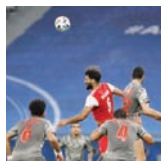




Russia launches military drills, featuring forces from Iran, China **2**



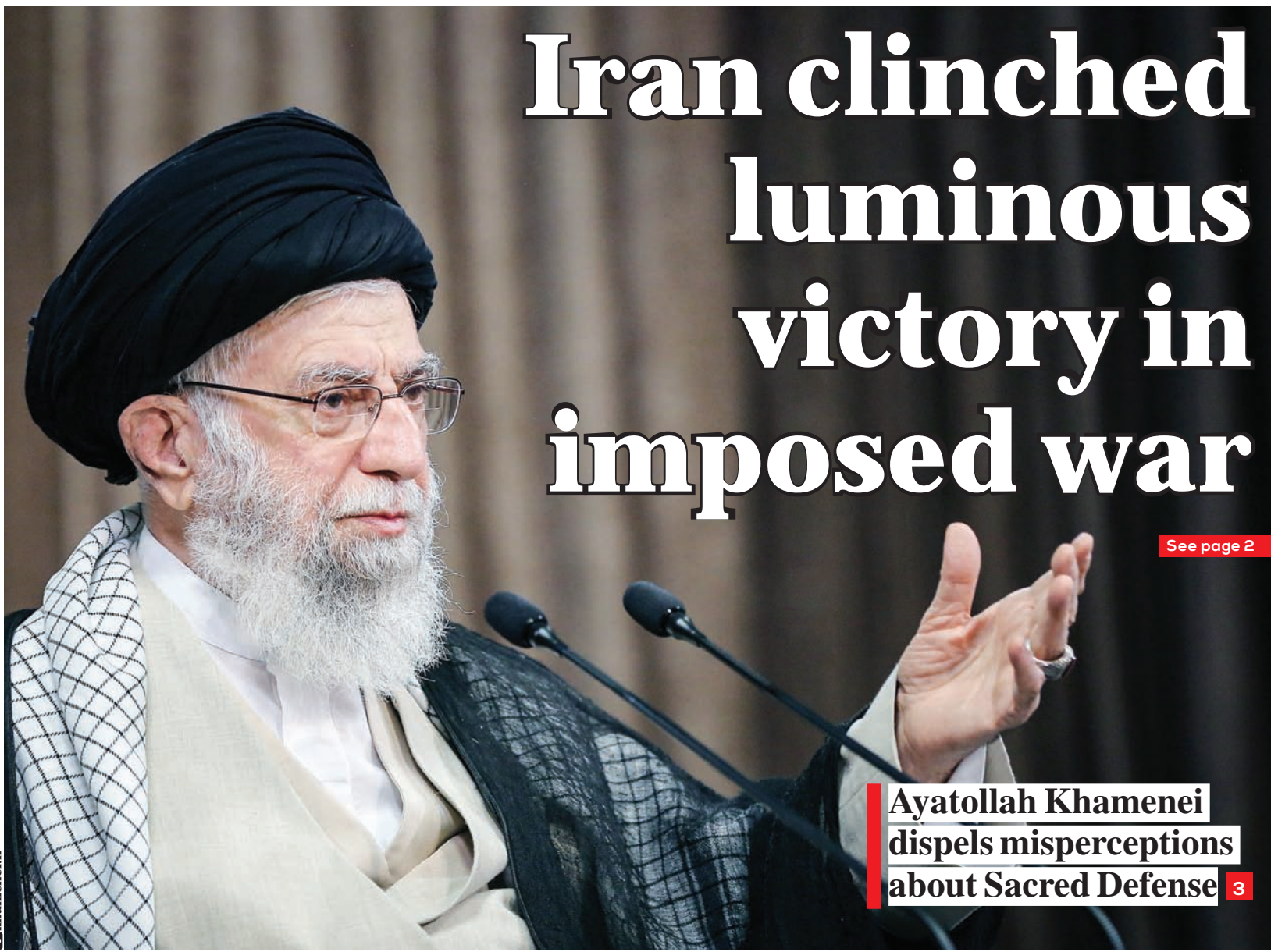
Persepolis suffer defeat against Al Duhail **3**



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Iran clinched luminous victory in imposed war

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Ayatollah Khamenei dispels misperceptions about Sacred Defense **3**

World's response to U.S. was a "big No": Foreign Ministry spokesman

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh says the international community said a "big No" to attempts by the United States to unilaterally reimpose sanctions on Iran under the name of the United Nations.

Pointing to the UN secretary-general's

remark over claims by Washington that it has activated the so-called "trigger mechanism", Khatibzadeh told the Tehran Times that "this was another 'big No' to the United States."

"It is clear that the international community's response to the United States was a 'big No,'" he noted. **→5**

NIOC inks 13 research deals worth €178m with universities

TEHRAN - National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) signed 13 major research-based deals valued at over €178.6 million (€35 million plus 7.16 trillion rials) with the country's universities and research institutes in a ceremony on Monday, Shana reported.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior officials from the country's oil industry, including the Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.

As reported, the mentioned deals, mostly focused on improving the recovery factor of the country's oil and gas fields, were signed with the universities of Tehran, Sharif, Amirkabir, Sahand, Shiraz, Oil Industry, Ferdowsi, Science and Technology, Shahid Chamran, Isfahan, and Islamic Azad University, in addition to the Persian Gulf and Petroleum Industry Research Institute. **→4**

War book publishers launch mutual virtual fair

TEHRAN — Four publishers specializing in books on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war launched a virtual fair on Monday, offering about 1,000 titles on various aspects of one of the few long wars of the twentieth century.

The book fair project named "Roshanaye Khatereha" ("Light of the Memories") has been initiated by the publishing houses of Sureh-Mehr, Revayate Fat'h, Besat 27 and Shahid Kazemi to observe the 40th anniversary of the war.

The book fair is running online due to a sharp increase in the number of the COVID-19 infections and the necessity of observing the health protocols for this era. Sureh-Mehr director Abdolhamid Qaradaghi said during a press conference on Sunday.

The exposition has also been organized to foster the book market, which is suffering from a deep recession due to the coronavirus pandemic, he added. **→8**

Terrorism by the West, and our ally Israel, is not considered terrorism but 'self-defense', says Canadian lawyer

By Amir Mohammad Esmaili

TEHRAN — Edward C. Corrigan, a Canadian analyst and lawyer, says the acts of terrorism committed by the West and its ally Israel is justified as "self-defense".

"Terrorism conducted by the West, and our ally Israel, is not considered terrorism but 'self-defense,'" Corrigan tells the Tehran Times.

The lawyer also criticizes the West for practicing double standards with regard to freedom of speech, saying, "Attacks against Islam are protected under free speech yet criticism of Israel's policies toward the Palestinians is often considered anti-Semitic hate speech."

The following is the full text of Corrigan interview:

■ The French magazine Charlie Hebdo republished offensive cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on the eve of the trial of suspects in a deadly attack on the paper's office five years ago. What is your view?

A: This is a complicated issue. Free Speech versus Incitement of Hate towards an identifiable group. I am a strong supporter of free speech and especially of political speech. I also support critical academic inquiries. But even free speech has its limits. For example you cannot call out the word fire in a crowded theatre where there is no fire. Many people would be killed and injured in the ensuing chaos.

In my view it largely depends on the motives of the offending party. If the intent is to demean and promote hatred of an identifiable group then it is hate speech and should be prohibited and those responsible punished by law. However, violence against the perpetrators cannot be justified under any circumstances. There are other ways including legal proceedings that can be taken and including boycotts and public censorship.

■ Could the republishing of offensive cartoons be considered as a freedom of expression?

A: Again it depends on the intent behind the offensive material. If the intent is political then it may be protected under "free speech." If there is a valid academic reason it should be protected. **→5**

Given govt. green light, power plants embark on cryptocurrency mining

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN — Following the Iranian government's approval of cryptocurrency mining as an industrial activity last year, numerous companies started mining cryptocurrency across the country thanks to the extremely low-cost electricity, and now Iranian power plants started to see this industry as an opportunity to increase their revenues.

In January, the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade issued 1,000 plus licenses for cryptocurrency mining units.

With cryptocurrency mining taking a toll on Iran's electricity industry, energy authorities voiced concerns about the enormous pressures exerted by such activities on the electrical grid, so some power plant companies proposed to offer their excess electricity exclusively to the cryptocurrency miners.

In order to reduce the pressure on the national grid, the government agreed to the proposal but

said the power plants will not be able to benefit from the government subsidies on their fuel supplies.

In July, the Energy Ministry's Spokesman for the electricity sector Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi announced that Power plants were also allowed to mine cryptocurrencies. Rajabi Mashhadi said that entities have to apply for the necessary licenses from the Industry Ministry and comply with the tariffs set for crypto mining.

Following the mentioned announcement, the head of Iran's Thermal Power Plant Holding Company (TPPH) announced on Monday that his company is going to hold a tender for offering the electricity output of three power plants for cryptocurrency mining.

"The Necessary equipment has been installed in three power plants of Ramin, Neka, and Shahid Montazeri, and the auction documents will be uploaded on the SetadIran.ir website in the near future," Mohsen Tarzatab Said. **→4**

U.S. protests: New York police arrest 86 anti-ICE protesters

Police arrested 86 people at a protest against the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) in Times Square, according to the New York Police Department.

The rally was calling for the abolition of ICE in the wake of a complaint made public last week that a Georgia ICE facility had a high rate of hysterectomies and alleged medical neglect, protester Isabelle Leyva told CNN.

Leyva estimated that up to 300 protesters had gathered in Times Square from noon Saturday and said they were outnumbered by police 3-to-1. Arrests were made in Times Square and later outside the NYPD building at 1 Police Plaza, she said.

NYPD Detective Denise Moroney said charges resulting from the Times Square protest included disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Eighty-five people received summonses and one person received a desk appearance ticket.

Approximately 20 people have been released

with a court summons, Moroney said.

Leyva said police had blocked off traffic before the rally began but as soon as protesters tried to get onto the street, officers "descended from all sides" and "started ripping people off of the sidewalk."

Leyva said police were playing a very loud recording that was warning disorderly conduct and resisting arrest charges, along with "a high-pitched siren" to disperse the crowds. She said batons were also used. Leyva herself was not arrested. After the first altercation with the officers, Leyva made her way to 1 Police Plaza to support those detained and described "pretty brutal arrests."

"At jail support there was a young girl who was actually standing next to me when they attacked us, and they lifted her up by her hair and then slammed her on the sidewalk and dogpiled on top of her. I think she's OK, she was released," Leyva said.

70% of nomads in Tehran province use renewable energy

TEHRAN — Some 70 percent of nomads residing in Tehran province are using solar panels to meet their energy needs, Hatef Momayezi, director of nomadic affairs in Tehran province, has said.

Solar panels have been provided to 2,200 nomadic families, he highlighted.

According to him, by the end of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan (2021), all nomadic families in Tehran will be equipped with solar power generators and clean energy.

According to the Statistics Center of Iran,

14,315 nomads live in the metropolis of Tehran.

Solar panels generate enough power to help families meet their needs like charging emergency lights and cell phones and use the TV in the deserts and plains.

Nomads generally are on the move in search of pasture and water for cattle, set up tents, and nurture livestock. Technology has created the conditions to help nomads and tribal communities with facilities to ease their daily, often difficult, tasks without interfering in their way of life.

However, the rapid expansion of urban areas has negatively impacted nomadic populations that mostly straddle regions in South Khorasan, Fars, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, and Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad provinces.

Based on the Iranian Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) data, so far over 5,000 such rooftop stations have been installed for households across the country and the government plans to build and distribute even more of them in the future. **→7**



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Iran honors over one million war veterans

TEHRAN — Iran on Monday held a ceremony to honor more than one million war veterans during the eight years of the Sacred Defense.

The ceremony kicked off at a Sacred Defense museum in Tehran. It was attended by Leader of the Islamic Revolution via videoconference.

It marked the 40th anniversary of the war that the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein launched against Iran on September 22, 1980. The war lasted for eight years.

Iran to become member of UNWTO 'influential' committees

TEHRAN — Iran's deputy tourism minister has said the Islamic Republic will be a member of two "influential" committees at the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), IRNA reported.

"The World Tourism Organization approved Iran's membership at two of its influential committees which are tasked for education, and regulatory mandates for the affiliate members," Vali Teymouri added.

The official made the remarks at a press conference in which he outlined achievements of his attendance at the 112th session of the executive council of the World Tourism Organization held in Georgia last week.

"As an advisory working group, the education committee is planned to provide consultation with the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization and its Executive Council on training and human resource development issues. Any document or any work that needs to be done in the field of tourism education will be presented to this committee before being decided to be executed," Teymouri explained.

He stated that this committee is one of the specialized and influential committees at the UNWTO which is composed of (a select of) member states.

"Educational topics, titles of training courses and scholarships that the World Tourism Organization awards to its members, virtually or in person, are discussed and decided in that committee."

One of the reasons behind Iran's membership being approved at the committee for the regulatory mandates for the affiliate members was that the Islamic Republic has so far introduced 17 companies and entities to be affiliated with the UN body, Teymouri explained. **→6**

Zarif advises Trump to change course before Pompeo further turns his govt. into laughing stock

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has advised the U.S. president to change tack before his Secretary of State Mike Pompeo turns the Trump administration into a global laughing stock.

“The world says NO Security Council sanctions were restored,” Zarif wrote in a tweet on Sunday. “But Mr. ‘We lied, We cheated, We stole’ threatens to punish a world that refuses to live in his parallel universe.”

“@realDonaldTrump should change tack before @SecPompeo further turns #MAGA into a global laughing stock,” he added. MAGA is an abbreviation for “Make America Great Again”.



In another tweet, Zarif attached a photo of Pompeo’s tweet in which the secretary of state said, “We will not hesitate to enforce our sanctions, and we expect all @UN Member States to fully comply with their obligations under these re-imposed restrictions.”

Zarif wrote, “The issue with mythomaniacs— who just can’t help themselves in their pathological lying—is that they actually get lost in their own web of deceit.”

He was referring to Pompeo’s use of the words “our sanctions” to refer to the UN sanctions against Iran.

On September 19, 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.

All other parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action have strongly rejected the U.S. move as void.

The three European signatories to the JCPOA said the U.S. announcement was “incapable of having legal effect.”

Russia, a staunch proponent of the JCPOA, said, “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.”

China, another staunch proponent of the deal, expressed opposition to the U.S. unilateral announcement, saying, “It is illegitimate for the United States to demand the Security Council invoke the snapback mechanism.”

Grossi verifies non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi has verified the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran.

“I report regularly to the Board of Governors on Iran’s implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA),” Grossi said in a statement on Monday.

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



“Last month, I went to Tehran for discussions with President Rouhani and other senior officials. We reached agreement on the resolution of some safeguards implementation issues raised by the Agency. The Agency subsequently conducted a complementary access, under the Additional Protocol, at one of two locations specified by us. Our inspectors took environmental samples which will be analyzed. A complementary access at the second specified location will take place later this month.”

Grossi also welcomed the agreement between the Agency and Iran which he said “I hope will reinforce cooperation and enhance mutual trust.”

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

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

Last week, Grossi said that Iran is an important partner of the Agency, saying he hopes the agreement between Iran and the IAEA “will reinforce cooperation and enhance mutual trust”.

IRGC chief says U.S. is rotten from within

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said that the United States is rotten from within and isolated from without.

“America is rotten from within and isolated from without ... The dear people of Iran should not be worried and should live in tranquility,” Major General Hossein Salami said in remarks on Monday, Mehr reported.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of a commemoration ceremony for more than one million war veterans during the eight years of the Sacred Defense (Iran-Iraq war) on Monday.

“America has lost its symbols and even the American people are now shouting ‘Death to America’,” the general said, adding that the American people destroy statute which represent the U.S. and burn the U.S. flag.

It came a week after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened Iran with a “1,000 times greater” attack in response to a fake news story run by Politico which claimed Iran is planning to assassinate the U.S. ambassador to South Africa.

“According to press reports, Iran may



be planning an assassination, or another attack, against the United States in retaliation for the killing of terrorist leader Soleimani, which was carried out for his planning a

future attack, murdering U.S. Troops, and the death & suffering caused over so many years,” Trump wrote in his Twitter page, pointing to the U.S. assassination of Iran’s

Iran clinched luminous victory in Iraq’s imposed war: Leader

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei says the victory of the Islamic Republic in Saddam Hussein’s war against Iran in the 1980s is as bright as the sun.

“The Iranian nation clinched a luminous victory,” Ayatollah Khamenei said on Monday, responding to foreign-based propaganda outlets which question whether Iran won the war.

He also pointed out that Iran managed to protect its territorial integrity and the Islamic Republic did not back down at all.

The Leader made the remarks in an online speech on the anniversary of the beginning of the war imposed by the former Iraqi dictator against Iran.

He said paying tribute to the veterans of the imposed war against Iran is a national duty.

Saddam Hussein’s army surprisingly launched war against Iran on September 22, 1980. Iran’s resistance against the invading army is known as “Sacred Defense”. The war lasted till the summer of 1988. The Sacred Defense Week is held on the anniversary of the beginning of the war.

“Today has been named a day of reverence for the warriors and veterans of the Sacred Defense in order to mark the 40th anniversary of the Sacred Defense,” Ayatollah Khamenei remarked.

“This is a very good and appropriate measure. This reverence is part of our definite national duty,” the Leader added.

In his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei lauded the warriors, saying those who sacrificed their lives to defend their country against the enemy should be respected.

■ Leader: Accepting Resolution 598 Resolution was based on tactfulness, wisdom

He also praised Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution, for his tactfulness during the 8-year war.

“Imam [Khomeini] realized from the very beginning that it was not an ordinary conflict between two neighbors,” the Leader said. “He recognized the enemy and realized that the main enemy is not present in the war, and he recognized that Saddam is just a tool.”

He also called the entirety of the 8-year war one of the “wisest” and “soundest” moves of the Iranian nation.

We won’t let Sacred Defense get distorted, says military chief

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Chief of Staff of Iran’s Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri has said the Islamic Republic is determined to preserve the history of the Sacred Defense (Iran-Iraq war) and defend it against any misrepresentation and distortion.

“We are determined to preserve the history of the Sacred Defense, which is an invaluable resource for national growth, the country’s progress, dignity, security, health, independence and freedom of the current generation and the future generations,” Bagheri said on Monday, according to Mehr.



In Iran, the 1980-1988 war, which was imposed on Iran by Iraq, is known as the Sacred Defense, and the Sacred Defense Week is held on the anniversary of the beginning of the war in late September.

This year, the outbreak of the coronavirus has canceled military parades in commemoration of martyrs of the war.

The general added that the Islamic Republic will protect the history of the Sacred Defense against any misrepresentation and distortion and being forgotten.

He made the remarks at a commemoration ceremony for honoring more than one million war veterans during eight years of Sacred Defense, which kicked

at Sacred Defense Museum on Monday attended by Leader of the Islamic Revolution via videoconference.

■ Iran to unveil new defense projects: Bagheri

Elsewhere in his remarks, General Bagheri said this year’s Sacred Defense Week will be marked with the unveiling of tens of new defense projects and hundreds of construction projects.

The top general said 8 new Sacred Defense museums are set to open across Iran during the defense week, bringing the total number of war museums to 23.

By 2025, Iran will have 36 Sacred Defense museums, he added.

JCPOA ‘very much alive’, Zarif says

‘Bullying tactics are dead’

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday that the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers is still alive and instead the bullying tactics are dead.

Speaking in an interview with the Council on Foreign Relations, Zarif said, “The deal is very much alive. The [UN] Security Council showed the deal was alive. The Security Council showed the United States was isolated in the world.”

He was referring to a recent showdown between Iran and the U.S. in the Security Council, where U.S. sought to create consensus against Iran to reimpose all UN sanctions on it.

“The Trump administration used power politics, used bullying in order to destroy the deal. Now the next administration wants to use bullying to come back to the

deal? So bullying is dead,” Zarif said. He added, “I want to see first the United States going back to its commitments, compensating Iran for its losses, and giving us guarantees that it won’t do it again.”

The chief diplomat noted, “The United States needs to find a seat at the table before it starts raising questions. It does not have a seat because it left the room. And while it left the room, it didn’t matter which president did it. While it was out of the room it tried to torpedo that room. It tried everything to destroy that room. Now if it wants to come back to that room, it has to rebuild the room, then enter the room, sit at the table, and then, as I said, prove your brotherhood before you ask for inherits.”

The foreign minister said if other members of the JCPOA go back to their commitments, Iran is prepared to go back to its commitments, underling that Iran ex-

hausted procedures – the DRM procedure- envisioned in the nuclear deal.

“The United States decided to violate the JCPOA. It decided to break the JCPOA. It decided to leave the JCPOA. It decided to prevent others from implementing the JCPOA. And it’s reaping the rewards now. As simple as that,” he pointed out.

Zarif said, “We don’t succumb to pressure. Today, we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war. You now that war. You now that everybody supported Saddam Hussein. You now everybody gave him all the weapons, even the Western countries gave him chemical weapons. Where is Saddam Hussein now and where Iran is now. So if we wanted to accept bullying, Saddam Hussein was still around and Saddam Hussein would be creating a lot of terror.”

Russia launches Kavkaz2020- military drills, featuring forces from Iran, China

Russia has launched the Kavkaz (or Caucasus) 2020 joint military drills with neighboring countries in its Southern Military District and in the Black and Caspian Seas.

The joint military exercises, which started on September 21 and will run through September 26 involve about 80,000 personnel, including officers of the Russian Emergencies Ministry and the Russian Guard, as well as up troops from Iran, Armenia, Belarus, China, Myanmar and Pakistan.

In addition, more representatives from the armed forces of Iran, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka will participate as observers of the

military drills.

About 12,900 military personnel from the participating countries are going to take part in activities covered by the 2011 Vienna Document of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. Most of the action on the ground will be taking place in the Southern Military District.

Up to 250 tanks, 450 infantry fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers and 200 artillery and missile systems will participate.

Ships of the Black Sea Fleet and the Caspian flotilla will join the action, too, enjoying the company of the Iranian Navy



vessels.

About 60 Ilushin Il-76 military transport planes have been moved to operational airfields as part of the military drills.

The distance of the flights was up to

2,000 km, according to a statement by the Russian Defense Ministry.

Russia’s Armed Forces will pay particular attention to combating cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles during the exercise, the ministry stated.

“The Kavkaz-2020 drills will particularly focus on combating cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles, as well as on fire and electronic warfare activities against entire enemy formations, on training airborne troops’ vertical envelopment capability and ways to rapidly shift between military activities,” the statement read.

The event is led by Chief of the General Staff Army General Valery Gerasimov.

Ayatollah Khamenei dispels misperceptions about Sacred Defense

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — During a speech on the occasion of the beginning of the Sacred Defense on Monday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei addressed a variety of issues concerning the eight-year war the former Iraqi regime imposed on Iran.

On September 22, 1980, Saddam Hussein, the former Iraqi dictator, launched a massive war on the newly-established Islamic Republic of Iran that lasted until the summer of 1998. The war martyred hundreds of thousands of Iranian people while defending their country. After eight years of fighting, Iran and Iraq reached an agreement to end the war.

In a speech delivered via videoconference, the Leader said Saddam's war was in fact a U.S. campaign against Iran meant to topple the country's political system.

"The U.S. and other powers started a war with the purpose of overthrowing the Islamic Republic, but they were defeated. Iran's victory in this war is as clear as the existence of the sun. The whole world did whatever it could, but they failed to achieve their goal in the end. Is there any victory better than this?" the website affiliated with the Leader's office quoted him as saying.

The Leader's remarks come at a time when Farsi-language foreign media outlets, particularly those funded by Western governments, constantly cast doubts on Iran's victory in the eight-year war, commonly known as the Sacred Defense. In addition, there have been efforts to distort the history of the Sacred Defense to create misperceptions about it.

Other high-ranking officials have also raised the alarm about these distortions.

"We are determined to preserve the history of the Sacred Defense, which is an invaluable resource for national growth, the country's progress, dignity, security, health, independence and freedom of the current generation and the future generations. We are determined to protect the history of the Sacred Defense from any distortion and deviance," the Defapress news agency quoted Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri as saying on Monday.

The top general also said more than 4,000 literary and historical books have been published under the supervision of his forces in the past four years, all to ensure that the history of the Sacred Defense is not distorted.

Ayatollah Khamenei and General Bagheri made the remarks at a commemoration ceremony for honoring more than one million war veterans of the eight years of Sacred Defense.



During his speech, the Leader underlined the need to counter the "distortion movement," which aims to spread misinformation about the principles of the Islamic Republic and sow doubts among the youth, who were born in the last years of the war or after it and thus have no live memory of the war.

"The more we get away from the Sacred Defense, the closer we should get to it in terms of knowledge because distortive hands are lying in ambush," said the Leader, underlining the need to foil the efforts of enemies to distort the fact that Iran's victory in the Sacred Defense was a "result of Imam Khomeini's amazing leadership."

As disinformation campaigns against the Islamic Republic reached a critical point in recent months, the Leader sought to put more emphasis on the distortion movement. "In parallel with sanctions, there is a movement of distortion: Distortion of facts, subversion of realities, whether the realities of our country or the realities related to our country," the Leader said on July 31, 2020.

In recent years, many facts and principles of the Islamic Republics have come under attack. For example, foreign media outlets have sought to downplay Iran's victory in the eight-year war and whitewash the crimes committed during the former regime of Iran. However, the Leader has dispelled these misperceptions on many occasions including in the Monday commemoration ceremony.

During the Qajar and Pahlavi rules, Iran fought many wars and lost a lot of territories. Iran also fought wars after the establishment of the Islamic Republic but it did not lose "one inch of Iran's land," according to the Leader.

He said over the past one or two centuries Iran always suffered defeat in the wars that it was involved in and lost part of its territories. "However," Ayatollah Khamenei added, "in the war that Saddam waged against Iran, he failed to separate even one inch of Iran's land even though the U.S., the Soviet Union, and NATO were supporting him."

The Islamic Republic was able to clinch victory against Saddam, who was backed by almost all Western countries.

"Despite the whole-hearted support that many countries in the world offered to the Ba'athist regime of Iraq, Iran was able to emerge victorious in the war," the Leader asserted.

He also alluded to the humiliation brought about by the Pahlavi regime to Iran. He said when Mohammad Reza Shah came into the room where Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin was meeting in Tehran, Churchill and Roosevelt didn't stand up to show respect for the Shah. Only Stalin stood up in an effort to gain the heart of the shah.

While enemies of the Islamic Republic often seek to portray the Sacred Defense as a war between two neighboring countries that led to the destruction of both countries' infrastructure, the Leader said Imam Khomeini knew, from the start, that the war wasn't an ordinary war.

"Since the beginning, our late Imam knew that the war between Iraq and Iran was not an ordinary war between two neighboring countries. He knew who the main enemy in the war was and realized that Saddam was a mere instrument. He always said that the U.S. was worse than the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union worse than the U.S., and

England worse than both of them. In other words, he had understood that these powers were the main elements working behind the scenes of the war," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The possible reason behind Imam Khomeini's decision to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598 is another misperception about the Sacred Defense that the leader shed light on.

"The Sacred Defense was one of the most rational events of the Iranian nation. Some accuse the Sacred Defense's people of recklessness. This is absolutely not the case. Even accepting the resolution in that circumstances that the Imam interpreted as drinking the cup of poison, was wise. If he was not prudent and wise, the Imam would not have done it. We watched closely and saw what was going on. The move was very wise," the Leader pointed out.

Resolution 598 was adopted unanimously on 20 July 1987. It called for an immediate ceasefire between Iran and Iraq. Iran accepted the resolution nearly a year later. Imam Khomeini famously said at the time that accepting the resolution was like drinking from a poisoned chalice. Since then, different narratives have emerged about the reason behind the Imam's decision. For some political factions, it was a precedent of how the country can show flexibility at times of difficulty. For others, it was only a superficial change in the nature of the war against enemies.

"In fact, accepting Resolution 598 was not the end of the war, but it marked the shift of battlefield from military sphere to cultural and discursive spheres," wrote Seyed Pouyan Hosseinpour, a political analyst, on his Telegram messaging app. The analysts based his claim on the content of the Imam Khomeini message that was issued on the occasion of accepting the resolution.

According to Hosseinpour, Imam Khomeini never said a word about the end of the war in his message. Instead, he underlined the non-geographical nature of the war against Zionism and Communism, the analyst pointed out.

However, the distortion movement appears to be seeking to put the Imam's decision into the broader context of reaching compromise and negotiated deals with the West. This may be the reason why the people behind the distortion movement are widely seen as the ones who make efforts the pave the way for a new round of negotiations with the Western countries, which reneged on their commitment under the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and the world powers.

SPORTS

Persepolis suffer defeat against Al Duhail

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team of Iran suffered a 1-0 defeat against Qatar's Al Duhail in Group C of the 2020 AFC Champions League on Monday.



Almoez Ali scored the only goal of the match on the hour mark from the penalty spot in Doha's Education City Stadium. Persepolis put the Qatari team under pressure but failed to create scoring chances.

Now, Persepolis must defeat Al Sharjah of the UAE on Thursday to book a place at the Round of 16.

Al Duhail moved top of the group with nine points. The 2020 AFC Champions League group stage commenced on 10 February 2020.

A total of 32 teams compete in the group stage to decide the 16 places in the knockout stage of the 2020 AFC Champions League.

ACL 2020: Esteghlal, Al Shorta settle for draw

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Group A's second ticket to the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16 will have to be decided on Matchday Six after Iraq's Al Shorta and Iran's Esteghlal played out a 1-1 draw at Khalifa International Stadium on Sunday.

Both sides went into the game needing a win to join group leaders Al Ahli into the next round, with Al Shorta holding a three-point lead, but having played a game more.

Mazin Fayyadh lost his marker and guided his header from Ali Fayeze's corner kick into the bottom far corner of Hossein Hosseini's goal to open the scoring for Al Shorta in the 25th minute, the-afc.com reported.

Substitute Arsalan Motehary levelled the score in the 68th minute.

The result means Esteghlal need to defeat Al Ahli by two clear goals on Matchday Six, while a 1-0 win for the Iranians would mean they have an identical goal-difference to Al Shorta and the two sides would have to be separated by their disciplinary record.

Al Shorta's hopes of qualification now rely on Esteghlal losing their next game.

Al Hilal seal ACL knockout stage berth

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Reigning champions Al Hilal booked their place in the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16 with a 0-0 draw against Iran's Shahr Khodro on Matchday Five of Group B on Sunday.

When the two teams met earlier in the year, Andre Carillo and Bafetimbi Gomis found the net in a 2-0 Al Hilal win, and Shahr Khodro have lost all their games since.

The result sees Al Hilal through to the Round of 16, while Shahr Khodro, already eliminated on Matchday Three, took their first ever point in their AFC Champions League history.

Iran to play Mali: Report

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran national football team will reportedly play Mali in a friendly match in October, Ghanasoccernet.com can exclusively report.

Insiders at the Malian Football Federation have exclusively told Ghanasoccernet.com that the Eagles are expected to face Ghana on October 9 and then the Asian giant Iran four days later.

The match is expected to be played in Turkey during the international break.

It's while Dragan Skocic's team is scheduled to face Uzbekistan on October 8 in Tashkent and Tajikistan in Tehran four days later (October 12).

Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021 mascot revealed

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Official Mascot of the FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021 has been revealed.

Ivartito showed his moves and his personality in a digital launch featuring choreography by a local dance studio. The young stork's youthful enthusiasm shone as he danced around the three host cities: Vilnius, Klaipeda, and Kaunas, making stops at the dramatic Gediminas Castle, a picturesque Baltic Sea beach, and Nemunas Island, in the heart of Kaunas.



As mascot, Ivartito is an advocate for the tournament and the sport, bringing openness and passion to everything he does. His friendly nature makes him a great team player and his name — taken from the Lithuanian word for goal "ivartis" — is a nod to the fast-paced, high-scoring nature of futsal. The stork has been the national bird of Lithuania since 1973 and is a symbol of the country's ecological diversity and natural beauty. Storks are also thought to bring harmony, happiness, and luck.

The FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021 will take place from 12 September to 3 October.

U.S. defeat highlighted 'rightfulness of Iran's position': Vaezi

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Mahmoud Vaezi, the Iranian president's chief of staff, says the U.S. efforts to reimpose international restrictions on Iran have once again failed and that the rightfulness of Iran's position has been reiterated again.

"The continued and illegal efforts of the U.S. have once again ended in failure and that the rightfulness of the Islamic Republic of Iran's position in the international arena was once again highlighted," Vaezi said in an interview with the state-run Iran newspaper published on Monday.

In a bid to extend a UN arms embargo on Iran, the U.S. announced the return of all previously lifted UN sanctions on Iran including the UN arms embargo. The U.S. measure faced global backlash as it was widely rejected as illegal and void.

"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," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement on Saturday.

All parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal — officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — dismissed the U.S. measure as an illegal move. The European signatories to the JCPOA said the U.S. measure was "incapable of having legal effect." Russia and China also opposed the return of interna-



"The Islamic Republic of Iran, far from any haste and with a firm legal logic, managed the developments in such a way that the United States is isolated today and has no supporters except a few small countries and the Zionist regime," the Iranian president's chief of staff boasted.

tional sanctions on Iran.

On Monday, President Hassan Rouhani said during the past month, the U.S. suffered many defeats and Iran secured many victories in return.

"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 at a cabinet meeting.

Vaezi said "these victories" were achieved due to Iran's "principled political and legal" moves after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, far from any haste and with a firm legal logic, managed the developments in such a way that the United States is isolated today and has no supporters except a few small countries and the Zionist regime," the Iranian president's chief of staff boasted.

He also said the diplomatic efforts of Iran have revealed the true colors of the United States, which was disguised as a supporter of democracy and international law for years. Vaezi pointed out that today the world sees how the U.S., without any logic and through sheer bullying, seeks to dictate their will on others.

Vaezi called on all political factions in the country to show unity in the face of "U.S.'s plots."

"In these tough circumstances, in order to foil the U.S. plots, unity, solidarity, and coherence among government's branches and institutions are needed more than ever," Vaezi said.

New sanctions will only increase U.S. isolation: diplomat

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The new U.S. sanctions on Iran are part of Donald Trump's reelection campaign and they will only increase U.S.'s isolation in the world, according to Alireza Miryousefi, the spokesman for Iran's mission to the United Nations.

"The U.S.' 'maximum pressure' show, which includes new propaganda measures almost every week, has clearly failed miserably, and announcing new measures will not change this fact," Miryousefi told Reuters in an email.

He added, "The entire world understands that these are a part of (the) next U.S. election campaign, and they are ignoring the U.S.' preposterous claims at the UN today. It will only make (the) U.S. more isolated in world affairs."

The spokesman's comments comes after the U.S. announced the return of "all pre-

viously terminated UN sanctions" on Iran.

"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," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in statement on September 19.

The U.S. announcement faced strong opposition from the international community, with all parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal questioning the legality of the U.S. measure.

All Signatories to the nuclear deal — officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — said the U.S. had no legal authority to snap back all UN sanctions on Iran, because it withdrew from the deal on May 8, 2018, and thus lost the privileges envisioned in the deal, including the snapback process, which allows a participant to

the JCPOA to restore all UN restrictions on Iran in case it didn't uphold its obligations under the nuclear deal.

European signatories to the deal — Germany, France and the UK (the E3) — said in two joint statements the U.S. measure was "incapable of having legal effect." Russia announced that UN Security Council Resolution 2231 was "unchanged," which means that Russia didn't recognize the U.S. announcement on the return of UN sanctions. China also opposed the return of the international restrictions, calling on the international community to end U.S.'s "farce".

Iran celebrated the U.S. "definite defeat" at the UN.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting on Sunday afternoon, President Hassan Rouhani 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

NIOC inks 13 research deals worth €178m with universities

1 → These deals were signed in line with an Oil Ministry's program for increasing the contribution of the country's universities and knowledge centers in the oil industry projects.

Since the beginning of the program in 2014 up to date, universities and research institutes have been awarded the projects for improving the production of 22 major oil and gas fields with a total value of over €80 million.

Back in August, the head of NIOC's Research and Technology Directorate said the company was going to conduct 25 major research projects worth nearly 700 billion rials (about \$16 million) in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in March 2021).

Ebrahim Taleqani mentioned NIOC Exploration Directorate's agreements with Iranian universities and knowledge-based companies for research in various fields, saying that the Exploration Directorate was tasked to sign seven research agreements, four of which have been signed.

The official noted that other NIOC subsidiaries have also been tasked to increase their research activities and in this regard, almost all of them are going to sign similar research agreements in the near future.

Since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions, Iran has been encouraging domestic companies, universities, and research institutes' presence in its oil and gas projects in all sectors including research, exploration, and development sectors.

Issuance of industrial unit establishment permits rises 40%

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — According to the latest data released by Iran's Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), 14,806 permits have been issued for establishing new industrial units in the country, which mark a 40.3-percent increase year on year.



The units for which the permits have been issued are expected to create jobs for 322,371 persons, IRNA reported.

As previously announced by the ministry, issuance of permits for setting up industrial units in Iran increased 16 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019).

Most of the issued permits were related to the food industries; and Semnan, Qom, and Khorasan Razavi were the provinces receiving the highest number of permits.

Last week, the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) announced that 670 idle industrial units have been revived throughout the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Making the remarks on the sidelines of visiting an industrial unit in the industrial park of the north-central Semnan city, Mohsen Salehinia reiterated, "Taking the especial condition of the production units into account, the ISIPO's measures are in line with creating necessary infrastructure such as electricity and gas, and removing the lack of liquidity for these units and also creating cooperation with other organizations to this end."

The official has said that providing liquidity is the main issue for many of the country's production units, so based on the arrangements made, these units can receive part of their needed liquidity through bank facilities.

"Currently, the share of the country's production and industrial units in receiving bank facilities is about 31 percent and it is necessary to allocate a larger share of banking facilities to the country's production and industry," he added.

Given the position of production in the country's economy and employment, and the fact that production units are facing lack of liquidity to supply raw materials and equipment, it is necessary to increase their share of bank facilities up to at least 40 percent, Salehinia stressed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Given govt. green light, power plants embark on cryptocurrency mining

1 → Tarzatabal noted that creating stable sources of income has become one of the main goals of Iran's electricity industry in recent years, explaining: "Unfortunately, constant price hikes and the obligation for supplying electricity with stable prices to subscribers have caused a large gap between revenues and expenditures in the country's electricity industry, and we need new sources of income to fill this gap."

He pointed to the sale of electricity to

cryptocurrency miners as one of the ways to earn money in the electricity sector and said: "According to the laws and regulations announced by the cabinet and the Energy Ministry, we have been allowed to allocate some capacity of our power plants for mining cryptocurrencies."

According to Tarzatabal, the TPPH is only going to use the power plants' expansion turbines for the mentioned purpose because they do not consume liquid fuels like gas



oil, and only natural gas, which is cleaner, is used as fuel in these turbines.

These turbines are not connected to the

national grid and the electricity generated by them is only used by the power plant itself," he added.

Over 5.8m tons of cement exported in 5 months

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran has exported over 5.847 million tons of cement worth \$127.99 million during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

India, Afghanistan, Russia, Iraq, Qatar, Kenya, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, and Oman were among the countries importing Iranian cement during the mentioned five-month period.

Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan were the top importers of cement from Iran in the said time span.

Iran's annual cement production stands at 85 million tons, and the domestic need for the product is 65 million tons.

The country is among the seven large producers of cement in the world.

Iran has exported about \$7 billion worth of construction materials in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).



As recently announced by the acting minister of industry, mining, and trade, the production of major items in the construction industry is more than double the country's demand for such commodities.

"In this area [the construction industry], not only we do not have any worries about the supply of raw materials;

INTA to officially start implementing vacancy tax law soon

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's Transport and Urban Development Ministry has referred a list of 109,000 vacant housing units in the capital Tehran to the National Tax Administration (INTA) to be taxed under the new vacancy tax law, ILNA reported.

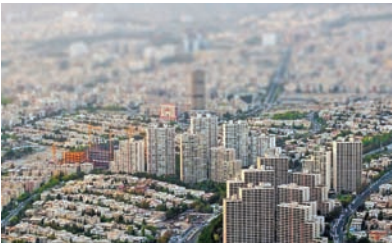
According to the Deputy Transport Minister for Housing and Construction Affairs Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh, the information regarding the owners of the mentioned houses have been given to INTA and the process for collecting tax from them will begin soon.

In the first stage of the implementation of the program for collecting tax from the country's vacant housing units, only units belonging to natural persons are targeted, Mahmoudzadeh said.

"The list of vacant houses belonging to legal entities will also be provided to the tax body soon," he added.

According to Mahmoudzadeh a total of 6.6 million households or 30.7 percent of the country's 18.1 million urban households live in rented homes.

The implementation of the vacancy tax law, as part of Direct Tax Reform Law, was put on the agenda in the Iranian calendar year ending March 2016 and was enforceable from the year ending March 2017, however there was little



data on the number of vacant units then, according to Mahmoud Alizadeh, a senior official with Iran National Tax Administration.

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

In early July 2020, the Iranian parliament (Majlis) approved the double-urgency plan of the vacancy tax law.

Later on, in early September, Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Hossein Hossein-Zadeh had said that the vacancy tax law was in its final stages for being enforced.

As reported, the mentioned plan is mainly aimed at lowering the housing rental rate in the country.

New Russian contractor to start work on power plant south of Iran

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said Russia has changed the contractor that was supposed to work on the Sirik power plant in southern Hormozgan Province and the new contractor is going to start working on the project in the coming weeks.

Iran had signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Russian Company Technopromexport for implementing the 1,400-megawatt power plant project in August 2016, and the Russian side pledged to invest up to €1.2 billion in the project.

The construction of the mentioned thermal power plant started in February 2017, however, it came to a halt due to some administrative and funding problems from the Russian side.

"[After years of postponing] eventually, the Russian side came to the conclusion that the contractor [for the project] should be replaced. On this basis, a new contractor was selected, which is also approved by our country," Ardakanian told IRNA on Monday.

Necessary administrative steps related to this replacement are currently underway, the energy minister said.

Ardakanian noted that the credit line for this project is expected to be opened in



the coming weeks and the new contractor will hopefully start the project's executive operations.

Once fully operational, the Sirik project would add some 12 terawatt-hours (TWh) of power to Iran's current production capacity.

The project has been described as a symbol of Russia's growing inclination to invest in Iran at a time the United States is piling massive economic pressure on the country.

Russia has committed itself to other infrastructure projects in Iran worth nearly \$5 billion.

Back in December 2019, Ardakanian had said that Russia's development projects in Iran, which include a key railway southeast of the country as well as the mentioned power plant, would start in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20) after clearing administrative barriers for transfer of funds and other issues.

More increase in manufacturing of home appliances

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The data released by Iran's Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry show that manufacturing of three home appliance items has experienced growth during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The ministry's data show that 481,600 TV sets have been manufactured during the mentioned five-month period, indicating a growth of 78.7 percent year on year.

Manufacturing of refrigerators and freezers has experienced an 18.8-percent rise to stand at 673,800 units.

Washing machine output stood at 368,400 units, with a 58-percent increase.

In mid-August, the spokesman of Iran's Home Appliances Manufacturers Union said, "One of the country's major manufacturers is going to produce 1.5 million of various affordable home appliances and distribute them in the market by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021)."

According to Hamidreza Ghaznavi, the mentioned appliances include refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, 32 and 43-inch TV sets and vacuum cleaners.



These devices are meant to be distributed among the low-income classes and will be sold in two packages, Ghaznavi said, adding that they will be of good quality and the manufacturer is not going to make any profit from selling them.

Based on the official data published by the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), domestic companies produced 210,200 TV sets, registering a 49.4-percent

TSE experiences sharp decline of its main index on Monday

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 57,088 points to 1.595 million on Monday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 3.354 billion securities worth 49.471 trillion rials (about \$1.177 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

The first market's index fell 47,768 points and the

second market's index dropped 90,648 points.

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).

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,

growth compared to the same period last year.

Also, the production of refrigerators and freezers increased by 7.9 percent to reach 328,500 units and the production of washing machines registered a 115.1-percent rise to reach 207,400 units in the mentioned period.

In early July, Ghaznavi had said that Iran is expected to become an exporter of some home appliance items as of the next Iranian calendar year (starts in March 2021).

"If the currency problems are solved and steel sheets and some petrochemical products are provided for this industry, we will become an exporter of some household appliances by the next year," he said at the time.

In recent years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has not been an exemption and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past two years so that in the previous calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19) this industry's production capacity increased by 10 percent compared to the preceding year.

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.

World's response to U.S. was a “big No”: Foreign Ministry spokesman

Khatibzadeh says “America has become a nervous, psychotic state”

➡ Following is the text of the interview:

■ How do you assess the statement of Antonio Guterres, the UN secretary-general, over legal uncertainty surrounding the U.S. claim to reimpose sanctions in the name of the United Nations?

A: It is clear that the international community's response to the United States was a “big No.” The secretary-general of the United Nations stated it exactly in a legal language what the others said before that. As stated in all comments after his remark, this was another “big No” to the United States.

That is why the secretary-general and the Secretariat will not take any further action.

■ What is the practical impact of the U.S. unilateral action in activating what it calls “snap-back or trigger mechanism”?

A: Two issues need to be highlighted: first it is whether there is basically something called a “snap-back or trigger mechanism”. We do not have such a jargon in Resolution 2231 of the United Nations Security Council nor in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. In fact, this term is a forgery, and Americans have used it many times to achieve their own goals. What is stated in the resolution and in the JCPOA is the “dispute resolution mechanism.”

The second point is that since the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal and ceasing its participation, the United States has waged a campaign of “maximum pressure” against Iran, in which it did everything it could to undermine Iran's abilities and impose all the possible unilateral sanctions against Iran. So, the fuss you see today is a fuss about nothing. They know well that this internal hubbub aims to help Trump inside the country and is related to the upcoming elections in the United States.

On the other hand, they want to intensify the psychological war they have started against the great Iranian nation through this campaign.



However, they know that it has no effect both legally and also in terms of United Nation's internal procedures. Nevertheless, commotions created by Pompeo and Trump and their threat that they will punish the entire world show that they know that their actions are legally ineffective and how null and void is their demand.

■ How do you evaluate the stance of European countries in this regard? Despite the statements issued by Eg (Germany, the United Kingdom, and France) so far, we have not seen any practical steps against the United States.

A: We must differentiate between two issues: First, in the UNSC, Europe and all the permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council have explicitly and decisively stated that the US has no legal standing, which is a “big No” to the United States. This process has led to Washington's isolation.

So, they have been until now committed. This is related to Resolution 2231 and the U.S. unilateral action to restore the previous Security Council resolutions against Iran, which have been all lifted, while all European and non-European countries in the Security Council have stated that the United States has no legal standing to do so.

But in the case of the JCPOA, as we have said many times one the main benefits Iran was expected to get out of the nuclear deal was sanction lifting, which has not been achieved because of the European governments failures to honor their words and fulfill their commitments, especially over the past two years, after the U.S. government ceased its participation in the JCPOA.

They have not been able to fulfill even their smallest obligations. Just look at the INSTEX. As it is clear, a simple and trivial issue like INSTEX was implemented at a

worthless level after working on it for more than two years.

Therefore, regarding the lifting of sanctions, Europe and other partners to the JCPOA failed to fulfill their obligations.

Exactly that was why Iran decided to reduce its commitments within the JCPOA framework.

However, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated that if the remaining participants in the JCPOA fulfill their commitments completely, Iran's measures in reducing its commitment according to the JCPOA (five steps to reduce obligations) are completely reversible.

■ Don't you think that this claim by the U.S. that it has the right to reimpose sweeping UN-mandated sanctions on Iran will put it in a collision course with the UN Security Council?

A: The United States has withdrawn from many of the international deals it has signed, which shows that the White House no longer tolerate multilateralism. The U.S. government is isolating itself with a very steep slope and at a very high speed under the motto of “America first”, which soon turned into “America only”. This slogan has led to widespread isolation for the United States. I think if it were possible, Washington would have left even the Security Council. The action taken by the United States on Saturday, September 20, to undermine the Security Council and the United Nations showed that the United States does not have a proper understanding of international relations.

America has become a nervous, psychotic state. These factors have made the U.S. behave like an impulsive state, which makes irrational decisions. Certainly, these decisions by the United States have put the Security Council and the United Nations in limbo, which is not of course in the best interest of the international community.

Terrorism by the West, and our ally Israel, is not considered terrorism but ‘self-defense’, says Canadian lawyer

“Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims are not allowed the right to resist foreign invaders which is a protected right under International law.”

➡ However, if the intent is to defame and promote hatred of an identifiable group and has no valid political or academic purpose then it crosses the line and becomes hate speech. It should be prosecuted under the laws against hate speech and laws against promoting discrimination. The Charlie Hebdo cartoons, in my opinion, serves no valid political purpose and cross the boundary to be considered hate speech against Muslims.

■ How do you assess double standards of the West in the face of freedom of expression?

A: There is a clear double standard in the West in how it handles the question of free speech. Attacks against Islam are protected under free speech yet criticism of Israel's policies toward the Palestinians is often considered anti-Semitic hate speech.

For example in France there is a case where the lower court found that a number of pro-Palestinian activists were not guilty of inciting people to discriminate against products from the Israeli Occupied West Bank. However, this decision was over turned by a French Appeals Court that found that the pro-Palestinian activists were guilty of inciting discrimination against Israel. This past June, however, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled that French judges were wrong to take penal action against members of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, who staged demonstrations against Israeli-made products, stating the protests did not amount to incitement to discrimination.

The Strasbourg-based ECHR Court said the French judges should have taken into account the fact that “the applicants had not been convicted of making racist or anti-Semitic remarks or of inciting hatred or violence.”

The European Court further noted in its ruling that political speech is by nature controversial, but remains a legitimate public interest, “provided that it did not cross the line and turn into a call for violence, hatred or intolerance.” The Court also ordered that France pay damages and the legal fees of the defendants.

Marco Perolini of Amnesty France said in a statement, this “...landmark decision sets a significant precedent that should stop the misuse of anti-discrimination laws to target activists campaigning against human rights violations perpetrated by Israel against Palestinians.”

In a related matter five UN experts sent a letter slamming Germany's pro-Israel law targeting the BDS movement and that such activity was political and not discriminatory against Jews. Again here is an example of a double standard where BDS activity in support of the Palestinians is attacked as a form of anti-Semitism and not as a legitimate political activity and not protected as “political free speech.”



“The Charlie Hebdo cartoons, in my opinion, serves no valid political purpose and cross the boundary to be considered hate speech against Muslims.”

■ Why is Islamophobia increasing in Western countries?

A: There is an increase in Islamophobia in Western countries. Pro-Palestinian activists are attacked as anti-Semites or for creating an environment that promotes anti-Semitism. There are a number of pro-Israelis organizations that scour the World for activities that present Muslims in a bad light. Unfortunately there are some examples of Muslim bad behavior. Israel helps fund these organizations and publicize examples of Muslim bad behavior. This activity helps promote Islamophobia. Fortunately Muslims are getting much better at protecting their rights. However, a double standard does exist as we see with the Charlie Hebdo cartoons example.

There are also Christian Zionists who support Israel as part of fulfilling the end of times prophecy which result in Armageddon and the destruction of the World. They believe that “Born Again Christians” will ascend into Heaven and those who are not “Born Again Christians” will be thrown into Hell. This belief includes Jews who do not convert to Christianity and as a result many Jews consider Christian Fundamentalists that believe this theory as anti-Semitic and a threat to Jews everywhere. Right-Wing Zionists in Israel ignore this aspect of Christian Zionist thinking and cultivate political support from this group because it is anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian and even anti-Arab. Christians

who are not “Born Again” also according to their beliefs will also be sent to hell. In my opinion this is a very dangerous religious ideology.

■ Analysts argue that mainstream Western media outlets present the facts surrounding terrorism and its causes in a disproportionate way whilst ignoring the vast majority of Muslims who are trying to teach people about the truth of their religion. What do you think?

A: There is a grossly disproportionate representation of terrorism and its victims. Muslims, Arabs and Palestinians are blamed for most acts of terrorism. Terrorism conducted by the West, and our ally Israel, is not considered terrorism but “self-defense.” In terms of people killed far more Muslims, Arabs and Palestinians are killed than Westerners or Israelis. The ratio is probably 100 times more Muslims and Arabs killed than Westerners. Many of the Westerners or Israelis killed are soldiers illegally occupying Arab land and stealing their resources. Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims are not allowed the right to resist foreign invaders which is a protected right under International law.

The United States, according to the Western media, has the right under the so-called “War on Terrorism” to invade countries, bomb them and murder civilians with utter abandon. The United States has recently imposed sanctions against members of the International Criminal Court for daring to investigate possible war crimes committed by U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan. Israel bombing defenseless Palestinians in Gaza, or its many attacks against Syria and Lebanon are also excused as acts of self-defense or somehow justified.

■ In your view, what are appropriate responses to this offensive act?

A: Violence is not an answer. A vigorous educational campaign must be undertaken. The Muslim community has many friends and allies who oppose discrimination and racism in all its forms. This included opposition to anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and discrimination against Christians and all other religions. A strong defense must be mounted in the courts and human rights tribunals.

Muslims must continue their humanitarian work in the communities they live to show that Muslims are “peace loving” and that Islam respects all of the Prophets of the Old Testament and the New Testament and reveres them as part of Islam. Jews, Christians and Muslims worship the same God and share many of the same beliefs. Many people in the West do not know this information as they have been bombarded by anti-Islamic propaganda and misrepresentations. This bias has to change and a lot of work needs to be done.

Lebanon ‘going to hell’ if govt not formed: Aoun

Lebanese President Michel Aoun said on Monday that his country was going “to hell” if a government is not formed as French efforts to encourage the formation of a new cabinet falter.

Asked where Lebanon was headed if there was no agreement among its fractious leaders, Aoun responded: “Of course - to hell.”

“As the positions have grown harder, there appears no solution on the horizon soon,” he said in a televised address almost a week after the passing of the deadline agreed with France to name a cabinet.

According to al Jazeera, over the past year, Lebanon has been rocked by unprecedented protests calling for an overhaul of the political system, a deepening economic crisis, a surging coronavirus outbreak and a massive explosion that devastated the capital, Beirut.

Alarm for Macron as deputy party chief steps down

The number two official in French President Emmanuel Macron's ruling party Monday stepped down, declaring the movement needed an “electric shock” after a string of electoral routs.

The health of Macron's Republic on the Move (LREM) party, created for his successful 2017 presidential campaign, is a growing headache for the president as he prepares to seek reelection in 2022, AFP reported.

The party's number two Pierre Person, who will remain a member, told the Le Monde daily that he was stepping down from his executive post to “give the party a new breath.”

He said he wanted to create an “electric shock” as “cosmetic changes are not going to be enough,” with the party still stuck in its logic that dated from the 2017 presidential election campaign.

India, China commanders meet again on ending border standoff

Senior Indian and Chinese military commanders are holding talks Monday aimed at resolving a tense months long standoff along their disputed border in the mountainous Ladakh region.

Details of the talks, held on the Chinese side in the Mol-do area facing the Indian-controlled Ladakh region, weren't immediately disclosed, AP reported.

For the first time, a senior Indian foreign ministry official was also participating in the military-level meeting, said an Indian official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations. There was no information immediately available from Beijing.

Despite several rounds of talks by military, diplomatic and political officials, including negotiations between the two countries' foreign and defense ministers in Moscow this month, the border tensions have persisted.

Monday's military-level talks come less than two weeks after the two nations' foreign ministers met on Sept. 10 and agreed that their troops should disengage from the tense border standoff, maintain proper distance and ease tensions.

Sudan ready to normalize Israel ties in return for \$3bn

Sudan is apparently prepared to join the UAE and Bahrain in normalizing relations with the Israeli regime in return for over \$3 billion in economic aid, a new report reveals.

A “decisive” meeting is to be held in Abu Dhabi on Monday on a possible normalization agreement between Sudan and Israel, a report by the American news website Axios revealed late Sunday.

According to Sudanese sources cited by Axios, an announcement on a normalization agreement with Israel similar to the ones struck with the UAE and Bahrain could be made within days should Washington and Abu Dhabi accommodate Khartoum's request.

What Sudan demands is more than \$3 billion in humanitarian assistance and direct budgetary aid in order to deal with an economic crisis and fallout from devastating floods, as well as a commitment by the U.S. and the UAE to providing Sudan with economic aid over the next three years.

In addition to economic aid, the Sudanese government wants the Trump administration to remove Sudan from the State Department's state sponsors of terrorism list. This issue is indirectly connected to the normalization deal with Israel.

Resistance News

Hamas lashes out at U.S. denunciation of Haneyya's visit to Lebanon

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN**— Hamas Movement strongly condemned the statements of Nathan Sales, the U.S. ambassador at the State Department, about the visit of the head of the Movement's political bureau, Ismail Haneyya, to Lebanon.

Hamas said in a statement on Sunday that this is a direct incitement against the Movement and its leaders and the U.S. administration bears full responsibility for its implications and consequences.

Hamas reiterated its assertion that it is a Palestinian national liberation movement that defends the freedom, rights and dignity of the Palestinian people in the face of a racist Zionist occupation and this is a right guaranteed by all heavenly and international laws.

“The real terrorism is what the occupation has practiced for more than seventy years, as well as the American political, military and financial cover for this occupation, which is direct participation in this terrorism,” Hamas charged.

Hamas advised the US administration to stop such absurdity and double standards and respect the international law and the Palestinian people's right to live in freedom and dignity.

China air force video appears to show simulated attack on U.S. base on Guam

China's air force has released a video showing nuclear-capable H-6 bombers carrying out a simulated attack on what appears to be Andersen Air Force Base on the U.S. Pacific island of Guam, as regional tensions rise.

The video, released on Saturday on the People's Liberation Army Air Force Weibo

account, came as China carried out a second day of drills near Chinese-claimed Taiwan, to express anger at the visit of a senior U.S. State Department official to Taipei, Reuters reported.

Guam is home to major U.S. military facilities, including the air base, which would

be key to responding to any conflict in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Chinese air force's two minute and 15 second video, set to solemn, dramatic music like a trailer for a Hollywood movie, shows H-6 bombers taking off from a desert base. The video is called “The god of war H-6K

goes on the attack!”

Halfway through, a pilot presses a button and looses off a missile at an unidentified seaside runway.

The missile homes in on the runway, a satellite image of which is shown that looks exactly like the layout of Andersen.

Iran to become member of UNWTO ‘influential’ committees

➔ **1** Teymouri represented the Islamic Republic at the three-day event, which also discussed rural tourism and ways to empower local communities through generating jobs and sustainable development as well as practical actions to realize the scheme of the previously-declared “Accessible Tourism Destination”.



Deputy tourism minister Vali Teymouri in an undated photo.

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

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

German diplomat visits National Museum of Iran, discusses ways to expand ties

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Stephan Reitze, the first secretary and head of the cultural section at the German Embassy in Tehran, toured the National Museum of Iran on Sunday, discussing ways with the museum’s director Jebrael Nokandeh to deepen bilateral ties.



Reitze attached importance to the roles museums can play in bringing the nations closer. He also appreciated efforts made by the National Museum of Iran, as a major cultural entity, for fulfilling its duties, the National Museum of Iran announced in a press release.

The German diplomat also announced readiness to boost cooperation in scientific arenas of museology and archaeology.

The National Museum of Iran embraces priceless relics that represent various eras of the country’s rich history. Its structure was completed in 1928 based on the design by French architect André Godard who was also an archaeologist and historian of French and Middle Eastern Art.

Masterpieces of Persian art at National Museum of Iran: Kelardasht Golden Cup

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — The lion makes repeated appearances in Iranian prehistoric and historic artworks. Here is a nice example from Kalar Dasht, Mazandaran. It is a golden cup, which is named after the place it was excavat-



ed, dates back to the late 2nd millennium BC and now is being kept at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

The Kelardasht Golden Cup (Height 10 cm, Upper diameter 16 cm) is a straight-sided gold bowl showing prowling lions with their head in the round projecting from the bowl. This golden cup was discovered in the 1930s in an Iron Age grave along with other golden objects such as a dagger in Kalar Dasht County, a curator at the museum told the Tehran Times.

It was transferred to Iran Bastan Museum of the National Museum of Iran in 1944 and later was displayed in international exhibitions held in Europe.

Another part of temple, where Avicenna jailed, unearthed in central Iran

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Another part of an ancient fire temple, which is believed to be the place where Avicenna, the illustrious Persian polymath was exiled to and jailed, has recently been unearthed in a rural district, central Iran.

“Another part of an ancient fire temple, which is located near Fardeqan village of Markazi province, has recently been excavated in a fresh round of archaeological survey underway on [the previously-found] monument,” senior archaeologist Mohsen Karimi said on Monday, ISNA reported.

“The architectural layout of the fire temple

is in the form of Chartaqi (a prominent element in Iranian architecture)... and according to a series of field and comparative studies, the fire temple should be the one cited in historical documents as once being a place where Ibn Sina (often known in the West as Avicenna) was exiled to and imprisoned for a while....”

Avicenna (born 980, near Bukhara, Iran [now in Uzbekistan]—died 1037, Hamadan, Iran) was the most famous and influential of the philosopher-scientists of the medieval Islamic world. He was particularly noted for his contributions in the fields of Aristotelian



philosophy and medicine. He composed the Kitab al-shifa (Book of the Cure), a vast philosophical and scientific encyclopedia, and

Al-Qanun f? al-?ibb (The Canon of Medicine), which is among the most famous books in the history of medicine.

Three natural properties added to National Heritage list

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Three natural spots and properties in southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province have recently been inscribed on the National Heritage list, IRNA reported on Monday.

Sheikh Alikhan Waterfall and Chama Ice Cave, both in the city of Koohrang, as well as a 250-year-old walnut tree in Gahru city, were added to the list due to their uniqueness, local tourism official Farideh Ahmadi said.

She also noted that 20 natural properties across the province have been registered on the list so far.

Located almost 90 kilometers from the provincial capital of Shahr-e Kord, near a village with the same name, Sheikh Alikhan Waterfall is one of the unique natural beauties of the region.

The waterfall has the most beautiful view in spring and the highest amount of water, with the overturned tulip bloom around it.

In winter it turns to a frozen waterfall, which challenges



ice climbers and nature tourists.

The other top destinations for nature travelers in the region is Chama Ice Cave, which despite its natural beauty, is very dangerous.

Located in the central part of Koohrang city, the ice cave is

Ancient salt mine to become more tourist-friendly

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — A historically-rich salt mine in Iran’s northwestern Zanjan province, where several salt men and their personal belongings have been discovered so far, will be equipped with tourist-friendly, safety, and electronic systems such as closed-circuit television cameras.

“Fifteen cameras will be installed in Chehrabad Salt Mine in order to enhance the safety of the site museum,” provincial tourism chief Amir Arjmand said on Sunday.

It is part of a scheme for boosting tourism infrastructure at the ancient site and other travel destinations across the province, the official added.

The first salt mummy, dated to 300 CE, was discovered at the site in 1993, sporting a long white beard, iron knives, and a single gold earring. In



2004 another mummy was discovered only 50 feet away, followed by another in 2005 and a “teenage” boy mummy later that year.

In 2005, a systematic excavation began, three more mummies were excavated, and a sixth remained in situ, due to lack of funds for its storage. The context of the remains suggested that a collapse in the mine had caused the death of the miners in question.

Some \$24m allocated to tourism projects in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Over one trillion rials (some \$24 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to nine tourism projects across southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, a provincial tourism chief has said. Bibi Hakimeh Welfare Camp, Yasuj gondola lift and water park, and Mugarmun tourist complexes are among the projects being implemented, Rahim Dadinejad announced on Monday.

He also noted that developing tourism infrastructure in the province is one of the province’s tourism department priorities and is being pursued seriously.

Some 22 historical structures across the province have been added to the National Heritage list, while 45 aging monuments have been restored over the past seven years, the official added.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province is



known for its nomads and nomadic life. Sight-seers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

The province attracted over four million people, mostly domestic travelers, during the Iranian year 1397 (ended March 2019), according to data announced by the provincial tourism department.

Italian travel marketers, tour operators visit Gorgan

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — A delegation of top travel marketers and tour operators from Italy have visited the historical structure of Gorgan, the capital of Golestan Province in northern Iran.

Ways to deepen bilateral ties in tourism were discussed during a meeting held on the sidelines of the visit on Saturday.

The cultural heritage of each nation should be preserved and pass on to the next generations, said Stefano d’Santos, a manager of an Italian tourism company.

“If tourism is directed in the right direction and traditions and customs are taken into account in this direction, the cultural heritage could be preserved more properly.”

Iranian provincial tourism chief Ahmad Tajari, for his part, mentioned that as one of the features of Golestan



province is the presence of different ethnic groups together while preserving their originality and traditions,

this province, which is known as little Iran, could host tourists of all tastes in the field of ecotourism.

Referring to the rich historical background of the province, he also noted that Iranian provinces hold the potential to attract more foreign tourists.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus — a one-millennium-old brick tower — amongst its most famous.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Museum dedicated to printing industry being built in Bushehr

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — A cultural heritage museum, dedicated to the printing industry, is being constructed in the port city of Bushehr, southwest Iran.

“A publishing museum will be set up in Bushehr with the goal of preserving historical works and objects left from the past in the port city,” Nasrollah Ebrahimi, a local tourism official, said on Monday.

“The history of publishing and printed media in Bushehr goes to some 100 years and that was the reason behind the idea of establishing such a museum.”

“Cultural, political, and economic exchange with other parts of the world led to cultural and political promotion and the expansion of the publication of various weekly magazines in Bushehr since the Constitutional Revolu-

tion [of Iran].... and this matter increases the need for the launch of a museum,” the official explained.

The Constitutional Revolution took place between 1905 and 1911. The revolution led to the establishment of a parliament in the country during the Qajar era. It was a period of unprecedented debate in a burgeoning press and new economic opportunities.



Academic research starts on restoring Gonbad-e Qabus

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — An academic research has been commenced on protecting and restoring the UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus in the northern province of Golestan.

Organized by Golestan University, the research aims at managing, supervising, and documenting the related restoration projects being carried out by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, ISNA reported on Monday.

The one-millennium-old brick tower is of high architectural importance as an exemplar and innovative design of the early-Islamic-era architecture.

Also called Gonbad-e Kavus, the brick tower is located in a city of the same name.

The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to

the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

The long-lasting structure capped by an eye-catching conical roof boasts intricate geometric principles and patterns which embellish parts of its load-bearing brickwork.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond.

Two encircling inscriptions in Kufic calligraphy date the tower to 1006-7 CE while commemorating Qabus Ibn Voshmgir, Ziyarid ruler, and literati (reigned 978-1012).

The UNESCO also credits Gonbad-e Qabus as “an outstanding and technologically innovative example of Islamic architecture that influenced sacral building in Iran, Anatolia, and Central Asia.”



Iran ranks 4th at IOI 2020

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran finished fourth winning three gold medals and a silver medal at the 32nd International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2020) which was held in Singapore on September 13 to 19.

Shayan Pardis, Ali Safari, and Kasra Mazaheri won gold medals and Abolfazl Samani won the silver one in the International Olympiad, which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

China, the United States, and South Korea ranked first to third, Mehr news agency reported.

The International Olympiad in Informatics is one of several international science Olympiads held annually around the world. Exceptional high school students from various countries compete in the prestigious algorithmic competition to sharpen their informatics skills, such



as problem analysis, design of algorithms and data structures, programming, and testing.

Each participating country selects a team of up to four contestants to represent their nation. The team, accompanied by a team leader and deputy leader, will compete in a two-day competition. Each contestant competes individually to maximize their score by solving three algorithmic problems within five hours.

It aims to discover exceptional high school students for their talent in the field of informatics, and foster friendly international relationships among educators, bring the discipline of informatics to the attention of young people.

The IOI 2019 held in Baku, Azerbaijan on August 4 to 11. And the next edition of the competition will be hosted by Singapore onsite, from June 20-27, 2021.

Tehran to host USERN 2020 congress

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Tehran will host the 5th Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN) Congress, which is going to be held virtually on November 7-10.

The first session of this conference was held in 2016 at Tehran University of Medical Sciences and in 2020 Iran will host this international conference for the second time.

The scientific program is enriched with scientific lectures and workshops delivered by the top 1 percent expert scientists, in addition to the International Festival of Paintings for Pediatric Patients (IFPPP), and Miniature Talk (mTalk).

The event is followed by post-congress tours to Shiraz and Isfahan on November 11-14.

USERN has been established with the main purpose of peaceful and humanitarian promotion of education and research, universally, said Nima Rezaei, USERN Founding President.

There are more than 350 top scientists, including fifteen Nobel/Abel Laureates, among the advisory board members of USERN, he added.

The theme of the Congress this year will be "Science to Society", emphasizing the important role of



multidisciplinary studies to society, he stated.

"More than 14,000 people have been nominated for the 2020 USERN Prize.

In this international conference, out of a total of 10 selected candidates, one person in each field will be introduced as the top 1 percent of scientists and Nobel Prize winners.

In the last four years, USERN has undertaken valuable activities including holding more than 500 scientific events, writing 800 articles, forming 90 interdisciplinary departments, signing international

agreements, establishing domestic and foreign offices," Rezaei explained.

USERN, the official acronym of Universal Scientific Education and Research Network, is a non-governmental network for peaceful non-military scientific executions and policy-making.

Established in 2016, USERN is organized exclusively for the advancement of authentic, ethical, and professional scientific research and education and consequently advancement of science for non-military purposes and the public good.

USERN Prize has been also established in order to identify the most talented qualified junior scientists in all areas of science, who have devoted their time to science promotion and performed outstanding scientific projects so far. The bests in each field will be awarded each year to be distinguished to the scientific world and to be acknowledged for their humanitarian efforts.

The USERN Prize Awarding Festival will be held annually on November 10, the Global Day of Science for Peace and Development.

The international conference and Award, from 2016 to 2019, has been hosted every year by Iran, Ukraine, Italy, and Hungary, respectively.

Afghan coach helps young refugees back to school in Iran

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Rozma Ghafouri, a 29-year-old sports coach, draws on her own to get young refugees and undocumented Afghans aged between 11 and 15, out of work, and back into school.

"Sport is the best way I have found to help children in a vulnerable situation to open up. After every practice, I speak to them about everything and anything until they feel comfortable to talk to me about the issues they are facing at home," says Rozma.

"I used to see Afghan children working instead of playing. They wore used work clothes instead of being in uniforms. They weren't smiling," recalls Rozma. "Through sports activities, we are able to get many of these children to forget their challenges."

Rozma and her family fled Afghanistan 23 years ago. After working as a laborer for much of her childhood, she founded the Youth Initiative Fund in Iran's southern city of Shiraz in 2015 to help at-risk children.

With the backing of UNHCR, and its

Iranian government counterpart, the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA), the project now helps some 400 children a year, many of them out-of-school girls, through inclusion in sports and social activities, enrollment in literacy and numeracy courses and counseling with their families. Seeing what an impact the project has had on Afghan children's lives in Shiraz, UNHCR and BAFIA are in the process of duplicating it in other provinces of Iran.

Every day, volunteers with the Youth Initiative — who include Afghans and Iranians — go door to door in the neighborhoods of Shiraz to talk to the parents of children who have either never gone to school or have had to drop out. Rozma and the team build a relationship with the parents and seek permission for their children to come to sports practice every week.

As the parents see the positive change that sports activities led by Rozma have on their children, they become more willing to listen to her pleas to let them go to school.



"It is difficult to try to convince parents who are most worried about putting food on the table that their children should be allowed to just be children and go to school," she says, recalling the countless times she has had doors slammed in her face.

While both boys and girls must often work to help their families, girls face the added challenge of cultural norms which view it as unnecessary for daughters to be educated. Some in the Afghan community are also pressured into early marriage.

For her dedication to helping young

Afghans in Iran, Rozma has been chosen as the regional winner for Asia for UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award, a prestigious annual prize that honors those who have gone to extraordinary lengths to help forcibly displaced or stateless people.

The Nansen Refugee Award is named in honor of Norwegian explorer, humanitarian, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Fridtjof Nansen, the first High Commissioner for Refugees, who was appointed by the League of Nations in 1921. It aims to showcase his values of perseverance and commitment in the face of adversity.

This year's award laureate will be announced on 1 October and the prize will be presented by UNHCR at a virtual ceremony on October 5.

Rozma was nearly six years old when the Taliban overran her hometown in the northeast Afghan province of Kapisa and she fled the country with her parents and four siblings. In Iran, she was safe, but during her first years in exile, the family barely had enough to live on, let alone to cover school fees.

70% of nomads in Tehran province use renewable energy

1→ More than 90 percent of these small-scaled power stations have been installed in underprivileged areas, according to the Director-General of SATBA's

Regulatory Office, Mojtaba Loni.

The power stations are installed to promote the use of renewable energy sources in the

country, and in this regard, the government also guarantees the purchase of the excess electricity from these units.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

50bcm of groundwater withdrawn annually in Iran

An annual amount of 50 billion cubic meters of groundwater resources are withdrawn to supply agricultural, industrial as well as drinking water in Iran, a researcher in the field of water resources has stated.

The amount is 10 times greater than the water covering Lake Urmia, amounting to 5 billion cubic meters, ISNA news agency quoted Mohammad Reza Goldansaz as saying on Sunday.

About 60 percent of drinking water and the water used in industrial sector and 50 percent of the water consumed in agriculture sector is pumped from aquifers, he noted.

Referring to the country being highly dependent on underground water, Goldansaz said that if the resource runs out, we will face serious problems.

سالی ۵۰ میلیارد متر مکعب از آب‌های زیرزمینی برداشت می‌شود

یک پژوهشگر حوزه منابع آب با اشاره به اینکه سالانه ۵۰ میلیارد متر مکعب از منابع آب زیرزمینی برای مصارف خانگی، صنعت و مصارف کشاورزی برداشت می‌شود.

محمد رضا گلدانساز در گفت و گو با ایسنا اظهار داشت: سالانه حدود ۵۰ میلیارد متر مکعب از منابع آب زیرزمینی برداشت می‌شود که این مقدار به اندازه حجم ۱۰ دریاچه ارومیه است.

وی با بیان اینکه وابستگی ما به آب زیرزمینی بسیار زیاد است و اگر روزی این منبع تمام شود با مشکلات زیادی روبرو می‌شویم، اظهار کرد: در کشور ما به دلیل وجود شرایط اقلیمی خشک و نیمه خشک، وابستگی به منابع آب زیرزمینی قابل توجه است و حدود ۶۰ درصد مصارف خانگی و صنعت و حدود ۵۰ درصد مصارف کشاورزی توسط آب زیرزمینی تأمین می‌شود.

Tehran's Milad Tower lit up in gold for children fighting cancer

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Milad Tower of Tehran has joined the global Gold September campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer by lighting up in gold on Sunday night.

Milad Tower, in a global event, along with the most famous towers around the world, including Canada, England, Belgium, China, and Malaysia, illuminated in gold, which is the color of childhood cancer awareness.

September is designated Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to bring awareness to childhood cancer, which remains the leading cause of death by disease for children under the age of 14.

The symbolic gesture of lighting the buildings in gold is bringing the burden of childhood cancer under the attention of all stakeholders and citizens that too many young lives are still lost to childhood cancer.

Over 300,000 children worldwide develop cancer each year. If the disease is detected early enough, many of these children can be cured - 80 percent of children with cancer in the high-income world survive. However, in low and middle-income countries, survival rates can be as low as 20 percent, according to WHO.



Arjan Biosphere Reserve: from terrestrial to aquatic life

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — The Arjan and Parishan Biosphere Reserve, situated in the Zagros Mountains in the Caucasus-Iranian highlands, encompasses terrestrial as well as water habitats, where significant elevation difference creates a rich diversity of flora and fauna.

The Reserve has two entirely different climates and elevations ranging from 800 m to 2,400 m. This has resulted in diverse living conditions and habitats throughout the area, which include the Zagros forests in the central and southern parts, the Miyankotal highlands, and the Arjan and Parishan wetlands.



The existence of two wetlands in the area provides a wide variety of aquatic fauna and flora species to the biotic community of the reserve. Recent studies carried out in the Fars Province identified 2,253 species of flora and 398 species of fauna (including 60 mammal species, 43 fish species, 41 creeper species, and 4 amphibian species) in the area.

The biosphere reserve has been listed as a Ramsar site, meeting the ecological and biodiversity criteria of this universal convention, according to the UNESCO website.

The area encompasses 29 villages, of which only 17 are concentrated around the Parishan wetland with the remainder scattered throughout the reserve. Additionally, a large number of nomads spread out across the reserve during the summer. Taken together, the reserve serves a constant population of approximately 14,000 people and more than 4,500 nomads.

The rural population inhabiting the reserve is drawn mainly from three tribes: Fars, Arab, and Turk. Agriculture is the main economic activity in the area, while the people living near the wetlands practice traditional fishery and those on the eastern edge of the wetlands rear livestock and produce dairy products.

The principal problems facing the biosphere reserve are the result of land-use changes for agricultural use, groundwater depletion, overgrazing, and illegal hunting and fishing. The need to increase public awareness of these issues and review license rights is therefore a key challenge in the reserve.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 31)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

■ **Genetive After Vowels** — As a general rule, two successive

vowels are separated by the mediatory consonant ی :

آقا + آقاي دکتر
دانشجو + دانشجوي زبان
بچه + بچهي من
صندلي + صندلي شما

ی does not join to first names ending in ل when they precede

مهسا نامدار family names:

● Exercise 3. Make into ezafe phrases: ➡ workbook

۱. پنجره + کلاس
۲. قشنگ + بچه
۳. شماره + پنج
۴. کوچک + مهسا
۵. دانشجو + زبان
۶. خوب + آقا

● **After Vowels** — The ل of است is elided in reading,

and may be omitted in writing after the vowels /ā/, /i/ and /u/:

این میز ما است. /māst/ این میز ماست.

او دانشجو است. /dānešjust/ او دانشجوست.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Avoid doing things that would make you apologize;
since a believer won't commit a wrong action
that would make him/her sorry.

Imam Hussein (AS)

Sculptor Nahid Saliani passes away at 84

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — Iranian sculptor Nahid Saliani died of sepsis caused by a fracture in her arm at a Tehran hospital on Sunday. She was 84.

Saliani broke her arm in an accident in the northern Iranian city of Rasht. She was transferred to Arad Hospital in Tehran after the fracture caused sepsis and doctors in Rasht failed to deal with the problem.



This combination photo shows sculptor Nahid Saliani and her sculpture "Mother and Son" in the courtyard of the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran.

However, the doctors' attempts at the Tehran hospital were also in vain and ultimately Saliani died.

Born in Bandar Anzali, Saliani left the northern Iranian port city for Tehran after completing her basic education.

She received a BA in sculpture from the College of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran in 1959 and won a scholarship to the Academy of Fine Arts of Rome.

Rome and other Italian cities, including Florence and Naples, hosted numerous exhibitions that Saliani and her fellow students organized during her college years.

France was her next stop where she attended a one-year course on sculpture and held several exhibitions.

She returned home afterwards and began a teaching career at the College of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran.

Her memory lives on by her works, including "Mother and Son", a huge bronze sculpture that is located in the courtyard of the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran.

Jonathan Fenby's "Will China Dominate the 21st Century?" published in Persian

CULTURE d e s k TEHRAN — British writer Jonathan Fenby's book "Will China Dominate the 21st Century?" has recently been published by the Qoqnu Publishing House in Tehran. Shahriar Khajian is the translator of the book, which was originally published by Polity in 2014.

China's spectacular growth and expanding global role have led to visions of the 21st century being dominated by the last



Front cover of the Persian translation of British writer Jonathan Fenby's book "Will China Dominate the 21st Century?"

major state on earth ruled by a Communist Party. In his widely acclaimed book, renowned China expert Fenby shows why such assumptions are wrong.

He presents an analysis of China under Xi Jinping which shows the highly significant challenges the country faces which stand in the way of global domination.

For all its spectacular growth, it has to deal with major political, economic, social and international tests, each involving structural difficulties that will put the system under strain.

Based on the author's extensive knowledge of contemporary China and his close analysis of Xi's leadership, this incisive analysis offers a pragmatic view of where the country is heading at a time when its future is too important an issue for wishful theorizing.

Fenby is a former editor of the Observer and South China Morning Post and a founding partner and Managing Director of Trusted Sources Research Service.

He is an author of several popular books on China, including the acclaimed "Tiger Head, Snake Tails" (2013) and "The Penguin History of Modern China" (2009).

Films, art shows observing war anniversary at Sacred Defense Museum

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — The Sacred Defense Museum in Tehran is organizing a variety of programs to observe the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is known as the Sacred Defense in Iran.

The program began with honoring one million war veterans across the country during an online ceremony, which was attended by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The museum will be hosting an exhibition, which will showcase documents on the roles various organizations had in the development of Iran's strategies in the war, the Managing Director of the museum, Ali-Asghar Jafari, said in a press conference on Monday.

The exhibition, which will open on Wednesday, will be organized in collaboration with the relevant organizations.

Over 40 short films, documentaries as well as radio and TV programs are under production with the collaboration of the museum and will be aired on different IRIB channels.

A 100-episode documentary named "Criterion" and a 150-episode series entitled "Children of Ruhollah" are among the documentaries under production by the



People visit the Sacred Defense Museum in Tehran in an undated photo. (Tasnim/Vahid Ahmadi)

museum, which will be broadcast on television during the year.

The museum also plans to produce 40 short films in collaboration with the IRIB

War book publishers launch mutual virtual fair



A number of books from the Sureh-Mehr publishing house on display on the online book fair "Roshanaye Khatereha".

→1 All the books on display at the fair are being offered at a discount of 20 percent and free delivery.

Sureh-Mehr plans to introduce several of its latest offerings during special programs during the book fair, which will run until October 8.

Among the books are "Battle Commanders", which is composed of seven volumes written by Sassan Nateq. Each book is dedicated to one senior Iranian commander, reviewing his role in the development of the country's strategies in the war.

"Hajji Jalal" by Leila Nazari and "He Was a Red Handkerchief" will also be reviewed in online sessions, which will be attended by their writers.

Besat 27 director Maziar Hatami said that the publisher is participating in this fair with displaying 100 titles from its

latest offerings in the categories of biography, operational reporting and memoirs.

The publisher also plans to release several new books during the book fair. The books are scheduled to be introduced in special meetings, which will take place in several cultural centers.

"Days of Lajevardi", a biography of the chief of Imam Sajjad Cavalry Squadron, Seyyed Mehdi Lajevardi, and "The Mountain on Fire", a military report written by Golali Babai on the 27th Muhammad Rasulullah Division's role in Wa al-Fajr Operation 4, are among the books.

"Soldiers of Hamzah" written by Masud Dehnamaki will also be introduced by the publisher. The book gives a report on the Hamzah Squadron during the war.

The online book fair can be found on roshana.sooremehr.ir.

Konya Mystic Music Festival to celebrate Rumi's birthday with Shajarian concert recording

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — The Konya Mystic Music Festival in Turkey plans to celebrate the 813th birthday anniversary of Persian mystic and poet Jalal ad-Din Rumi online tonight with a recording of a concert Iranian vocalist Mohammadreza Shajarian had performed at the mausoleum of Rumi a few years ago.

The Konya Mystic Music Festival is organized by the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism of Konya every year to celebrate the



A poster for the Konya Mystic Music Festival.

birthday of Rumi on September 30.

Vocalist Alireza Qorbani is expected to join the program on September 29.

The program running from September 22 to 30 is available on mistikmuzik.com.tr. Iranian ensembles are frequent visitors to the festival.

Shajarian gave a concert with his ensemble Shahnaz in Konya on September 2015.

Shajarian along with the Shahnaz Ensemble earlier gave a performance in Konya

in December 2009. Turkey's International Mevlana Foundation honored Shajarian with a Golden Pin during the concert.

He received the award from Rumi's 22nd niece Esin Celebi, who is also the deputy director of the foundation.

In addition, the Shams Ensemble led by veteran tambur virtuoso Keykhosro Purnazeri performed in company with Shajarian's son Homayun at the festival in Konya in 2018.

Iranian orchestra Pako records album with narrations by writer Mahmud Dowlatabadi

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — The Iranian orchestra Pako has recorded an album titled "The Art of Peace" with narrations by prominent Iranian novelist Mahmud Dowlatabadi.

Over 70 musicians from 24 countries have collaborated with the orchestra in this collection. One of its pieces is scheduled to be released online in the near future.

The orchestra has made use of varied original and traditional instruments from different civilizations.

The orchestra has been established to promote peace and friendship, and fight against war and violence.

Writer Dowlatabadi was born in the Dowlatabad

Village of Sabzevar in 1940. Self-educated and forced to work from childhood, Dowlatabadi spent part of his younger adult years as a stage actor in Tehran.

His monumental 3,000-page saga "Kelidar" narrates the lives of Kurdish tribes and peasants from a poverty-stricken village in Khorasan Province during the mid-1940s.

"Desert Strata", "The Trip", "The Legend of Baba Sobhan", "The Cowherd", "Aqil", "Man" and "Missing Soluch" are among Dowlatabadi's noteworthy credits.

"Kelidar" is the name of a mountain situated in proximity to the cities of Sabzevar, Neyshabur and Quchan.



Mahmud Dowlatabadi in an undated photo. (ISNA/Mehdi Qasemi)

Photo exhibit "For Khorramshahr" opens at Iranian Artists Forum

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — A group photo exhibition named "For Khorramshahr" is currently underway at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran.

The exhibition, which has been organized

to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, features 26 photos from the days Khorramshahr in southwestern Iran was captured by Iraqi forces.

The exhibit has been arranged in collaboration with Iran's Association of

Revolution and Sacred Defense Photographers and will be running for one week.

Khorramshahr was captured by Iraqis on October 26, 1980 during the early months of the war and was liberated on May 24, 1982.

Tehran photo exhibit to explore life in North Korea

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — "A Half of One-Sixth of Pyongyang", an exhibition of photos by Iranian photographer Seyyed Mojtaba Doai taken during his two trips to North Korea will open at Aban Gallery in Tehran on Friday.

The photographer has tried to give a live image of the society where entrance to the country and communication with its people are restricted.

Doai had accompanied Reza Amirkhani, the author

of the bestselling Persian novel "Salvation", in his trips to the country.

Amirkhani had visited the North Korean capital of Pyongyang during June 2018 as a documentarian, and wrote a book "A Half of One-Sixth of Pyongyang", which was published by the Ofoq publishing company in March 2020.

The exhibit will be running until October 16 at the gallery located at West Sepand St., Nejatollahi Ave.



A photo taken by Iranian photographer Seyyed Mojtabab Doai.