



**No difference between Trump, Biden: parliament speaker** **2**



**Something wrong with Persepolis** **3**



**Tehran to host World Peace Day ceremony** **7**



**Leader writes commendation for IRGC commander's war memoirs "Red Squares"** **8**

# Angry U.S. resorts to bullying

**E3's great test: Will they defy U.S.?** **3**

**See page 2**



© AP/ Carlos Barria

**By Mahnaz Abdi**  
Head of Economy Desk

## IMIDRO seeking modern technology through co-op with universities

Iran's determination for strengthening domestic production requires enjoying modern technology and knowledge, which has put all related organizations in the way of achieving high technology.

The mining industry, as one of the major sectors which play a significant role in helping the country achieve its goal of self-reliance, should obviously enjoy technical knowledge in different areas.

In this due, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), as the country's major state-owned holding active in the mining sector, has put applying modern technology a top agenda of its activity, and cooperation with the country's renowned universities is one of the organization's main approaches to this end.

IMIDRO Head Khodadad Gharibpour has stated that his organization supports the research projects required in the industry, saying that paying attention to the scientific subjects and modern technology through cooperation with the universities is seriously followed up by IMIDRO.

In line with the expansion of industry-university relation, the organization and its subsidiaries have inked deals worth 858 billion rials (about \$20.42 million) with the country's universities on conducting 219 research projects since the beginning of the past Iranian calendar year (March 2019).

Of the mentioned figure, the deals for 36 projects worth 142 billion rials (about \$3.38 million) have been signed between IMIDRO and universities including University of Tehran, Amir Kabir University of Technology, Sharif University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, Shahid Beheshti University, Isfahan University of Technology, Hamedan University of Technology, and Azad University of Semnan.

Deals have been also signed with Iranian Society of Mining Engineering.

As the result of IMIDRO's research activities, including signing such research deals with the universities and technology centers, mining exploration operations are currently underway in 652,061 square kilometers of land throughout the country. **→4**

## Vacations on the edge: a glance of war tourism in Iran

**By Afshin Majlesi**

On one hand, even talking about war is bitter, particularly for those who went to the second-longest war of the 20th-century after the Vietnam War. On the other, walking through former battlefields or visiting war ruins and relics at a museum may give you a profound impression over the grimy face of war, and deeper insight to whom once involved in the battle.

Whatever you call it, war tourism, dark tourism, disaster tourism, or danger tourism is what Iran has more to offer. In fact, it is high on the 'will go' index of adventure travelers interested in such niche tourism which traditionally reaches its climax these days!

At this time of the year, the nation holds special ceremonies to honor the fallen soldiers and to cherish the strength and resistance of the people during "the Sacred Defense Week", starting on Shahrivar 31 (September 21 this year)

when Iraqi armed forces invaded western Iran.

Now, the country has largely been restored, and very few signs of the war, apart from street names and murals of the martyrs on some streets, can be found. In border cities like Khoramshahr and Abadan, however, there are still areas that need to be developed. These are the areas where domestic travelers usually go by tour packages are called "Rahiane Nour" ("The Path of Light").

Apart from former battlefields, almost all of which is cleaned from land mines or unexploded missiles, you can visit an epitome of frontlines in the hearth of Tehran; the Sacred Defense Museum; Tehran Peace Museum; and Behesht-e Zahra—a graveyard where many of the martyrs are buried.

The epic-scale Sacred Defense Museum may not be top on the list for travelers to the Islamic Republic but it does bargain something different in modern Iranian history where you can delve into wreckage of rockets. **→6**

## U.S. protests: Anti-police protests resume in Portland

Protesters returned to the streets of Portland, following a pause largely due to poor air quality from wildfires on the West Coast.

Police declared an unlawful assembly Friday night in a neighborhood near a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building where protesters had marched. Demonstrators participated in criminal activity and threw items at officers, police said, leading to 11 arrests.

Demonstrators had not gathered in the city since at least September 9, when police and protesters clashed near City Hall. Wildfires have spewed dangerously dirty air across Oregon, California and Washington state, and sent haze across the country.

Protests in Portland continue Saturday evening after a Friday night demonstration in which there were multiple arrests during a declared unlawful assembly near the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in South Portland.

According to a post on Twitter by Safe PDX, a

self-described anti-fascist collective, a direct action march is planned at the South Park Blocks, with a gathering time listed of 7 p.m. and a move time set for 8 p.m. The announcement was shared by another Twitter account, Pacific Northwest Youth Liberation Front, though the latter did not repost the original flyer which showed an image of the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Neither Saturday's protest flyer, nor the one which began at Elizabeth Caruthers Park Friday night, contained the slogan "Black Lives Matter."

The demonstrations followed a brief hiatus of the kind of protests in Portland that often included confrontations with police, marches, and sign-waving. Presumably, the seemingly slowed down activities was due to wildfire smoke. Some groups associated with the Black Lives Matter movement have been continuing their activism non-stop in the form of helping out with wildfire relief efforts to impacted communities of the Pacific Northwest, however.

## Iranian fans miss "Golden Claw" Marouf

**By Masoud Hossein**

**TEHRAN** — Not just for the Iranian fans, Saeid Marouf is a player who has charmed the volleyball audiences around the world over the past years. However, nobody has seen him since COVID-19 appeared in Wuhan, China in winter 2020.

The fans were hopeful to see him at Beijing BAIC Motor when the Chinese Volleyball League starts but the league's officials have made the decision to play next 2020/2021 season without foreign players.

The Iranian volleyball league has recently kicked off

behind closed doors and the teams show off their power. The Iranian fans are happy to see their stars once again but no one knows what will happen with Marouf's future. The 2020 FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League will start in May and the extremely high-level tournament will have an interesting aspect with the Tokyo Olympics coming shortly after it. The teams and players prepare for the events with their leagues and it shows the importance of the events. And now the Iranian fans are impatiently waiting for the competitions, where Iran are expected to show their supremacy with their super stars.

Marouf, like an orchestra conductor, will play a vital role in the upcoming competitions but he needs to be at the peak of his power. It could be the last Olympics for the 35-year-old setter and the volleyball fans can't wait to see their star.

Marouf, nicknamed "Golden Claw" for his quick touch, had been previously linked with a move to Italian top flight volleyball team Cisterna, however the transfer has not happened yet. Many volleyball teams in the world are eager to sign Marouf to strengthen themselves but we'll wait and see what happens.



© Mehr/ Marwan Davarnia

## Broom making helps villagers make a living

A man spreads piles of reedy twigs under the sunlight at the yard of his house in Molla-Hassan Village in northeast Iran, September 20, 2020. The well-dried twigs are applied for making besoms, which are traditional household tool used for sweeping.

Making brooms is a simple but essential household work, long being practiced in the village as a way to make a living.

## Influenza vaccination plan aims to reduce COVID-19 effects

**TEHRAN** — The Ministry of Health will start a national plan on Tuesday aiming to provide two million doses of influenza vaccines for at-risk groups such as the elderly, transplant patients, cardiopulmonary patients, and pregnant women to reduce COVID-19 effects, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of the Food and Drug Administration, has said.

"This year, we have predicted about 14 million doses of influenza vaccine for the people, compared to last year of 1.6 million doses," he stated.

The flu vaccine will be available in pharmacies with the priority for people over 65 years of age. From September 22, elderly people can receive the vaccine by ID card, and in the next phase, other people can get the vaccine, he explained.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 and the observance of health protocols such as social distancing, personal hygiene, disinfection of hands, and use of masks, the flu infection will be much lower than the previous years. Therefore, vaccination is not necessary for the whole population, he noted.

In the press briefing on Sunday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 3,097 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 422,140. She added that 359,570 patients have so far recovered, but 3,898 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 183 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 24,301, she added.

Lari noted that so far 3,719,210 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.



## Iran terms U.S. as ‘biggest threat’ to world peace

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Tehran has responded to Washington’s “futile efforts” to reinstate the UN sanctions on Iran, saying the U.S. regime is the “biggest threat” to world peace and security.

“As the Islamic Republic of Iran has reiterated time and again, the U.S. regime is the biggest threat to world peace and security,” Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

“This reality had never been exposed as much it has today when the U.S. is overtly threatening and intimidating the world and ignores UN Security Council resolutions,” it added.

The statement came after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that all UN sanctions against Iran were back in effect under the so-called “snapback” mechanism under the Iran nuclear deal, which the U.S. exited in May 2018.

“The U.S. secretary of state himself knows well that his claim regarding the reinstatement of UN Security Council sanctions is groundless and invalid and lacks any legal effect,” the Foreign Ministry statement read.

“Therefore, he, using his own notorious method, tries to intimidate other countries by threatening to slap international sanctions on them, which is the best testament to the United States’ admission of failure in its effort at the UN Security Council,” it added.

According to the statement, the U.S. hoped it would bring Iran to the dilemma of submission or collapse by using the so-called “maximum pressure” strategy.

However, it continued, two years on since then, the U.S. is now more isolated than ever in advancing the project of portraying Iran as a security threat.

“Frustrated at having failed to build a consensus against Iran, the U.S. has turned to bullying and holding the international community to ransom,” the statement read.

“At a time when almost all members of the UN Security Council have straightforwardly rejected the United States’ ludicrous approach vis-à-vis UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the U.S. regime is, in line with its unilateral and force-oriented policy, threatening to impose sanctions against world countries for their compliance with international regulations,” it said.

The ministry further said the approach adopted by the current U.S. regime amounts to a big danger to international peace and security as well as an unprecedented threat to the UN and the Security Council.

“This time, the U.S. secretary of state has not only ridiculed all principles of international law and the UN Charter, but also challenges the international community officially and openly, and converts his government’s bullying and recalcitrance from behind-the-scenes actions into an openly flagrant move,” it added.

The Foreign Ministry concluded that Iran will take serious reaction if the U.S. makes any move in line with its threats.

## Tehran says Washington ‘standing on the wrong side of history’

“We tell the Americans to stop sea, air and land robberies”

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Foreign Ministry has warned that Iran will respond decisively to any measure against its national sovereignty, saying Washington “is standing on the wrong side of history.”

“Any action that violates Iran’s sovereignty and international law will be responded to seriously and without any hesitation,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Sunday at a press conference.



“We tell the Americans to stop their sea, air and land robberies, because the era of robberies is over,” he said, according to Mehr. Khatibzadeh also said Washington is experiencing its most bitter moments due to their defeat on the world stage.

Pointing to the United States’ push to reimpose all UN sanctions on Iran, he said Washington is well aware that its claim of returning UN sanctions against Iran is “empty, unreal, and ineffective.”

“The U.S. is standing on the wrong side of history, and it has forgotten its duties,” the spokesman said, adding, “Tehran’s message to Washington is that they should return to the international community and their own commitment, and the world will accept them if they abandon insurrection and false claims.”

He said the United States should have received the world’s message which said the world is changing.

“The U.S. will be the first victim of this change because of the short-sighted policies of [Donald] Trump and his circle,” he added. U.S. measures have only led to insecurity, war, and de-stabilization and their recent measure is also another resurrection added to their previous long list of hostile actions, Khatibzadeh said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on Saturday that the UN sanctions against Iran were back in effect under the so-called “snapback” mechanism inside the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

13 of the UN Security Council’s 15-members have already refused to commit to Washington’s unilateral move, reminding Washington that it forfeited all legal authority to trigger the snapback when it left the deal in 2018.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Saturday that “uncertainty” prevented him from taking any action on the U.S. declaration.

**“The U.S. secretary of state himself knows well that his claim regarding the reinstatement of UN Security Council sanctions is groundless and invalid and lacks any legal effect,” the Foreign Ministry statement read.**

# Pompeo is waiting for a JCPOA movie to get what it is, says Zarif

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

has not read the text of the 2015 nuclear deal and is waiting for a movie about it in order to understand what’s in the deal, says Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

In a televised interview on Saturday night, Zarif rejected the United States’ efforts to reimpose the UN sanctions on Iran under the so-called snapback mechanism, saying Pompeo thinks initiating the mechanism is as easy as announcing that it has been initiated.

“Pompeo thinks this is a simple mechanism, and they issue a statement that the resolutions will return in a month,” Zarif said. “But that’s not the case.”

“This is because he has not read the JCPOA and has only listened to interviews, and I think he is now waiting for a JCPOA movie to come out in order to understand what the JCPOA is,” he added.

Tehran and Washington have been at loggerheads since Donald Trump became president.

The Trump administration has pressured other countries to reimpose UN sanctions against Iran despite the fact that other parties to the deal have resoundingly rejected the U.S. measure as illegal.

It is the latest move in the “maximum pressure” campaign against Tehran, which the U.S. pursued after it withdrew from the nuclear deal in May 2018.

Pompeo said on Saturday evening that the U.S. has reimposed UN sanctions against Iran.

“It is clear that all members of the Security Council, with the exception of the U.S. and



another country, have officially announced that they do not recognize the U.S. measure,” Zarif said.

He pointed out that there are times when two sides of an issue disagree on something and there are other times when one side does not even acknowledge the other side’s standing.

“We’re currently in the second scenario and countries believe that the U.S. has no standing,” the chief Iranian diplomat noted.

In his Saturday statement, Pompeo warned that the U.S. “is prepared to use our domestic authorities to impose consequences” for other countries that do not enforce the sanctions.

A day earlier, Britain, France and Germany said in a letter that the sanctions would have

no legal effect.

“We have worked tirelessly to preserve the nuclear agreement and remain committed to do so,” said the letter, according to The New York Times.

During his Saturday night interview, Zarif pointed to an article by former U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, saying that even Bolton — who is known for his hawkish views on Iran — has acknowledged that the snapback of former resolutions is a lengthy, complicated procedure.

“The White House asserted on Aug. 20 that the U.S. was still a ‘JCPOA participant state’ under Resolution 2231, and thus had standing to invoke snapback,” Bolton wrote

## Angry, isolated U.S. resorts to bullying

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Being quite aware that its demand for return of UN sanctions on Iran

is utterly illegal, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who seems really angry, has threatened to punish any country that does not follow U.S. dictates on Iran.

“If UN Member States fail to fulfill their obligations to implement these sanctions, the United States is prepared to use our domestic authorities to impose consequences for those failures...,” Pompeo warned in a statement late on Saturday, the date that he claimed the UN sanctions against Iran go into force.

Threatening the entire world shows that the current U.S. administration has lost its sense, especially as it sees that it has become quite isolated in the world. It is standing against the entire world who rightly insists that return of UN sanctions on Iran is has no legal basis.

Bullying and illegal moves have become an inseparable part of U.S. foreign policy led by Pompeo. Even more than two years ago that Trump exited the JCPOA and introduced the harshest sanctions in history on Iran, it acted illegally because it violated UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that endorsed the JCPOA.

Though U.S. claim of snapback mechanism on return of sanctions is being resoundingly rebuffed by the UN Council, there is no doubt that bullying Pompeo and Trump will claim victory.

**■ E3 say they ‘remain committed’ to JCPOA**

In a joint statement the foreign ministers of the three European countries party to the 2015 nuclear deal issued a joint statement on Sunday, September 2, stating that they “remain committed” to the JCPOA endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

The statement by foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany, known as E3, followed after Pompeo issued a statement on Saturday evening saying that the U.S. has reimposed UN sanctions against Iran.

“The E3 remains committed to fully implementing UNSCR 2231 (2015) by which the JCPOA was endorsed in 2015,” they said, according to gov.uk.

Following is the text of the statement:

Today marks 30 days since the US sought to initiate the ‘snapback mechanism’, which allows a participant to the JCPOA to seek the re-imposition of the multilateral sanctions against Iran lifted in 2015 in accordance with resolution 2231, adopted by the UN Security Council.

France, Germany and the United Kingdom (“the E3”) note that the US ceased to be a participant to the JCPOA following their withdrawal from the deal on 8 May, 2018.

Consequently, the purported notification under paragraph 11 of UNSCR 2231 (2015), received from the United States of America and circulated to the UN Security Council Members, is incapable of having legal effect.

It flows from this that any decisions and actions which would be taken based on this procedure or on its possible outcome would also be incapable of having any legal effect.

We remain guided by the objective of upholding the authority and integrity of the United Nations Security Council. The E3 remains committed to fully implementing UNSCR 2231 (2015) by which the JCPOA was endorsed in 2015.

We have worked tirelessly to preserve the nuclear agreement and remain committed to do so.

**■ EU dismisses Pompeo’s remarks on return of UN sanctions**

Also in a separate statement on Sunday, the European Union foreign policy chief said commitments made under JCPOA lifting sanctions on Iran “continue to apply”.

The statement by Josep Borrell, who is also coordinator of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, also came after Pompeo announced the return of “all previously terminated UN sanctions” on Iran.

Following is the text of Borrell’s statement posted on the official website of the European Union:

I take note of the US announcement of 19 September regarding the so-called UN sanctions “snapback mechanism” under the UN Security Council resolution 2231.

As recalled in my statement of 20 August, as well as in the Chair’s statement following the JCPOA Joint Commission on 1 September 2020, the US unilaterally ceased participation in the JCPOA by presidential Memorandum on 8 May 2018 and has subsequently not participated in any JCPOA-related activities. It cannot, therefore, be considered to be a JCPOA participant State and cannot initiate the process of reinstating UN sanctions under the UN Security Council resolution 2231. Consequently, sanctions lifting commitments under the JCPOA continue to apply.

As coordinator of the JCPOA Joint Commission I will continue to do everything possible to ensure the preservation and full implementation of the JCPOA by all. The JCPOA remains a key pillar of the global non-proliferation architecture, contributing to regional and global security as it addresses Iran’s nuclear programme in a comprehensive manner. I call on all to do their utmost to preserve the agreement and to refrain from any action that could be perceived as an escalation in the current situation.

**■ Russia slams U.S. claims ‘illegitimate’, says ‘the world is not an American computer game’**

Also on Sunday, the Russian Foreign Ministry condemned the unilateral declaration by the United States that UN sanctions on Iran are back in force as “illegitimate” and “unacceptable”.

“The illegitimate initiatives and actions of the United States by definition cannot have international legal consequences for other countries,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement, according to AFP.

Russia accused Washington of putting on a “theatrical performance” and insisted that the U.S. statements “do not correspond to reality.”

It accused the U.S. of “trying to force everyone to wear virtual reality goggles” and accept its version of events, adding: “The world is not an American computer game.”

Washington’s defiance has dealt a “serious blow to the authority of the UN Security Council” and showed “open contempt for its decisions and for international law as a whole,” the ministry said.

“This is unacceptable, and not only for us, but for other members of the Security Council too.”

Russia said it “fully supports” the position of the majority of Security Council members that the U.S. moves are “legally and procedurally null and void.”

Russia said that efforts to ensure the fulfilment of the 2015 nuclear accord would be continued.

in an opinion piece published by Bloomberg on August 27.

“Of course, when Trump left the deal, he directed the State Department to ‘take all appropriate steps to cease the participation of the United States in the JCPOA,’” Bolton added.

Last month, Washington attempted to extend the UN arms embargo on Tehran. The move failed miserably, with only the Dominican Republic joining Washington in voting yes.

Zarif said 13 countries out of the 15-member UN Security Council announced that the U.S. is not entitled to trigger the mechanism.

“Even the country that had voted for the resolution seeking to extend Iran’s arms embargo has kept silent with this regard,” he added.

The foreign minister said the U.S. has been bullying other countries not to sell weapons to Iran. “This means that the Americans themselves do not believe in the return of the resolutions.”

Reacting to a possible move by France, Germany, and the UK to restrict the sale of weapons to Iran following the October expiration of the UN arms embargo, Zarif said Iran will meet its strategic needs by purchasing weapons from Russia and China, and has no need for European weapons once the embargo lifted.

“We haven’t been a customer of Europe’s weapons, and they haven’t sold us weapons after the [Islamic] Revolution,” he remarked.

“However, Iran can meet its strategic needs through the countries it interacts with, like Russia and China, even though it is self-sufficient in many cases, and is an exporter itself,” Zarif stated.

“The U.S. should not exacerbate the situation but immediately renounce its course to destroy the JCPOA,” Moscow said.

**■ UN chief says no action on UN Iran sanctions**

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also told the Security Council on Saturday he cannot take any action on a U.S. declaration that all UN sanctions on Iran had been reimposed because “there would appear to be uncertainty” on the issue.

Pompeo said last month that he triggered a 30-day process at the council leading to the return of UN sanctions on Iran on Saturday evening that would also stop a conventional arms embargo on Tehran from expiring on Oct. 18.

But 13 of the 15 Security Council members say Washington’s move is void because Pompeo used a mechanism agreed under a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, which the United States quit in 2018.

“There would appear to be uncertainty whether or not the process ... was indeed initiated and concomitantly whether or not the (sanctions) terminations ... continue in effect,” Guterres wrote in a letter to the council, seen by Reuters.

“It is not for the Secretary-General to proceed as if no such uncertainty exists,” he said.

UN officials provide administrative and technical support to the Security Council to implement its sanctions regimes and Guterres appoints independent experts to monitor implementation. He said that “pending clarification” of the status of the Iran sanctions, he would not take any action to provide that support.

Washington argues it triggered the return of sanctions - known as “snapback” - because a UN resolution that enshrines the pact still names it as a participant. Diplomats say few countries are likely to reimpose the measures lifted under the 2015 deal.

“If UN Member States fail to fulfill their obligations to implement these sanctions, the United States is prepared to use our domestic authorities to impose consequences for those failures,” Pompeo said in a statement on Saturday.

He said that in the coming days Washington would announce additional measures to strengthen the implementation of the UN sanctions and “hold violators accountable.” The United States is trying to push Iran to negotiate a new deal with Washington.

**■ “Is Washington deaf?”**

Russia’s Deputy UN Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy responded on Twitter, “We all clearly said in August that U.S. claims to trigger snapback are illegitimate. Is Washington deaf?”

Iran’s UN Ambassador Majid Takht Ravanchi said on Twitter on Saturday, “U.S. illegal and false ‘deadline’ has come and gone ... Swimming against international currents will only bring it more isolation.”

On Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Pompeo was wrong to think that the UN sanctions on Iran would be reimposed on September 20.

“Wrong again, Pompeo. Nothing new happens on 9/20. Just read Resolution 2231. Bolton—who convinced the boss to order you to ‘CEASE U.S. participation’—did. In his words: Process is not ‘simple’, automatic or snappy. But intentionally ‘complex & lengthy’. U.S. is NOT a participant,” Zarif tweeted.

## No difference between Trump, Biden: parliament speaker

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher

Ghalibaf has said there is no difference between incumbent U.S. President Donald Trump and his challenger Joe Biden.

“Whether Trump or Biden becomes president, there will be no difference in the main policy of harming the Iranian nation,” Ghalibaf said on Sunday.

“Therefore, we need to concentrate on empowering the Iranian nation,” he added.

The United States is set to hold presidential election on November 3, 2020.

It will be the 59th quadrennial presidential election. Voters will select presidential electors who in turn will vote on December 14, 2020, to either elect a new president and vice president or reelect the incumbents Trump and Mike Pence respectively.

Former vice president Biden secured the Democratic nomination over his closest rival, Senator Bernie Sanders, in a competitive primary

which featured the largest field of presidential candidates for any political party in the modern era of American politics.

Some observers believe a Biden victory could propel the U.S. to return to the 2015 nuclear agreement, which Trump withdrew in May 2018. Others argue that there’s no fundamental difference between Trump and Biden when it comes to the United States’ Iran policy.

According to the parliament speaker, Iran must not postpone its development and improv-

ing people’s livelihood based on what would happen in the West.

“Experience shows that whenever we responded passively to the hostile measures of the United States, the pressure of sanctions on the livelihood of the people increased,” Ghalibaf said.

“Therefore, it is necessary to take active, clever and effective measures in order to prevent more pressure on our beloved people,” he added.



# U.S. defeat at UN was ‘inevitable’, says Rouhani

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that the U.S. has suffered a “definite defeat” at the UN Security Council while seeking to extend a UN arms embargo on Iran.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting on Sunday afternoon, the president said, “With the U.S. suffering a definite defeat at the UN Security Council, September 20 will go down as a memorable day in the diplomatic history of our country.”

Rouhani said the U.S., as a bullying country in the world, has been studiously working to reimpose the Security Council’s sanctions on Iran for two years but it failed to get the sanctions reinstated. According to Rouhani, since it withdrew from the nuclear deal in 2018, the U.S. sought to bring the EU on board and pave the way for reimposing the international sanctions on Iran through provocative measures, but it neither succeeded in creating a coalition against Iran nor has it extended the UN arms embargo on the country.

“Today, it must be said that the U.S. maximum pressure on Iran, politically and legally, has led to its defeat and isolation. The United States has lost to Iran three times in the past two months in a place where it thought wouldn’t be defeated but we witnessed that 13 of the 15 members of the Security Council stood up to the United States and defended the JCPOA,” Iranian Students’ News Agency (ISNA) quoted Rouhani as saying.

Rouhani thanked Indonesia and Niger,



**He also warned the U.S. against any further “bullying” after it announced the return of UN sanctions on Iran, saying that any bullying by the U.S. “surely will be met with a decisive response from Iran,”**

Security Council presidents for August and September, as well as European and non-Eu-

ropean members of the Security Council, for rejecting the U.S. request to reimpose all UN

sanctions on Iran.

“It was crystal clear that the U.S. would inevitably fail in this regard, but at the same time the modus operandi the Security Council adopted was valuable: ignoring the letter and request of the United States, and not convening to consider it,” the president noted.

Rouhani was referring to a notification U.S. submitted to the Security Council on August 20 calling for the reimposition of all UN sanctions on Iran. All JCPOA participants, along with 13 of the 15-member UN Security Council, rejected the U.S. notification as illegal and void. They all said the U.S. lost its legal authority to trigger a return of UN sanctions on Iran after it withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal. However, the U.S. claims that, under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, it still is “a JCPOA participant state” as defined in UNSCR 2231 and thus it has the right to snap back international sanctions on Iran, a claim that was widely rejected by the international community.

Rouhani said the U.S. measure has no legal standing, underling that Iran will never “acquiesce to U.S. bullying.”

He also warned the U.S. against any further “bullying” after it announced the return of UN sanctions on Iran, saying that any bullying by the U.S. “surely will be met with a decisive response from Iran,”

The president expressed Iran’s readiness to reverse its nuclear measures if the remaining parties to the nuclear deal fully implemented their obligations under the JCPOA.

## Iran says U.S. seeks to ‘completely ruin’ JCPOA

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — In a letter to the UN Security Council and to the UN secretary-general on Saturday, Iran’s ambassador and permanent representative to the UN said the U.S. seeks to “completely ruin” a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

“Given that the stated objective of the United States is to completely ruin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and to that end, its strategy is to create legal complication through presenting unilateral arbitrary interpretations and pseudo-legal arguments, the Islamic Republic of Iran trusts that the members of the Security Council will, once again, reject the United States’ continued attempt to abuse the Security Council’s process, thus undermining the authority and credibility of the Council and the United Nations,” Majid Takht Ravanchi said in the letter, according to CNN.

On September 19, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the return of “all previously terminated UN sanctions” on



Iran, a move that drew criticism from all parties to the JCPOA including Washington’s European allies.

“Today, the United States welcomes the return of virtually all previously terminated UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran....Sanctions are being re-imposed on Iran pursuant to the snapback process under UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 2231,” Pompeo said in a statement on Saturday.

According to Pompeo’s announcement all UN member states should fully comply with the UN restrictions, otherwise, they would face U.S. sanctions.

## Iran has the right to decisively respond to U.S.: Kharrazi

**TEHRAN** — Kamal Kharrazi, the head of Iran’s Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, has said the U.S. is well aware that Iran never compromises on its rights.

Kharrazi, who was responding to claims by the U.S. on returning of UN sanctions, including an arms embargo, on Iran, said, “This claim by the U.S. is so groundless and meaningless that even the close allies of the U.S. consider it illegal because with the exit of the U.S. from the JCPOA they do not consider any right for that regime in using the snapback mechanism of the JCPOA or Resolution 2231.”

Kharrazi said the U.S., which turned its back on international institutions by adopting unilateralist policies and now seeks to impose its “unreasonable” policies on other countries through bullying, doesn’t need to resort to UN Security Council resolutions, as it is intending now to block Iran’s arms deals by threatening others with secondary sanctions.

Responding to a question on Iran’s possible response to the U.S. measure,

Kharrazi said, “Under Article 51 of the UN charter, which is about the inherent right to defend oneself, Iran is authorized to immediately and decisively respond to any aggressive action by the U.S. under the pretext of restoring the terminated resolutions based on Resolution 2231. They know that Iran will never compromise on its rights and it has proven this in practice.”

Tensions between Iran and the U.S. have been on the rise since U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo submitted a “notification” to the UN Security Council calling for the restoration of all UN sanctions on Iran within 30 days. On September 19, Pompeo announced the return of UN sanctions as the U.S. deadline ended.

“Today, the United States welcomes the return of virtually all previously terminated UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran....Sanctions are being re-imposed on Iran pursuant to the snapback process under UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 2231,” Pompeo said in a statement.

## E3’s great test: Will they defy U.S.?

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — In a statement on Saturday night, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the return of “all previously terminated UN sanctions” on Iran, a move that was met with strong opposition from the international community.

“Thus today, the United States welcomes the return of virtually all previously terminated UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran....Sanctions are being re-imposed on Iran pursuant to the snapback process under UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 2231,” the statement said.

On August 20, Pompeo traveled to New York to submit a letter to the president of the UN Security Council calling for the reimposition of UN sanctions on Iran within 30 days. The letter sparked a diplomatic controversy after 13 of the 15-member UN Security Council questioned the legality of the U.S. measure. All opposing members sent letters to the Council’s president telling him that the U.S. measure was void and invalid because the White House withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal – officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - on May 8, 2018.

However, the U.S. announced the reimposition of UN sanctions, ignoring fierce opposition from all JCPOA participants and almost all members of the UN Security Council. In a joint statement on August 20, European signatories to the nuclear deal – Germany, France, and the UK (E3) - rejected the U.S. notification to the president of the Security Council, saying the U.S. was no longer a participant to the JCPOA.

“France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (‘the E3’) note that the U.S. ceased to be a participant to the JCPOA following their withdrawal from the deal on 8 May, 2018. Our position regarding the effectiveness of the US notification pursuant to resolution 2231 has consequently been very clearly expressed to the Presidency and all UNSC members. We cannot therefore support this action which is incompatible with our current efforts to support the JCPOA,” the E3 foreign

ministers said in the August statement. The E3 foreign ministers also issued another joint statement on September 20 to question the U.S. measure.

“France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (‘the E3’) note that the US ceased to be a participant to the JCPOA following their withdrawal from the deal on 8 May, 2018. Consequently, the purported notification under paragraph 11 of UNSCR 2231 (2015), received from the United States of America and circulated to the UN Security Council Members, is incapable of having legal effect,” the foreign ministers said. “It flows from this that any decisions and actions which would be taken based on this procedure or on its possible outcome would also be incapable of having any legal effect.”

This is all while the U.S. says it expects “all UN Member States to fully comply with their obligations to implement these measures.”

The secretary of state said the sanctions the U.S. announced their return on Saturday include a variety of restrictions including a “ban on Iran engaging in enrichment and reprocessing-related activities, the prohibition on ballistic missile testing and development by Iran, and sanctions on the transfer of nuclear- and missile-related technologies to Iran.”

In a thinly-veiled threat, Pompeo said if a country refuses to implement the sanctions, the U.S. could impose sanctions on it. “If UN Member States fail to fulfill their obligations to implement these sanctions, the United States is prepared to use our domestic authorities to impose consequences for those failures and ensure that Iran does not reap the benefits of UN-prohibited activity,” he said.

This would further complicate the situation around the Iran nuclear deal and the transatlantic relations. Because, under the JCPOA, Iran is allowed to enrich uranium, though at low levels. And the Europeans, along with Russia and China, have no problem with this provision of the nuclear deal. Indeed, Iran has increased the enrichment



levels and began spinning more advanced centrifuges in recent months in a bid to encourage the Europeans to fulfill their economic obligations under the JCPOA. Whether the Europeans would stand up to a move they reject as illegal remains an open question.

Some analysts and commentators believe that the E3 could stop short of defying the U.S. unilateral sanctions and continue to express political support for Iran in upcoming months. The Europeans only produce a lot of rhetoric without taking any practical step, according to Mohsen Jalilvand, an expert on international relations.

“The Europeans are using rhetoric and they are unable to translate their rhetoric into actions. INSTEX is a case in point. They launched it with great fanfare, but nothing happened in practice,” Jalilvand told the Tehran Times.

Now that the U.S. virtually prohibited the implementation of the JCPOA, a European action in defense of the nuclear deal may be more urgent than ever. They need to take more actions to save the deal which is now on the line after the U.S. delivered another blow to it. The world is ripe for concrete action in support of the JCPOA. As the U.S. announced the return of all UN sanctions on Iran, international reactions poured in. Most of the world condemned the U.S. measure as illegal and void.

“The U.S. unilaterally ceased participation in the JCPOA by presidential Memorandum

on 8 May 2018 and has subsequently not participated in any JCPOA-related activities. It cannot, therefore, be considered to be a JCPOA participant State and cannot initiate the process of reinstating UN sanctions under the UN Security Council resolution 2231. Consequently, sanctions lifting commitments under the JCPOA continue to apply,” EU foreign policy chief Josep Borell said in a statement on Sunday. “As coordinator of the JCPOA Joint Commission, I will continue to do everything possible to ensure the preservation and full implementation of the JCPOA by all.”

Russia also rejected the U.S. measure, saying the 2015 UN Security Council resolution which endorsed the JCPOA is unchanged.

“The efforts on preserving and ensuring sustainable implementation of the JCPOA will continue,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. It added, “The UN Security Council Resolution 2231 remains unchanged and the commitments arising from it must be fulfilled in the initially agreed mode and volume on the basis of the reciprocity principle by all states.”

Russia’s Deputy UN Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy also tweeted, “We all clearly said in August that U.S. claims to trigger snapback are illegitimate. Is Washington deaf?”

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has refrained from taking any action following Pompeo’s announcement on Iran sanctions. In a letter to the Security Council seen by Reuters, Guterres said, “There would appear to be uncertainty whether or not the process ... was indeed initiated and concomitantly whether or not the (sanctions) terminations ... continue in effect.”

“It is not for the Secretary-General to proceed as if no such uncertainty exists,” he added.

According to Reuters, the UN secretary-general said that “pending clarification” of the status of the Iran sanctions, he would not take any action to provide administrative and technical support to the Security Council to implement its sanctions regimes.

## SPORTS

### Something wrong with Persepolis

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — After almost seven months of hiatus, the 2020 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League returned to action excitingly in West Asia with back-to-back fixtures hosted by Qatar. But there is something wrong with Persepolis.



Persepolis topped the Group C of the competitions by two consecutive and similar 1-0 wins over Saudi Arabia’s Al Taawoun. They will face Qatari side Al Duhail on Monday in a crucial game to determine the final leader of the group.

While the Reds are doing well on the pitch, things are not going well for them, off the field. Last week, Persepolis were handed a two-window transfer ban by FIFA over non-payment of dues to former head coach Branko Ivankovic.

The club’s ban will be lifted once the debt — a total of \$800,000 — is paid off within a month.

Persepolis signed seven new players in the summer transfer window, before being banned by FIFA’s Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC), and started the resumption of the AFC Champions League (ACL) matches with a strengthened squad.

The Tehran side will be bidding for a fifth successive Iran Professional League (IPL) in the upcoming season and will do so under the leadership of a man who has never coached at Persepolis for a whole season, Yahya Golmohammadi.

However, Persepolis face a big problem for the start of the new season. The club’s directors must meet their financial commitment both at the international and domestic level.

Persepolis have been the best representative of Iran in the Champions League so far, but financial challenges and disagreements between the head coach and club’s management have caused the champions of Iran football to experience difficult days.

Persepolis fans have reasons to be cheerful, but they have reasons for concern too.

## Race still wide open: Yahya Golmohammadi

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi says that all teams in Group C still have a chance to qualify for the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16.

Persepolis, who sit top of the group with seven points, will earn a place in the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16 if win the match on Monday.

The Iranian giants are scheduled to meet Al Duhail of Qatar at the Education City Stadium.

“We will have a difficult match against Al Duhail since they are 2020 ACL title favorites. We have won our two previous matches and it really boosted our confidence but the group is wide open,” Golmohammadi said in the pre-match news conference.

“Our players have fighting spirit and are ready to meet Al Duhail. I hope we can show a good performance against our strong rival,” he added.

“The competition has lasted too long due to coronavirus but our players have the winning mentality and they will never get tired of winning. We want to make our fans happy, that’s why we are here,” the former Iran defender said.

“I would like to thank Qatar football federation once again for hosting the competition,” Golmohammadi concluded.

## Sirous Pourmousavi named Sanat Naft coach

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Sirous Pourmousavi was pointed as new head coach of Sanat Naft football team on Sunday.

The 49-year-old coach replaced Behnam Seraj in the Abadan based football team.

Pourmousavi was named as Pars Jonoubi coach in July but failed to help the team avoid relegation.

The ex-Iran U19 football team coach has also coached Esteghlal Khuzestan and Foolad in Iran Professional League.

## Beitashour signs for Colorado Rapids

**S P O R T S** Iranian-American defender Steven Beitashour has penned a contract with MLS football team Colorado Rapids.

The 33-year-old player has joined Rapids until the end of the 2020 season with a club option for an additional season.

Rapids head coach Robin Fraser is very familiar with Beitashour as well. Fraser was an assistant coach in Toronto when Beitashour was there.

Iranian football team Tractor had recently shown an interest in signing Beitashour.

A natural right back, Beitashour is versatile enough to play left back as well. The Rapids see Beitashour likely finding minutes as depth at left back rather than the right due to Keegan Rosenberry having only missed one game since being acquired in 2019 as well as their belief in backup right back Jeremy Kelly, mlssoccer.com reported.

Beitashour was a member of Iran football team in the 2014 FIFA World Cup squad but remained an unused substitute in all three matches and was not called into Iran’s squad for the 2015 Asian Cup.

Beitashour has played six times for the Iranian national football team.



## TCCIMA, REC ink MOU for expanding Iran-Russia trade

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Russian Export Center (REC) for the expansion of trade relations between the two countries.

By signing this MOU, the two sides pledged to focus more on bilateral cooperation to develop trade and economic exchanges between the two countries and stated that they will work to increase the traders' understanding of each other's production and consumption capacities in order to promote mutual trade, the TCCIMA portal reported.

As reported, the two sides also stressed the use of barter trade as an effective way of increasing the level of trade between the two countries.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior officials from both sides including Hesamedin Hallaj, TCCIMA deputy head for the international affairs, the head of the Russian Embassy's Trade Representation in Iran, Rustam Ziganshin, and the head of the Russian Export Center's Office in Iran, Pavel Bukhanov.

Speaking in the ceremony, Hallaj referred to the two countries' long-standing relations and underlined some of the obstacles in the way of the development of relations, including the lack of knowledge of each other's potentials and also the lack of knowledge of laws and regulations governing the markets of the two countries.

"We seek to establish effective and direct communication with the Russian provincial chambers of commerce under the framework of the memorandum which was signed," the official said.

Further in the meeting, Ziganshin explained the activities of the Russian Export Center in Iran and said: "This center consists of state-owned companies, and it carries out various commercial affairs such as market analysis, accreditation and consulting."

According to Ziganshin, the REC has 30 offices inside and 10 offices outside Russia, one of which is located in Tehran.

In another part of his speech, he stressed that the provisions of the memorandum of understanding with the Tehran Chamber of Commerce will be fully implemented.

## TEDPIX drops 47,000 points on Sunday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 47,251 points on Sunday. As reported by Tasnim news agency, the index closed at 1.652 million points on Sunday.



Over 6.073 billion securities worth 96.662 trillion rials (about \$2.301 billion) were traded at the TSE.

TSE, Iran's major stock exchange, which had witnessed drop of its main index in five consecutive weeks, experienced growth in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

TEDPIX closed at 1.704 million points, gaining 148,000 points in the previous week, coming back to the rising trend, which it was experiencing since the last months of the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

The index had dropped four percent in the week ended on September 11, while it 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.

TEDPIX had hit the record high of two million points on August 2, and while it had been experiencing an unprecedented trend of rising over the recent months, it witnessed several days of drop in five weeks.

While Iran's stock market has not received any external shocks such as those form the foreign currency exchange rate, inflation, parallel markets, and international issues, some internal factors have caused the recent drops in this market.

One of the major factors was canceling the offering of shares through the second exchange-traded fund (ETF) on due time.

The second ETF (named Dara II), is to offer shares of four refineries of Tehran, Tabriz, Bandar-Abbas and Isfahan, and with the cancellation of Dara II offering, a drastic fall occurred in the stock market.

Liberalization of "Justice Shares", so that trading them in the stock market would be possible, was another contributing factor for the drop in the market.

Justice Shares are shares of government-owned companies that were given free to the six lowest income groups of the society almost a decade ago. Shareholders were not allowed to sell the shares until May, when based on a government's plan, the shares were allowed to be tradable in the stock market.

The government's plan named "Economic Breakthrough" was the other issue affecting the stock market, as no details were announced about this plan.

A sudden drop in Shasta's index was another reason.

On April 15, Iran's stock market witnessed its largest-ever initial public offering, as Social Security Investment Company (SSIC, also known by its Persian acronym Shasta) offered eight billion shares, which account for 10 percent of its stakes, for sales in Tehran Stock Exchange.

Shasta's index, which experienced a sharp decline after being closed for three days, has been another contributor to the TEDPIX's recent fall.

There were also some other factors leading to the recent drops in the stock market, of them it could be referred to reducing the value of brokerage credit, and conducting trades in two shifts per day at the TSE.

Then the government and Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) took a number of measures to tackle the mentioned factors which had put the stock market in a decline status.

The measures have apparently brought the expected results.

# Govt., private sector collaborating to resolve commercial ID card issues

**1→** the government has assigned special commercial ID cards to the mentioned companies and traders by which they will be able to clear their imported goods or export their products.

Recently some technical problems with a system for the issuance and extending of the mentioned cards created serious disruptions in the activities of the traders so that the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) had to intervene and write a letter to the Industry Ministry to focus their attention to the problem.

In an interview with the Tehran Times on Sunday, the Vice Chairman of TCCIMA's Trade Committee Abbas Argon said: "These ID cards were previously issued by the chambers of commerce after final approvals by the Industry Ministry, but the government decided to put the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) in charge after launching the new comprehensive system of commerce."

According to the official, following the launch of the new commerce system, the Industry Ministry announced that the process of issuing and extending the commercial ID cards of the enterprises should be carried out through the new



TCCIMA's vice Chairman of Trade Committee Abbas Argon

system as of the beginning of the Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 22), and the process for the extension of cards should also change accordingly since the middle of the mentioned month.

However, the new system did not

seem to have the necessary infrastructure for such changes and as a result some problems such as delay in the issuance and extension of the cards, and also making the card owners confused in following up the process in the related

## Commodities worth over \$1.5b traded at IME in a week

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Over 637,597 tons of commodities valued at \$1.595 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

According to the report from IME International Affairs and Public Relations Department, last week, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 293,318 tons of various products worth \$966 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 256,256 tons of steel, 6,400 tons of aluminum, 4,140 tons of copper, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrates, 12 tons of precious metal concentrates, 25,390 tons of zinc ingot 1,500 tons of coke as well as five kg of gold bullion were traded by customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 337,269 tons of different commodities with the total value of \$629 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 72,200 tons of VB feed stock, 110,601 tons of bitumen, 68,694 tons of polymer products, 42,229 tons of chemical products, 43,990 tons of lube cut oil, 1,705 tons of insulation, 2,301 tons of base oil, 150 tons of argon as well as 5,050 tons of sulfur were traded.

Furthermore, 6,510 tons of commodities and a com-

mercial property were traded on the same trading floor.

As previously reported, more than 2.787 million tons of commodities worth over \$5.368 billion have been traded at the IME in August.

Meanwhile, commercial property was offered at the IME's side market for the first time on August 19.

Also on August 21, the IME director of economic studies announced, "The exchange will start preselling trades of residential units via standard parallel salaf bonds by the next month."

Javad Fallah said, "IME is seeking attraction of liquidity by the capital market to provide financing for the construction of houses; so, we are intending to offer salaf bonds to achieve this goal".

The official said that the IME has received the salaf bonds from Housing Investment Company, which is affiliated to Bank Maskan (Housing Bank).

These bonds enable the people to pre-purchase the residential units based on the amount of their money.

A standard parallel salaf is an Islamic contract similar to futures, with the difference being that the contract's total price must be paid in advance.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known



also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

On April 21, IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad unveiled the market's new outlook plan, which depicts IME's development roadmap until the Iranian calendar year of 1404 (March 20205-March 2026). Materializing the slogan of this Iranian year, which is "Surge in Production" is seriously considered in the mentioned plan and it is, in fact, the strategic approach of the outlook plan.

## Over \$1b in loans paid to corona-affected producers

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said the country's banking system paid 44 trillion rials (about \$1.047 billion) of facilities to the production units affected by the coronavirus outbreak, over the past 45 days.

Abdolnasser Hemmati has called on the banks to accelerate the process of assessing applicants for loan allocations to provide more production units with their required facilities in the face of the economic problems created by the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Back in March, the CBI governor had announced that the banking system was



CBI Governor Abdolnasser Hemmati

going to offer low-interest-rate facilities to people and production units to compensate

for the financial damages resulted from the coronavirus outbreak.

To provide the mentioned facilities the CBI asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for \$5 billion in emergency loans to help the country contain the spreading virus and mitigate its effects on the economy, however, under the U.S. influence, the IMF did not grant the country the needed help.

Later, the government announced the allocation of 1,000 trillion rails (about \$24 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) of facilities to help alleviate the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the national economy.

"We allocated the sum in addition to

the next year's budget to prevent huge losses and to be able to go on more conveniently," President Hassan Rouhani said in late March.

Rouhani went on saying that 520 trillion rials (about \$12.3 billion) was also going to be offered in the form of loans to 10 prioritized business and production categories which have been affected the most from the coronavirus outbreak.

The government had previously announced that about 230 trillion rials (\$5.4 billion as per official exchange rate) would be offered as loans with 12-percent interest rates to small and medium enterprises and low-income households.

## Daily CNG consumption stands at 25mcm

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Daily consumption of compressed natural gas (CNG) has reached 25 million cubic meters (mcm) in Iran, according to an official with the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC).

Mohammad-Hossein Baqeri, the director of CNG plan of the NIORDC, also put the daily capacity of the country's CNG stations at 40-45 mcm, IRNA reported.

Baqeri further said that six contractors were selected for converting 1.46 million public vehicles into dual-fuel cars at the first place, and the contractors were supposed to equip 186 places to do the job.

Iran's CNG consumption stood at 19

mcm per day before the implementation of the fuel rationing scheme.

In mid-November 2019, the Iranian government started rationing of subsidized gasoline and increased fuel prices as it plans to use the revenue for supporting underprivileged families.

There are currently 2,400 CNG stations across Iran that supply 22 percent of the country's fuel basket.

Iranian Oil Ministry considers CNG as the national fuel, therefore, in order to increase the share of this fuel in the country's energy basket, it was planned to turn 1.46 million public vehicles into dual-fuel cars, which can increase CNG consumption by 10 mcm per day.



Back in May, National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPODC) announced that the necessary infrastructure is prepared for developing the CNG sector to be able to distribute 30 mcm per day of

gas across the country.

"The Oil Ministry and National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company have created the infrastructure for the development of the CNG industry, only in the conversion sector development measures should be taken," an official with the company told Shana.

Hamid Qasemi Dahcheshmeh noted that Oil Ministry has been supportive of the industry since very beginning through supporting the production of CNG-powered engines and converting automobile plants to produce dual-fuel cars in this regard.

"In the previous years, 920,000 vehicles were converted through the Oil Ministry's direct contracts," he added.

## IMIDRO seeking modern technology through co-op with universities

**1→** The mentioned exploration operations are being conducted by a consortium of IMIDRO and the country's major mining companies.

In early April, the IMIDRO head said that his organization has managed to identify over 760 new promising mineral zones across the country.

"With the new discoveries, the total area of IMIDRO's exploration zones has reached 650,000 square kilometers," Gharibpour stated. As in the framework of the country's Sixth National Five-

Year Development Plan (2016-2021), efficiency, productivity and maximum utilization of the capacities of the country's mining industry have been given great importance, these factors should be considered in every step from exploration up to the production processes.

This objective is achievable through a strong relation between the mining sector and the centers of science and technology; so it is why IMIDRO is seriously pursuing cooperation with the universities.





News

## Trump doubles down on threat to take oil from Syria

U.S. president Donald Trump has renewed his threats to forcibly steal oil from Syria, a move which experts say would amount to a war crime.

The president defended his decision to leave a small number of American troops in the war-torn nation after a general withdrawal in October by claiming they were only there to secure Syria's oilfields.

"They say he left troops in Syria... do you know what I did? I took the oil," he said during a Fox News interview.

"The only troops I have are taking the oil, they are protecting the oil."

When the interviewer, Laura Ingraham, attempted to correct Trump by insisting the soldiers were not there to take the oil but to guard the facilities, the president cut her off.

"I don't know, maybe we should take it, but we have the oil. Right now, the United States has the oil. We have the oil."

This is not the first time the erratic former business tycoon has publicly mused about stealing Syria's oil reserves.

In October, shortly after his abrupt withdrawal of U.S. forces and abandoning of their Kurdish allies in the region, Trump said he wanted an American oil firm to fly in to tap Syria's oil on behalf of the government.

"What I intend to do, perhaps, is make a deal with an ExxonMobil or one of our great companies to go in there and do it properly," he said.

However, such a move would likely constitute pillage and looting, actions which have long been designated as illegal under international law and the rules of war.

## U.S. convoy transports stolen Syrian oil to Iraq

A U.S. convoy, consisting of 30 tanker trucks laden with stolen Syrian oil, has left the war-stricken country and sneaked into neighboring Iraq, official SANA news agency says.

The convoy carried the oil looted from the al-Jazira region in northeastern Hasakah Province to the Iraqi territories through the illegal al-Walid crossing in the al-Yaroubia area, it said Saturday.

The U.S. looting of Syrian oil was first confirmed during a Senate hearing exchange between South Carolina Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in late July. Graham said Mazloum Abdi, general commander of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), had informed him that a deal had been signed with an American firm to "modernize the oil fields in northeastern Syria," and asked Pompeo whether the U.S. administration was supportive of it.

"We are," the top U.S. diplomat replied. "The deal took a little longer ... than we had hoped, and now we're in implementation."

The SDF, a U.S.-backed alliance of Kurdish militants operating against Damascus, currently controls areas in northern and eastern Syria.

Damascus condemned in the strongest terms the agreement inked to plunder Syria's natural resources, including Syrian oil and gas, under the sponsorship and support of the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.

## An Israeli website reveals the identity of the killer of Imad Mughniyeh

An Israeli blog about disclosing national security secrets to Israel revealed the identity of the killer of Hezbollah's military commander Imad Mughniyeh, who was assassinated in 2008 in the Syrian capital, Damascus.

According to the blog, the American newspaper "The New Yorker" reported that the assassination of the party leader at that time was a joint operation between the CIA and the Israeli Mossad.

The blog added that, "According to (Yossi Melman's) new book, Imperfect Spies," the NSA offered communications that located Mughniyeh and allowed to track him. In return, the United States set conditions under which it would allow the killing. Among them was that the bombing would not harm or kill bystanders and that it was It cannot be done during school hours. "And the blog continued, "The bomb maker is Noam Erez, if he held the position of vice president of the spy agency, Tamir Pardo, during the period in which Mughniyeh was assassinated."

According to the Israeli website, Erez held the position of chief executive of Israeli intelligence, and was responsible for the entire operational spectrum of the organization.

The site added, "Erez began his career, which lasted for 30 years, in the Israeli intelligence in the Special Operations Division, where he quickly rose through the ranks, and finally assumed the position of division commander. Erez also continued to lead the Technology Operations Department, where he planned and implemented a capacity growth strategy. After this role, Erez served as Chief of Staff, overseeing long-term budget planning, human resources, and resource planning for the entire organization.

## Resistance News

## Hamas asks Arab regimes to listen to their peoples' voice

**INTERNATIONAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Hamas Movement has applauded the popular anti-normalization protests that were organized in many Arab countries, including Bahrain, and called on the Arab governments to listen to the voice of their peoples.

In a press release, Hamas spokesman Hazem Qasem said that these protests reflected the Arab people's awareness and their rejection of all forms of normalization with the Israeli occupation state.

"These peoples are aware, with their national conscience, of the danger of signing normalization agreements with the occupation," spokesman Qasem added.

"These people has always considered Palestine the central Arab cause and treated the Zionist occupation as their central enemy," he underscored.

The spokesman urged the political parties and civil groups in the Arab countries to raise their voices against the regimes that signed normalization deals recently with the occupation state.

# Bahraini regime's function is to serve Western interests: Bahraini activist

By Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** — A Bahraini political activist says the Bahraini regime's function is to serve the interests of Western powers in the region.

"Their first job is to serve Western powers' interests in this region, and the second is to suppress their peoples," Ibrahim Madhoun tells the Tehran Times.

The following is text of the interview:

■ Why are the Persian Gulf states rushing to normalize ties with Israel?

A: Whoever reads history knows that Great Britain created the (Persian) Gulf regimes. Everyone knows that Britain was a colonial power in this region that came under the title of securing navigation between the East and the West through the East India Company.

Therefore, it fabricated these tyrannical regimes before the Balfour Declaration that was implemented in 1940.

After establishment, the Emirati rulers were engaged in maritime piracy, as well as the Al Khalifa government, which took Al Zubarah castle as a base for its attacks to occupy Bahrain and expel Iran's ruler in Bahrain, Nasser Al Madhkour.

So, Britain saw that these tribes could implement their plans to change the region's map through occupying Palestine.

These regimes function in favor of colonialism and oppress their own people within the framework of the task defined for them.

For these reasons, these systems do not have any authority to make a decision. This rush towards normalization comes from the orders of their masters (Britain or America). Today we see that U.S. President Trump from Washington imposes his orders on these regimes to normalize relations with Israel in order to use this paper in the upcoming presidential elections and to satisfy the Jews who have a pivotal role in tipping the scales in favor of the candidates in the United States.

■ Do you expect the rest of Arab countries to follow the Emirates and Bahrain to establish ties with Israel?

A: The Arab countries are divided into two parts: The first part, including countries of the Persian Gulf, are established by Britain or France. In some of these countries, there are wise and vigilant peoples but they cannot make any changes. For example, Egypt has a great people, but they have been suppressed, but in Algeria, Tunisia, and other countries, like Iraq for example, I do not expect their nations to allow their governments to follow Bahrain and the Emirates.

There are some countries, such as Sudan, whose people reject normalization, but there is repression. The (Persian) Gulf states are mostly committed to America's



**“America and Britain use Israel as a tool to dominate the world, and the normalization that we see today comes to help Trump’s electoral campaign because the polls say that Trump is behind his rival Biden.”**

policy, and Washington dictates what policy they should follow.

However, Kuwait's reaction is different, while the rest of the (Persian) Gulf states, even Oman, prefer to establish relations with Israel, exchange visits and embassies. It is not too far to join the UAE and Bahrain. But in case Saudi Arabia establishes relations with Israel, there will be a strong reaction because it is home to two Holy Mosques (Mecca and Madinah), and claiming it is leading the Islamic world.

I think it is an opportunity for the Muslims to make an agreement for managing the two Holy Mosques under a multi-national Islamic organization rather than Saudi management, who betrayed Islamic causes.

One day, Muslim nations will rise, and their reaction will be greater, especially the Bahraini people's reaction, who have had great reactions towards the Palestinian cause.

■ Do you think that Palestinian cause have died after the normalization of relations between Israel and Arab countries?

A: We cannot say that the Palestinian

issue has ended. When we refer to the Holy Quran, there is a divine promise that Palestine will be liberated.

The Palestinian cause has been present for more than seventy years despite the disappointing behavior of Arab rulers and their collusion against Al-Quds, and despite the fact that many regimes which call themselves Arab and also Turkey normalized relations with Israel. There is a brave and vigilant Palestinian people. There is also an Arab and Islamic conscience that has not died, but it has been strengthened, especially after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

The Palestinian cause is associated with religion and watchful people; perhaps there is a fall and rise in this path, but it is present and alive.

Today there is an axis that wants to defend this cause, which is the axis of resistance led by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria and the resistance in Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq, even in Egypt that signed the Camp David agreement. The Egyptian people, despite this agreement, refuse to recognize the Zionist regime.

■ What is the U.S. role in hurriedly encouraging Arab countries to establish

ties with Israel?

The American role is well known. Its role is to strengthen the Zionist regime in the region, control the Arab and Islamic nations' capabilities. America and Britain use this tool to dominate the world, and the normalization that we see today comes to help Trump's electoral campaign because the polls say that Trump is behind his rival Biden. In the end, America is the biggest Satan, as Imam Khomeini said, and Israel is a cancerous tumor in this region. America cannot dominate the world unless through supporting this regime, but today we see a decline in American power and the rise of other powers, for example, China, Russia, and Iran.

■ Why didn't we see a protest from the Arab nations?

A: Because these regimes have special functions. Their first job is to serve Western powers' interests in this region, and the second is to suppress their peoples.

For example, the Bahraini people do not agree with the Bahraini regime's policies when it made concessions to Israel and stabbed the Palestinians in the back.

Therefore, the Bahraini people cannot hold protests, not because they do not want to support Palestine.

There are 3,500 prisoners of opinion in a country whose indigenous citizens do not exceed half a million. Also, there is more than one force to suppress the people: there are security forces, most of them come from Pakistan and Afghanistan, and even from Yemen and Jordan; most of them have a non-Bahraini origin, as well as the presence of Saddam Hussein's remnants and Sudani forces in the country.

There are the U.S. Fifth Fleet and the British base. The Saudi army also intervened to suppress the people and is still in Bahrain. Nevertheless, we see that the Bahraini people have expressed their opinions in various ways.

■ What is the position of the Bahraini Movement towards the normalization of ties with Israel?

A: The position of the Bahraini Movement comes from the highest religious figures, especially by Sheikh Isa Ahmed Qassem, who, in a statement, said normalization with Israel is against religion and law.

The Palestinian cause is one of the crucial and important issues in the history of the Bahraini movement. It is even enshrined in Bahrain's constitution.

Al-Khalifa knows that this discourse is present in the conscience of the Bahraini people. All Bahrainis agree that Palestine's cause is indisputable, and therefore normalization of ties with Israel is a high betrayal and a stab in the back. Therefore, many are calling for the removal of this miserable regime in Bahrain.

# China, Russia next targets if U.S. wins in undermining Iran: geopolitical expert

By Zahra Mirzafarjouyan

**TEHRAN** — Pointing to U.S. unlawful move to re-impose sanctions against Iran and the importance of confronting its unilateralism, Cartalucci said China and Russia are the U.S.'s next targets if it will be successful in undermining of Iran.

Under the 2015 nuclear deal that Iran struck with six major powers; the UK, China, France, Germany, Russia, and the U.S., the UN conventional arms embargo is set to expire on October 18.

On August 14, the 15-member UNSC unanimously rejected a U.S. resolution to extend an arms embargo on Iran, which is due to expire in October in line with a landmark nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

U.S. is also claiming to still be a JCPOA participant as it has sent a letter to the UN Security Council on the activation of a nuclear deal mechanism. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed that all sanctions would return as of September 20.

This is while the U.S. has officially ended its participation in the JCPOA in May 2018 and has spared no effort to destroy the agreement.

All other JCPOA participants and most UNSC members argue that the U.S. is no longer a JCPOA participant and cannot use its provisions.

The majority of the UN Security Council members said they would not support the United States' move to snapback sanctions since the United States unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear agreement in 2018.

To know more about the issue, we reached out to Bangkok-based geopolitical researcher Anthony Cartalucci.

rump signs a document reinstating sanctions against Iran after announcing the U.S. withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal on May 8, 2018

Following is the text of our interview with him:

**“The U.S. uses a variety of tools to threaten and coerce nations around the globe to capitulate to its illegal demands.”**

■ Is Trump's move legal to activate 'snapback mechanism'?

A: The "legality" of U.S. President Donald Trump's move within the U.S. is relative. In international terms, it is completely illegal, as is virtually every aspect of U.S. foreign policy, especially in regards to Iran. The imposition of sanctions and the defacto blockade the U.S. is attempting to impose on Iran is a long-standing act of war with regime change similar to what it has carried out in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya, the ultimate goal. These previous U.S. interventions were also absolutely illegal beforehand and much more clearly in hindsight.

■ Will other members of the UNSC back the U.S. decision, or will the U.S. lose once again in the UNSC as it failed last month?

A: It is doubtful that Russia or China would back anything the U.S. does in regards to Iran. Its repeated failure within the United Nations Security Council is why it has pursued unilateral options to advance its foreign policy versus Iran. This should probably also help further illustrate just how outside international law and norms Washington's actions regarding Iran really are.

■ How can the U.S. force them to back Washington's illegal demand?

A: The U.S. uses a variety of tools to threaten and coerce nations around the globe to capitulate to its illegal demands. Its current trade war with China, which is increasingly looking like the lead up to a real war - is in many ways designed to pressure Beijing into making concessions - including in regards to Iran - in order to get temporary relief from economic pressure the U.S. places on China as well as a temporary reprieve from the many ongoing campaigns of political subversion the U.S. sponsors within and along China's borders. The same could be said regarding Russia.



I think in the long run, both China and Russia know that if the U.S. is successful in its undermining of Iran, it will only make it easier in the future for the U.S. to turn toward China and Russia next.

■ Why has Trump focused on the Iran issue months before the 2020 presidential election?

A: Trump ran on a platform of "ending the Iran deal" before even becoming president. But when we look at U.S. foreign policy circles actually creating the policies all U.S. presidents eventually end up adopting, as early as 2009, there were U.S. policy papers like the Brookings Institution's "Which Path to Persia?" declaring a desire to first create, then withdraw from a deal with Iran in order to make the U.S. look like it tried to be reasonable before moving on to more extreme tactics.

U.S. President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump merely played their role in this game - with Obama "creating" the deal, and Trump "withdrawing" from it. The U.S. had no intention of ever honoring it even before U.S. representatives sat down with their Iranian counterparts to sign it. Whether Trump wins or loses this upcoming election, maximum pressure on Iran will continue, and Iran, along with its allies, will have to deal with U.S. aggression pragmatically rather than purely politically, and certainly without hope of America ever acting in good faith.



## Ancient stone ram discovered in northwestern Iran

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – An ancient stone ram was discovered during a seemingly unauthorized excavation in an old cemetery in Anbardaran village, Bostanabad county, northwestern East Azarbaijan province.



The stone ram was submitted to the province’s cultural heritage department to be studied by the archeologists and cultural heritage experts, provincial tourism official Hossein Esmaili said on Sunday.

Stone animals such as stone lions and stone rams were placed on top of the tombstones of brave and courageous people as a symbol of bravery and valor.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz, which is the capital of East Azarbaijan, embraces several historical and religious sites, including Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few.

## New museums added to UNESCO-tagged shrine ensemble in Ardebil

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Five new museums have been added to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble, which is located in Ardebil province, northwest Iran.

“Five museums of precious and semi-precious stones, coins, historical documents, earthenware and pottery pieces, and old photographs have been added to the shine ensemble and they will be opening to the public within the next coming days,” CHTN quoted provincial tourism chief Nader Fallahi as saying on Saturday.



Talking about the restoration work which is currently underway at the complex, the official explained that some 100 billion rials (about \$2.3 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) was allocated to a project for leveling of the surrounding area of the historical ensemble.

Some buildings around the complex have been purchased by the province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department and are being demolished to expand the area around the historical complex, Fallahi added.

Named after Sheikh Safi al-Din, a Sufi philosopher and leader of Islamic mystic (1253-1334), the Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble is a microcosm of Sufism where arrays of harmonious sun-scorched domes, well-preserved and richly-ornamented facades and interiors, and, above all, an atmosphere of peace and tranquility have all made a must-see stopover while traversing northwest Iran.

## Centuries-old watermill in Tehran being restored for tourism

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – A centuries-old watermill, which is of high importance when it comes to the history of agriculture in southwest Tehran, is being restored to attain its former glory, and to be a tourist destination in a semi-arid landscape.



Located in Robat Karim county, the watermill is still operational and its structure was made during the Qajar-era (1789–1925) and in accordance with the local architecture of the time, using mudbrick, timbers, and mortar.

“This would be another phase for the restoration of the watermill which entails the rehabilitation of encircling walls, carpet bricks of the interior rooms and landscaping,” Robat Karim’s tourism chief Hamid Karimi announced on Saturday.

Watermills were typically constructed in accordance with the then design requirements for instance they featured dome-shaped roofs with high-enough vestibules to allow camels or other livestock to move back and forth with ease in order to convey grains or flour.

# Vacations on the edge: a glance of war tourism in Iran

→ 1 tanks, rifles, vessels, mortars, radars, air defense systems, grounded jets, military supplies and artillery pieces amongst others.

The Hall of Butterflies greets visitors on arrival, the place is dedicated to martyrs and victims of the war filled with personal belongings found on the various battlefields. Outside, a patchwork of domestically-manufactured armaments such as rockets, tanks,

and artillery pieces are on show. The complex has vast garden areas, water features, and children’s play areas as well.

The Sacred Defense Museum is equipped with a state-of-the-art visual system including projections and video walls, while audio recordings relevant to each period contribute to its charm. The recreation of the liberation of the city of Khorramshahr by the means of virtual exhibits and video



projections is amongst the main features of the museum where stands a replica of the Khorramshahr mosque adorned with creamy and turquoise patterned tiles. The strategic port city fell into Iraqi hands on October 26, 1980. It was recaptured by Iranian forces on May 24, 1982.

Some tourists say they are not just interested in visiting live or former warzones out of curiosity. What motivates those is gussing the stories of people who lost their lives, being displaced, wounded, captured, or lost their loved ones in those bitter moments of the history of mankind.

## Some \$27,000 allocated to set up museum on Tepe Rivi

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – A budget of 1.1 billion rials (\$27,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to set up an open-air museum on Tepe Rivi, an ancient hill in northeastern North Khorasan province, which has so far yielded magnificent remains of the Bronze Age up to the Sassanid period.

The budget will be spent on restoration of the mud-brick structures discovered during several excavation seasons in the area, deputy provincial tourism chief Ali Mostofian said on Sunday.

The project also aims at generating job opportunities as well as promoting the archeological site as a top tourist destination in the country and attracting more travelers to the region, the official added.

Archaeological research works in Rivi started in 2012. Since then teams of Iranian and German archaeologists accessed remains of settlements from the Bronze and Iron Age, the Achaemenid (550–330 BC), the Parthian (247 BC – 224 CE), the Sassanid dynasty (224-651 CE), and the early Islamic period.

The teams have completed seven archaeological seasons across the site and based on a new agreement their cooperation will be continued for the next five years.

Experts in the fields of archeology, geography, geophysics, geomorphology, and ecology from the [Ludwig Maximilian] University of Munich; the [Free] University of Berlin; the University of Tehran; and Shahid Beheshti University have worked in the previous rounds of research.

Based on the studies, various architectural and archaeological evidence from the Parthian and the Sassanid era were discovered in the Rivi site, which is situated in Maneh-Samalqan county of North Khorasan province.

The evidence, according to Mohammad-Javad Jafari who headed of the fifth season of archaeological excavation at Rivi site, indicates the sequence of settlement in the area in the aftermath of the Achaemenid era, according to the Archaeology News Network.

Back in October, a number of historical clay stamps, estimated to date from the Achaemenid and Parthian



eras, were discovered in the ancient site.

“The seals were found alongside clay urns in a large hall and the seals are imprinted in a variety of geometric patterns [depicting] plants, animals, and human figures. Studying the findings can yield valuable information on the economy, culture, and arts of the ancient societies,” Jafari said.

“These stamps represent the widespread and complicated economic relations that people of the time had with other communities in such a way that made them bring together and store goods.”

Evidence suggests that residents of this area sealed the urns that were loaded with particular goods then tied them with ropes, the archaeologist said.

**Archaeological research works in Rivi started in 2012. Since then teams of Iranian and German archaeologists accessed remains of settlements from the Bronze and Iron Age, the Achaemenid (550–330 BC), the Parthian (247 BC – 224 CE), the Sassanid dynasty (224-651 CE), and the early Islamic period.**

## Historical structure of Semnan being restored

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The historical structure of the north-central city of Semnan, which includes monuments from the Ilkhanid period (1256–1353) to the Qajar era (1789–1925) is being restored, a provincial tourism chief has said.

With an area of 357 hectares, the historical structure of Semnan is one of the oldest and most important historical structures in the country.

The restoration project involves strengthening the area’s mud-brick walls, replacing the worn-out bricks, repairing deep cracks, strengthening and repairing the arches



and bricklaying, Mostafa Yaghmaeian announced on Sunday.

The main population centers of Semnan

province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravan-serais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

The history of Semnan dates back to

ancient Iran when the city was part of the Median Empire. At the time of the Achaemenid Empire of Persia, Semnan was a magnificent city. After the attack of Alexander, Semnan became famous as Koimesh. The great era of the prosperity of this city began after the advent of the Parthian Empire.

Due to its location, which was on the traffic center of the north, south, east, and west, Semnan had always been the subject of a struggle for power in the Sassanid period. In the Sassanid and post-Islamic periods, the city was the bases of central governments in the area.

## Islamic-era tomb-chamber, skeleton discovered in northwest Iran

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** – A human skeleton has recently been discovered by a team of archaeologists while conducting a demarcation survey across Geoy Tepe in northwest Iran.

Initial evidence of the body positioning suggests that the skeleton and its tomb-chamber date back to Ismail times, ILAN quoted Iman Rounasi, who leads the survey, as saying on Saturday.

“The human skeleton was unearthed during the demarcation project to set historical boundaries for Geoy Tepe. And based on the burial method (right side of the face to the west and head to the south), the human remains should date form the Islamic times.”

Many cultures treat the placement of dead people in an appropriate position to be a sign of respect even when burial is impossible. According to archaeologists, burials may be placed in a number of different positions. Bodies with the arms crossed date back to ancient cultures such as Chaldea in the 10th century BC, where the “X” symbolized their sky god. Later ancient Egyptian gods and royalty, from approximately 3500 BC are shown with crossed arms, such as the god



Osiris, the Lord of the Dead, or mummified royalty with crossed arms in high and low body positions, depending upon the dynasty. The burial of bodies in

the extended position, i.e., lying flat with arms and legs straight, or with the arms folded upon the chest, and with the eyes and mouth closed.

Extended burials may be supine (lying on the back) or prone (lying on the front). However, in some cultures, being buried face down shows marked disrespect like in the case of the Sioux. Other ritual practices place the body in a flexed position with the legs bent or crouched with the legs folded up to the chest. Warriors in some ancient societies were buried in an upright position. In Islam, the body is placed in a supine position, hands along the sides, and the head is turned to its right with the face towards the Qibla.

Geoy Tepe is situated about 7 kilometers south of Lake Urmia. It was found by an aerial survey of ancient sites in Persia done by Erich Schmidt in the 1930s. The site’s mound is 80 feet in height and is situated by a natural spring. T. Burton Brown of Great Britain excavated the site in August 1948. It was found to have been continuously occupied from the 4th millennium BC until 1200 BC. The site yielded the remains of the earliest stage of the Kura-Araxes culture as well.

## Sacred Defense Cinema Town holds potential to boost Rey’s tourism

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The Sacred Defense Cinema Town near the ancient city of Rey holds the potential to boost war tourism in the region, Rey’s cultural heritage department director Amir Mostayeb Rahimzadeh said on Sunday.

The tourism capacities of the 1980-88 Iran–Iraq war, known as the Sacred Defense, have been neglected in this city while it was a center for sending the volunteer forces to the fronts during the war, the official added.

He also noted that an online meeting

will be discussing the role of the cinema town in developing war tourism in Rey today.

Measuring 550 hectares in area, the Sacred Defense Cinema Town was established in 1994. It is a unique location for making films and series on the subject of war. Over a thousand movies, series, and short films have been made in it so far.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE) and it was captured by the Muslim Arabs in 641 CE. During the reign of the Muslim caliph al-Mahdi in the



8th century, the city grew in importance until it was rivaled in western Asia only

by Damascus and Baghdad.

The Iraqi army invaded Iran on September 22, 1980, setting the stage for eight years of war. With support from certain Arab and Western countries, Saddam Hussein ordered an attack on Iran nearly 19 months after the Islamic Revolution.

The war drew to a close in August 1988. The United Nations declared Iraq as the initiator of the conflict.

In Iran, Sacred Defense Week is commemorated every year from September 21st.



# Tehran to host World Peace Day ceremony

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** – The World Peace Day ceremony will be held in Tehran on Monday, a member of the Tehran City Council has announced.

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Shaping Peace Together.” Celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic.

Every year on this occasion, ceremonies are held around the world, as well as in Iran, Zahra Nejad-Bahram said.

This year, the World Peace Day on Monday is celebrated in the Iran Zamin Hall, and in addition to discussing peace, the book “Women and the Shadow of Peace in the



Post-Coronavirus Age” will be unveiled at the ceremony, she explained.

An exhibition of paintings by Iranian children on the theme of peace and several other symbolic programs are also planned, she concluded.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

In March, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on all warring parties to lay down their weapons and focus on the battle against this unprecedented global pandemic. While the message is intended for armed parties, solidarity, and cooperation across borders, sectors, and generations are also needed to win this new fight against the worst public health crisis of our time.

## Iran starts five-year tobacco-free national plan

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** – A national plan aiming to protect people from secondhand smoke in 63 cities and 63 villages over the course of five years has just piloted in the central city of Qom.

Following Article 8 of the Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organization to protect people from tobacco use and reduce its side effects, Iran declared Qom city as the country’s first “tobacco-free city”.

This five-year program will eventually launch in 63 cities and 63 selected villages of the country, however, it is probably can cover the whole cities, Behzad Valizadeh, head of the National Secretariat of Tobacco Control said.

A tobacco-free city is a place in which the sale, supply, and use of tobacco are regulated in such a way that people are protected from secondhand smoke, and direct and indirect incentive mechanisms are restricted, tobacco consumers will be encouraged to quit, he explained.

Overall, it focuses on both demand and supply reduction strategies, and is expected to gradually reduce the prevalence of smoking in those areas, he added.

In the first phase of this program, which



will continue for one year from the beginning of the project, by mobilizing information and joint actions of relevant agencies and organizations, including non-governmental organizations, efforts will be made to meet the requirements defined in this program in the selected village and introduced by the university, he stated.

He went on to note that the medical universities should monitor the implementation in the selected rural town, and evaluate the results.

People’s demand for their rights, which is not to be exposed to second-hand smoke, is very important to involve the public in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and medical universities across the country, he concluded.

## Martyrs of religious minorities symbolize national unity

**I →** A group of Armenians on the front lines repaired war vehicles, constructed roads, built morgues and field hospitals, in addition to paying all expenses.

The enthusiastic presence of Christian compatriots and other religious minorities portrayed Iranian unity at that time. Religious minorities also contributed cash and non-cash donations and dispatched technical, medical, and engineering teams to support the soldiers.

The Museum of the Islamic Revolution and Sacred Defense displays the items left in the battlefield owned by the martyrs of religious minorities. In this part of the hall, items of Christian, Jewish, Zoroastrian martyrs, including military uniforms, bags, photos, ID cards, and glasses, are shown to the public and has provided statistics on the number of martyrs of religious minorities.

The most prominent Iranian martyr of Armenian ethnicity was Zurik Moradian and Vigen Karapetyan. Among the 6 Assyrian martyrs, Robert Lazarus, is the most famous who was martyred in the last year of the war.

Some 221 of these youth were martyred,



1102 were disabled, and 48 were prisoners of war.

The Iraqi army invaded Iran on September 22, 1980, setting the stage for eight years of war. With support from certain Arab and Western countries, Saddam Hussein ordered an attack on Iran nearly 19 months after the Islamic Revolution.

The war drew to a close in August 1988. The United Nations declared Saddam as the initiator of the conflict.

In Iran, Sacred Defense Week is commemorated every year from September 21st.

According to official statistics, 225,570 people were martyred and 574,101 people became veterans during the holy defense. Also, freed prisoners of war were 43,173.

## Drug trafficking gangs disbanded in southeastern Iran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** – Two large drug trafficking gangs were disbanded in the southeastern part of the country, and some 3.5 tons of various narcotics were seized.

Ahmad Ali Goodarzi, border commander of the police force, announced the confiscation of a large drug-smuggling gang and the discovery of 1,273 kilograms of opium in the Saravan border region in Sistan and Baluchestan province.

Also, 2,200 kilograms of opium were found from a large drug trafficking gang in the Chabahar region of Sistan and Baluchestan province.

Moreover, anti-narcotics police have dismantled a gang and confiscated nearly 3.7 tons of narcotics in Sistan-Baluchestan province on Friday.

Iran, which has a 900-kilometer border with Afghanistan, has been used as the main conduit for smuggling Afghan drugs to narcotics kingpins in Europe.



Despite high economic and human costs, Iran has been actively fighting drug-trafficking over the past decades.

The country has spent more than \$700 million on sealing its borders and preventing the transit of narcotics destined for European, Arab, and Central Asian countries.

**■ Iran ranks first worldwide in narcotics seizure**

Iran seized some 1,000 tons of narcotics in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 20), putting the country in the first place in the world, Eskandar Momeni, the director of headquarters for the fight against narcotics, said in July.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has praised Iran’s efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

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

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

Iran’s drug control efforts led to the seizure of 266 tons of different types of drugs during the period of April-June 2020, a 20 percent increase compared to the same period in 2019.

## Wilderness the size of Mexico lost worldwide in just 13 years, study finds

Wilderness across the planet is disappearing on a huge scale, according to a new study that found human activities had converted an area the size of Mexico from virtually intact natural landscapes to heavily modified ones in just 13 years.

The loss of 1.9m square kilometres (735,000 sq miles) of intact ecosystems would have “profound implications” for the planet’s biodiversity, the study’s authors said.

Using mostly satellite imagery, 17 scientists across six countries examined the human

footprint across the globe and how it had changed between 2000 and 2013.

Almost 20% of the earth’s surface had deteriorated, the study found, while human pressure had eased on only six per cent of the planet.

Russia, Canada, Brazil, and Australia held the largest intact areas, together responsible for 60% of the world’s most untouched places.

Some 1.1m sq km (425,000 sq miles) of wilderness identified from imagery in 2000 had some human impact 13 years later.

Tropical savannahs and grasslands lost the most area to human pressure, the study, published in the journal One Earth, found.

Lead researcher Brooke Williams, of the University of Queensland, told the Guardian: “We were expecting there to be high levels of intact ecosystem and wilderness loss, but the results were shocking.

“We found substantial area of intact ecosystems had been lost in just 13 years – nearly two million square kilometres – which is terrifying to think about. Our findings

show that human pressure is extending ever further into the last ecologically intact and wilderness areas.”

Rainforests in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea that were both rich with species had lost large areas to human activities. Conversion of habitats to cash crops, including palm oil, was a big contributor to the losses.

The study did not try to identify the cause of the losses, but Williams said the direct clearing of landscapes for farming was a known major driver.

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## Clean air days double for Tehraners this year

Tehrani citizens have experienced a 2-fold rise in the number of clean air days since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2018) compared to the same period last year, an official with Department of Environment has said.

Since the aforementioned period, clean air stayed in the capital for 27 days, while last year, during the same period, Tehraners breathed clean air for only 14 days, IRNA quoted Shina Ansari as saying on Sunday.

Also, the air quality of the capital was healthy for 262 days, while being unhealthy for sensitive groups for 59 days, she said, adding that compared to the same period last year, Tehran’s air quality reached healthy levels for 229 days and 97 days of unhealthy for sensitive groups has hit the capital.

## تهرانی‌ها امسال دو برابر بیشتر روزهای پاک داشتند

مدیرکل دفتر پایش فراگیر سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: تهرانی‌ها از ابتدای امسال تا امروز (۱۲ اسفند ۹۷) نسبت به مدت مشابه سال گذشته، دو برابر هوای پاک تنفس کردند.

شینا انصاری روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با ایرنا افزود: تهران از ابتدای امسال تا امروز، ۲۷ روز هوای پاک داشته در حالیکه سال گذشته در مدت مشابه، تعداد روزهای پاک ۱۴ روز بوده است.

وی اظهار داشت: همچنین از ابتدای امسال تاکنون، کیفیت هوای پایتخت برای ۲۶۲ روز قابل قبول و ۵۹ روز ناسالم برای گروه‌های حساس بوده که در مدت مشابه سال گذشته به ترتیب ۲۲۹ و ۹۷ روز بوده که هشت روز نیز ناسالم برای تمام گروه‌ها بوده است.

## Global plastic waste on course to increase six-fold by 2030, scientists warn

Despite numerous global commitments to address the vast amounts of plastic impacting environments around the world, growth in plastic waste is still outpacing reduction efforts, and even if governments stuck to existing guidelines, annual plastic emissions are on course to increase more than six-fold by 2030, according to a new study.



The global analysis of the volume of plastics being produced and polluting our planet, evaluated the means by which we may be able to achieve a global reduction in plastic pollution, and assessed the relative impacts of interventions such as banning plastic bags and straws.

It is currently estimated that around eight million metric tons of plastic waste enters the world’s oceans, lakes and rivers every year.

But using new mathematical models, the latest study estimates that by 2030, the annual plastic waste of 173 countries could increase to 53 million metric tons.

The study modeled future scenarios to achieve a global reduction target of less than 8 million metric tons by 2030 using existing mitigation strategies which include: reducing plastic waste, which includes bans on plastic; improving waste management; and environmental clean-up.

To reach this goal, the study found a 25 to 40 per cent reduction in plastic waste would be required, plastic waste management would have to increase from 6 to 60 per cent in low-income economies, and a clean-up of 40 per cent of annual plastic emissions would be needed.

The study shows that unless growth in plastic production and use is halted, which the scientists described as an “unlikely scenario”, a fundamental transformation of the plastics economy is essential. This would mean “end-of-life plastic products are valued rather than discarded as waste”.

Leah Gerber, professor of conservation science at Arizona State University and co-investigator on the study said: “There’s a lot of popular attention toward clean up, but there hasn’t been as much attention to the fact that we’re still producing large quantities of plastic.

“Where there’s not good infrastructure, that plastic is making its way into marine and aquatic habitats.”

Plastics are slow to degrade, and even when they do, bits of them, known as microplastics, make their way into the aquatic food chain, and eventually into humans.

The “Great Pacific Garbage Patch” - an enormous raft of plastic waste floating in the sea is located between California and Hawaii and embodies the worsening crisis of global plastic pollution.

The patch is said to cover 1.6 million square kilometres, an area about 8 times the size of Wales.

The study’s authors suggest that to achieve a substantial reduction in global plastic emissions requires “meaningful policy change”.

This could include reducing or eliminating unnecessary plastics, establishing global limits for new plastics production, creating global standards that ensure plastics are recoverable and recyclable and developing and scaling plastic processing and recycling technologies.

“In the US we’re huge consumers of single-use plastic,” said Professor Gerber.

“I’m hopeful that our findings will get people to rethink these consumption patterns. Even here in Arizona, the choices we make impact the future of our oceans.”

The warning from the researchers comes amid increasing concern the rise in production of gloves, disposable masks and extra food packaging in response to the Coronavirus pandemic is already causing harm to wildlife, according to the RSPCA.

The research is published in the journal Science.

## LET’S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 30)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

■ **Genetive “Ezāfe”** – The ezafe (literally addition) is a very common structure formed of an unstressed /e/ between a noun or other parts of speech and the modifying elements which follow.

The structure may consist of several words: ➡ workbook

<b>Mahsa’s pencil</b>	(possession)	<b>مدادِ مهسا</b>
<b>my name</b>	(possession)	<b>اسمِ من</b>
<b>small room</b>	(description)	<b>اتاقِ کوچک</b>
<b>Mahyar Namdar</b>	(first and family name)	<b>مهیارِ نامدار</b>
<b>Persian language</b>	(explanation)	<b>زبانِ فارسی</b>
<b>the city of Tehran</b>	(explanation)	<b>شهرِ تهران</b>

● **Exercise 2. Make ezafe phrases from both groups:**

..... :	<b>اتاق</b>	<b>زبان</b>
..... :	<b>پنج</b>	<b>اهل</b>
..... :	<b>استاد</b>	<b>کلاس</b>
..... :	<b>درس</b>	<b>تمرین</b>
..... :	<b>ایران</b>	<b>در</b>
..... :	<b>فارسی</b>	<b>کیف</b>



INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Mohammad Shojaeian  
■ Editor-in-Chief: Ali A.Jenabzadeh

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
editor@tehrantimes.com  
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
» Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430  
» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
» Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
P.O. Box: 14155-4843  
Zip Code: 1599814713



GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Kindness elevates human beings, and faithfulness is the sign of decency.

Imam Hussein (AS)

## Italian Orientalist Biancamaria Scarcia dies at 82

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Biancamaria Scarcia Amoret-ti, an Italian orientalist who was mostly renowned for her studies of Islam and Shias, died on Saturday. She was 82.

Scarcia was born in 1938 and was a professor of Islamic studies at the Sapienza University of Rome.

Her research concerned the relationship between religion and politics, with particular reference to Shiism in different historical contexts from the Middle Ages to the contemporary era.

She had conducted research on female grandchildren of Shia Imams in Iran, having studied the respect for women in Islam and the Shia school of theology throughout history.

Scarcia Amoret-ti had traveled to Iran several years ago at the invitation of the Book City Institute.

Her studies on Islam were published in numerous books, including "The Muslim World: Fifteen Centuries of History".

She was the wife of the top Italian orientalist, linguist and translator Gianroberto Scarcia.

## Dhaka festival to hold retrospective of Iranian filmmaker Puran Derakhshandeh

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The 19th Dhaka International Film Festival will hold a retrospective of Iranian filmmaker Puran Derakhshandeh in January 2021.

Derakhshandeh, mostly known for her great attention to major social problems in Iranian society, will attend the festival that will take place in the capital of Bangladesh.

A number of Derakhshandeh's award-winning movies, including "Hush! Girls Don't Scream", "Under the Smokey Roof", "Eternal Children" and "Serial Dream", will be reviewed during the festival.

She is scheduled to attend question and answer sessions that will be held after each screening.

Derakhshandeh graduated in film directing in 1975 from the Advanced School of Television and Cinema in Tehran. She started her professional career by making documentary films for IRIB channels in Kermanshah and Tehran.

Necessary preparatory work for the first-ever hybrid edition (having virtual as well as physical screenings) of the Dhaka International Film Festival is already underway.

During this 19th edition of the festival, the organizers plan to screen about 200 films from around 60 countries in various categories, including the Asian Cinema Section, Bangladesh Panorama Section, Cinema of the World Section, Children Films Section, Women Filmmakers Section, Short and



A poster for a retrospective of Iranian filmmaker Puran Derakhshandeh at the 19th Dhaka International Film Festival, Bangladesh.

Independent Films Section and Spiritual Films Section.

The 19th Dhaka International Film Festival organized by the Rainbow Film Society, will be held in Dhaka from January 16 to 24, 2021.

The screenings will be held at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Star Cineplex, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Central Public Library Auditorium and Bangladesh National Museum Auditorium.

## Movies from Iran to compete in Brazil It's All True festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Three movies by Iranian filmmakers will be screened in the 25th It's All True — International Documentary Film Festival, which will open on Thursday in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"Coup 53", a co-production from Iran, the UK and the USA directed by Taqi Amirani, "Filmfarsi", a co-production between Iran and the UK by Ehsan Khoshbakht, and "Asho" by Jafar Najafi are the films selected to be screened at the event also known as É Tudo Verdade.

While making a documentary about the Anglo-American coup in Iran in 1953, Amirani and editor Walter Murch find an extraordinary and never before seen archive. Documents and 16mm footage recount this story in unprecedented detail, with explosive revelations about secrets hidden for 66 years. From a historical documentary about four days in August 1953, the film becomes a living investigation that exposes the roots of



"Asho" by Jafar Najafi.

Iran's volatile relationships with the United Kingdom and the USA.

"Filmfarsi" is a personal journey through the history of popular, pre-revolutionary Iranian cinema. It unveils a rarely seen Iran. Almost 100 films, some prospected among the director's collection of VHS tapes, are compiled to construct a portrait of a society in rapid transformation. "Filmfarsi" reveals a cinema of excitement, action and great emotions, a challenging mirror for a country that struggled to conciliate religious traditions and the turbulent modernity of Western influences.

"Asho" is about a little shepherd interested in cinema. The routine with his herd is challenging, but the passion for Hollywood and acting allows his dreams to mix in with real life. Asho and a girl, who were promised for marriage since they were small, as dictated by tradition in his village, try to ignore love with their childish tenacity.

Dozens of documentaries from around the world have been chosen to be screened in the It's All True festival, which will end by honoring winners on October 4.

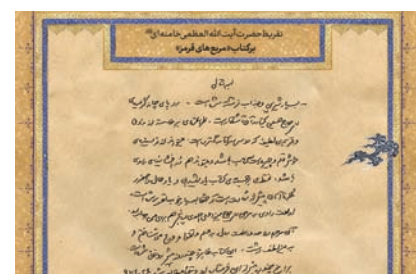
## Leader writes commendation for IRGC commander's war memoirs "Red Squares"

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has written a commendation for "Red Squares", war memoirs of IRGC commander Hossein Yekta.

Released in 2018 by Shahid Kazemi Publications, the book has been written by Zeinab Erfanian based on narratives from Yekta about his memories of the Iran-Iraq war.

The commendation written on July 17, 2018 was unveiled by the Leader's office on Sunday, one day before the 40th anniversary of the war.

"It has been penned in a really sweet style. It represents clear signs of Mr. Hajji Hossein Yekta's chattiness. The elegance coming from the fine sense of expression, which dominates the entire book, may



be rooted in the remarkable ability of the writer or in the impressive language of the

narrator," the Leader wrote.

"The most attractive part of the book is dedicated to describing martyrs, and their divine mood before martyrdom, which has been illustrated extremely well," he added.

Yekta has always been praised by Ayatollah Khamenei for arranging the tours of former warzones named Rahiane Nur (The Travelers of Light) for school and university students.

Photo: This image shows Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's commendation for "Red Squares".

## "My Commander" exhibit to showcase top photos of Martyr Soleimani's funeral

→1 In the cellphone section, the participants include Mohammad Torkzadeh, Mehdi Imani, Hamed Khalili, Mehran Eshqi and Arman Jafarian.

Majid Hoojati and Mohammad-Mehdi Veral are the participants in the photo series section.

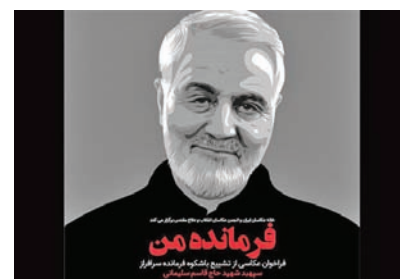
The competition was held with contributions from the Iranian Photographers Center and the Association of Revolution and Sacred Defense Photographers.

The photos depicting various aspects of the nationwide funeral ceremonies

in Ahvaz, Mashhad, Tehran, Qom and Kerman.

Photographers Farhad Soleimani and Ahmad Nateqi are among the members of the jury for the official section of the contest.

Earlier in January, Iranian Photographers Center director Ehsan Baqeri said that the ceremony will surely be remembered as a great national gathering and added, "The sad feelings of people these days, their love, passion and grieves should be recorded."



A poster for the photo exhibit "My Commander".

## Tehran Sacred Defense Museum to observe war anniversary by theatrical performances

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — The 40th anniversary of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war will be observed by performing nine plays, which will be staged for eight days in the courtyard of the museum.

"War and One Thousand Years of Solitude" written by Masud Mehrbi will be performed on the opening day on Tuesday. The play will be directed by Parvaneh Alizamini.

Four performances a day have been arranged for each play, the first of which will be at 10:30 am.



"Whispers Behind the Line" by Alireza Naderi and Ashkan Kheibnejad. (Theater.ir/file photo)

Mohammad-Hadi Atai will direct "In Color of Jujube" the next day. He is also the writer of the play.

"Fulfillment of the Promise" by Ahmad Samimi, "The Soldier" by Pejman Shahverdi, "The Lost" by Abuzar Chel-Amirani, "Sales of Love" by Shahab Raheleh, "The Bride" by Masud Ebrahimi, "Frequency" by Meisam Sarabadani and "The Booth" Ali and Ebrahim Rahimi will also be staged.

The theatrical performance program has been developed in collaboration with the General Office for Dramatic Arts.

## Melinda Leigh's "Bones Don't Lie" comes into Iranian bookstores

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of American writer Melinda Leigh's book "Bones Don't Lie" has been published by Tandis Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Neshat Rahmaninejad.

The story is about private investigator Lance Kruger, who was just a boy when his father vanished twenty-three years ago. Since then, he has lived under the weight of that disappearance, until his father's car is finally dredged up from the bottom of Grey Lake.

It should be a time for closure, except for the skeleton found in the trunk. A missing person case gone cold has become one of murder, and Lance and attorney Morgan Dane must face the deadly past that has risen to the surface.

For Lance, the investigation yields troubling questions about a man he thought he knew. But memories can play dirty tricks. For Morgan, uncovering each new lie comes with a disquieting fear that someone is out there watching, because someone is killing every witness tied to this decades-old

crime. Morgan and Lance follow in the shadows of a relentless killer and walk right into the crossfire.

Wall Street Journal bestselling author Leigh is a fully recovered banker. A lifelong lover of books, she started writing as a way to preserve her sanity when her youngest child entered first grade.

During the next few years, she joined Romance Writers of America, learned a few things about writing a novel, and decided the process was way more fun than analyzing financial statements.

### Visual Stories from Ashura

when they found the daughter of Ali (AS) in chains, when they realized the tragedy closely, that was the time that they burst into tears

When the people of Kufa saw the head of Imam Hussain (AS) on the spear



in her sermon at the bazaar of Kufa she addressed people

and said **do not cry** as your regret is useless as a terrible fate is awaiting you

It was the will of oppressors that the Ashura event did not last, but Zaynab (SAA) prevented it as she took two important steps. First, shedding light on the truth while she had been held captive in Kufa and the Levant. Second, traveling to Karbala on Arbadeen. The move means that we should not allow those with hostile intentions to make the great and inspiring events be forgotten.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei