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Italian coach Cusin parts way with Shahr Khodro **3**

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Iran, Azerbaijan discuss ways to expand rail cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran and Azerbaijan transport ministers discussed railway relations and cooperation between the two countries during a meeting via video conference on Monday evening, the portal of Iran’s Transport Ministry published.

During the talks with Azerbaijani Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies Ramin Guluzade, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Min-

ister Mohammad Eslami expressed Iran’s readiness for the expansion of regional rail infrastructure and communications.

Referring to the support and emphasis of the two countries’ presidents on the need for developing transportation and transit cooperation, the officials expressed hope that by completing joint projects, the two neighbors would expand their relations in the mentioned fields. ➔ **4**

‘Gen. Soleimani assassination is a shame U.S. cannot erase’

TEHRAN — Government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on Tuesday that assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani by the United States is a shame that cannot be erased.

“Our martyr general was general of peace in the region and symbol of fight against terrorism and the Trump administration assassinated the symbol of peace and fight against

terrorism. This shame cannot be erased and the Iranian nation will never forget it,” Rabiei said during a press conference.

The government spokesman expressed hope that the U.S. will not make another strategic mistake.

“Iran will definitely give a proper response if a new strategic mistake is made,” Rabiei warned. ➔ **2**

Literati to celebrate National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature

TEHRAN — A group of literati from several Persian-speaking nations are scheduled to celebrate Iran’s National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature with an online program.

The program, which has been organized by the Iran Book and Literature House in Tehran, will commence at 5 pm on instagram.com/khaneyeketab on Wednesday on the eve of the day.

Poets from Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and India will recite poems and deliver lectures.

The online meeting will be attended by Indian literati Abid Raza Naushad, Shafi Haider Rizvi, Sajid Rizvi and Syed Zaigham Abbas Naqvi, and Pakistani poets Mir Ali Jafari, Abbas Saqib, Ahmad Shahryar, Qari Afzal Imani and Zainul Abedin Khoy. ➔ **8**

By Farrokh Hesabi
Tehran Times journalist

The curious case of FFIRI’s statutes

It has been more than two months since the Iranian Football Federation sent its statute to FIFA, but the international governing body of football has not yet approved it. And the question remains unanswered.

The Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)’s statutes recently moved closer to being approved by FIFA while the body is set to hold elections in November.

It was more than a year ago that FIFA ordered the FFIRI to amend its statutes. The Iranian football federation observed the requirements of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), FIFA, and also the domestic law and then sent the revised version of the statutes to FIFA.

The final amendment of the statutes will be followed by the approval of the FFIRI assembly to approve it and then holding the FFIRI’s elections immediately.

Several correspondences between the Iranian football federation and FIFA regarding the FFIRI statutes eventually resulted in only one major objection by FIFA. The significant disagreement between the Iranian football federation and FIFA is about the legal nature of the federation. According to Article 1 of the amended statutes, the FFIRI is a “non-governmental public organization,” while FIFA emphasizes that the football federation must be a private and independent organization.

On July 13, the Iranian football federation sent the final version of the statutes to FIFA after resolving all the disputes. But after more than two months FIFA has not yet sent a confirmation to the FFIRI.

However, the Tasnim news agency, in a report has criticized the process and has referred to the name of Vahid Karadny, the director of AFC Member Associations and Regional Association, and claimed that the main problem that prevents the approval of the FFIRI statutes is not related to FIFA but to the above-mentioned regional association of the AFC and its director. The report concludes that the FFIRI statutes has become a means for some people inside the federation to achieve certain personal goals. It is also mentioned in Tasnim report that FIFA has approved the FFIRI statutes, but the AFC has deferred its approval and keeps it in limbo without any logical justification.

Trump likely to wage limited war with Iran to boost reelection chances: ex-ambassador

TEHRAN — While U.S. media outlets and officials accuse Iran of hatching a plot to kill the American ambassador to South Africa, a former ambassador tells the Tehran Times that the Trump administration is likely to wage a “limited war” to boost Donald Trump’s reelection chances.

After a short period of diplomatic quietness between Tehran and Washington, high-ranking U.S. officials including Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo resumed the policy of threatening Iran this time over allegations that Iran is weighing a plan to avenge the assassination of IRGC’s Quds Force commander General Qassem Soleimani by killing U.S. ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks.

The plot was first reported by Politico. Citing unknown U.S. government officials, the American publication accused the Iranian government of weighing an assassination attempt against the American ambassador to South Africa.

Iran firmly rebuffed the claim, calling the Politico report “custom-made, ill-intentioned, and purposeful.”

“We advise the United States’ officials to stop resorting to repeated and decayed methods to create an anti-Iran atmosphere on the international arena,” Iran’s Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement on Tuesday, adding that Politico tried to make its report look real by quoting an “apparent” American official.

The spokesman also said, “This kind of unfounded and baseless remarks is part of the Trump administration’s disinformation campaign against Iran.”

According to Khatibzadeh, it was predictable that the U.S. administration would resort to lying and leveling accusations against Iran ahead of U.S. presidential election simultaneously with its efforts to misuse the UN Security Council mechanisms in order to increase pressure on the Iranian people. ➔ **2**

U.S. protests: 8 protesters nabbed after police kills Hispanic man

Eight people were arrested during public protests in Lancaster County in the state of Pennsylvania on Monday, a day after a police officer shot and killed a 27-year-old man.

Responding to a domestic disturbance on Sunday afternoon, Lancaster city police shot dead a Hispanic man armed with a knife, identified as Ricardo Munoz, Lancaster County District Attorney’s Office said in a statement, Anadolu reported.

It said it was investigating whether the force used by police was justified and if a crime had occurred, adding that when the officer came to the front of the residence, Munoz “immediately emerged from inside and ran toward the officer, brandishing a knife above his head, in clear view, in a threatening manner,” according to footage from the firing officer’s body camera.

“A police-involved shooting has significant

impact on a community, as we are seeing with the large number of individuals gathering in the streets,” District Attorney Heather Adams said in the statement. “However, I am asking that all reaction be tempered as the investigation is ongoing.”

Following the shooting, however, demonstrators flooded the streets of Lancaster to protest against police brutality and racism, which have gripped the U.S. for months.

After more than 100 protesters gathered on an access ramp outside the police station, police said they had arrested eight individuals who caused damage to the police station, a parked vehicle and a U.S. Post Office building, in addition to damaging street signs and trash cans.

The officer who shot Munoz was placed on administrative leave, the mayor’s office said in a statement, calling it “a heartbreaking day for our city.”

Negotiations with Taliban proved U.S. policy in Afghanistan has badly failed: Pakistani analyst

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — A Pakistani political analyst says U.S. military campaign against the Taliban in Afghanistan “has badly failed”.

“Bush’s policy in Afghanistan was solely based on a military solution to the conflict — by a force that badly failed after eight years of a robust campaign,” Zafar Iqbal Yousafzai tells the Tehran Times.

Yousafzai, the author of the book titled “The Troubled Triangle: U.S.-Pakistan Relations under

the Taliban’s Shadow”, also says the Trump administration will pressure the Afghan government to conclude an agreement with the Taliban “as soon as possible”.

The talks between the Taliban and an Afghan delegation that includes members of the government began Saturday, Sept. 12, in a diplomatic breakthrough that is expected to bring the country a step closer to peace after four decades of war.

Following is the text of the interview with Yousafzai:

■ What are the most important topics of intra-Afghan talks?

A: The most important thing in the intra-Afghan talks is peace — an objective of both the parties to the conflict: The Afghan government and the Taliban. However, their approaches are quite different, to the end. For the Afghan government, a cease-fire will be on the top of the agenda and try to bargain for more gains like women’s rights, the Afghan constitution, and future direction of democracy in the country. ➔ **5**



© File photo

Forgotten crafts of doll making, Chuli-bafi revived

TEHRAN — Two fields of handicrafts, which were obsolete in the northeastern province of North Khorasan, have recently been revived, a provincial tourism chief has said.

Local doll making and Chuli-bafi, a kind of traditional wickerwork, are the revived handicrafts in the province, Mohammadreza Qahremanian announced on Tuesday.

Chuli-bafi is the art of making decorative objects and utensils using willow tree twigs, which also has been awarded the National Seal of Excellence. ➔ **6**

Gas industry bodies mobilized for sustained supply in winter

TEHRAN — National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) and all its subsidiaries have been working in the past few months to ensure the sustained supply of gas during the cold season.

Having the biggest network in the region, Iran is one of the leading countries in terms of gas accessibility, and in this regard, making sure that this access stays uninterrupted during the pick consumption periods is a top priority for NIGC.

To this end, every year NIGC makes the necessary preparations in production, transmission, and distribution sectors for the winter from months before; that is in addition to conducting a comprehensive annual overhaul, the company implements various programs to further develop the network and improve its services.

■ **Production, consumption, and transmission**

Iran’s daily natural gas production currently stands at about 810 million cubic meters (mcm) per day and during the winter (begins on December 21) the daily consumption in the country rises to more than 600 mcm which considering the country’s obligations for exporting to some of the neighboring countries, the gas industry must be in its best condition for passing through the mentioned period without any disruptions.

Back in January (last Iranian calendar year’s winter), daily gas consumption hit a record high of 592 mcm a day due to heavy snowfall and cold weather that blanketed the country.

This year, however, considering the increase in the South Pars gas field’s output and also the rise in the national network’s transmission capacity, the condition would be better than the last year. ➔ **4**

‘Gen. Soleimani assassination is a shame U.S. cannot erase’

1 → In a tweet on Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump referred to “press reports” that Iran “may be planning an assassination, or other attack, against the United States” to avenge the assassination of General Soleimani in Iraq in January.

He also said, “Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude!”

On Sunday Politico ran a story alleging that Iran was weighing to assassinate U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks before the American presidential election in November. Politico cited unnamed U.S. officials for its cooked-up story.



Iran dismissed the allegation as naïve, calling it “customer-made, biased, and purposeful”.

Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday that Iran is a “responsible” member of the international community and has always been committed to international diplomatic principles.

Noting that Iran will never forgive or forget assassination of Soleimani, he said Tehran will pursue the case legally.

On January 3, 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 assassination.

U.S. allegations against Iran has taken South Africa by surprise

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — A spokesman for South Africa’s Foreign Ministry has said that the United States’ allegations that Iran plans to kill the U.S. ambassador to Pretoria to avenge assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani took South Africa by surprise.

“We only became aware of this report this morning,” Lunga Ngqengelele said by phone on Monday, Bloomberg reported.

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.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on Monday rejected the report and called it “customer-made, biased and purposeful”.



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 was predictable especially 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.”

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

Abbas Mousavi, Iran’s ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, has warned the United States that the revenge for the cowardly assassinating of General Soleimani, who was recognized as a global hero in the campaign against terrorism, “is far higher than the ill-fated American ambassador” in South Africa.

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 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 Raeisi 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.

UN secretary-general calls on international community to protect JCPOA

POLITICAL d e s k

TEHRAN — United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on the global community to do all they can to protect a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, Fars news agency reported on Wednesday.

The secretary-general has described the deal as a triumph of “multilateral diplomacy,” calling on countries to do all they can to protect it.

Guterres made the remarks in a Tuesday interview with the Russian RIA Novosti news agency.

The nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached a critical juncture on August 20, as the U.S. took the controversial step of triggering the snapback process, a mechanism built into the 2015 nuclear deal to allow the deal’s parties to reinstate all UN sanctions on Iran in case it didn’t uphold its commitments under the deal. The U.S. complaint faced firm opposition from almost all members of the



UN Security Council and all remaining parties to the JCPOA. The opponents say the U.S.

lost its legal authority to trigger the snapback process after it unilaterally withdrew from

MPs propose emergency bill to counter possible return of UN sanctions

POLITICAL d e s k

TEHRAN — A number of Iranian MPs have prepared a bill wanting it to be studied urgently in the parliament to counter the United States’ illegal action in triggering the snapback mechanism to restore the UN sanctions against Iran.

“Despite ending its participation in the JCPOA [the 2015 nuclear deal], the United States has started a dangerous and wrong game to restore the UN sanctions which is unacceptable from the legal point of view. If the United States’ actions lead to restoration of the UN resolutions and sanctions, implementation of the nuclear obligations by Iran will not be justified and it will be essential for the Islamic Republic to take retaliatory action,” says the text of the bill.

Mojtaba Zonnour, the chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, has been drawn up the bill and submitted to the parliament’s presiding board.

“We want the presiding board to issue order for the study of the bill in the form triple-urgency” cleric MP Nasrollah

Pejman said, according to Fars news agency

The terms of the bill are as follows:

In case of restoration of resolutions 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835 and 1929 which were canceled based on the 2231 resolution, the administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be duty bound to end implementation of the certain obligations.

Some of them are as follows:

Stop redesigning and reconstructing the Arak heavy water research reactor in order to turn it into light water (terms 2 to 13 of the JCPOA’s A appendix).

Prohibit reprocessing the spent nuclear fuel (terms 18 to 25 of the JCPOA’s A appendix).

Stop implementing the voluntary implementation of the additional protocol and the modified code 3.1 (terms 64 and 65 of the JCPOA’s A appendix).

Ban use of modern monitoring technologies and long-term presence of the International Atomic Energy Agency (term 67 of the JCPOA’s A appendix).



Ban access to nuclear sites (terms 74 to 78 of the JCPOA’s A appendix).

Ban transparency in producing parts of centrifuges (terms 79 and 80 of the JCPOA’s A appendix).

Stop any other remaining obligations under the JCPOA.

Former U.S. official slams Trump’s threats against Iran

POLITICAL d e s k

TEHRAN — Ben Rhodes, former President Barack Obama’s adviser, has slammed U.S. President Donald Trump’s threats against Iran.

“Iran has also accelerated its nuclear program significantly. Trump’s Iran policy has made the US and the world less safe. Tweeting threats won’t change that,” he tweeted on Tuesday.

His comments came as Trump threatened attack on Iran.

Trump tweeted on Tuesday, “...caused over so many years. Any attack by Iran, in



any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude!”

“According to press reports, Iran may be planning an assassination, or other attack, against the United States in retaliation for the killing of terrorist leader Soleimani, which was carried out for his planning a future attack, murdering U.S. Troops, and the death & suffering...” Trump wrote in another tweet.

Trump was using the cooked-up report by Politico which on Sunday claimed that Iran was weighing to assassinate U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks before the American presidential election in November. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman

Saeed Khatibzadeh on Monday dismissed the report as “customer-made, biased and purposeful” in the run-up to the presidential election in which Trump is lagging behind his rival Joe Biden.

Trump ordered airstrikes on January 3 that martyred Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

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

Referendum is fair solution to Palestine crisis: embassy

POLITICAL d e s k

TEHRAN — Iran’s embassy in Japan said in a tweet on Monday that holding a referendum in Palestine is a fair solution to restore the rights of Palestinians.

The tweet followed after the U.S. president announced on September 11 that Bahrain is becoming the second Arab country in the Persian Gulf region which has agreed to normalize ties with the Zionist regime of Israel. The normalization deal came 29 days after the UAE agreed to establish full ties with Israel.

“Holding a referendum and referring to public vote of all the Palestinian people can be a fair and sustainable

solution to end occupation and violence in the Middle East and to support the rights of Palestinians, not normalizing relations and betraying the Palestinian cause,” said the tweet.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has proposed referendum among the native Palestinians as the solution to the protracted Palestinian conflict.

Reiterating the Leader’s suggestion, Foreign Minister Zarif also said in February that the solution to the Palestinian issue is “resistance and referendum”.

“In my opinion, this is an opportunity for the world of Islam to realize that the solution for the issue of Palestine turns around the two pivots of democracy and resistance,”

Zarif said in an interview with the khamenei.ir.

“The unity inside Palestine on the basis of resistance can turn out to be a very auspicious phenomenon for foiling Zionist policies,” he said.

The chief diplomat also said democracy “is a very important player as well”, noting the self-proclaimed defenders of democracy have no reason to oppose referendum in the occupied lands.

“Those whose cry of democracy has deafened the world and who refer to the Zionist regime as the only democracy in the region should be prepared to embrace the real democracy.”

Trump likely to wage limited war with Iran to boost reelection chances: ex-ambassador

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“This type of measures and headline-making, which is likely to continue in the future, will absolutely yield no results and will be added to the long list of U.S. failures against Iran,” Khatibzadeh asserted. He also accused Politico of selling the Trump administration’s “folly.”

“U.S. warmongers have always used gullible ‘journalists’ to sell their folly. Under Bush, they used them to sell the \$7 trillion Iraq War. Now they are at it again, using Politico to peddle lies. U.S. media needs to be vigilant so as not to be used by politicians,” tweeted Khatibzadeh on Tuesday.

Despite Iran’s strong denial, the U.S. chose to escalate tensions with Iran. In a tweet on Tuesday, Trump threatened to attack Iran.

Referring to press reports about Iran’s alleged plot to retaliate for the assassination of General Soleimani, Trump Tweeted, “Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude!”

The U.S. allegation caught South Africa by surprise. Lunga Ngqengelele, the spokesman for South Africa’s Foreign Ministry, has said that his country was not aware of the alleged plot until Wednesday morning.

“We only became aware of this report this morning,” he told Bloomberg.

In addition to Ngqengelele, the Politico report and Trump’s subsequent threats against Iran have taken many analysts and commentators by surprise as it is not in Iran’s interests to violate diplomatic norms. Diplo-

mats said the Trump administration may have cooked up an intelligence story to escalate tensions with Iran ahead of the November 3 presidential elections to overshadow Trump’s failures and thus boost his reelection chances. Some diplomats even said that Trump may be looking for a “limited war” with Iran to create a rally-round-the-flag moment to save his troubled campaign. Trump has said on many occasions that he was a “wartime president” as he led the U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic, creating suspicions that he could be opened to lying the American people into another costly war.

“Evidence suggests that the Trump administration is likely to wage a limited war with Iran to boost Donald Trump reelection chances. And Iran is aware of this scheme and it held the Zolfaqar-99 military exercises to dissuade the Americans from pursuing ill-intentioned plots against Iran ahead of U.S. presidential election,” Seyed Jalal Sadatian, Iran’s former ambassador to the UK, told the Tehran Times.

Sadatian said Trump took many measures to boost his reelection chances since he sensed that he could lose the November election.

“Trump did his utmost to put maximum pressure on Iran. His efforts inflicted economic pain on ordinary Iranians but failed to bring Iran to its knees. Trump made efforts to force Iran into signing a new deal with the U.S. or at least force its leaders into giving Trump a photo op, but his efforts hit a dead end. He tried to get the UN Security



Council to indefinitely extend the UN arms embargo on Iran, but his efforts got nowhere. He also tried to trigger the snapback process but, again, failed. Thirteen of the 15-member UN Security Council rejected the U.S. notification. These all were diplomatic failures. Trump then announced the normalization deals between some Arab countries and Israel to show that he made breakthroughs.” Said the former ambassador, noting that Trump made all these efforts to portray himself as a successful president.

According to Sadatian, Trump is also making efforts inside America to win the election at all costs.

“Trump is preparing to renege on the election results in case he didn’t win. He said the election would be rigged and he also said that he could impose curfews on some states if he loses the elections. All these issues show that he wants to win the elections at any cost,” Sadatian pointed out.

Commentators and analysts have long

warned that Trump could wage a limited war with Iran to win the election. However, Iranian diplomats and officials have made it crystal clear that any war with Iran would not be limited in time and in scope. Iran has also said that the U.S. could start a war, but it would not be the one who ends it.

In an interview with “Face the Nation” in September 2019, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif echoed the same warning.

“No. No, I’m not confident that we can avoid a war. We- I’m confident that we will not start one but I’m confident that whoever starts one will not be the one who finishes it,” He said. “That means that there won’t be a limited war.”

Government Spokesman Ali Rabiei warned on Wednesday that Iran will respond to “any strategic mistake” by the U.S., hours after Trump threatened to attack Iran.

Sadatian said any military confrontation with Iran will not be limited and could include the region in its entirety.

“Israel can’t confront Iran alone. So, the Americans strengthened their bases in the region to besiege Iran in a way that it would not be able to respond to any aggression. But they will fail because Iran has a strategic depth in the region and the U.S. can’t undermine this strategic depth. So if they attack Iran, they will be bogged down in the region. Any attack against Iran could pave the way for the U.S. to be mired in the region,” the former ambassador warned.

Former Iraqi PM meets top Iranian officials

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Former Iraqi prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, has traveled to Iran to discuss regional and bilateral topics with top Iranian officials.

Al-Maliki, who currently leads Iraq's State of Law Coalition, arrived in Tehran on Monday, when he met Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani.

In his meeting with Ghalibaf, the Iraqi politician thanked the Islamic Republic for its efforts to establish security and stability in Iraq and the region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's stance has definitely caused the Resistance Front to fight off the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam and Muslims and emerge victorious," Tabnak quoted Maliki as saying.

Ghalibaf, for his part, said if authorities in Muslim countries carry out their responsibilities, the enemies' plots will definitely fail.

He also thanked the Iraqi parliament for a move earlier this month aimed at driving the U.S. out of Iraq.

In his meeting with Shamkhani, Maliki lauded Iran's role in the fight against terrorism and the establishment security in the region.

He highlighted the need for collaboration



between Iran and Iraq in important regional and international matters.

The Iraqi politician pointed to the recent normalization of ties between Israel on the one hand and Bahrain and the UAE on the other, saying threats against the Holy Quds and the existence of Palestine can be neutralized through joint efforts of Muslim countries.

In a tweet on Friday, Trump announced the normalization of ties between Bahrain and Israel, a month after the UAE and Israel reached an agreement to normalize their relations.

The development has sparked strong condemnations from people and NGOs across the Muslim world, especially among Arabs. They have described the move as an act of

betrayal against the Palestinian people.

Shamkhani said such measures will fail to help Tel Aviv reach its "Nile-to-Euphrates" plot.

The top security official said the Muslim world will never allow the treacherous plot, which is aimed at gaining the control of Muslim territories from the Nile to the Euphrates, to be realized.

■ Bahrain, UAE to regret normalizing ties with Israel: advisor

On Tuesday, Maliki met Ali Akbar Velayati, a top advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. During the meeting, Velayati said Bahrain and the UAE will regret normalizing their ties with the Zionist regime.

He said Muslim countries voiced their opposition to the move which was planned by the U.S. government.

Velayati noted that the two Arab countries decided to reveal their relations with Israel due to the victories of the Resistance Movement in West Asia.

The Zionist regime won't have a place among the nations of the world, whether or not regional countries change their position, he stated.

The advisor further said that the Islamic Republic will give a strong response to enemies if they threaten Iran's national security.

Grossi calls Iran an important partner of IAEA

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Rafael Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has said that Iran is an important partner of the Agency.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Mo-hsen Baharvand in Vienna on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

"Today, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, H.E. Mr Baharvand met with @rafaelmgrossi. They discussed different issues of interest including mutual cooperation," the Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN in Vienna tweeted.

According to IRNA, Baharvand called for cooperation in a "constructive atmosphere" without a third party's influence.

In an introductory statement to the Board of Governors on Monday, Grossi 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 him as saying.

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 site 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."

Trump threatens Iran with '1,000 times greater' attack based on fake news

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened Iran with a "1,000 times greater" attack in response to a cooked-up Politico report which claimed Iran is planning to assassinate the U.S. ambassador to South Africa.

"According to press reports, Iran may be planning an assassination, or other attack, against the United States in retaliation for the killing of terrorist leader Soleimani, which was carried out for his planning a future attack, murdering U.S. Troops, and the death & suffering caused over so many years," Trump wrote in his Twitter page, pointing to the U.S. assassination of Iran's anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani on January 3.

"Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude!" Trump added.

The Politico story, which was published on Sunday, claimed that the Iranian government is weighing an assassination attempt against U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks to avenge the Trump-ordered assassination of General Soleimani.

"U.S. officials have been aware of a general threat against the ambassador, Lana Marks, since the spring," Politico reported, citing intelligence provided by two unnamed U.S. government officials.

"But the intelligence about the threat to the ambassador has become more specific in recent weeks," it said, adding, "The Iranian embassy in Pretoria is involved in the plot."

Marks is a South African-born American handbag designer who founded the eponymous fashion brand Lana Marks. She presented her diplomatic credentials to the South African

government on January 28, 2020.

Iran's embassy in Pretoria responded to the assassination claim early on Monday, describing it via Twitter as "baseless accusation from a terrorist regime."

It also said it will soon provide more information on the matter.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh also reacted, calling the report "customer-made, biased and purposeful".

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

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declined to directly address the claim of the reported threat to the U.S. ambassador, who is a close ally of Trump.

However, Pompeo told Fox News that "Iran has engaged in assassination efforts all across the world. They have assassinated people in Europe and in other parts of the world. We take these allegations seriously."

"We make very clear to the Islamic Republic of Iran that this kind of activity — attacking any American any place at any time, whether it's an American diplomat, an ambassador, or one of our service members — is completely

unacceptable," he added.

In his Monday statement, Khatibzadeh linked the report to the upcoming U.S. presidential election, which could pose a great challenge to Trump's re-election.

"The United States regime's resorting 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," he stated.

The spokesman also said that Iran "will never forgive or forget" the cowardly assassination of Soleimani and will pursue the case legally.

■ 'Price for Soleimani assassination is much higher than unfortunate ambassador'

Former Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Monday that the "price of the cowardly assassination of the world champion of the fight against terrorism is much higher than an unfortunate American ambassador in a corner of the world."

"If I were in that ambassador's shoes, I would resort to all possible channels to understand why the terrorist government of America has come to think of, suspiciously yet awkwardly, removing her," Mousavi, who is now Iran's ambassador to Azerbaijan,

"If I were in that (American) ambassador's shoes, I would resort to all possible channels to understand why the terrorist government of America has come to think of, suspiciously yet awkwardly, removing her," wrote Abbas Mousavi, Iran's ambassador to Azerbaijan.

Get ready to thank Donald Trump, ex-diplomat tells Americans

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — An Iranian diplomat has suggested, sarcastically, that the American people should now thank their president, Donald Trump, for his self-proclaimed success in containing the coronavirus outbreak.

"It was just a few months ago that Trump told the American people that if just 200,000 people die of coronavirus in the U.S., they should thank him," wrote

Morteza Moradian, the former ambassador to North Korea and Denmark, in a tweet on Monday night.

"Now, in Trump's opinion, the American people should be ready to thank him," he said.

The tweet came while the U.S. death toll from Covid-19 has passed 199,000 people.

During a news conference in March, Trump said that a final U.S. coronavirus death toll somewhere in

the range of 100,000 to 200,000 people would indicate that his administration has "done a very good job."

In remarks in April, Trump suggested that injecting disinfectant into the body could fight the coronavirus, sparking a public backlash. Doctors and scientists were quick to discredit the suggestions and warned injecting disinfectant into people could be fatal.

SPORTS

Powerlifting hall named after Siamand Rahman

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — In memory of the late super powerlifter Siamand Rahman, the powerlifting hall of Iran Sports Federation for the Disabled was named Siamand Rahman.

Head of Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa, president of Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) Reza Salehi Amiri and media representatives attended the ceremony held in the federation's headquarters in Tehran on Tuesday.



Rahman dies from cardiac arrest in his hometown Oshnavieh on March 1.

Dubbed as the world's strongest Paralympic, 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.

The two-time gold medalist in London 2012 and Rio 2016, was preparing to win his third successive gold at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Rahman broke the 300kg barrier in the men's over 107kg at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, lifting an unprecedented 310kg. The mark he set is the equivalent of three baby elephants.

The Iranian powerlifter had already won three gold medals in the last three Asian Para Games (2010 Guangzhou, 2014 Incheon and 2018 Jakarta).

Shahr Khodro lose to UAE's Shabab Al Ahli

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian football team Shahr Khodro lost to Shabab Al Ahli 1-0 in Group B of the 2020 AFC Champions League.

Harib Suhail scored the only goal of the match in the 75th minute at the Al Janoub Stadium.

Shahr Khodro had previously lost to Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor.

The Iranian team have a slim chance of qualifying for the Round of 16.

On Tuesday, another Iranian team Persepolis will meet Al Taawoun of Saudi Arabia in Group C while Sepahan face Saudi Arabian Al Nassr in Group D.

In another group match, Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal earned a late 2-1 win over Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor.

Shahr Khodro sit fourth in the table without any point and Al Hilal almost advanced to Round of 16 with nine points out of three matches.

Pakhtakor and Al Ahli sit second and third with six and three points, respectively.

Younes Delfi joins HNK Gorica

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian winger Younes Delfi joined Croatian first division side HNK Gorica on Monday.

The 19-year-old signed for HNK Gorica on loan from RSC Charleroi until June 2021. The winger represented Iran at the 2017 FIFA U17 World Cup in India and scored two goals and provided an assist in the 4-0 win against Germany.

In Belgium, however, injuries prevented him from making an impact.

"I had to change my team and I want to do my best in HNK Gorica. I think 1. HNL is very interesting and I opted to play in the league however some Iranian teams wanted to sign me," Delfi said.

"I prefer to play in a European league since I want to win the Ballon d'Or one day," he added.

Tractor coach Elhami banned for three months

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Tractor football team head coach Saeid Elhami has been banned from all football activities for 90 days.

He got involved in a controversial moment in the Iran's Hazfi Cup final between Tractor and Esteghlal in early September.

Elhami protested the referee's performance in the second half, saying their decision went against his team and pushed the officials several times.

Now, Elhami has been banned by the Disciplinary Committee of the Iranian Football Federation for three months.

Tractor are going to appoint a new head coach and have already negotiated with Ali Daei and Alexander Nouri.

Italian coach Cusin parts way with Shahr Khodro

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Shahr Khodro Italian coach Stefano Cusin has stepped down from his role in the Iranian team.

The 51-year-old coach has not traveled to Doha for the AFC Champions League along with Shahr Khodro.

He worked as interim coach of Mashhad based team after Mojtaba Sarasiaei left the team last season.

Cusin will likely join his old friend Walter Zenga in Cagliari.

The Italian-Canadian joined Shahr Khodro in January from Palestinian football team Ahli al-Khaleel.

He also worked in Shahr Khodro as assistant of Sohrab Baktiarzadeh.

TEDPIX goes up 59,672 points on Tuesday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** —TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, went up 59,672 points to 1.667 million on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 9.328 billion securities worth 108.712 trillion rials (about \$2.583 billion) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first market's index rose 42,957 points and the second market's index climbed 123,319 points.

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.

Iranian heavy crude oil price rises 4.1% in August: OPEC

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian heavy oil price increased \$1.77 in August to register a 4.1-percent rise compared to the previous month, according to OPEC's latest monthly report published on Monday.

Iran sold its heavy crude oil at \$45.07 per barrel in the mentioned month, compared to July's \$43.3 per barrel, ISNA reported.

According to the report, the country's average heavy crude price was \$39.34 since the beginning of 2020 up to the report's publishing day, in comparison to \$62.46 in the previous year's same period.

The report put average Iranian crude output for the second quarter of 2020 at 1.958 million barrels per day indicating a near 103,000-bpd fall compared to the figure for the first quarter of 2020.

Based on the report, the country's oil production fell to 1.94 million barrels per day in August.

In addition to the devastating impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the global oil industry which resulted in the drastic fall in oil prices, the Iranian oil industry has also been under pressure from the U.S. efforts to isolate the country by re-imposing sanctions.

The new round of sanctions targeting Iran's oil sector was put in action in early November 2018 and many of Iran's oil buyers have given in under the U.S. pressures.

TPO to hold meeting on constructional materials export to Africa

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**— Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) will hold a meeting on October 3 for investigating the ways for boosting the exports of constructional materials and equipment to the African countries, an official with the organization announced.

Farzad Piltan, the director-general of TPO's Office of Arabian and African Countries, said that the meeting is in line with the TPO's programs of introducing new export markets to the producers and exporters, TPO published on its website on Monday.

Given the need of the African countries for the constructional materials and equipment, and also considering Iran's capacity in this field, the TPO will hold the mentioned meeting next month, Piltan added.



According to the official, Iran's exports to its African trade partners in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20) has increased by 340 percent in terms of weight.

The value of exports, however, fell 60 percent in the mentioned three months, he added.

Iran exported nearly 50,000 tons of commodities in the previous calendar year's first three months, while the figure rose to 244,000 tons in the current year's same period, the official said.

He put the value of Iranian exports to the mentioned countries in the said three months at about \$60 million, down nearly 60 percent compared to the previous year's \$150 million for the same period.

The Islamic Republic annually exports about \$1 billion worth of goods directly and indirectly to Africa, while importing about \$100 million from the continent, Piltan noted.

Iran's exports include bitumen, iron and steel products, food-stuff, construction materials, carpets flooring, and raisins, as well as technical and engineering services, including the construction of refineries, cooperation in power plant construction, water supply, tunnel construction, bridges and roads and the construction of reservoirs in African countries, he said.

According to the official, Ghana, Cameroon, South Africa, Somalia, Morocco, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, and Libya have been the top 10 destinations for Iranian exports while South Africa, Tanzania, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tunisia, and Egypt are also the main exporters to Iran.

Iran also cooperates with some African nations in various areas such as mining, agriculture, or car production.

"The development of trade with African countries has always been a priority for the Iranian government. However, despite the implementation of various programs and agreements in recent years, we have not yet achieved the desired goals and the development of economic and trade relations with Africa due to numerous problems at different levels," Piltan regretted.

Gas industry bodies mobilized for sustained supply in winter

1 → In early May, National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s former Dispatching Director Mehdi Jamshidi-Dana announced that the transmission capacity of the national gas network had increased to one billion cubic meters per day (bcm/d).

Jamshidi-Dana mentioned the South Pars gas field's new platforms going operational in the current year and noted that with the increase of the national gas network's capacity the new production capacity from the South Pars platforms won't be idle.

"The country's [natural] gas production capacity is going to be increased to one billion cubic meters per day and now the national network is capable of transmitting this capacity," he said.

■ Overhaul and storage

As mentioned above, one of the major steps that the NIGC takes for ensuring sustainable gas supply during the winter is conducting an annual overhaul program for fixing the country's gas refineries to make sure that all of them would be operating on their highest capacity, while filling the country's gas storages to be used in emergency situations.

Earlier on Monday, NIGC Managing Director Hassan Montazer Torbati



said that his company has prepared a specific program in three phases, including refinery overhaul, pipelines repairs, and filling storages to ensure the smooth passing through the winter pick consumption period.

South Pars Gas Company (SPGC)

conducts the overhaul program for the refineries of the South Pars gas complex which accounts for 90 percent of the country's gas supply, Iranian Gas Transmission Company (IGTC) is in charge of repairing the national gas network, while the NIGC itself super-

vises the storage facilities.

Earlier this week, the Head of SPGC Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said that the annual overhaul program for the complex' refineries are underway 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.

Saeed Tavakoli, IGTC's managing director has also said his company is completely prepared for sustainable gas supply throughout the country during winter.

The official said that besides repairing several gas pipelines across the country, his company has carried out other measures in order to ensure sustainable and secure gas supply during winter.

Regarding the gas storage, NIGC Head Torbati said on Monday that the company has managed to store even 32 percent more than what was planned and these reserves can be very helpful during the peak consumption periods.

Iran, Azerbaijan discuss ways to expand rail cooperation

1 → Further in the meeting, Eslami briefed his Azeri counterpart about Iran's railway network, as well as the vast capacity of the country's railways in the north-south and east-west routes and its connection to the railways of neighboring countries.

Mentioning the fact that most of the southern ports of Iran are connected to the country's national railway network, the official called on Guluzade to take necessary measures for both sides to benefit from these capacities.

"Given the numerous areas for cooperation in the fields of roads, transportation, and other sectors related to these areas, we can help bring the two countries closer and strengthen cooperation between the two sides," he said.

The construction of a joint bridge on the Astarachai River in Astara, the completion of the Astara-Astara railway terminal given its capacity and role in goods transportation between the two countries, and the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway were also among the issues discussed during this online meeting.

Back in July 2019, Guluzade visited Iran to hold talks with Iranian officials including the transport minister for discussing the expansion of ties.

In his meeting with Eslami back then, Guluzade highlighted the importance of transport relations between the two countries, saying: "We are working to increase the level of trade and economic relations between the two sides."



Iranian Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami

Modern irrigation systems implemented in 174,000 hectares of farmlands

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Following the Iranian Agriculture Ministry's new irrigation systems development plan, 174,000 hectares of farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), the ministry's project manager for the mentioned development plan said.

According to Abbas Zare, the purpose of implementing the plan of modern irrigation systems was to increase the productivity and sustainability of water and soil resources in the country to ensure the sustainable production of agricultural products, IRIB reported.

"Following the support of the government and the Leader for this project, of 8.7 million hectares of the country's total irrigated lands, so far about 2.4 million hectares have been equipped with modern systems," Zare said.

The official noted that in the current Iranian calendar year, nearly 16 trillion rials (about \$380.9 million) has been allocated from the annual budget and the National Development Fund (NDF) for the development of various irrigation methods.

With the mentioned funding, so far the irrigation systems are under construction for 130,000 hectares, while for 44,000 hectares the systems have been put into operation, he explained.

According to the official, the implementation of this plan is going to increase the irrigation efficiency of the



mentioned farmlands to 44 percent which will increase the production capacity of agricultural products by 30 percent.

The consumption of agricultural fertilizers will also be reduced by 30 percent which consequently leads to a reduction in the environmental impacts of this sector, he said.

Back in May, Zare said that the plan for developing new irrigation systems has witnessed a significant leap in the past three years, as it is most effective in increasing the efficiency of water and soil resources and strengthening the country's food security.

Over the past three years, each year, an average of 150,000 hectares of farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems, and we have witnessed a 300 percent jump, he stated.

The official expressed hope that considering the budget allocation for the provinces at the beginning of the current calendar year, the ministry would be able to develop the project in terms of both quantity and quality.

Vacancy tax law in final stages

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's deputy transport and urban development minister said that the vacancy tax law is in its final stages for being implemented, IRIB reported on Tuesday.

Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh said the ministry has already sent SMSs to 1.5 million owners of the vacant houses, which are subject to the mentioned tax.

Back on July 12, Iranian parliament (Majlis) had approved the double-urgency plan of the vacancy tax law. The mentioned plan is mainly aimed at lowering the housing rental rate in the country.

Expressing his agreement over the approval of the mentioned plan, Hossein Hossein-Zadeh Bahraini, a member of the Majlis Economic Committee, said, "Our problem in the housing sector is not the demand higher than the supply, while the number of residential units is more than required."

This plan is vital, as many families are struggling for renting the homes, while there are many empty units, the MP further reiterated.

The vacancy tax law, as part of Direct Tax Reform Law, was put on the agenda in the Iranian calendar year ending March 2016 and was enforceable from the year ending March 2017, but there was little data on the number of vacant units then, according to Mahmoud Alizadeh, a senior official with Iran



National Tax Administration (INTA).

Alizadeh said, "As per Clause 54 of Direct Tax Law if a home remains vacant for more than a year, it will be subject to Vacancy Tax. Homes with a floor area of 150-odd square meters will be subject to tax at the rate of 20 percent of the property's rent value," Eghtesad Online published on June 20.

Elaborating on the vacancy tax, INTA Head Omid-Ali Parsa said in June, "Empty homes will not be taxed in the first year but they will be taxed at the rate of 50 percent of the property's assessed rent in the second year and in the third year, they will be levied tax at the rate of 100 percent of the assessed rent".

According to Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh, the head of the Housing Economy Department at the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, a total of 6.6 million households or 30.7 percent of the country's 18.1 million urban households in the country live in rented homes.

Private sector representatives criticize unbridled liquidity growth

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Board members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on Tuesday criticized the unbridled liquidity growth in the country which is causing disruption in many economic and industrial sectors.

During the 16th meeting of TCCIMA board of representatives, the TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari noted that currently, liquidity is the most important factor that is disrupting the country's economic system, TCCIMA portal reported.

"In the past few months, liquidity has grown by 13.8 percent, meaning that 22 trillion rials (about \$500 million) is added to the country's liquidity every day, and in the past five months, 3.4 quadrillion rials (about \$80.9 billion) has been added to the volume of liquidity," he explained.

According to Khansari, if the current trend continues, the liquidity growth will reach 32 percent and 8 quadrillion rials (about \$190.4 billion) will be added to the country's



liquidity by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

"Wandering liquidity collapses on various markets like an avalanche every day, one day the stock market, one day the housing market, one day the forex market, and in the last few days the automobile industry has also been affected," the official regretted.

Considering the current inflation rates, the most important thing for the government to do is to prevent the liquidity from growing, he stressed.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Khansari criticized the government for the indecision for nominating the new Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister.

Addressing President Hassan Rouhani, the TCCIMA head said: "The Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry which is currently the most important ministry in the country, has been without a minister for more than four months, and we see that no decision has been made in this regard and this has practically damaged both production and exports."

Resistance News

Qatar, Pakistan rule out possibility of normalization with Israel

INTERNATIONAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — A high-ranking Qatari official says Doha will not follow in the footsteps of neighboring Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to normalize relations with Israel, emphasizing that Doha will not take such a measure as long as the Palestinian issue is unresolved.

Last week, Bahrain joined the UAE in striking an agreement to normalize relations with Israel.

Elsewhere in her remarks, Khater pointed to the attempts, backed by Kuwait, to end the economic and diplomatic blockade Saudi Arabia and a number of its allies imposed on gas-rich Qatar in June 2017, noting that the efforts have not yet reached a tipping point, Press TV reported.

“In the past couple of months, there have been messages and messengers going back and forth,” she said.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan reacted to Bahrain’s normalization of ties with the Israeli regime following the UAE, saying, “Any recognition of Israel will face strong opposition from Palestinian people. We cannot make a decision which runs counter to the aspirations of the oppressed Palestinian nation. We will continue to support the fair resolution of the Palestinian issue.”

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain contribute to U.S.-Israeli plots against Muslims: Houthi

INTERNATIONAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The leader of Yemen’s Houthi Ansarullah movement has lambasted Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain for facilitating the implementation of plots hatched by the United States and the Israeli regime against Muslim nations.

Speaking in a televised speech broadcast live from the Yemeni capital of Sana’a on Monday afternoon, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said Riyadh, Abu Dhabi and Manama sponsor the advancement of such plots, stressing that the trio tend to stand with the enemies of the Muslim world.

The Ansarullah leader then severely censured the UAE and Bahrain over their decisions to establish full diplomatic relations with the Tel Aviv regime.

Zahhar calls for int’l coalition against Israeli-American alliance

INTERNATIONAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Mahmoud al-Zahhar, head of Change and Reform parliamentary bloc in Palestine and a member of Hamas political bureau, has called for the formation of an international bloc against the Israeli-American alliance and its tools in the West Asia region.

Zahhar stressed during a speech at Iran Against Normalization conference, through the Zoom program on Sunday, that the normalization agreement which was signed by the UAE and Bahrain constitutes a treacherous stab in the back of the Palestinian people, adding that they lined up with the Israeli occupation and shared in an overt conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

He added, “The precise timing in which the Emirati-Zionist agreement emerged confirms the nature of the black scheme whose chapters are being woven to reconstruct and reshape the geographical and political landscape in the region which works to dry up the sources of strength and steadfastness in the nation.”

Zahhar called for the need to unite all components of the Arab and Islamic nation and their peoples to confront the agreement and work to establish a strong and solid Arab, Islamic and international front at the official and popular levels so that it would be able to isolate and besiege the rulers of the Emirates and criminalize their shameful deeds.

Armed resistance sole way to liberate Palestine: Hezbollah

The deputy head of Lebanon’s resistance movement Hezbollah says normalization with Israel has no benefit for the Palestinians and only serves the regime’s interests, describing armed resistance as the sole way to liberate Palestine from Israeli occupation.

Sheikh Naim Qassem made the remarks in a virtual address to a summit held in the holy Iranian city of Qom on the strategies for ending Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territories.

He said that the occupying entity enjoys military and political support from superpowers and thus cannot be eliminated through reliance on the laws they themselves have drawn up.

The big powers, he added, see their interest in protecting and legitimizing the occupation; therefore, the situation would not change in favor of Palestine and other regional states by making pleas to those powers, Press TV reported.

Negotiations with Taliban proved U.S. policy in Afghanistan has badly failed: Pakistani analyst

“Trump will pressure the Afghan government to make a deal before the U.S. Presidential elections”

1 → On the other hand, the Taliban are in a quite strong position and will try to make a deal like that with the U.S., where the agreement was called a victory for the Taliban by many experts — including Bruce Riedel — an analyst and former CIA official.

As for as the power-sharing is concerned, it will be determined by the parties’ negotiation skills and position to the conflict. The current political system is favorable to the current administration in Kabul. Nonetheless, the Taliban want drastic changes in the system — to make it Islamic. Still, it’s not clear how they define their Islamic system, where they have to accept women’s rights and some democratic norms. Time will further deduce its orientation, yet the Taliban’s position shows they will make a road for their objectives to implement.

Not only the principal parties of this conflict, but regional countries also have an unsaid consensus on giving peace a chance.

■ What is the role of the U.S. in these talks? Why did the U.S. enter talks with the Taliban after two decades of war? Doesn’t it indicate U.S. failure in Afghanistan?

The U.S. has quite an important role in these talks, and the Kabul administration can take no major step that the U.S. doesn’t want. In the post-9/11 Afghanistan, the U.S. has been the real decision-maker. The U.S. kept the Afghan government out of the deal they made with the Taliban about Afghanistan, quite an embarrassing situation for the Ashraf Ghani administration.

Besides, the U.S. signed an agreement with the Taliban almost after two decades, yet the former had started this process back in 2009 when Obama entered the Oval Office. The Obama administration formulated a different policy for Afghanistan; the end was the U.S. withdrawal. The policy was to fight and talk in which an option can make a way forward. Earlier, President Bush’s policy was solely based on a military solution to the conflict — by a force that badly failed after eight years of a robust campaign.

The U.S. agreement with the Taliban has saved their face to some extent where they can show we were there for peace in Afghanistan. We had to make it clear the land would not be used against the U.S., its interests, and its allies in the future.

Here the guarantee is the U.S.-Taliban agreement. Nevertheless, their campaign against the Taliban has badly failed that was to crush them. Pakistan had even suggested the U.S. in 2002 to mainstream the Taliban. Yet the U.S. did not take it seriously and continued its operations.

Taliban acted on ‘keeping all balls in the air’ policy. Hostilities continued, but the channel for initiating talks remained open. Taliban learned that using Afghan soil’s against oth-



“Qatar’s proactive foreign policy has raised its international profile and clout.”

er countries has very serious consequences. This learning has induced greater clarity in their stance and will positively influence their relations with neighboring countries.

■ Do you predict that the two sides of the talks will ultimately reach an agreement, especially on the shape of the future government?

As far as reaching an agreement is concerned, it is apparent as there is no other way with the Afghan government to take. The Taliban has the option to fight further for some years, yet the Afghan forces cannot defend the country. That is why certain parts of the country are under Taliban control, and many are contested.

Besides, the U.S.’s role is also quite important in shaping the intra-Afghan talks. The Ghani administration knows it well that Trump wants a withdrawal that will ultimately pose a threat to his government in the absence of strong security. Because of this facet, Ghani, many times, requested the U.S. not to withdraw at this stage. Furthermore, Trump will pressure the Afghan government to make a deal before the U.S. Presidential elections. The future type of government in Kabul is hard to predict at the moment despite the Taliban’s standpoint that seems dominant.

These negotiations are the “long game,” while parties will stubbornly stock to what benefits them at others’ cost. Like the Afghan government that doesn’t want a U.S. withdrawal because the cost of security is being incurred by the U.S. Similarly, those officials who will be reduced to the residue of war if peace comes they will struggle to protect the status quo.

■ As the Qatar talks begin, against the backdrop of an American troop pullout and grievous violence against Afghan officials and civilians, some critics of the process argued that

the Taliban insurgency was still, in essence, holding a gun to the government’s head. What is your comment?

When the U.S.-Taliban talks we’re under-way, there was no cease-fire except a week-long “Reduction in Violence” as a confidence-building measure. Such a move may be the case during the intra-Afghan talks. Although the Afghan government will try its best to put a cease-fire on the top of the agenda yet, little chances are there, the Taliban will accept it before any major breakthrough. If there was no violence on the part of the Taliban, why would the U.S. and then the Afghan government come to the table? Taliban convert their gains in the battlefield to the one on the table.

The upswing in turmoil and the U.S. push will increase pressure on Kabul to conclude an agreement as soon as possible. The Ghani administration is delaying the process hoping if Biden wins the U.S. presidential elections, he may revoke the deal with the Taliban. President Ghani is not concerned about the Afghan populace’s lives but thinks about his own position to remain in power as long as possible. On the next day of the U.S.-Taliban agreement, Ghani announced he wouldn’t release Taliban prisoners, and now after six months, he did it. The cost of this delay is the Afghan forces who got killed in the violence. If Ghani had released the prisoners in time, the situation might be different now.

Moreover, U.S. domestic politics is instrumental. No state can sustain the war fatigue for long, and the U.S. is no exception. The costs for both sides are different; the U.S. lost its wealth and the Taliban their lives. These costs have become unbearably high for both sides, so this liability will be cleared as soon as possible.

Palestinians mark ‘Day of Rage’ as Arabs, Israel ink deal

People have risen in anger in key Palestinian cities hours before an unprecedented White House ceremony that is to witness the official signing of normalization deals between the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain on one side and Israel on the other.

The rallies emerged across the Israel-blockaded Gaza Strip and Tel Aviv-occupied West Bank on Tuesday, when the ceremony went underway at 16:00 GMT.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as well as Emirati and Bahraini Foreign Ministers, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani were in attendance among

others during the event.

However, the normalization trend has been uniformly panned by all Palestinian people and factions as well as the Bahraini public that has been holding daily rallies since its inception.

In Gaza, popular resistance leaders released a statement in condemnation of the agreements, declaring the upcoming Friday a day of mourning, when black flags are expected to be put up atop all squares, buildings, and homes throughout the Palestinian territories.

Secretary-General of the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movement of the Islamic Jihad, Ziad al-Nakhala, meanwhile, warned that the normalization proves the Arab regimes’

“weakness and humiliation” in the face of the U.S. and Israel and would bring along nothing for them except for more “disgrace and abasement.”

Nakhala warned that the international Muslim nation would fall apart without Palestine, reiterating the movement’s refusal to ever recognize Israel and urging Palestinians to be united in the face of the plots that target them.

In the West Bank, Palestinians rallied in the cities of Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm, and al-Khalil (Hebron) waving Palestinian flags and signs that denounced the agreements, the Palestinian Wafa news agency reported.

According to the outlet, a central rally is going ahead in the city of Ramallah, while protests are also expected to be held elsewhere in the world.

More than 50 U.S., Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic organizations have called for a demonstration in Washington to coincide with the signing ceremonies, the agency wrote.

Sheikh Hussein Al-Daihi, deputy secretary-general of the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, Bahrain’s main opposition group, told Iran’s al-Alam television network that “those who choose to back down from defending al-Quds today will back down from defending Mecca tomorrow.”

(Source: Press TV)

Second Announcement



1399.3121

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN
TENDER NO. : 01-31-9150037

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

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

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

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

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

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex
Kouy-e Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
E.MAIL: KALA.F.P@nisoc.ir Tel. No.: 061 34 12 34 55 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437
Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۹/۶/۲۳ نوبت دوم ۹۹/۶/۲۶

Battery Plate Production Line in Khansar

Tender no: 9914

Faraz Battery Co. intends to open a tender with the following conditions for first Phase of Battery project:

• Scope of work :

CRS, Lead Oxide Process, Mixer, Expanded Grid MC, Pasting process (Drum Pastor ,Divider , Flash Oven, Plate Stacker) Palletizing MC, Curing MC

• Location :

Khansar City (5 hours driving to Tehran , 2 Hours to Isfahan)

• Performance period :

6- 8 months

• Other conditions shall be considered in the tender documents.

• The minimum capacity in 2 shifts per day, must be Plate for 2,000,000 battery/year, 66 plates / 1 battery.

Bidders who have ability and experiences in this field are requested to send the primary P/I included some technological information about all product line machines within 15 days from this announcement.

• Address for willing to participate and submission :

Third floor, No.: 38, Esfandiyar Blvd. Vali-e-asr Street, Tehran- Iran

Tel: +982188651741 Fax: +982188650859 E-mail: info@farazbattery.ir

Faraz Battery Novin Parsian

Forgotten crafts of doll making, Chuli-bafi revived

→ 1 As handicraft fields are playing an important role in creating job opportunities and generating better income for the locals while they also show the region's culture and customs, the province's cultural heritage department plans to support active fields as well as revive the neglected ones, the official added.

He also noted that in reviving these fields their packaging and sale were also considered to reach better domestic and global markets for the crafters' products.

Though North Khorasan province may not be the first choice of travelers, its tourism is getting momentum.

According to Lonely Planet, most foreign tourists pass straight through North Khorasan in transit between Mashhad and Gorgan, but if you have time to explore, it's worth diverting south from the capital, Bojnurd, towards Esfarayen, famed for its wrestling tournaments, the remarkable citadel of Belqays and the partly preserved stepped village of Roein some 20km north. Although a lot of new building spoils the effect in parts of the village, Roein is considered Khorasan's answer to the well-known Masuleh and is a possible starting point for hikes to little-visited mountain villages.

Qajar-era hosayniya being restored to its former grandeur

TOURISM TEHRAN — Qajar era (1789–1925) Navvab Hosayniya in Birjand, the capital of South Khorasan province, has undergone some rehabilitation works, a provincial tourism chief has said.

A Hosayniya is a congregation hall for holding Shiite Muslim commemoration ceremonies, especially those associated with the mourning month of Muharram, the month in which Imam Hussein (AS) was martyred by the then ruler Yazid.



A budget of 2 billion rials (about \$47,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the project, which aims at repairing electrical installations as well as walls, windows, interior, and exterior plasterworks and rooms' flooring, Ali Shariatimanesh said on Tuesday.

Navvab Hosayniya is known for its exquisite plasterworks, which were done by the masters of the time, who came to from the central province of Isfahan.

Several poems and elegies about Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), have been engraved on hosayniya's entering gate. It has two iwans, a vaulted space that opens on one side to a courtyard, and a big courtyard.

For centuries, the commemoration of the battle of Karbala on the day of Ashura (literally meaning 10th as the battle took place on the 10th day of Muharram) and the epic passion and courage of Imam Hussein (AS) and his 72 loyal companions who were all martyred (in 680 CE) have been honored by Iranians, who are mostly Shia Muslims.

Therefore, hosayniyas and tekyehs, venues for the gathering of mourners who honor Imam Hussein (AS), have been considered important structures through Iranian architecture history.

Mourners, known as 'heyat' (literally meaning group or delegation), gather in these places to attend various ceremonies and rituals including Sineh-Zani, in which hundreds of men, all clad in black beat on their chests according to the rhythm of a sung eulogy.

Located in eastern Iran, South Khorasan province is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert.

It is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

Three ancient hills in Tehran being demarcated

TOURISM TEHRAN — Three ancient hills of Mafinabad and Vavan in Eslamshahr and Tangel-Khaneh in Lavasan, Tehran province, are being demarcated, the provincial deputy tourism chief has said.



Surveys and mapping projects have been commenced to demarcate these historical hills with the aim of protecting them from any possible damage as well as preventing from any illegal construction in their surrounding areas, Morteza Adibzadeh announced on Monday.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray.

Ray, in which signs of settlement dates from 6000 BC, is often considered to be Tehran's predecessor. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

Tehran has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, and Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

77 historical relics, sites identified in plains of Kerman

HERITAGE TEHRAN — A total of 77 historical relics, places, and sites, including ruined fortresses, farmhouses, (archaeological) hills, tombs (or cemeteries), kilns, solo structures, have been identified on the outskirts of Fahraj in Kerman province, southeast Iran.

"The recognized objects and palaces in Fahraj date a vast sequence of time from the Paleolithic era onwards... but the majority of which are related to the Islamic era," archaeologist Shahram Zare' said on Monday.

Last month, some first-hand prehistorical human settlements believed to date back to the Paleolithic era were spotted on the outskirts of Fahraj by a team of archaeologists, cultural heritage experts, and excavators.

Led by Zare', the team launched extensive research on the eastern edge of Kerman province on the margins of the UNESCO-registered Lut desert. The research was part of a greater project, supervised by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, to develop an extensive archaeological map of Iran.

Some of the most important archeological sites in the region were formed near the banks of seasonal rivers that branch off from the Nessa River.

"The invention and spread of aqueduct skill was a turning point in formation and prosperity of human settlements in this region, and [manmade] aqueducts have played



a key role in the formation, and the decline of settlements in this region."

According to him, most of the newly-identified sites are linked with the Middle Paleolithic epoch that is the second subdivision of the Paleolithic or Old Stone Age. The Middle Paleolithic broadly spanned from 300,000 to 30,000 years ago.

"Dating of these sites is being carried

out based on the morphology of stone artifacts collected from the surface as well as making [direct] comparisons with similar samples [previously found] in other parts of the Iranian plateau, the ones that have been dated beforehand."

"Most of the stone tools are made of chert and some of which are of volcanic origin, relatively severely eroded due to high-tem-

Iran attending UNTWO meeting on corona-hit tourism industry

TOURISM TEHRAN — Iran has participated in the 112th session of the executive council of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), which started in Georgia on Tuesday, aiming to find ways to help the global travel industry recover from impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Deputy tourism minister Vali Teymouri represents the Islamic Republic at the three-day event, which will also discuss rural tourism and ways to empower local communities through generating jobs and sustainable development.

Teymouri is also scheduled to meet UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili, reviewing the latest developments in the travel sector, expansion of mutual ties, as well as negotiating previously-inked agreements between Iran and the organization.

Iran's practical actions to realize the scheme of "Accessible Tourism Destination", introduced by the United Nations World Tourism Organization, is among topics Teymouri will be discussing with the UNWTO General-Director. Si-e Tir St. in downtown Tehran, which was Iran's pilot project as an "Accessible Tourism Destination" will be reviewed during the meeting. The scheme aims to make sure that a destination can be enjoyed by all tourists, regardless of their

physical, sensory, or cognitive abilities.

In his latest message regarding the impact on the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism, Pololikashvili has said "If tourism brings us together, then travel restrictions keep us apart." He added "Tourism needs to thrive, and this means that travel restrictions must be eased or lifted in a timely and responsible manner. It also means that policy decisions need to be coordinated across borders to face up to a challenge that does not care about borders! 'COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism' is a further element in the roadmap for the sector to regain its unique status as a source of hope and opportunity for all."

In June, the World Tourism Organization praised efforts made by Iran's tourism ministry to manage the travel industry during the coronavirus pandemic. UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said in a letter to tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan that the country's measures have truly earned plaudits to mitigate the impact on tourism. "A series of measures that the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran has taken, in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations of UNWTO, has truly earned plaudits as an effective practice to mitigate the



A view of Si-e Tir St. in downtown Tehran, which is now an "Accessible Tourism Destination" based on recommendations and guidelines formulated by the World Tourism Organization.

impact on tourism," part of the letter reads.

It is noteworthy that during the 111th session of the council, the members had approved that the next meeting would be held in the first semester of 2020 in Georgia. However, the exceptional international situation due to the coronavirus outbreak forced the secretariat, in consultation with the chair of the council, to postpone the 112th session of the Executive Council to the second semester of 2020.

West Azarbaijan province to boost rural tourism

TOURISM TEHRAN — The development of rural tourism and eco-lodge units has been on the agenda of West Azarbaijan province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department for a long time, provincial tourism chief Jalil Jabbari has said.

With 49 tourist villages, each with hundreds of historical sites and natural sights, lush gardens and farms, and rivers flowing in clear blue water, the northwestern West Azarbaijan province holds the potential to boost rural tourism.

Although ecotourism and rural tourism are still newly known branches of tourism in the region, the province is one of the top destinations for the eco-tourists.

Obtaining permits for turning suitable places into eco-lodge units is to be facilitated with the aim of helping the prosperity of tourism in rural areas, IRNA quoted Jabbari as saying on Monday.

There are 29 active eco-lodge units across the province in the cities of Takab, Piran-shahr, Sardasht, Oshnavieh, Khoy, Mako,



and Urmia, which has increased by 10 units during the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20) and will soon increase to 40 units, the official added.

The tourism ministry has set a target to help build 2,000 eco-lodges by 2021, believing such guest houses could cater to sustainable development and job creation in the countryside and rural areas.

Experts say each eco-lodge unit generates jobs for seven to eight people on the average so that the scheme could create

160,000 jobs.

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

Popular ecotourism activities in Iran include mountain and desert treks, bird watching in coastal areas, and wetlands as well as diving.

The World Tourism Organization sees rural tourism a type of activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sightseeing. Such tourism also possesses characteristics such as low population density, a landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry, as well as traditional social structure and lifestyle.

Rome to host photo exhibit on Iran's Sassanid arts, monuments

HERITAGE TEHRAN — The Sapienza University of Rome will be playing host to photo exhibit on arts, monuments, relics, and architectural masterpieces that are scatted across Kermanshah province, western Iran.

"The ruins of Anahita Temple [which is popularly thought to have been attributed to the ancient deity Anahita] in Kangavar, and the Palace of Khosrow Parviz in Qasr-e Shirin constitute the main theme for the [photo] exhibit of Kermanshah's Sassanid archaeological Landscape, which will be held at the Sapienza University of Rome," director of Anahita Temple cultural heritage site announced on Tuesday.

"Last year, a team of experts from the Italian university conducted a survey at the historical Anahita Temple based on a five-year term memorandum of understanding we have," the official explained.

Sapienza University of Rome has long been active in studies related to Iranian history and civilization.

Temple of Anahita in Kangavar, the Palace of Ardashir in Firuzabad, and the Anubani petroglyph are among historical sites that are slated to be documented using the Italian expertise.

The province embraces awe-inspiring historical sites



including Bisotun and Taq-e Bostan, both on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Inscribed into the base of a towering cliff, Taq-e Bostan comprises extraordinary Sassanid bas-reliefs of ancient victorious kings divide opinions.

UNESCO has it that Bisotun bears outstanding testimony to the important interchange of human values on the development of monumental art and writing, reflecting ancient traditions in monumental bas-reliefs.

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

The Sassanid era (224 CE–651) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan that are amongst highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs on abrupt limestone cliffs are widely deemed as characteristics and striking relics of the Sassanian art, top examples of which can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam, and Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

Third wave of COVID-19 looming in Iran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is looming in some provinces across the country mainly as a result of reopening businesses, offices, and educational centers, Alireza Raeisi, deputy health minister has stated.

In March, when the disease peaked, people observed health protocols well which led to a decline in new cases and deaths. In April, the disease went into control, but due to holiday trips, the rate of compliance with the protocols decreased from 78 percent in April to 17.5 percent in late May, followed by a sharp rise in mortalities and new patients, he explained.

"In late August, the rate of hospitalizations and deaths decreased, but now, following the holidays and trips, the disease is re-emerging," he noted.

Raeisi gave an example, saying that in Tehran, comparative statistics for the last two weeks show that the number of patients per day has increased from 900 to 1,800. In some other provinces, we are witnessing a rise, and we hope to curb it and take control over the disease.

Alireza Zali, head of the national head-



quarters for coronavirus control, said that new cases of infection are increasing in Tehran and it is predicted that the capital is moving towards the third wave of COVID-19; the third wave of the disease will hit the metropolis much sooner than other provinces.

The statistics over the last 72 hours show

that Tehran is in a red situation, therefore the social distancing and lockdowns should be considered, he added.

Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of the Food and Drug Administration, has warned that the nation needs to prepare for a second and third wave of coronavirus in October and November until a vaccine is developed.

"There is no doubt that the second and third waves of the virus will hit the country," he stated.

During October, November, and December, there is serious concern over the new waves of the outbreak, therefore, the most important advice is to observe personal hygiene and social distancing, which is still the most important tool for controlling the virus, he highlighted.

COVID-19 mortality in Iran

In the press briefing on Tuesday, Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 2,139 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 407,353. She added that 349,984 patients have so far recovered, but 3,811 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 140 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 23,453.

Lari added that so far 3,613,891 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

She said the high-risk "red" zones include Tehran, Mazandaran, Gilan, Qom, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi, East Azarbaijan, Kerman, North Khorasan, Semnan, Yazd, Zanzan, and Qazvin provinces.

SOS FOR NATURE: biodiversity at unprecedented danger

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN — The World Wide Fund for Nature has recently published its 2020 Living Planet Report, warning that biodiversity which is fundamental to human life on earth, is being destroyed by us at an unprecedented rate in history.

Since the industrial revolution, human activities have increasingly destroyed and degraded forests, grasslands, wetlands, and other important ecosystems, threatening human well-being. Some 75 percent of the Earth's ice-free land surface has already been significantly altered, most of the oceans are polluted, and more than 85 percent of the area of wetlands has been lost.

The most important direct driver of biodiversity loss in terrestrial systems in the last several decades has been a land-use change, primarily the conversion of pristine native habitats into agricultural systems; while much of the oceans have been overfished. Globally, climate change has not been the most important driver of the loss of biodiversity to date, yet in the coming decades it is projected to become as, or more, important than the other drivers.

The loss of biodiversity is not only an environmental issue but a development, economic, global, ethical, and moral one. It is also a self-preservation issue. Biodiversity plays a critical role in providing food, fiber, water, energy, medicines, and other genetic materials; and is key to the regulation of our climate, water quality, pollution, pollination services, flood control, and storm surges. In addition, nature underpins all dimensions of human health and contributes to non-material levels — inspiration and learning, physical and psychological experiences, and shaping our identities — that are central in quality of life and cultural integrity.

Species driven towards extinction at an accelerating rate

The Living Planet Index (LPI) now tracks the abundance of almost 21,000 populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians around the world. Using the data from 20,811 populations of 4,392 species, the 2020 global LPI shows an average 68 percent decline in monitored populations between 1970 and 2016. The percentage change in the index doesn't represent the number of individual animals lost but reflects the average proportional change in animal population sizes tracked over 46 years.

The 94 percent decline in the LPI for the tropical sub-regions of the Americas is the most striking result observed in any region.

Between 2000 and 2018 the Species Habitat Index (SHI) has fallen by 2 percent, indicating a strong and general downward trend in habitat available to species. For select regions and species, the SHI decrease is much steeper, with double-digit percentage losses suggesting extensive contractions in total population sizes and thus the ecological roles provided by species.

The Red List Index (RLI), based on data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, shows trends in survival probability (the inverse of extinction risk) over time. A Red List Index value of 1.0 equates to all species within a group qualifying as Least Concern (i.e. not expected to become extinct in the near future). An index value of 0 equates to all species having gone Extinct. A constant value over time indicates that the



overall extinction risk for the group is unchanged. If the rate of biodiversity loss were reducing, the index would show an upward trend. A decline in the index means that species are being driven towards extinction at an accelerating rate.

90% of global wetlands lost since 1700

Freshwater biodiversity is declining far faster than that in our oceans or forests. Based on available data, almost 90 percent of global wetlands have been lost since 1700; and global mapping has recently revealed the extent to which humans have altered millions of kilometers of rivers.

These changes have had a profound impact on freshwater biodiversity with population trends for monitored freshwater species falling steeply. The 3,741 monitored populations — representing 944 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fishes — in the Freshwater Living Planet Index have declined by an average of 84 percent, equivalent to 4 percent per year since 1970.

Most of the declines are seen in freshwater amphibians, reptiles, and fishes; and they're recorded across all regions, particularly Latin America and the Caribbean.

Plant diversity in serious decline

Plant extinction risk is comparable to that of mammals and higher than for birds. The number of documented plant extinctions is twice as many as for mammals, birds, and amphibians combined. In addition, an assessment of a sample of thousands of species representing the taxonomic and geographic breadth of global plant diversity showed that one in five (22%) are threatened with extinction, most of them in the tropics.

Oceans in 'hot water'

Overfishing, pollution, and coastal development, among other pressures, have impacted the entire ocean, from shallow waters to the deep sea, and climate change will continue to cause a growing spectrum of effects across marine ecosystems.

Climate change pushing one-fifth of wild species to extinction

Just 30 years ago, climate change impacts on species were extremely rare, but today they are commonplace. Some species are relatively buffered from changes (e.g. deep-sea fishes), but others (e.g. Arctic and tundra species) already face enormous climate change pressures.

Recent climate change impacts on flying foxes and the Bramble Cay melomys show how quickly climate change can lead to drastic population declines, and warn of unseen

damage to less conspicuous species.

Healthy planet, healthy people

The past century has seen extraordinary gains in human health and well-being. Child mortality among under-5s has halved since 1990, the share of the world's population living on less than \$1.90 a day fell by two-thirds over the same period, and life expectancy at birth is around 15 years higher today than it was 50 years ago. This is rightly celebrated, but it has been achieved alongside the exploitation and alteration of the world's natural systems, which threatens to undo these successes.

The links between biodiversity and health are diverse, from traditional medicines and pharmaceuticals derived from plants to water filtration by wetlands,

Humanity overspends its biological budget every year

In the last 50 years, our world has been transformed by an explosion in global trade, consumption, and human population growth, as well as an enormous move towards urbanization, changing how we live unrecognizably. Yet this has come at a huge cost to nature and the stability of the Earth's operating systems that sustain us.

Since 1970, our Ecological Footprint has exceeded the Earth's rate of regeneration. This overshoot erodes the planet's health and, with it, humanity's prospects. Both human demand and natural resources are unevenly distributed across the Earth. The pattern of human consumption of these resources differs from resource availability since resources are not consumed at the point of extraction. The Ecological Footprint per person, across countries, provides insights into countries' resource performance, risks, and opportunities.

Varying levels of Ecological Footprint are due to different lifestyles and consumption patterns, including the quantity of food, goods, and services residents consume, the natural resources they use, and the carbon dioxide emitted to provide these goods and services.

Protecting environment must be brought into sharp focus

COVID-19 is nature sending us a message. In fact, it reads like an SOS signal for the human enterprise, bringing into sharp focus the need to live within the planet's 'safe operating space'. The environmental, health and economic consequences of failing to do so are disastrous. Now more than ever before, technological advances allow us to listen to such messages and better understand the natural world.

We can estimate the value of 'natural capital' — the planet's stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, like plants, soils, and minerals — alongside values of produced and human capital — for example, roads and skills — which together form a measure of a country's true wealth.

Data from the United Nations Environment Program shows that, per person, our global stock of natural capital has declined nearly 40 percent since the early 1990s, while produced capital has doubled and human capital has increased by 13 percent.

For sustainable economic growth, helping to steer our leaders towards making better decisions that deliver us, and future generations, the healthier, greener, happier lives that more and more of us say we want. From now on, protecting and enhancing our environment must be at the heart of how we achieve economic prosperity.

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Iran to carry out cloud seeding project within two weeks

A cloud seeding project will be carried out within the next two weeks in some northern, central and southern provinces of the country, Farid Golkar, head of Iran's National Cloud Seeding Research Center, has announced.

Golkar explained that the operation will be carried out on the Zagros and Alborz Mountains in the north, Isfahan and Yazd provinces in the center, and Fars and Kerman provinces in the south.

The first cloud seeding project was launched in the Iranian calendar year 1395 (March 2016-March 2017), he stated, adding that, each operation can lead to a 10-15 percent increase in precipitation.

آغاز عملیات باروری ابرها تا دو هفته دیگر

عملیات بارورسازی ابرها تا دو هفته دیگر در بخش هایی از شمال، مرکز، و جنوب کشور انجام می شود.

فرید گلکار، رئیس مرکز ملی تحقیقات و مطالعات باروری ابرها، در گفتگو با ایسنا، توضیح داد این عملیات روی کوهستان های زاگرس و البرز در شمال کشور، استان های اصفهان و یزد در مرکز، و استان های فارس و کرمان در جنوب انجام می شود.

او با بیان این که نخستین پروژه بارورسازی ابرها در سال ۱۳۹۵ انجام شد، اظهار کرد تاثیر یکبار عملیات در میزان افزایش بارش ها ۱۰ تا ۱۵ درصد است.

Possible marker of life spotted on Venus

An international team of astronomers today announced the discovery of a rare molecule -- phosphine -- in the clouds of Venus. On Earth, this gas is only made industrially or by microbes that thrive in oxygen-free environments. Astronomers have speculated for decades that high clouds on Venus could offer a home for microbes -- floating free of the scorching surface but needing to tolerate very high acidity. The detection of phosphine could point to such extra-terrestrial 'aerial' life.

"When we got the first hints of phosphine in Venus's spectrum, it was a shockl," says team leader Jane Greaves of Cardiff University in the UK, who first spotted signs of phosphine in observations from the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT), operated by the East Asian Observatory, in Hawai'i. Confirming their discovery required using 45 antennas of the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) in Chile, a more sensitive telescope in which the European Southern Observatory (ESO) is a partner. Both facilities observed Venus at a wavelength of about 1 millimetre, much longer than the human eye can see -- only telescopes at high altitude can detect it effectively.

The international team, which includes researchers from the UK, US and Japan, estimates that phosphine exists in Venus's clouds at a small concentration, only about twenty molecules in every billion. Following their observations, they ran calculations to see whether these amounts could come from natural non-biological processes on the planet. Some ideas included sunlight, minerals blown upwards from the surface, volcanoes, or lightning, but none of these could make anywhere near enough of it. These non-biological sources were found to make at most one ten thousandth of the amount of phosphine that the telescopes saw.

To create the observed quantity of phosphine (which consists of hydrogen and phosphorus) on Venus, terrestrial organisms would only need to work at about 10% of their maximum productivity, according to the team. Earth bacteria are known to make phosphine: they take up phosphate from minerals or biological material, add hydrogen, and ultimately expel phosphine. Any organisms on Venus will probably be very different to their Earth cousins, but they too could be the source of phosphine in the atmosphere.

While the discovery of phosphine in Venus's clouds came as a surprise, the researchers are confident in their detection. "To our great relief, the conditions were good at ALMA for follow-up observations while Venus was at a suitable angle to Earth. Processing the data was tricky, though, as ALMA isn't usually looking for very subtle effects in very bright objects like Venus," says team member Anita Richards of the UK ALMA Regional Centre and the University of Manchester. "In the end, we found that both observatories had seen the same thing -- faint absorption at the right wavelength to be phosphine gas, where the molecules are backlit by the warmer clouds below," adds Greaves, who led the study published today in Nature Astronomy.

Another team member, Clara Sousa Silva of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US, has investigated phosphine as a "biosignature" gas of non-oxygen-using life on planets around other stars, because normal chemistry makes so little of it. She comments: "Finding phosphine on Venus was an unexpected bonus! The discovery raises many questions, such as how any organisms could survive. On Earth, some microbes can cope with up to about 5% of acid in their environment -- but the clouds of Venus are almost entirely made of acid."

The team believes their discovery is significant because they can rule out many alternative ways to make phosphine, but they acknowledge that confirming the presence of "life" needs a lot more work. Although the high clouds of Venus have temperatures up to a pleasant 30 degrees Celsius, they are incredibly acidic -- around 90% sulphuric acid -- posing major issues for any microbes trying to survive there.

This research was presented in the paper "Phosphine Gas in the Cloud Decks of Venus" to appear in Nature Astronomy.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 26)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

● Exercise 5. Join the letters into words:

letter (of the alphabet) ۱. ح + ر + ف + *

letters ۲. ح + ر + و + ف *

big, large ۳. ب + ز + ر + گ *

how ۴. چ + ط + و + ر *

kindly, please ۵. ل + ط + ف + آ *

correct, true ۶. ص + ح + ی + ح *

Writing

● Exercise 1. Rewrite in the correct form:

۱. ما چهار کیف ندارم.
۲. استاد کیف یک دارد.
۳. من پنج خودکار ندارم.
۴. شما صندلی چند دارید؟
۵. کلاس این شش میز دارد؟
۶. شما کتاب دارد یا دفتر؟

● Exercise 2. Write the words which you hear:

۱. ۲. ۳.
۴. ۵. ۶.

Speech

Vocabulary

آبجا	←	[اونجا]	او	←	[اون]
دارد	←	[داره]	دارید	←	[دارین]
یش	←	[یشیش]	ندارد	←	[نداره]
ندارید	←	[ندارین]	چند، هفت	←	

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SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One of the signs of a scholar is criticizing his/her own words and thoughts and being aware of different viewpoints.

Imam Hussein (AS)

Ali Dizaei's "Not One of Us" published in Persian

A R T TEHRAN — "Not One of Us", an autobiography of Ali Dizaei, the Iranian former commander in London's Metropolitan Police Service, has been published in Persian by the Salees Publishing House in Tehran.

Front cover of the Persian translation of Ali Dizaei's autobiography "Not One of Us".

The book originally published in 2007 narrates the systematic corruption in London's Police Service along with the sweet and bitter experiences of the author.

Dizaei came to prominence as a result of his outspoken views on racial discrimination in the London Metropolitan Police and various allegations of malpractice on his part.

This is the story of how one police officer fought for two and a half years to clear his name after he was taken to trial by his own employers.

Owj denies movie deal on Commander Qassem Soleimani

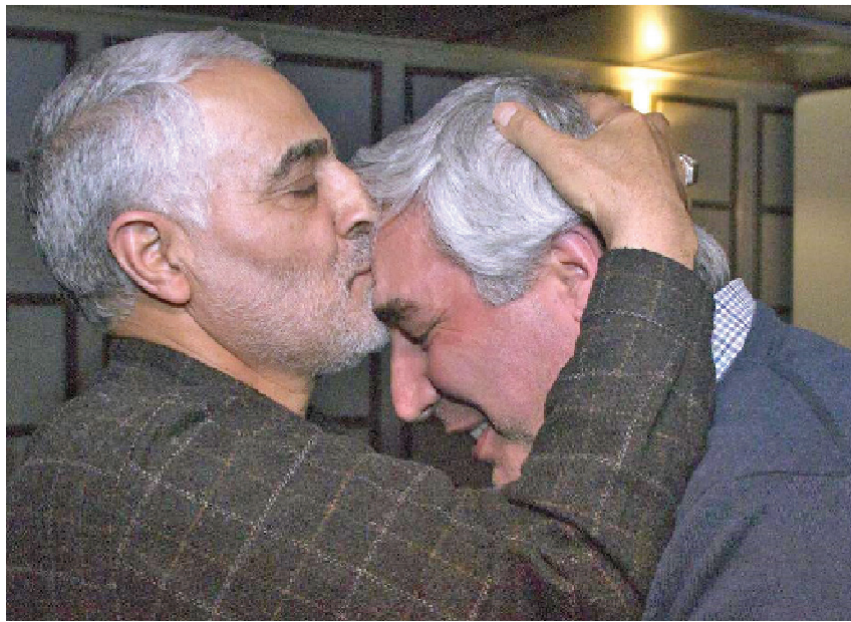
A R T TEHRAN — The Owj Arts and Media Organization has denied any alleged deal between director Ebrahim Hatamikia and the family of Martyr Qassem Soleimani for making a movie on the late commander of Iran's Quds Force.

In a press release published on Tuesday, Ali Sadrinia, an official of the major organization that produces revolutionary works in art and cinema, said that Hatamikia's new project is not about Soleimani.

In a message posted on Monday by a journalist on Twitter, he said, "Based on a deal between Zeinab Soleimani [daughter of Soleimani] and Ebrahim Hatamikia, the first film project on Soleimani will begin in a few days, meanwhile, several young filmmakers' projects have been shut down under pressure from the martyr's family."

Sadrinia noted, "Despite all the remarks, Ebrahim Hatamikia's new film is not about Hajji Qassem; Ms. Soleimani neither has signed any contract with him nor has prevented any director making a film."

"Minutes ago, Mr. Hatamikia said that the ground should be prepared for the youth to owe their debt to him," he added.



Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani kisses filmmaker Ebrahim Hatamikia in an undated photo.

Hatamikia made his controversial peasant protest movie "Exodus" at Owj with collaboration by the Iranian film company Nurtaban.

"Exodus", which is on a nowhere-land peasant protest against the local authority that symbolically resembles President Hassan Rouhani's government, premiered at the 38th Fajr Film Festival in February.

It failed to receive the acclaim of the critics who judged the film as falling below expectations.

Hatamikia was one of the first Iranian celebrities who sent messages of condolences following the assassination of Quds Force commander Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad in January.

"I warmly embraced him many times and I found myself thirstier at separation time," Hatamikia wrote in his message.

"Indeed, what decoration fitted him perfectly except the martyrdom honor? But, I ask permission from all martyrs to say that Hajji Qassem Soleimani needs no title for before and after his name. Hajji Qassem Soleimani means all the honorable titles. May his memory be eternal," added Hatamikia who called himself Soleimani's "small soldier".

Iranian movies to compete in Olympia Intl. Film Festival

By Manijeh Rezapoor

TEHRAN — A lineup of four Iranian movies will be competing in the Olympia International Film Festival for Children and Young People in Greece.

"Copper Notes of a Dream", "Here My Village", "The Story of Fika and Fidan" and "Am I a Wolf?" are the four Iranian films at the festival, which will take place in Pyrgos from November 28 to December 5, the organizers have announced.

"Copper Notes of a Dream" by Reza Farahmand is about a ten-year-old Palestinian refugee, Malook, who lives in Jarmuk, a suburb of Damascus in Syria, which is ruined during the war with ISIS.

Malook dreams of becoming a singer. Together with his older sister Ghofran, he is planning to organize a concert with professional musicians.

To earn money for the concert, Malook and some friends pull the copper wires out of the walls of vacant buildings that are riddled with bullets and rockets and write apologies for their theft on the walls, in hope the people who have fled

will understand, if they ever return.

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

"The Story of Fika and Fidan" by Delavar Doostanian is about a kitten who struggled to survive in the early stages of life and now lives as a pet belonging to a kind girl who has named the kitten Fidan. A few months later, another cat, named Fika, comes into the home. At first, the kittens do not get along well with each other, but after a few days something changes.

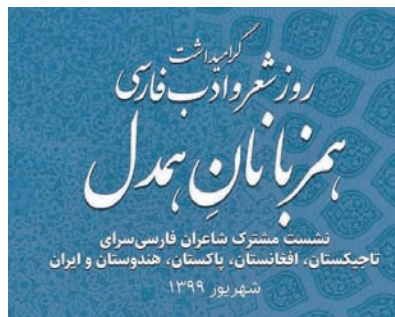
"Am I a Wolf?" by Iranian director Amir-Hushang Moin has been produced at Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

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



A scene from "Here My Village" by Abbas Aram.

Literati to celebrate National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature



A poster for an online meeting the Iran Book and Literature House plans to organize on Wednesday to celebrate Iran's National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature.

➔1 In addition, Tehran-based Afghan poet Mohammad-Sarvar Rajai and Tajik poet Shoh Mansoor Shohmirza will also recite works from some Persian poets. Mohammad-Ali Bahmnaei, Ali Davudi, Reza Esmaeili, Seyyed Akbar Mirjafari, Ali-Mohammad Maoddab, Esmaeil Amini and Gholamreza Tariqi will be attending the meeting.

The meeting will continue with reading a message sent by a grandchild of poet Muhammad Iqbal by Ahmad Shahryar. A message sent by Deputy Culture Minister for Cultural Affairs Mohsen Javadi is scheduled to be read.

The National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature is observed every year on

the death anniversary of contemporary poet Mohammad-Hossein Behjat Tabrizi — Shahrriar, which will fall on Thursday this year.

As the most prominent figure of contemporary Persian literature, Shahrriar was mainly influenced by the poetry of Hafez, a Persian poet writing in the 14th century.

Shahrriar, who also composed works in Azerbaijani, published his first book of poems in 1929 with prefaces by Persian literature scholars Mohammad-Taqi Bahar, Sa'ed Nafisi and Pejman Bakhtiari.

"Heidar Babaya Salam" is Shahrriar's most famous Azerbaijani poetry collection, which highlights his birthplace, the village of Heidar Baba.

Young adults of Iranian diaspora invited to Youth Film Making Olympiad Minority

A R T TEHRAN — The International Film Festival for Children and Youth (IFFCY) in Isfahan has called on Iranian young adults living outside the country to take part in the fourth edition of the Youth Film Making Olympiad of Iran.

Interested youths aged 12 to 17 can take part in the program and submit their 5-minute short films to the festival, the organizers said in a press release published on Tuesday.

The wishes of the youth about the future of the country, city or family, their experiences about famous books and famous films, their experiences of the coronavirus pandemic and coronavirus as a threat or an opportunity are among the main topics for the short films.

Youth are asked to submit their films to the organizers before October 1.

The Olympiad is part of a program arranged every year on the sidelines of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth.

The organizers have announced that so far over 550 works in the two sections of idea and film have been submitted to the

festival by youth from different cities.

The fourth edition of the Olympiad has been launched by the Farabi Cinema Foundation and the Iranian Youth Cinema Society in collaboration with the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults and the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization.

The 33rd edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth will be held online from October 18 to 22 this year due to a spike in coronavirus cases in the country.

According to the director of the festival, Alireza Tabesh, this edition of the festival will be held in two sections: national and international. The films will be screened at the specified time, and only those who have registered on the portal of the festival can watch the films online.

"The variety of national and international films is extremely high. The only point is about several feature films in the national and international sections, which we guess might be pirated, but for sure the screenings will be coordinated under the supervision of the producers and the filmmakers," he had explained.

Iranian war drama "Villa Dwellers" subtitled for Japanese audiences

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian filmmaker Monir Qeidi's debut feature film "Villa Dwellers" on the Iran-Iraq 1980-1988 war has recently been subtitled for Japanese audiences.

The Iranian Culture Center in Tokyo plans to screen the movie for the Japanese in late September during the 40th anniversary of the war, which is known as the Sacred Defense in Iran, the center announced on Tuesday.

The film tells the story of some of the families of the Iranian soldiers that stayed at residential villas near the frontline waiting to see their loved ones. Aziz and her grandchildren go the complex to get

a chance to visit her son, Davud. After her arrival, new adventures begin.

Earlier in August, "Villa Dwellers" was the opening film at the 3rd Iranian Film Festival, which opened on Monday at the Akasaka Civic Hall in Minato City in Tokyo.

Qeidi won the best first-film director award for the film at the 35th Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in 2017. The film also brought Mohammad Qasemi the award for best computerized special effects supervisor.

Tannaz Tabatabai received the best supporting actress award for her role in the film during the 11th Celebration of Iranian Cinema Critics and Screenwriters. In addition, Qeidi also won the Best



A scene from Iranian filmmaker Monir Qeidi's debut feature film "Villa Dwellers". Creative and Promising Filmmaker Award at the celebration.

Visual Stories
from Ashura

When Imam Hussain (AS) approached the tents, he realized the noise surrounded there

and the baby's
thirst affected allHe lifted Ali Asghar
and showed
him to allSuddenly
Imam felt
something
strangeHe raised his head and
saw that blood was
flowing from
Ali Asghar's throat

When Imam Hussain (AS) approached the tents, he realized the noise surrounded there and the baby's thirst affected all. He lifted Ali Asghar and showed him to all. The baby's condition itself was so moving that would melt anybody's heart. Suddenly Imam felt something, he realized that the baby, who had become weak by hunger and thirst, was scrambling on his hands. He raised his head and saw that blood was flowing from Ali Asghar's throat

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei