" by Azizollah Hamidnejad, "Zemnako" by Mehdi Qorbanpur, "Bridge" by Amir-Hossein Noruzi and "Resurrection" by Mohammad-Ali Farsi.

The organizers also announced the jury for the Festival of Festivals section.

Mehdi Sajjadehchi, Manuchehr Shahsavari, Jamal Shurjeh, Javad Shamaqdari, Nasser Shafaq, Mohammad-Ali Najafi and Seyyed Zia Hashemi are the jury members of this section.

The Festival of Festivals section plans to



A scene from Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian documentary "The Last Days of Winter".

review movies produced over the past 40 years on the Islamic Revolution, resistance and the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is known as the Sacred Defense in Iran.

A lineup of 12 films has also been selected to go on screen in the Festival of Festivals category.

The lineup includes "The Glass Agency",

"From Karekheh to the Rhine" and "The Scout" by Ebrahim Hatamikia, "The Survivor" by Seifollah Daad, "Journey to Chazzeb" by Rasul Mollaqlipur and "Standing in the Dust" by Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian.

"The Fateful Day" by Shahram Asadi, "Track 143" by Narges Abyar, "Kimia" by Ahmdreza 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 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.

Busan festival picks films from Iran

By Manijeh Rezapoor

TEHRAN — Movies from Iranian filmmakers will be screened in various sections of the Busan International Film Festival as the organizers have announced their lineup for the 25th edition of the event, which will take place in the South Korean city from October 7 to 16.

Director Majid Majidi's award-winning drama "Sun Children" will be competing in Icons, a showcase of the latest films of contemporary iconic filmmakers from around the world.

Ruhollah Zamani, the star of "Sun Children", was named the best young actor at the 77th Venice Film Festival by winning the Marcello Mastroianni Award.

Majidi was also handed the Magic Lantern Award for his drama.

"Sun Children" is about child labor in Tehran and won the Crystal Simorgh for best film at the 38th edition of the Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in February.

"To Die in the Pure Water", a movie directed by Tehran-based Afghan brothers Navid and Jamshid Mahmudi about Afghan expatriates in Iran, will go on screen in A Window on Asian Cinema, a section dedicated to Asian filmmakers.

"To Die in the Pure Water" is about a young Afghan man who is faced with the dilemma of choosing between converting to Christianity to obtain a European visa or continuing to live as a Muslim with all his problems.

Aram Shahbazyan's "Chnchik" is an entry to the New Currents, a competition among up-and-coming Asian filmmakers' first or second features.

Chnchik is the nickname of a 24-year old, hunchbacked girl living in a small community in the mountains.

"All the Time" by Shadi Karamrudi will be competing in the Asian Short Film Competition.

"The Art of Living in Danger" by Mina Keshavarz and "Children of the Night" by Behruz Nuranipur will be screened in the documentary competition.



A scene from "Sun Children" by Majid Majidi.

International Academy of Ceramics signs up as Iranian biennial "spiritual sponsor"



A poster for the 11th National Biennial of Contemporary Iranian Ceramic Art.

➔ In addition, the academy has undertaken to publish news about the biennial in its media.

Located in Geneva, Switzerland, the International Academy of Ceramics was founded in 1952 by Henry J. Reynaud, who chaired the academy until his death in 1964.

"The goal of the IAC is to stimulate friendship and communication between professionals in the field of ceramics in all countries," the academy has written in an introduction on its website.

"The IAC develops and encourages all forms of international cooperation to promote ceramics, and to encourage and

maintain production at the highest level of quality in all ceramic arts.

"Since 1958, the IAC has been affiliated with UNESCO, first on a consulting basis and then, since 2001, as an official partner in the cultural sector."

Hemmat-Azad, Behzad Ajdari, Kurosh Arish, Rohaneh Hosseini, Nafiseh Khalaj, Bita Fayyazi, Abbas Akbari, Shabanali Qorbani, Ghazaleh Sheibani and Reza Taebi are Iranian members of the IAC.

The National Biennial of Contemporary Iranian Ceramic Art will be held at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center from October 30 to November 27 after a nine-year hiatus.

Turkey's Mevsimler publishes Iranian writer Farhad Hassanzadeh's "Kuti Kuti Stories"

CULTURE TEHRAN — Turkish publishing house Mevsimler has recently released Iranian writer Farhad Hassanzadeh's series "Kuti Kuti Stories".

The series is composed of the three books "Dinner Got Cold Kuti Kuti", "Don't Catch Cold Kuti Kuti" and "Shake the World Kuti Kuti", which were originally published by Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) in Tehran.

Illustrated by Hoda Haddadi, the series recounts stories about a blue centipede and its problems, which have been among the Persian children's bestsellers over the past three years after its release.



This photo shows the Turkish copy of Iranian children's book writer Farhad Hassanzadeh's series "Kuti Kuti Stories".

Mevsimler purchased the rights to the series from the IIDCYA in 2019.

This collection has previously been published in Arabic, Malay and English.

In 2017, Timas Publications in Turkey also bought the rights to two of Hassanzadeh's other novels, "Hasti" and "Call Me Ziba".

"Hasti" is about a twelve-year-old girl from Abadan, who is unlike any other teenage girl in her city. While the conservative society expects girls her age to play with dolls, do needlework and dream of their wedding days, Hasti dresses like boys, rides on motorbikes and plays soccer with boys.

"Call Me Ziba" is about a young girl who wants to help her father escape from a mental hospital to celebrate her birthday together.

Japanese audience impressed by Iran's "Driving Lessons"

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Marzieh Riahi's short film "Driving Lessons" has been honored with the audience award at the 25th Aichi International Women's Film Festival in Japan.

The film, which has been acclaimed at numerous international events, tells the story of Bahareh, a young woman who, according to Iranian law, must have a man from among her relatives accompany her on driving lessons so she and her male instructor won't be alone.

The latest honor for the movie was the award for best short narrative at the 21st

Through Women's Eyes International Film Festival (TWE) in Sarasota, Florida, the U.S. in March.

The Aichi festival, which was held from September 3 to 6 this year, brings together films by female directors from around the world and is the only film festival in Japan specifically for women directors.

The event is organized by the Aichi Gender Equality Foundation to support the advancement of women in society by showing works on various themes, and by holding thought-provoking guest talks and discussions.



Linda Kiani acts in a scene from "Driving Lessons" by Marzieh Riahi.

Visual Stories from Ashura

Imam Hussain (AS) asked: "how does martyrdom sound like to you?"

On the night of Ashura Qasim ibn Hasan asked Imam Hussain (AS) "Dear uncle, will I be martyred in the battlefield too?"

Qasim answered: "sweeter than honey"

Qasim ibn Hasan was not quite mature yet. On the night of Ashura he asked Imam Hussain (AS): "Dear uncle, will I be martyred in the battlefield too?" Imam Hussain (AS) asked: "how does martyrdom sound like to you?" Qasim answered: "sweeter than honey" This is that kind of valuable attitude that the dynasty of Prophet Muhammad had. Those who had been raised by Ahl al-Bayt were like this

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei