



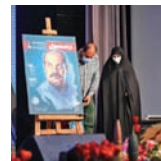
There would be no limitation on arms deals with Iran by mid-October **3**



Saman Ghoddos joins Championship club Brentford **3**



Hospital beds capacity rises to improve medical system **7**



Resistance festival opens with tribute to war cinema dead **8**

U.S. can impose neither negotiations, nor war on us



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U.S behaving like a bully and has isolated itself: Iran's ambassador to UK

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — Hamid Baeidinejad, Iran's ambassador to the UK, says the United States is behaving like a bully and this has led to the isolation of the country in the world.

"The U.S is behaving like a bully and has isolated itself from the international community," Hamid Baeidinejad tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

In a statement late on Saturday, Sep-

tember 20, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that all UN sanctions against Iran have returned.

However, all parties to the nuclear deal including the E3 — the United Kingdom, Germany and France — European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, and Russia issued statements insisting that the move is illegal because the U.S. is no longer a member of the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal. **→5**

Kabul hosting Iran's 1st water, electricity specialized exhibition

TEHRAN — Iran's first specialized exhibition of water and electricity industry was opened in Kabul on Tuesday, the Energy Ministry portal (Paven) reported.

The opening ceremony was attended by senior officials from the two sides including Iran's Deputy Energy Minister Homayoun Haeri.

Over 70 Iranian companies are showcasing their latest products and

achievements in the fields of energy, urban services, engineering, and telecommunications during this three-day event.

Speaking in the ceremony, Haeri said: "As the chair of the two countries' joint economic committee, the energy minister has paid special attention to the expansion of relations between the two countries and has announced its readiness to further develop energy cooperation." **→4**

Iran sympathizes with Lebanon in music video "Restless for Balqis"

TEHRAN — Iran expressed its sympathy with Lebanon on last month's disastrous blast in Beirut by a music video named "Restless for Balqis".

Iran's National Orchestra under the baton of Lebanese maestro Andre AlHaj along with prominent vocalist Hamidreza Nurbakhsh has performed the piece composed by Fardin Khalatbari with lyrics from Ahura Iman.

The music video was unveiled in a

special meeting held at Tehran's Rudaki Hall on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Hussein al-Ajami, an advisor at the Lebanese Ministry of Culture, conductor AlHaj, Iran's Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs, Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini and dozens of Iranian cultural figures.

"Greetings from Beirut to Tehran, greetings from Tehran to Beirut," Al-Ajami said in a short speech he made during the meeting. **→8**

Iran's resilient economy priority projects yielding fruit in sanctions era

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN — It has been years since Iran decided to pursue a "resilient economy" that is less dependent on oil, and more focused on developing other aspects like refining, petrochemicals and industry.

In this regard, the Iranian government has been defining several prioritized projects each year under the framework of a plan for moving toward the prospects of the oil-free resilient economy, and a Resilient Economy Command Headquarters has also been established to supervise the affairs related to these projects and ensure a smooth and continuous move toward the mentioned goals.

Now, few years after the implementation of this program, and with numerous macro projects going operational across the country, the significance of this wise decision is starting to show. Despite all the pressures imposed by external factors like the U.S. sanctions and the outbreak of the coronavirus, the Iranian economy has become resilient enough to withstand the hardships.

The income and revenues of some of the mentioned projects are also helping fill the budget deficit created by the decline in the country's oil exports due to the U.S. sanctions and the falling oil prices in the global markets.

Priority projects

Every year, the Secretariat of the Resilient Economy Command Headquarters assigns each ministry with a number of prioritized projects and the ministries are obliged to follow up on the implementation of the mentioned projects.

In the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), 76 projects were introduced and implemented across the country, and in the current calendar year, too, 110 prioritized projects have been defined for the country's ministries to pursue.

This year's projects cover a variety of areas including the development of the country's refineries and petrochemical plants, development of electronic services and systems, the expansion of the country's highway network, reviewing and reforming the higher education system, as well as developing the production of medicinal plants, etc. **→4**

Show must go on: E3 will not stand against U.S.

TEHRAN — In a rare move, the European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and the world powers issued a joint statement to denounce the U.S. effort to restore international sanctions on Iran nearly two days before the U.S. announced the return of these sanctions, a move that was seen by some analysts as a sign of transatlantic coordination on Iran.

On September 19, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo took a measure that sent diplomatic shock waves across the world. In a statement on that day, Pompeo announced the return of "all previously terminated UN sanctions" on Iran, a highly controversial measure that was met with global backlash from U.S. friends or foes alike.

"Today, the United States welcomes the return of virtually all previously terminated UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic of

Iran.... Sanctions are being re-imposed on Iran pursuant to the snapback process under UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 2231," the statement said.

All parties to the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), opposed the U.S. measure, saying the White House had no legal right to reinstate the UN sanctions on Iran. However, the response of the European signatories to the deal — Germany, France, and the UK (E3) — raised questions on whether the E3 were really opposing the U.S. unilateral measure.

The Europeans were aware of the U.S. measure, according to Hossein Kanani Moqaddam, an expert on Iran's foreign policy. They want to coordinate their steps with the global community because they are unsure about who will win the U.S. presidential election in November, the expert said. **→3**

U.S. protests: Some protests against police brutality take a more confrontational approach

Terrance Moses was watching protesters against police brutality march down his quiet residential street one recent evening when some in the group of a few hundred suddenly stopped and started yelling.

Mr. Moses was initially not sure what the protesters were upset about, but as he got closer, he saw it: His neighbors had an American flag on display, NY Times reported.

"It went from a peaceful march, calling out the names, to all of a sudden, bang, 'How dare you fly the American flag?'" said Mr. Moses, who is Black and runs a nonprofit group in the Portland, Ore., area. "They said take it down. They wouldn't leave. They said they're going to come back and burn the house down."

Mr. Moses and others blocked the demonstrators and told them to leave.

"We don't go around terrorizing folks to try and force them to do something they don't want

to do," said Mr. Moses, whose nonprofit group provides support for local homeless people. "I'm a veteran. I'm for these liberties."

Nearly four months after the killing of George Floyd by the Minneapolis police, some protesters against police brutality are taking a more confrontational — and personal — approach. The marches in Portland are increasingly moving to residential and largely white neighborhoods, where demonstrators with bullhorns shout for people to come "out of your house and into the street" and demonstrate their support.

These more aggressive protests target ordinary people going about their lives, especially those who decline to demonstrate allegiance to the cause. That includes a diner in Washington who refused to raise her fist to show support for Black Lives Matter, or, in several cities, confused drivers who happened upon the protests.

EU unable to pursue independent policy toward Iran: Italian geopolitical analyst

By Amir Mohammad Esmaeili

TEHRAN — An Italian geopolitical analyst says since the European Union doesn't have an "autonomous army from U.S. control" it cannot pursue and independent foreign policy toward Iran and other important issues.

"The problem of Europe is its own subjection to NATO; as long as it does not have an autonomous army from U.S. control, Brussels will not be able to carry out a truly independent foreign policy. This applies to Iran as well as to other geopolitical

dossiers," Stefano Vernole tells the Tehran Times.

The following is the full text of the interview:

Q: Secretary Pompeo announced late on Saturday that the U.S. has reimposed UN sanctions against Iran, saying, "The United States expects all UN Member States to comply with their obligations to implement these measures fully." He also warned, "If UN Member States fail to fulfill their obligations to implement these sanctions, the United States is prepared to use our domestic authorities to impose consequences for those

failures and ensure that Iran does not reap the benefits of UN-prohibited activity." What is your comments on such remarks?

A: I think it is the usual mafia method used by the United States in the past to punish countries that do not bow to the "Washington Consensus". Unfortunately, these are measures that have a very deleterious effect on the Iranian economy and the European nations themselves that are unable to trade with Tehran. It is true that the EU has put in place some measures to circumvent the sanctions. **→5**



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Envoys, Tehran mayor ride bikes to mark Car-Free Day

TEHRAN — Ambassadors of four European countries to Tehran along with the city mayor Pirooz Hanachi hit the streets on Tuesday on the occasion of the World Car-Free Day.

Hanachi accompanied the ambassadors of France, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Germany riding bicycles on the route from Laleh Park to Shahr Park.

Then they visited Tehran Peace Museum to mark the International Day of Peace on September 21. **→7**

Studies begin for restoring Iran's first modern university

TEHRAN — Technical and engineering studies have been commenced on restoring Dar ul-Funun, the first scholastic center of Iran which was established in Tehran in 1851.

In order to identify and evaluate the indicators and necessities of the building's improvement, geophysical, geotechnical and material strength studies are being done by Iranian experts and engineers, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

The quantity and topography of qanats (subterranean aqueducts) and wells which have been dug or passing beneath the historical monument; traditional mortars being employed, and strengths of the bricks, are among other factors being taken into account for the survey.

Moreover, a number of trenches will be carved across the monument and its premises as prerequisite for the vast restoration project, the report added.

For the time being, the Ministry of Education currently assumes ownership of the historical center which is a symbol for the start of modern education era in the country.

Sometimes referred to as Iran's first modern university, the 19th-century institute was established by Mirza Taqi Khan Farahani (1807-1852), who was nicknamed 'Amir Kabir' who was chancellor under Naser al-Din Shah Qajar, appearing to be one of the most capable and innovative figures in the whole Qajar period.

Cultural Heritage experts Parham Janfeshan has said this historic school is a symbol for commencement of modern educational system in the country, and (now) all cultural and municipal bodies should work together in order to complete restoring it as soon as possible. **→6**

No calm until U.S. leaves the region: top official

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of the Expediency Council, has said the Western Asia region will always be tense until the “American terrorists” leave it.

“As long as the terrorist regime of America is present in the West Asia region, it will not be calm,” Rezaei told the Tasnim news agency. “To achieve calm, we must expel these terrorists from the region.”

He said the presence of the American forces in the region is aimed at creating tensions in a bid to protect Israel. According to Rezaei, what “American terrorists” do in Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, and Syria is a long-term plot to create tensions and wars in the region to protect “the fake Zionist regime.”



“The U.S. terrorist regime is present in the region and uses inhumane means such as sanctions and war to weaken, besiege and capture the Muslim countries of the region,” the former commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps pointed out.

He also noted, “The Western Asia region would be calm when the terrorist U.S. regime leaves the region; the coming years will be the year of terrorist Americans fleeing the region.”

The idea of expelling U.S. forces from the region has picked up steam since the U.S. assassinated a high-ranking Iranian general earlier this year. The general, Qassem Soleimani, was assassinated in an American drone strike on January 3 near Baghdad’s international airport. In response, Iran showered a U.S. base in Western Iraq with missiles. However, Iran’s response did not end and Iranian officials said on many occasions that the expulsion of American forces from the region would be the final revenge for the assassination of the IRGC’s Quds Force commander. Recently, Hossein Salami, the chief of IRGC warned that Iran will target everyone involved in the Soleimani assassination.

“We will target those who played a direct or indirect role in the martyrdom of the great general Hajj Qassem Soleimani,” Salami said. “Our promise to take revenge for the martyrdom of General Soleimani is decisive, serious, and completely genuine.”

Moscow: Russia-Iran interaction to continue despite surge in U.S. sanctions

Chairman of the Russian Federation Council’s Foreign Affairs Committee has said the United States’ sanctions activity will not stand in the way of Russia’s further cooperation with Iran, Interfax reported on Tuesday.

“A meeting of the Russian-Iranian intergovernmental commission for trade and economic cooperation is due to take place this fall, and this interaction will continue despite the latest ‘pre-election’ surge of America’s sanctions activity, which has already turned into some sort of background ‘noise’, not the most pleasant, but familiar to all, which has been accompanying numerous international processes. Everyone is starting to get used to it one way or another,” Konstantin Kosachyov wrote on Facebook.

The remarks by Konstantin came in response to the White House’s official announcement that U.S. President Donald Trump has authorized new sanctions targeting Iran and all those involved in arms supplies to the country.

The U.S. withdrew from the 2015 multilateral deal on Iran’s nuclear program (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA) and, “as a matter of fact, placed itself outside the international mechanism monitoring Iranian developments in this field,” he said.

Besides, in summer, Washington undertook “a very powerful attempt to draw the UN Security Council into its sanctions games, first unilaterally declaring the ‘reinstatement’ of all international sanctions against Iran that existed before the JCPOA,” Kosachyov said.

“And on August 14, the UN Security Council rejected a U.S.-sponsored draft resolution on extending the arms embargo against Iran. Only two countries - the U.S. itself and the Dominican Republic - voted for it. Even the U.S.’ allies in NATO - France, the United Kingdom [UN Security Council permanent members], and Germany [a UN Security Council non-permanent member] - abstained. Having suffered this predictable fiasco on the diplomatic front, Washington returned to its more habitual language of ultimatums and sanctions,” Kosachyov said.

This will entail the same effect, i.e. zero effect, he said. “And, above all, this is true for Russia’s cooperation with Iran, which was said, in particular, back in July, during a meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia and Iran, at which the sides highlighted the unacceptability and the illegitimate nature of unilateral restrictive measures aimed at blocking Iran’s foreign economic ties,” Kosachyov said.

Iran monitoring enemies in region, beyond: admiral

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Iran is constantly monitoring the enemies in and outside the region, a senior Iranian Army commander said, warning that any harm to the country would draw a severe response from the Armed Forces.



Speaking at a televised interview on Monday, Deputy Chief of Army for Coordination Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said the Islamic Republic is evaluating the enemy’s combat capabilities in the region and beyond.

“We are monitoring our enemies in the region and beyond. We know the threats very well,” the commander added.

He also highlighted the unity between the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, saying they stay together as a “single fist” in the face of enemies.

Zarif: Iran suffered billions in damages because Trump didn’t like Obama

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says Iran has suffered billions of dollars in damages because U.S. President Donald Trump did not like his predecessor Barack Obama.

“Billions upon billions of dollars of damage they have inflicted upon Iran just because somebody didn’t like the previous president of the United States,” Zarif told Faraed Zakaria on Monday at a virtual event sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations.

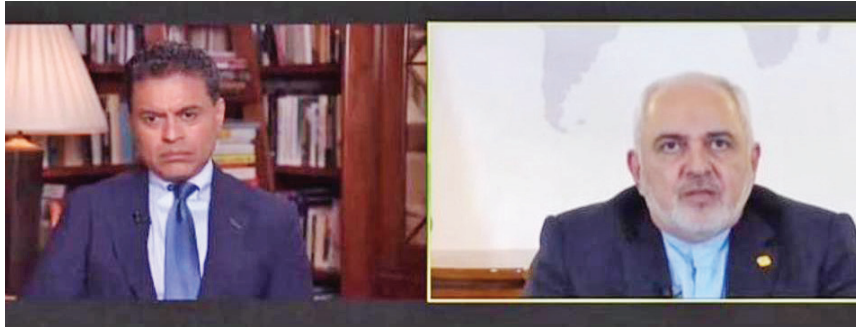
He was making a reference to Trump’s motivation to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal, which many believe was due to his hatred toward Obama, under whom the deal was clinched.

Zarif said the U.S. should act responsibly with regard to the 2015 deal, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“It is up to the United States to prove to the rest of the JCPOA participants, particularly to Iran, that it’s going to act responsibly, that it’s not going to make demands outside the scope of the JCPOA, and it’s going to basically stop causing damage to Iran, and compensate us for all the damages,” he said.

“Billions upon billions of dollars of damage they have inflicted upon Iran just because somebody didn’t like the previous president of the United States,” the chief Iranian diplomat lamented.

“It’s not my business that this president or the next president like their predecessor



or don’t like their predecessor. It is the United States that has to act responsibly in the international community, which unfortunately it hasn’t,” he added.

Zarif further pointed to the damage caused by the U.S. sanctions on Iran, saying Iran is currently not able to buy vaccines for influenza because the United States does not allow us to transfer the money.

“Right now, as we speak, our order to buy vaccines for influenza—not for COVID, vaccines for influenza—is waiting for an authorization by the United States to pay our own money. Not to pay their money. We are not asking anybody for a donation,”

he remarked.

■ **‘We are not going to negotiate a deal’**

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zarif said Iran is not going to negotiate a deal just because the U.S. didn’t get all it wanted from the deal.

“Now, we’re not going to negotiate a deal. A deal is give and take. A deal is that I don’t get all I want, the United States didn’t get all it wanted, the Europeans didn’t get all they wanted,” he stated.

Asked whether Iran was open to renegotiate some of the provisions that are starting to get sunset under the deal as long as the

“Right now,..., our order to buy vaccines for influenza—not for COVID, vaccines for influenza—is waiting for an authorization by the United States to pay our own money. Not to pay their money.”

Salehi says IAEA should prove it won’t compromise ‘impartiality, independence and professionalism’

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Salehi, president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said on Monday that it is essential that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) prove that it will not compromise on its “impartiality, independence and professionalism.”

“The Agency should show its determination that it will not compromise its impartiality, independence and professionalism for the sake of short-sighted comforts,” Salehi, a nuclear physicist, told the 64th session of the General Conference of the IAEA through a videoconference.

In his address, Salehi also referred to the explosion in the Shahid Ahmadi Roshan nuclear facility in Natanz in early July, saying, “These malicious acts need to be condemned by the Agency and Member States.”

Following is the text of Salehi’s speech seen by the Tehran Times:

Unfortunately, another thread of multilateralism, namely the architecture of the United Nations is at stake. It is no secret that international organizations are under political pressures from certain States, and the IAEA is of no exception. At this critical juncture, on the one hand, the raison d’être of the United Nations System has come under serious question; and on the other hand, the IAEA is facing a serious challenge of its kind since its inception.

I am proud to say that the international community has successfully passed the first phase of this dire ordeal; the UN Security Council members in New York have rightly shown that they are not willing to compromise on the achievements simply because of intimidation approach of one specific Member State. 13 out of 15 members of the Security Council not only unanimously rejected the US Resolution on the extension of arms embargo against Iran, but also didn’t recognize the US as a JCPOA participant to use specific mechanisms of the Deal to bring back Council’s already lifted sanctions. That is a real asset which should be wholeheartedly preserved.

Also, here in Vienna, the Agency and the Islamic Republic of Iran have shown utmost vigilance in relation to, their long-term interests with the view that it will be materialized only through mutual cooperation avoiding any outside influence. Thus, within the framework of the safeguard’s obligations of States under CSA and

AP, the Agency should show its determination that it will not compromise its impartiality, independence and professionalism for the sake of short-sighted comforts. In line with this approach and perception, Iran and the Agency agreed to work in good faith to resolve three safeguards-related questions with an understanding that there is no other questions or requests for access based on the analysis of information available to the Agency.

Such approaches taken in New York and in Vienna are the real silver-linings in this gloomy political environment for multilateralism and deserve genuine compliments.

Although it seems that the JCPOA is caught in a quasi-stalemate situation in terms of resolving the difficulties caused by the illegal withdrawal of the US from the deal, there is still a broad agreement among the international community that the JCPOA should be preserved as the real turning point in the history of multilateralism and as an important achievement of diplomacy. Unfortunately, despite an unprecedented record of verification and transparency cooperation shown by Iran, the dividends of the deal for us has now turned to be the inhumane and illegal sanctions against our people. In this context, the responsibility of EU and specifically the E3 as members of the JCPOA is of utmost importance, i.e. they must implement their obligations and commitments fully and effectively. Therefore, the Deal is preserved only when its provisions are implemented in a balanced manner by all parties involved. As a result, Iran has and had no other option but to adopt a step-by step approach in

“Unfortunately, despite an unprecedented record of verification and transparency cooperation shown by Iran, the dividends of the (nuclear) deal for us has now turned to be the inhumane and illegal sanctions against our people.”



implementing paragraphs 26 and 36 of the JCPOA to restore the lost balance to the Deal.

■ **‘Malicious sabotage acts’**

New threats emanating from malicious side have been observed recently by way of cyber and other technological means. In this regard, let me point to the recent explosion at Shahid Ahmadi Roshan (Natanz) Nuclear Facility which was found to be the result of a sabotage act as previously declared. These malicious acts need to be condemned by the Agency and Member States. Iran reserves its rights to protect its facilities and take necessary actions against any threat as appropriate.

■ **‘Israeli should join NPT without further delay’**

Regime of Israel as a non-party to the NPT which has continuously and adamantly refused to adhere to the IAEA safeguards, requires unbiased and professional approach by the Agency. This regime which is a main source of instability and insecurity in the region as well as a threat to the international peace and security, should abandon its Weapons of Mass Destruction program and accede to the NPT without further delay and precondition.

To conclude, Iran is ready to extend its hands and cooperate with others in the International Community to bring back multilateralism and diplomacy at the center of the international relations and save the remnants of this architecture which is unfortunately getting disbanded piece by piece. To this end, there is no way but to get united and put an end to the destructive behavior of the United States administration for the interests of all of us.

You may find Iran’s position on other issues in the written format of the statement.

Tehran: New U.S. sanctions have no practical effect

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has responded to the newly-announced U.S. sanctions, saying the move is part of the United States’ psychological war against Iran and will have no effect on the activities of the AEOI.

The U.S. issued more sanctions against Iran on Monday, after the UN refused to enforce international penalties that Washington said it had triggered over the weekend.

The new sanctions targeted Iranian individuals and entities connected to Iran’s nuclear enrichment or ballistic missile programs, in yet another unilateral move taken by the Trump administration.

Four cabinet secretaries, the White House national security adviser and the American ambassador to the United Nations announced the additional penalties at the State Department on Monday, the New York Times reported.

“This U.S. measure has no effect on the nuclear activities of the Atomic Energy Organization [of Iran] and it is more a media



show,” Behrooz Kamalvandi told ISNA on Monday evening.

“If the U.S. claims that the previous sanctions have been reimposed, why does it need to put these names separately in a sanctions list?” Kamalvandi asked.

He argued that the intention behind such actions is not to impact Iran’s nuclear program but to escape from consecutive defeats in the world which have isolated the U.S.

On Saturday, the U.S. asserted that all UN sanctions eased or lifted by the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), are reimposed and must be enforced by UN member states.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, however, that the United Nations will not take any action, “pending clarification by the Security Council” on whether sanctions that have been lifted should be reimposed.

China and Russia have strongly rejected the U.S. stance, while Britain, France and Germany — the so-called E3 — pointed out that the U.S. move did not have legal effect.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also responded, saying the Americans, as a rule, act as a bully and impose sanctions.

“The world community should decide how to act towards bullying,” Zarif said on Saturday.

Back in May 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the JCPOA. He later adopted a “maximum pressure” policy against Tehran to force

U.S. abides by the JCPOA, Zarif responded, “Absolutely not. Absolutely not.”

“Because those were parts of—part of the deal. The United States accepted those. We spent more time negotiating those limitations than anything else,” he said, adding, “Those were parts of the deal. I accepted less commitment from the United States because I did not want to give them more.”

Zarif also said it’s “none of our business” who gets elected in the November presidential election in the United States.

“For us, the behavior of the U.S. government is important. For us, it’s not important who sits in the White House. As a foreign government, we cannot bank on something we do not control,” the foreign minister maintained.

■ **Zarif: Israeli normalization with UAE, Bahrain ‘just a photo op for Trump’**

He also noted that the normalization of ties between Israel and two Arab countries, namely the UAE and Bahrain, was just an election show for the U.S. president.

“This was a show, for God’s sake,” he said. “We all know that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have had relations with Israel for the past fifteen years.”

“So let’s not joke with each other. This was—this was just a photo op for President Trump to get his vote up in certain states where he was in trouble,” he said.

Zarif added that the agreements did not serve any other purpose, so “let’s not put more meat into something that didn’t have much meat other than a photo.”

Show must go on: E3 will not stand against U.S.

1→ “Since the Europeans don’t know if Donald Trump would go or stay, they seek to coordinate their policies with the global community. However, they will join the U.S. if it puts economic pressure on them,” Kanani Moqaddam told the Tehran Times.

Unlike their response to Iran’s process of gradually reducing nuclear commitments under the JCPOA, the response the E3 gave to the U.S. measure was swift and clear. Indeed, they reacted to the return of UN sanctions on Iran even before the U.S. officially announced the return of the sanctions. The U.S. announced the reinstatement of the international sanctions on September 19. The permanent missions of the E3 to the UN sent a joint letter to the UN Security Council’s president about the upcoming U.S. move on September 18, saying the move would be “incapable of having legal effect.”

“At the request of our foreign ministers, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom (‘the E3’) would like to follow up on our letter to the presidency of the UN Security Council dated August 20th, 2020. In this letter, we expressed our shared view that the purported notification under paragraph 11 of UNSCR 2231 (2015) received from the United States of America and circulated to the UN Security Council Members is incapable of having legal effect and so cannot bring into effect the procedure foreseen under OP 11. It flows from this that any decisions and actions which would be taken based on this procedure or on this possible outcome would be incapable of having any legal effect,” the E3 said in their letter.

They also said, “As of September 20 the provisions of resolutions 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008), 1835 (2008) and 1929 (2010) will continue to be terminated pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of resolution 2231 (2015). Consequently, any decision or action taken with a view to re-installing



the provisions of resolutions 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008), 1835 (2008) and 1929 (2010) would be incapable of legal effect.”

The E3 have always been careful in giving responses to important issues. They would adopt a wait-and-see approach before reacting to major developments. For example, when Iran initiated the process of gradually reducing its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA on the first anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal in May 2019, the E3 didn’t rush to react. Sometimes, their reaction came a week after Iran announced the reduction of nuclear commitments.

This time, the E3 broke their habit and rushed to denounce the U.S. measure against Iran. The E3 joint letter came only a few days after a meeting was held between Pompeo and his British counterpart Dominic Raab, during which the two top diplomats discussed Iran-related issues. The meeting and the ensuing U.S. response to the European opposition to

the restoration of UN sanctions created the perception that there has been close coordination on Iran between the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

The E3 foreign ministers also issued a joint statement after the U.S. announced the restoration of UN sanctions on Iran, saying the U.S. measure was “incapable of having legal effect.”

On August 20, Pompeo traveled to New York to submit a “notification” to the president of the UN Security Council calling for the restoration of all UN sanctions on Iran in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which stipulates that “a JCPOA participant state” can trigger a snapback of all UN sanctions on Iran in case it failed to uphold its obligations under the nuclear deal. All JCPOA parties, including Washington’s European allies, said the U.S. had no legal right to submit such a notification.

In a joint statement on September 20, the E3 foreign ministers said, “France, Germany, and the United Kingdom

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

The U.S. gave a very tepid response to the E3’s opposition. This is while the U.S. had given a tough response to the Europeans only a month ago, when they opposed the notification submitted by Pompeo on August 20. At that time, Kelly Craft, the U.S. ambassador to the UN, said the UN Security Council members opposing the U.S. notifications, including the E3, were “standing in the company of terrorists.”

“Let me just make it really, really clear: the Trump administration has no fear in standing in limited company on this matter. I only regret that other members of this council have lost their way and now find themselves standing in the company of terrorists,” Craft said on August 25, after 13 of the 15-member UN body rejected the U.S. notification.

Whether the Europeans support the U.S. in private talks remains an open question. But Kanani Moqaddam believes that even if the Europeans don’t support the U.S. right now, they could soon acquiesce to U.S. economic pressures given the EU’s current economic woes.

“The Americans pulled the trigger of an unloaded gun, and that the only option they have is to launch a global economic war on Iran and punish all countries doing business with Iran. I think the Europeans will ultimately join the U.S. in its economic war,” Kanani Mogaddam said.

Rouhani: U.S. can impose neither negotiations, nor war on us

“Today is the time to say “no” to bullying and arrogance,” president says

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani told the UN General Assembly late on Tuesday that the United States is not in a position to impose negotiations or war against Iran.

“U.S. can impose neither negotiations, nor war on us,” Rouhani asserted.

The Rouhani speech came after a diplomatic showdown between Iran and the U.S. in the UN Security Council over a controversial announcement by Washington about the return of all previously terminated UN sanctions on Tehran.

On September 19, the U.S. unilaterally announced the return of the international sanctions on Iran, a move that was met with global opposition, including from 13 of the 15 UN Security Council members.

Rouhani thanked these countries for standing against

the U.S. measure.

“I should express our appreciation to the presidents of the Security Council for the months of August and September 2020, as well as to thirteen of its members—especially Russia and China—who twice said a decisive and resounding “NO” to the unlawful US attempt to exploit the Council and its Resolution 2231,” the president said, adding, “This is a victory not just for Iran, but for the global community—during the transitional international order in the post-Western world—that an aspirant of hegemony is humiliated in such self-created isolation.”

The president also underlined the need to say no to bullying, saying that “today is the time to say ‘no’ to bullying and arrogance.”

Addressing the issue of U.S. sanctions on Iran, he said,

“All of us across the globe are experiencing difficult times during the pandemic. However, my nation, the resilient people of Iran, instead of enjoying global partnership and cooperation, is grappling with the harshest sanctions in history imposed in blatant and gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international agreements and Security Council Resolution 2231.”

Rouhani also looked at the U.S. sanctions on Iran through the prism of independence, noting that the Iranian people are going through sanction to protect the country’s independence.

“Life is hard under sanctions. However, harder, is life without independence,” the president said via videoconference.

(See the full text of Rouhani’s speech at www.tehrantimes.com.)

There would be no limitation on arms deals with Iran by mid-October: Lavrov

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said there were no limitations on arms deals with Iran from the start and after mid-October, there would be no limitations whatsoever on arms supplies to and from Iran.

“There is no such thing as an arms embargo against Iran. The Security Council, when it was adopting the comprehensive Resolution 2231, which endorsed [the] Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which settled the nuclear issue for Iran, and this was adopted by consensus under the chapter 7 of the United Nations’ charter,” the chief Russian diplomat said in an interview with Alarabiya’s correspondent in New York.

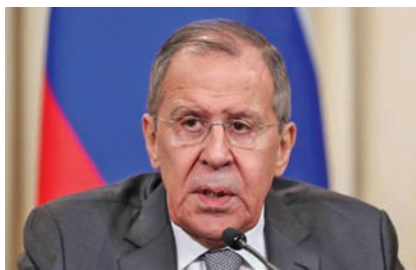
Lavrov added, “The Security Council in that resolution said that the supply of arms to Iran and from Iran would be subject to consideration by the Security Council and that on the 18th of October, 2020 this regime of sales to Iran would stop. There is no embargo and there would be no limitations whatsoever after the expiration of this timeframe established

by the Security Council.”

On 19 September, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the return of all UN restrictions on Iran in a bid to extend the UN arms embargo on Iran. All JCPOA participants strongly opposed the U.S. measure, calling it illegal and void. The U.S. announcement was based on the privileges envisioned in UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which stipulates that “a JCPOA participant State” can trigger the return of all previously terminated UN Security Council resolutions. However, all remaining parties to the JCPOA said with one voice that the U.S. had no legal authority to restore UN sanctions on Iran because it withdrew from the deal.

Following the U.S. measure, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that UN Security Council Resolution 2231 was “unchanged,” which means that Russia still believes that no UN sanctions have been restored even though the U.S. announced their restoration.

Lavrov reiterated this position in the interview, underlining that the U.S. had no



legal rights to reinstate the UN sanctions on Iran because it has already terminated its participation in the JCPOA.

Responding to a question on the U.S. legal argument that it still has the right to trigger the return of all UN sanctions based on UNSCR 2231, the chief Russian diplomat said, “They want to violate and to challenge the famous English proverb ‘they want to have their pie and eat it.’ They formally left the JCPOA. And the Security Council Resolution 2231 provides for any action to be done in order to restore the sanctions regime to be initiated by a JCPOA member. And they are not a member.”

“And if they continue threatening with sanctions all those who would cooperate with Iran on the firm basis of the strict implementation of the conditions of 2231, then I would not be surprised because they do the sanctions all over the world for any reason at all, sometimes even without any reason. I always knew that an elephant is a symbol of the Republican Party but please don’t consider the world as china store,” Lavrov said.

The Russian foreign minister also questioned what came to be known as the “snapback” mechanism, saying it does not exist.

He asserted, “The snapback does not exist as far as everybody is concerned except the United States. This was subject to discussion in the Security Council and 13 members, 13 out of the 15 members of the Security Council clearly stated that there are no legal political or moral reasons for anything close to snapback and all the statements to the contrary are null and void, this is the assessment of all members of the Security Council except the U.S. and somebody else.”

President: Nation’s growing wisdom ‘fruit of Sacred Defense’

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that the growing wisdom of the Iranian nation against the enemies is a result of their victory in the Sacred Defense as well as forty years of resistance against the enemies’ plots.

“In the Sacred Defense Week, we revere the high status of the martyrs and review the Iranian history’s glorious moments,” President Rouhani said in a statement marking the 40th anniversary of the beginning of Iraq’s war against Iran.

“The brilliance of this national epic will turn into a symbol of resistance and non-surrender for all free-

dom-seekers of the world,” he said, according to the president’s website.

The president said the Sacred Defense Week is a reminder of the Iranian nation’s freedom-seeking and sacrifice which made the country withstand years of aggression waged by the enemies of Islam and Iran.

He also commemorated Iran’s top anti-terror general, Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated in Iraq on January 3 by a U.S. airstrike which was directly ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump

“Martyr General Hajj Qassem Soleimani is among warriors whose courage and sacrifice in the fronts of

right against wrong and his battle against the Takfiris and terrorists created brilliant victories,” Rouhani remarked.

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, marking the beginning of the Sacred Defense Week. It was attended by the 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.

SPORTS

Saman Ghoddos joins Championship club Brentford

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — English Championship club Brentford have signed forward Saman Ghoddos from French club Amiens on loan with an option of a permanent deal. Ghoddos, born in Sweden to Iranian parents, played in all three of Iran’s group games at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.



“The 27-year-old attacker joins on a one-year loan deal with a subsequent option for a two-year permanent deal, subject to international clearance,” Brentford said on their official website.

Ghoddos spent over two years at Ostersund under current Brighton boss Graham Potter before joining Amiens in the summer of 2018.

Bees’ head coach Thomas Frank said: “We have been following Saman for 16 months now and it is great to make him a Brentford player.”

Ghoddos featured for Ostersund in the Europa League during the 2017-18 season when Potter led them to a last-32 tie against Arsenal, which the Swedish side lost 4-2 on aggregate.

He scored five goals in 32 appearances in all competitions for Amiens, who were relegated from Ligue 1 last season.

Persepolis coach Golmohammadi rues missed chances

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi bemoaned his team’s lack of efficiency in Monday’s 1-0 loss to Al Duhail.

Persepolis suffered a 1-0 defeat against the Qatari giants in Group C of the 2020 AFC Champions League. Almoez Ali scored the goal from the penalty spot in the 60th minute.

Golmohammadi says that they must forget defeat and prepare for Sharjah Match. Persepolis must beat the Emirati side on Thursday to book a place in the knockout stage.

“We are not satisfied with the result of the match. I think our players were tired physically since we’ve played three matches in eight days,” Golmohammadi said.

“Persepolis were the better team in the first half and had several chances to score. Al Duhail defeated us without making a real chance,” he added.

“We have a difficult match against Sharjah and must beat them to qualify for the next round,” Golmohammadi stated.

Iran’s Sepahan out of 2020 AFC Champions League

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Sepahan football team from Iran were held to a goalless draw by Al Ain of the UAE and failed to qualify for the Round of 16 of the 2020 AFC Champions League.

Sepahan finished the campaign with four points out of six matches. In the match held at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Sepahan failed to repeat their 4-0 win over Al Ain in February.

Al Sadd of Qatar and Saudis Al Nassr shared the spoils following a 1-1 draw.

Al Nassr of Saudi Arabia and Al Sadd of Qatar booked their places in the knockout stage with 11 and 9 points while Sepahan and Al Ain bagged four and two points, respectively.

Matchday Six will see Al Sadd face Sepahan while Al Nassr will face Al Ain.

No relaxing, warns Arveladze as Pakhtakor brace for Shahr Khodro test

A place in the 2020 AFC Champions League knockout stage for the first time in a decade is at stake for Pakhtakor FC on Wednesday when they take on already-eliminated Shahr Khodro on Matchday Six of Group B.

A bright start to the 2020 AFC Champions League campaign saw Pakhtakor pick up full points from their first two matches back in February, but since the resumption of the competition in Qatar, coach Shota Arveladze’s men only added two more points from their subsequent three games, meaning they go into their final encounter in need of three points to advance to the next round.

“This is match is definitely like a final for us,” said Arveladze, a former striker for the likes of Ajax and Rangers and Georgia’s all-time top scorer. “We played against Shahr Khodro and we saw each other play twice here in Qatar, so there are no surprises. For them this is about keeping their prestige.”

(Source: AFC)

Sepahan’s Karimi rues AFC Champions League exit after draw with Al Ain

Midfielder Mohammed Karimi expressed his disappointment after Sepahan FC’s elimination from the 2020 AFC Champions League following a goalless draw with UAE’s Al Ain in their penultimate Group D tie on Monday.

The result meant Sepahan joined Al Ain as the two sides exiting the tournament from Group D as Saudi Arabia’s Al Nassr and Qatar’s Al Sadd secured their places in the Round of 16.

“We tried the best we could and we were the better side in the second half,” said Karimi, who was named Man of the Match. “Unfortunately it was a goalless draw and it wasn’t the result that we wanted.”

“The competition was very difficult as we were drawn with two strong teams. Al Nassr were in the quarter-finals of the competition last year while Al Sadd reached the final four,” said the 24-year-old player.

(Source: AFC)

Kabul hosting Iran’s 1st water, electricity specialized exhibition

1 → He thanked the Iranian companies that attended the exhibition despite the problems created by the pandemic.

On the sidelines of this exhibition, several meetings are scheduled to be held with the participation of the two countries’ company representatives, government officials, businessmen, and traders.

In these meetings, the two sides will examine the existing capacities and opportunities for cooperation in various energy sectors, especially in the field of renewable energy.

Haeri is visiting Afghanistan on top of a high-ranking energy delegation and expected to meet with Afghan government officials, including Acting Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar and Finance Minister Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal.

Meat sales drops 35%

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The head of Tehran Guild Union for Lamb Meat Supply and Distribution, Ali Asghar Maleki, said the sales of meat in Iran has fallen 35 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20).



He mentioned the coronavirus outbreak and also the people’s lower purchasing power as the major reasons behind the meat sales drop in the present year, ILNA reported.

Iran’s deputy agriculture minister, Morteza Rezaei, has recently said that the total production of red and chicken meat is expected to reach 3.5 million tons by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

He said red meat production will reach 880,000 tons, while chicken meat output is expected to reach 2.7 million tons.

TEDPIX declines nearly 14,000 points on Tuesday

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 13,965 points to 1.581 million on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 10,501 billion securities worth 118.195 trillion rials (about \$2.814 billion) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first market’s index fell 19,644 points and the second market’s index dropped 9,714 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, 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.

Private sector welcoming investment making in northern port

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Director-general of the Ports and Maritime Department of Iran’s northern Mazandaran province, said the private sector is welcoming investment making in Noshahr Port (in north of the province).

Mohammad-Taqi Anzanpour said the establishment of fast-yielding industries and attraction of investors is the priority of his department, the news portal of Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported.

Speaking about the investment opportunities in Noshahr, Anzanpour said that many investors have announced readiness for investment making in different industries in the port during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) and mentioned the construction of warehouses and factories as one of the areas for which his department has received investment making requests.



Despite the restrictions and limitations created by the outbreak of the coronavirus, Iranian ports managed to attract 3.57 trillion rials (over \$85 million) of investment in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20).

The mentioned investments have been done mainly with the aim of developing and maintaining infrastructure and equipping ports.

Also to facilitate business in the country’s ports, 2.836 trillion rials (about \$67.5 million) was also invested by the private sector in the form of five contracts during the said period.

Accordingly, the total amount of non-governmental investment in the country’s commercial ports has reached 161.235 trillion rials (about \$3.83 billion) in the form of 333 contracts.

As reported, Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) also implemented or studied over 580 projects worth 151.025 trillion rials (about \$3.59 billion).

The construction of six floating wharves for passengers and tourism in Soheili and Gurzin ports in Qeshm and Hengam Islands in the southern Hormozgan Province, and continuing the third phase of Shahid Rajaei port’s development project are also among the PMO achievements in the first quarter.

Iran’s resilient economy priority projects yielding fruit in sanctions era

1 → According to the First Vice President Es’haq Jahangiri, these national priority projects are always determined carefully and based on the basic needs of the country, and usually, the implementation of these projects is effective in preventing the outflow of currency or in the development of exports.

“Out of 110 prioritized projects for the current year, 60 projects have gone operational,” the official said in a meeting of the Resilient Economy Headquarters on Monday.

■ Persian Gulf Star Refinery

As mentioned earlier, prioritized projects that have been defined based on the needs of the country have now started to bear fruit and their positive impact on the country’s economy is clearly sensible in the current economic condition.

“The selection of national priority projects of the resistance economy has been based on detailed and purposeful studies, and fortunately today we see that these projects such as the Persian Gulf Star refinery have had many positive effects on the country’s economy during the sanctions,” Jahangiri



said in the said meeting. As mentioned by Jahangiri, the Persian



Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR) in the southern province of Hormozgan is a good example

of such projects. This refinery is the first of its kind designed based on gas condensate feedstock received from the South Pars gas field which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

Construction of the refinery started in 2006, but the project was delayed as the result of some mismanagement and also financial limitation due to the West-led sanctions against Iran, however with the start of the resilient economy projects program, this project was immediately introduced to the Oil Ministry as a prioritized project and the work on the project started with full force.

Being a major player in Iran’s plans for becoming a major gasoline producer and exporter in the region, the project is still under development and expansion.

Back in February 2018, President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated the third phase of the refinery in a ceremony participated by Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.

The refinery is currently producing 12 million liters of Euro-5 gasoline and 15 million liters per of Euro-4 on a daily basis.

Iranian major railway companies to be listed on stock exchange

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** – Two of Iran’s biggest railway companies namely Raja Rail Transportation Company and Novin Sanat Raja Company are going through the final stages to be listed on Iran’s over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), an official with RAJA announced.

According to Hassan Esmaili, member of the board and chairman of the company’s specialized working group on the capital market, RAJA’s administrative and financial issues have been resolved and the company and its subsidiary are going to join the capital market soon, IRIB reported.

The Tourism Holding Company of the Social Security Organization, known by its Persian acronym Hegta, has supplied the necessary capital required for the company to enter the capital market, Esmaili said.

Stating that the preparations for RAJA’s joining the

capital market began with the formation of a specialized working group in July, the official said: “Exploring strategies for increasing capital, collecting and compiling documents, holding several consulting sessions, negotiating with various brokerages, and identifying intermediaries can be mentioned as some of the activities of this working group since its establishment.”

Raja Rail Transportation Company, as the largest passenger rail company in Iran and with a share of about 55 percent of the country’s passenger transportation, has a clear vision for entering the capital market and seeks to develop this sector, the official stressed.

According to Esmaili, Novin Sanat RAJA, a subsidiary of the main company, also has a great capacity in technical and engineering activities and can play a significant role in this industry.

Recently, the Iranian government has been encouraging major government-owned and private companies to join the stock market, as it is planning to benefit from the capacities of this market for providing funding for development projects of the mentioned companies.

Since the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20) is named the year of “Surge in Production” by the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the country’s stock market has become a major player in realizing this motto.

The market is trying to attract the liquidity existing in the society toward production and development projects, and many ministries and organizations including the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development have already announced that they are planning to fund their development projects through the stock market.

Unbridled rise in housing prices to lead market into recession: MP

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The drastic and unprecedented rise in housing prices in recent months is going to lead the housing market to a recession in the coming months, a member of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Civil Committee said.

“With the dramatic and unprecedented rise in housing prices, the market is expected to enter a recession for at least three to four years in the coming months, but naturally, as the recession intensifies, housing prices will fall by about 10 to 20 percent,” IRIB quoted Mojtaba Yousefi as saying.

Unfortunately, housing prices have risen by about 200 percent in recent months, and this has created many problems for real house buyers, Yousefi said.

“The main problem is that in such a market real buyers cannot afford to buy houses and instead the market has become a playground for brokers and speculators.”

According to the official, the housing market trend in Iran has been sinusoidal, meaning that housing prices have risen over a period of time and then the market has entered a recession, however, in the last two years the trend has become contrary to the previous years and the housing prices



have been constantly increasing.

Based on a recent report released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the housing price in Tehran city has risen 10.5 percent in Mordad, which is the fifth month of the Iranian calendar year (July 22-August 21), from its previous month.

The CBI report also indicates that the housing price in the capital city has risen 77.4 percent in the fifth month of this year, from the same month of the previous year.

The average price of one square meter of a house stood at 231.1 million rials (about \$5,502) in the capital city.

Meanwhile, the number of real estate deals has fallen 35.4 percent in Tehran in the fifth month of this year compared to the fourth month, while rising 175.8 percent compared to the same month of the past year.

Over €1.5b of non-oil income injected to NIMA in a month

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran’s non-oil exporters injected €1.5 billion of their revenues into the Forex Management Integrated System, locally known as NIMA, during the fifth Iranian calendar month Mordad (July 22-August 21).

As stated by Hamid Zadboum, the head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), expediting the process of returning non-oil export revenues to the economic cycle through NIMA has been the result of expert policies of the TPO and cooperation among the industry, mining, and trade departments of the provinces as well as chambers of cooperatives and guilds, and many fruitful measures have been taken in this regard.

NIMA, which seeks to boost transparency, creates competitiveness among exchange shops and promotes a secure environment for traders, is a new chance for importers to supply their required foreign currency without specific problems and for exporters to re-inject their earned foreign currency to domestic forex market. It was inaugurated to allow exporters of non-oil commodities to sell their foreign currency earnings to importers of con-

sumer products.

In late May 2019, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) unveiled a directive package that provided the country’s exporters with guidelines about how they should re-inject their foreign currency incomes into the country’s economy.

Based on the new directive, for the petrochemical sector, the exporters should present at least 60 percent of their foreign currency incomes into NIMA, and a maximum 10 percent could be injected into the financial system in the form of hard currency and the rest could be used for importing necessary goods.

As for other exporters, at least 50 percent of the total earnings should be presented at the NIMA system and a maximum of 20 percent could be distributed in form of hard currency and the rest can be used for imports.

The instructions aimed to lead the export revenues from the non-oil exports back into the country’s economy through NIMA, mandate all the exporters of goods and services to guarantee to bring back to the country the foreign currency amount allocated to them by the government at lower prices than the free market.

Garments worth \$35m exported to 29 countries

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian garment manufacturers exported \$35.19 million worth of clothing items to 29 foreign destinations in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), Mehr News Agency reported, quoting an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

“Iran exported 4,527 tons of clothing to 29 countries in the mentioned period, while last year the destination countries for the Iranian clothing were only Afghanistan, Russia,

Iraq, and Yemen,” IRICA spokesman Ruhollah Latifi Said.

According to Latifi, Iranian garments are exported to Iraq, Kuwait, Australia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Korea, Japan, UAE, UK, Venezuela, Ivory Coast, Italy, Turkey, Canada, Qatar, Oman, Nigeria, Switzerland, Pakistan, Georgia, Spain, and Denmark.

As reported, during this period less than 2.5 tons of the said products worth \$514,441 were imported into the country which were mostly entered the country by pas-

sengers or via mail since the import of clothing is banned.

According to the chairman of Iran’s Union of Garments Manufacturers and Sellers, domestic units are supplying 70-80 percent of the requirement for clothing inside the country.

“After the ban imposed on the imports of clothing, domestic units are taking all endeavors to boost the quality and quantity of their products in a way that we saw no shortage in clothing market before the new year holiday (early March),” Abolqasem Shirazi said.

Spices export hits \$94.5m in 5 months

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said that the country has exported 17,810 tons of spices valued at \$94.56 million during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

Ruhollah Latifi said that saffron accounted for 70 percent of the total value, and 0.5 percent of the total weight of the export during the mentioned five-month period, IRIB reported.

The IRICA spokesman further said that the Iranian spices have been exported to 43 countries in the first five months of this year and mentioned Azerbaijan, Britain, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Kuwait, Qatar, Afghanistan, Turkey, Armenia, Germany, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, India, the Netherlands, Indonesia, France, and

Switzerland as some export destinations of the products.

Pakistan, Hong Kong, and UAE were the major importers of Iranian spices in the said period.

The official also put the country’s imports of spices at 15,442 tons valued at \$28.372 million during the five-month period and named ginger as the main imported item.

Latifi said Iran has imported spices from 11 countries including India, UAE, Austria, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, China, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Turkey.

India, UAE, and China were the main exporters of spices to Iran in the mentioned time span.

As previously reported by IRICA, Iran imported \$13.7 billion worth of goods, while exporting \$10.9 billion during the first five



months of this year.

The volume of traded goods was estimated at about 52 million tons, of which over 38 million tons were related to exports and about 13.8 million tons were imported goods.

Iran’s top five non-oil export destinations during this period were China with over \$3 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$2.406

billion, the United Arab Emirates with over \$1.554 billion, and Afghanistan with \$871 million as well as Turkey with \$513 million, so the country’s top five export destinations remained the same in comparison to previous months, according to IRICA.

China accounted for over 28 percent of Iran’s total exports, followed by Iraq, UAE, Afghanistan, and Turkey with 22 percent, 14 percent, 8 percent, and 4.7 percent respectively. The top five sources of imports during this period were China with \$3.552 billion, the UAE with \$3.186 billion, Turkey with \$1.475 billion, India with \$941 million, and Germany with \$548 million worth of imports.

China accounted for nearly 26 percent of Iran’s total imports, followed by UAE, Turkey, India, and Germany with 23 percent, 10.7 percent, 6.8 percent, and 4.8 percent, respectively.

News

Venezuela, Cuba denounce U.S. in UN speeches

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro called Monday for the world to fight against “hegemony” and “imperialist ideas” during the UN General Assembly’s virtual summit.

In a pre-recorded speech, Maduro, accused by UN investigators of crimes against humanity, denounced “the world of hegemony, the world of imperialism” and insisted on the need to be “united” in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, AFP reported.

“Venezuela supports a multipolar world, a renewed UN system, a system that knows how to enforce international law and protect the people of the world,” he said, condemning US attacks on the World Health Organization, without explicitly naming the country.

“This is not the time to insult, to threaten the WHO, it is now the time to unite in its favor,” he said.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla also criticized the US. “On this 75th anniversary of the UN, multi-lateralism and international law are threatened by the largest global power.

“The irresponsible behavior of the United States is the greatest danger to international peace and security,” he said.

“It seems that (the US) is at war with the planet... and its inhabitants,” Rodriguez Parrilla said, condemning the “economic, commercial and financial blockade” Washington imposed on Cuba.

Trump says UN must ‘hold China accountable’ for Covid-19

U.S. President Donald Trump told the UN General Assembly Tuesday that China must be held accountable by the world for its actions over the Covid-19 pandemic, AFP reported.

In a recorded message played to the annual meeting of the UN, Trump accused Beijing of allowing the coronavirus to “leave China and infect the world.”

“The United Nations must hold China accountable for their actions,” he said.

UN chief warns against ‘new Cold War’

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Tuesday urged the world to prevent a Cold War between the United States and China and halt conflicts so it can focus on the Covid-19 pandemic.

“We must do everything to avoid a new Cold War,” Guterres said in an address as he opened an almost entirely virtual UN General Assembly, AFP reported.

“We are moving in a very dangerous direction. Our world cannot afford a future where the two largest economies split the globe in a Great Fracture -- each with its own trade and financial rules and internet and artificial intelligence capacities,” he said, without saying the United States and China by name.

Tensions have soared between the United States and China in recent months, with President Donald Trump blaming Beijing for the Covid-19 pandemic that has claimed some 950,000 lives around the world and cast a shadow over his reelection bid.

Guterres has campaigned for an end to all violent conflicts as the world instead focuses on stopping the disease.

Turkey, Greece ready to resume exploratory talks

Turkey and Greece stated they are ready to resume exploratory talks to address their contested maritime claims in the eastern Mediterranean and Aegean, the Turkish presidency said, after a call between the leaders of Turkey, Germany and the European Union Tuesday.

According to Reuters, in a videoconference between President Tayyip Erdogan, Chancellor Angela Merkel and EU Council President Charles Michel, Erdogan said the “partial momentum” secured by establishing dialogue should be maintained with reciprocal steps, the Turkish presidency said.

Erdogan also said he hoped an EU summit on Sept. 24-25 would bring new impetus to Turkey-EU ties, adding concrete steps on updating a customs union between the two sides, visa-free travel and migration would help put ties on a positive basis.

Resistance News

Hamas sets 2-month deadline for Israel to end Gaza siege

INTERNATIONAL DESK **TEHRAN** — The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has set a deadline of two months for Israel to end more than 12 years of its siege on the Gaza Strip.

Khalil al-Hayya, a member of the political bureau of Hamas, said Israel has blocked humanitarian assistance from entering Gaza over the past few months of the coronavirus pandemic.

If Israel does not end the siege willingly, he warned, Hamas is militarily capable of forcing Israelis into shelters.

UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov visited Gaza on September 16 and held talks with Hamas officials regarding the Israeli blockade.

Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political bureau of Hamas, has said the movement and the people in Gaza are determined to confront the unjust blockade until it is lifted entirely.

Hamas has already turned down a \$15-billion development aid offer conditioned on disarming.

Haniyeh says the hefty offer has been made in the context of U.S. President Donald Trump’s highly provocative ‘peace’ plan, which would allocate billions to Gaza for development if implemented.

Trump had given Tel Aviv the green light to annex large parts of the West Bank and Jordan Valley in his self-proclaimed “deal of the century,” which was unveiled in January with the aim of legitimizing Israel’s occupation and re-drawing the West Asia map.

U.S. behaving like a bully and has isolated itself: Iran’s ambassador to UK

1 → In their statement, the E3 said the U.S. move is “incapable of having any legal effect” and that they “remain committed” to JCPOA. Borrell also said the U.S. cannot be considered to be a participant to the nuclear deal and cannot trigger the snapback mechanism to restore UN sanctions on Iran. Russia also said the move is “legally and procedurally null and void.” China also said, “It’s time to end this self-orchestrated farce.”

Prior to the statements by the parties to the nuclear deal, almost all permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council had rejected the U.S. move to extend arms embargo against Iran in violation of Resolution 2231 and its move to return the terminated UN sanctions.

Ambassador Baeidinejad said the U.S. move to impose sanctions against Iran is considered “unilateral and against established principles of international law.”

The following is text of the interview: **■** How do you assess the announcement by Mike Pompeo that the UN sanctions against Iran have been returned because of what he called “activation of the trigger mechanism” by Washington?

A: The U.S. move in the Security Council has been faced with rejection. The members of the Security Council have all, through official letters and statements, stressed that the U.S. move has not been able to trigger the process of returning the past six Security Council sanction resolutions and it has therefore no legal effect.

■ What is your analysis of the stance of three European countries (E3), especially the UK, regarding the United States’ claim in returning UN sanctions? Have the Europeans taken any practical steps in support



of nuclear deal?

A: It is a reality that withdrawal by the U.S. from the JCPOA and imposition of sanctions deterred many European companies to enter into trade and economic agreements with their Iranian counterparts. This situation led the nuclear deal to a lot of problems. We certainly expected more from the UK and other European countries in implementing their obligations under the JCPOA (i.e. Iran nuclear deal), but we may not underestimate the adoption

of principled position from the UK and other E3 states in upholding the agreement despite its implementation reduced to a minimum level. This principled position from the E3 has greatly angered the U.S. administration and consequently a lot of political frictions have been emerged between the E3 and the U.S.

The nuclear deal, despite all such major challenges, continues to survive and Iran, the E3, Russia, China and the EU as the remaining parties to the JCPOA struggle

“We hope that the U.S. total failed diplomacy would wake up the American leaders and make them to correct their stance and change course.”

EU unable to pursue independent policy toward Iran: Italian geopolitical analyst

“All the recent agreements signed on the Palestinians’ skin must be read as anti-Iranian moves”

1 → but so far they have proved ineffective; very few European companies are able to resist this pressure because companies risk both compromising their investments on the American market and suffering other types of retaliation (for example in financial transactions). It was clear from the start that one of the consequences of Trump’s victory in the last presidential election would be an intensification of U.S. aggression towards Iran (the Zionist conditioning is evident); his new electoral campaign marks a further qualitative leap by extending economic pressure to Lebanon and intensifying it on Syria. In practice, the entire axis of Shiite resistance, including Iraq, is now again in the crosshairs. Mike Pompeo obviously represents the standard-bearer of this trend, the sign of continuity with the previous American administrations, with the influence of neocons and the deep state. From this point of view, Trump is nothing new.

■ Some argue that these measures will lead to further isolation of the United States in the international community. What is your opinion?

A: I have some doubts about the isolation of the United States, by virtue of the still strong economic and cultural influence they possess, at least in the Western sphere. Indeed, this policy further compacts many countries towards Washington that were halfway between calls for NATO and the possibility of exploring new types of cooperation with Russia and China. Just think of the 5G issue in Europe, the Russian-German pipeline, the Navalny accident, or the Belarus elections. Much will depend on the Old Continent’s economic stability, which, due to Covid-19, seems decidedly at risk; however, there is a lack of political subjects capable of interpreting the needs of European populations. It is true that this is also true in reverse. Russia and China are capitalizing on so many nations’ consensus once subjected to American rule and now embracing multipolarity. In practice, that duopoly already in vogue during the U.S.-USSR Cold War has been re-proposed, whereby one is forced to take sides either side or side. I don’t see the possibility of a third pole.

■ The foreign ministers of three European countries parties to the nuclear deal reaffirmed their full commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 2231 in a joint statement in response to U.S. claims of returning the UN sanctions on Iran. How do you analyze their statement?

A: Well, let’s take into account that Iran is an important

partner for Europe, which is also fully respectful of the nuclear agreement. It is not just about business, as some might think, but also about geopolitical interests. The Islamic Republic of Iran plays a stabilizing role in one of the key areas of the planet; important Shiite minorities are present in all Arab countries and in Central Asia. The Revolutionary Guards, the Pasdaran, were instrumental in the military defeat of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, which prevented the Wahabi contagion from spreading to Europe, Russia, and China. The problem of Europe is its own subjection to NATO; as long as it does not have an autonomous army from U.S. control, Brussels will not be able to carry out a truly independent foreign policy. This applies to Iran as well as to other geopolitical dossiers. Until then, your declarations of intent will be of little value.

■ Following U.S. claims on the return of UN sanctions on Iran, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the Security Council on Saturday that he cannot take any action on a U.S. declaration that all UN sanctions on Iran had been reimposed because “there would appear to be uncertainty” on the issue. How do you assess this approach?

A: It is the reactivation of the request to Iran to suspend all activities related to nuclear enrichment, and the ban on imports of anything that could contribute to nuclear research or the development of nuclear weapons delivery systems. With this procedure, the arms embargo would be reimposed. The ban on Iran from developing ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons would bring targeted sanctions to dozens of individuals and entities. Countries would be urged to inspect shipments to and from Iran and authorized to seize any prohibited cargo. According to the sanctions “snapback,” if a Security Council resolution to extend the reduction of sanctions on Iran is not adopted within 30 days, the UN sanctions should be reset. And so far, no resolution on this has been put to the vote. Guterres is likely buying time, hoping that a new president in the White House will rectify this sanctions policy, and the nuclear deal can still be saved. But we need to understand how much Iran still wants it, given the intensification of economic and military pressure in the region.

■ What will be the United States’ next step against Iran?

A: Of course, the United States has done everything to blow the Iranian nuclear deal, but their hypocrisy is hardly surprising given that country’s track record. At least until



“The Revolutionary Guards, the Pasdaran, were instrumental in the military defeat of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, which prevented the Wahabi contagion from spreading to Europe, Russia, and China.”

the end of the election campaign, Trump will continue to intensify the economic and military pressure, guaranteeing Israeli interests and trying to stand as a key man in the construction of the Arab NATO New Middle East (West Asia). All the recent agreements signed on the Palestinians’ skin must be read as anti-Iranian moves. However, it is at the same time the historical moment in which an American president can prove to be more fragile because a possible misstep or a military failure could prove fatal for the purposes of his re-election to the White House. Therefore, I do not believe that Trump will go so far as to risk an open war against Iran; this also depends on the extent of the attacks conducted in Syria and Iraq by the axis of resistance against U.S. troops. However, what will happen after the U.S. elections in November is really difficult to predict; their outcome is still too uncertain.

Lack of legitimacy, unilateral actions reasons for U.S. failure: Japanese Professor

By Payman Yazdani

TEHRAN — Prof. Suzuki says that U.S. failure at the UNSC is the result of the country’s unilateralism and lack of legitimacy, adding that Trump’s reelection will mean Americans endorse unilateralism.

The Trump administration claims that it has activated the snapback mechanism while E3 and Russia and China have rejected the White House claim.

In a letter penned to the UN secretary-general and president of the UN Security Council, Iran reminded that in response to the U.S. move, not only none of the members of the UN Security Council acknowledged the authority of the U.S. to activate the snapback mechanism and return UN sanctions on Iran, but also through individual or joint letters were written to

the President of UN Security Council, 13 members have categorically rejected the legal credibility and acceptance of the U.S. letter in this regard.

To shed more light on the issue, we reached out to Kazuto Suzuki vice dean and professor of international politics at Public Policy School of Hokkaido University, Japan.

Following is the full text of the interview with him:

■ From your point of view, is the U.S. move lawful?

A: Legally speaking, the U.S. could have the right to submit its notification to the Security Council by the letter of the UNSCR 2231. However, its legality is not accepted by most Security Council members and the international community. It may be legal but not lawful.

■ Why does Trump focus on the Iran issue at the UNSC despite opposition from different countries, even from the U.S. allies in Europe?

A: I think it is a political act in order to please his supporters, who are mostly anti-Iran/pro-Israel. Even if snapback is taken place, the arms embargo based on UNSCR may not have the full extent of implementing power because many states do not agree with the decision. But the U.S. Administration does not care about its effectiveness. It is demonstrating that the Administration is doing everything for its supporters against all the odds.

■ What are the reasons behind the U.S. failure and isolation at UNSC?

A: Lack of legitimacy and the consequence of taking unilateral action. The power of UNSCR can be generated from

the willingness of the international community as a whole. International law is not like domestic law. It has to be backed with the willingness and commitment of the international community. Unilateral action is not the way forward to build international consensus.

■ How do you see the consequences of the U.S. administration’s unilateralism for world peace and stability?

A: It depends on the election in November. If Mr. Trump is reelected, the world would see that the American people endorsed his unilateralism policy, which eventually creates a hostile environment for many countries and eventually undermines international peace and security. If he loses, there is a chance that the U.S. can rebuild its international reputation and bring back peace and security in the international arena.

Studies begin for restoring Iran’s first modern university

➔ **1** “The history and identity of the educational system in Tehran is tied to Dar ul-Fonun school and to the name of Amir Kabir, which can be very appealing to domestic and foreign tourists and visitors.”



“Travel agencies and tour operators may put visits to Dar ul-Fonun on their schedules,” Janfeshan proposed. Established in 1851, Dar ul-Funun has an atmospheric garden that is hemmed by walls featuring Persian poetry inscribed on decorative tiles. Parts of the property have recently been handsomely restored with the aim of making it into a museum on education. According to Encyclopedia Iranica, the number of students in its first year reflected an immediate popularity of Dar ul-Funun, with about 105 students enrolling in seven main subjects.

Sacred Defense properties eligible for cultural heritage status

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – Some 25 immovable properties related to the 1980-1988 Iraqi imposed war, known as the Sacred Defense, have been identified to be eligible for designation as national cultural heritage.

The properties have been chosen from seven provinces of Khuzestan, Kordestan, East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Bushehr, Ilam, and Kermanshah due to their historical and cultural values, deputy tourism minister Mohammad-Hassan Talebian announced on Monday.



Dalani area, places of the martyrdom of martyrs of Siran-band and Bolhassan, Valfajr operation trenches, Andimeshk field hospital, Kalantari Hospital, Chovar football field, Zeinabieh high school, and Qasr-e Shirin destroyed hospital are among the properties added to the list.

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

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

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

Camping and Caravanning Club to hold open-air exhibit in Tehran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Iran’s Camping and Caravanning Club is to hold an open-air exhibit at the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex in Tehran, showcasing over 50 camper vans and other related objects.

The exhibition will be held on Thursday under strict health protocols due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI).

The event seeks to promote traveling, especially rural tourism, ecotourism, and nature tourism during the pandemic and encourage tourists and people to embark on land trips using camper vans, the TACI announced in a press release.



The coronavirus pandemic has globally decimated almost every possible travel and transportation-related business, from air travel to car sales to cruises. However, the number of people and families traditionally using camper vans has not decreased so much globally. Some camper fans say that the reason is surprisingly straightforward: camper vans are a personal and reliable way to travel, granting freedom from quarantine while still adhering to social distancing rules.

Covering an area of about eleven hectares, the Niavaran historical complex is composed of several landmark buildings, museums and monuments constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries during the Pahlavi and late Qajar eras.

Persepolis engraved stones, fragments being documented

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – A team of **d e s k** archaeologists, cultural heritage experts, and restorers have commenced a project to reorganize, study, and document engraved stones, related fragments, and bas-relief carvings that are being kept across the UNESCO-registered Persepolis in southern Iran.

“It is one of the long-term projects that the UNESCO World Heritage site pursues to document engraved stones, related fragments and bas-relief carvings that exist in Persepolis by a team of archaeologists, cultural heritage experts, and restorers,” said Hamid Fadaei, director of the World Heritage. “Over the past year, some 3,000 pieces

of [engraved] stones have been documented, categorized, and kept under suitable protection conditions,” Fadaei added.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars Province.

The royal city of Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art. The city’s immense terrace was begun about



518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire’s king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall (“Hundred-Col-

umn Hall”).

This 13-ha ensemble of majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne rooms (Apadana), reception rooms, and dependencies is classified among the world’s greatest archaeological sites.

Millennia-old gold bowl to go on display in Meshkinshahr

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – A 3000-year-old gold bowl, **d e s k** which was discovered from illegal diggers almost seven years ago in a village near Meshkinshahr, the northwestern province of Ardebil, will go on display during the next Iranian calendar year 1400 (starts on March 20, 2021).

The gold bowl is planned to be shown in the city’s museum, which is currently under construction and is scheduled to be ready by the year-end, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The bowl, which dates back to the 1st millennium BC, represents the ancient civilization of the area, Nader Fallahi said on Tuesday.

Known as the Meshkinshahr Gold Bowl, the historical object with 12 centimeters height and its embossed designs has attracted the attention of archaeologists in terms of size, pattern, and historical antiquity.



It also can prove the claim of the existence of an ancient civilization in the Meshkinshahr area, which is known as

the land of ancient castles.

Two rows of moving cows are on the bowl. In each row, four cows are shown with embossed heads and without decoration. In the bottom of the bowl, a geometric rosette flower and a sun can be seen.

Meshkinshahr embraces several historical sites including the Old Castle, the ancient city of Yeri, and Qahqaheh castle.

Being near the high Mount Sabalan, it enjoys a moderate mountainous climate and the Sabalan summit can be seen in the south of the city with an eye-catching scenery.

The antiquity of the city dates back to the early centuries of Islam but in the Safavid era, it was thriving even more. The city is well known for its rugs and its mineral springs.

Meshkinshahr suspension bridge with 345 meters long, 3 meters wide, and 80 meters high, which was inaugurated in 2015 and is said to be the largest of its kind in West Asia, is also one of the top tourist destinations of the city.

Iranian desert to play host to environment-friendly car rally

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – The barren, **d e s k** scorching Maranjab Desert, situated in central Iran, will be hosting tens of 4WD cars for a rally scheduled to be held on October 1 and 2.

That will be an environment-friendly rally because participants are set to clean and collect garbage from the desert surface, the

Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI), which organizes the rally, announced in a press release on Monday.

“Over 70 four-wheel-drive vehicles will take part in the event which starts from Tehran, passing through Qom, Kashan, Aran-Bidgol before arriving in the desert.”

Maranjab is also popular for off-roading. Entry to the barren desert can be found some 50 km north-east Aran-Bidgol, in Isfahan province. The desert is surrounded by a salt lake from the north, Band-e Rig Desert and National Park from the east, Masileh Desert, Hoz-e sultan, and Moreh Lakes from the west and eventually Aran-Bidgol from the south.



Amusement park in Khuzestan aims to attract Iraqi tourists

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Construction of a large roofed amusement park and recreational center has officially begun in southwestern Khuzestan province aiming to attract Iraqi tourists and travelers.

As the center is being built in Khorramshahr, which is near the Iraqi city of Basra, besides providing entertainment services to all residents of Arvand Free Zone and the neighboring cities, it could also become a tourist attraction and destination for Iraqi tourists and travelers, provincial tourism chief Sajjad Pakgohar said on Tuesday.

One of the basic needs of the people in the province and the city of Khorramshahr is having a recreational center and



this shortage has always been felt in the region, he added.

Some 100 billion rials (about \$2.3 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the project, which is being implemented in collaboration with the private sector, the official added.

He also noted that the first phase of the project has generated 80 job opportunities directly and indirectly.

Some two to three million Iraqis visit Iran every year. Some two million Iraqi nationals visited Iran during the first seven months of the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), constituting Iran’s largest source of inbound passengers.

Khorshid palace: an amalgam of Iranian, Indian arts, cultures

By Dr. Seyed Hossein Hosseini Seddiq

(Part 1/2)

Khorshid palace is a magnificent historical monument, which is a relic from the time of Nader Shah Afshar, is the most important tourist attraction of Kalat city in Khorasan Razavi province. This palace is a manifestation of the combination of Iranian art with the art of India, which was registered in 1318 SH /1939 in the list of national monuments of Iran.

■ **Kingdom of Nader Shah Afshar at a Glance**

Nader Shah Afshar is one of the most famous kings of post-Islamic Iran. He was the king of Iran from 1114 SH/1735AD to 1126 SH/ 1747AD. Nader was able to suppress the aggressors and restore the country’s independence with exemplary power and



authority during the invasion of Iran by Afghans, Russians and Ottomans. After gaining the lost borders of Iran, he began to open the country and conquer India and Turkestan. Many historians have politically and militarily called him the most powerful

king of post-Islamic Iran.

The vastness of Iranian territory during the reign of Nader Shah and the speed of progress in his conquests were as if he wanted to return the borders of Iran to the glorious Achaemenid period. Nadershah, who was born in Dargaz, a part of the Khorasan region, founded a building in the Kalat section of Khorasan province in 1117 SH/1738 AD, which is now known as the Palace of the Sun (Khorshid Palace) or the Solar Mansion.

■ **Khorshid palace**

Kalat, also known as the Kalat-e Naderi, is located 150 km from Mashhad. The road from Mashhad to Kalat is full of wild anemone plains and beautiful wheat fields that stand out in the ups and downs of mountains and valleys.

About fifty kilometers from Kalat-e Naderi, the shape of the hills and mountains

suddenly changes. The mountains rise like a military fort along the road. It is as if Nader has hidden something in the heart of hard rocks and boulders, in an exhausting path with many elevations and heights that his enemies should not reach.

Yes, Nader was building his tomb here. A tomb that was both a treasure trove of rare jewels and spoils of war and a prison for some time of Nader Shah’s opponents and other rulers of Kalat. Years after Nader, it was the residence of some of the rulers of Al- e Jalayer and was supposed to be the tomb of Nader Shah Afshar, a tomb that remained without Nader.

Nader Shah started building this tomb from the beginning of his rule. Of course, in all these 9 years, this place has been used differently. Nader died suddenly at the hands of his commanders in Khorasan.

Iranian artist shortlisted for 2020 Loewe Foundation Craft Prize

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – Iranian artist Afsaneh **d e s k** Modiramani has been announced as one of the finalists for Loewe Foundation’s 2020 Craft Prize.

Her work titled “A Little Place to Live” tries to narrate a delicate yet complex story of human life, and the artwork has been made from cotton, wool, and silk.

As for the finalist selection process, a panel of 10 experts was set up in Madrid for two days to assess the entries, and out of nearly 3,000 submissions, the most technically impressive and innovative artists were chosen, according to organizers.

Anthony Marsh from the U.S., Bodil Manz from Denmark, Carla Garcia Durlan from Spain, Darshana Raja from Kenya, David Corvalán from Chile, Despo Sophocleous from Canada, and Edu Tarin from Germany are amongst other craftspeople shortlisted for the prestigious prize.



“This fourth edition will present a range of objects that re-conceptualize conventional artistry skills and

techniques, as well as utilize up-cycled materials to advocate for the preservation of the natural world,” the Foundation said.

“The artists behind these works come from diverse backgrounds and locales. Across 18 countries and representing varying experience levels, the finalists display a range of media, from ceramics and sculpture to textiles and drawing.”

The annual Craft Prize was created in 2016 and acted as a tribute to Loewe’s start as a collective craft workshop in 1846. Each year the prize awards the artists who are making an important contribution to the evolution of their craft. Creative director and creator of the Craft Prize, Jonathan Anderson stated, “Craft is the essence of Loewe. As a house, we are about craft in the purest sense of the word. That is where our modernity lies, and it will always be relevant.”

Hospital beds capacity rises to improve medical system

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Health Minister Saeed Namaki inaugurated 23 health centers, including 201 hospital beds, in Lorestan, Kermanshah, and Khuzestan provinces on Tuesday.

Built on 26,935 square meters area, the centers were constructed with a budget of 2.9 trillion rials (nearly \$70 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

The Ministry of Health is scheduled to

add 10,600 hospital beds to the capacity of the country's medical system within the next 7 months.

Two years ago, there were a total of 140,859 beds in the country, which means 1.7 hospital beds per 1,000 population.

The healthcare reform plan, aiming at decreasing the out-of-pocket expenses for the patients, promoting natural birth, and supporting underprivileged patients suffering



from rare or incurable diseases, was launched in the country in May 2014.

Creating new hospital beds, developing hospitals, renovating dilapidated hospital tissue and upgrading medical centers, the establishment of comprehensive health centers, health houses, health workers

training, the launch of electronic health records for the people, and numerous screening schemes, medical supply, quantitative and qualitative improvement of medical education, and medical research were among the measures taken toward this plan.

Envoys, Tehran mayor ride bikes to mark Car-Free Day



1 → World Car-Free Day is an international event celebrated every September 22 in which people are encouraged to use public or non-motorized transport

to get around.

It has come a long way since its beginnings in 1956 when Dutch and Belgians abandoned their cars every Sunday to curb the effects of the Suez Crisis.

Iran also kicked off the 'Car-Free Tuesdays' campaign in 2016 by NGOs aiming to decrease the number of private cars in cities, hence mitigate air pollution, but lost momentum after almost a year probably because of the inefficient infrastructure in the country.

Such movements towards cleaner transport options

entail appropriate infrastructure such as bike lanes to ensure safety improvements and higher ridership numbers, as well as efficient, low emission public transport.

Iran ranked 71st in the world in terms of per capita vehicle, in Tehran alone there are four cars per person.

According to a report by the World Bank published in April 2018, air pollution in Tehran incurs an annual loss of \$2.6 million and over 4,000 premature deaths from exposure to fine particles ambient concentrations.

COVID-19 cases in Iran at all-time high as 'third wave flares up'

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The new cases of coronavirus in Iran hit an all-time high on Tuesday amid a warning by Health Minister Saeed Namaki that the third wave of the pandemic has just flared up in the country.

Over the past 24 hours, 3,712 new cases of the disease were identified and 178 deaths were registered, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima-Sadat Lari announced on Tuesday.

The total number of fatalities so far has reached 24,656, she confirmed.

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

mortalities and new patients," the deputy health minister Alireza Raeisi said earlier this month.

Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of the Food and Drug Administration, had warned that the nation needs to prepare for a 'second and third wave' of coronavirus in October and November until a vaccine is developed. But it seems that the situation has deteriorated much sooner than predicted.



Rising temperatures shrink Arctic sea ice to second-lowest level on record

Rising temperatures in the Arctic shrank the ice covering the polar ocean this year to its second-lowest extent in four decades, scientists have announced, in yet another sign of how the climate crisis is rapidly transforming the region.

Satellites recorded this year's sea ice minimum at 3.74m sq km on 15 September, only the second time the ice has been measured below 4m sq km in 40 years of record keeping, said researchers at the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

"It's fairly devastating that we've had such consistently low sea ice. But unfortunately, it's not surprising," said Twila Moon, a glaciologist at the research center in Boulder, Colorado.

The record low of 3.41m sq km, reached in 2012 after a late-season cyclonic storm broke up the remaining ice, is not much below what researchers see today, the Guardian reported.

This year's decline was especially fast between 31 August and 5 September, thanks to pulses of warm air coming off a heatwave in Siberia, according to the NSIDC. The rate of ice loss during those six days was faster than during any other year on record. Another team of scientists found in July that the Siberian heatwave would have been all but impossible without human-caused climate change.

As the Arctic sea ice vanishes, it leaves patches of dark



water open. Those dark waters absorb solar radiation rather than reflecting it back out of the atmosphere, a process that amplifies warming and helps to explain why Arctic temperatures have risen more than twice as fast as the rest of the world over the last 30 years.

The loss of sea ice also threatens Arctic wildlife, from polar bears and seals to plankton and algae, said Tom Foreman, a polar wildlife expert and Arctic guide.

At least 25 whales dead and more than 200 stranded in Australia



At least 25 pilot whales have died and more than 200 are stranded at Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's west coast in what is believed to be one of Australia's worst beaching events.

A government marine conservation team was assessing the health of the whales late on Monday after they became stranded in three spots in and outside Macquarie Heads, near the town of Strahan, the Guardian reported.

Nic Deka, incident controller from Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, told reporters it appeared from the air that about 25 of 30 whales stranded near Ocean Beach, outside the heads, have died.

It was unclear how many in two larger groups on sandbars several hundred metres apart off the heads and inside the

harbour were dead. Deka said there were about 270 whales stranded across the heads sites.

"They are in water. It's very difficult to see how many might be deceased or what condition they're in," he said.

Authorities hope to launch a rescue mission for surviving whales early on Tuesday, when there would be an outgoing tide.

Tasmania is a known whale stranding hotspot as the mammals pass it to and from Antarctica. Deka said beachings were not uncommon in the area, but it was the first in at least 10 years.

A department spokeswoman said a decision would be made on whether help was needed from the public once the whales had been assessed. In the meantime, police urged people to stay away and leave the local boat ramp clear for rescuers.

Meanwhile, in a more positive development, a humpback whale that took a wrong turn into a crocodile-infested Northern Territory river has swum free after more than two weeks in the murky waterway.

It's the first time a humpback has been spotted in Kakadu national park's remote East Alligator River, with reports placing it 30km inland.

Kakadu national park manager and zoologist Feach Moyle said the whale managed to navigate its way out of the maze of shallow channels back into Van Diemen Gulf over the weekend.

"It made its way out on the high tides and we're pleased it appeared to be in good condition and not suffering any ill effects," he said in a statement on Monday.

Experts weren't sure why the humpback swam up the muddy tidal river and didn't migrate south to Antarctica for its annual feed.

Iran increases share of UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Three more Iranian cities, namely Tehran, Isfahan, and Bandar Khamir, have recently joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).



Hashtgerd Newtown, Kashan, Mashhad, Shiraz, Yazd, Behbahan, and Arak have already been on the GNLC list, ISNA quoted Hojatollah Ayoubi, the secretary-general of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, as saying on Tuesday.

UNESCO defines a learning city as a city that effectively mobilizes its resources in every sector to promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education; revitalizes learning in families and communities; facilitates learning for and in the workplace; extends the use of modern learning technologies; enhances quality and excellence in learning; and fosters a culture of learning throughout life.

In doing so, the city enhances individual empowerment and social inclusion, economic development and cultural prosperity, and sustainable development.

The UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities supports the achievement of all seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG 4 ('Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all') and SDG 11 ('Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable').

The UNESCO GNLC supports and improves the practice of lifelong learning in the world's cities by promoting policy dialogue and peer learning among member cities; forging links; fostering partnerships; providing capacity development; and developing instruments to encourage and recognize progress made in building learning cities.

The cities of Bandar Abbas, Sanandaj, Isfahan, and Rasht are on the UNESCO Creative Cities Network list.

UNESCO has designated October 31 as World Cities Day aims to showcase exceptional cities that are examples of "innovation and collective intelligence" for the future.

National mental health week to highlight more investment, access

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The national mental health week will be held on October 9-15 in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and with a focus on "Mental health for all: more investment - more access for all, everywhere".

The health ministry has assigned each day of the week with a special theme as follows:

Friday, October 9: the role of mental health infrastructure in COVID-19 crisis

Saturday, October 10: committed specialists, health defenders

Sunday, October 11: informed policymakers, invest more in mental health

Monday, October 12: the role of the primary health care system in accessing mental health services

Tuesday, October 13: the participation of non-governmental organizations in promoting the mental health of the community

Wednesday, October 14: the role of the media in explaining the state of mental health and destigmatization

Thursday, October 15: effective insurance, more access to mental health services

Facts about 8 years of Sacred Defense

The most notable facts about the Sacred Defense

TEHRANTIMES



The bloodiest war after WWII

The longest conventional war of the 20th century

The highest number of POWs with different nationalities (more than 16 countries)

The most successful sniper in history (Abdorrasoul Zarrin, with over 700 targets hit)

The greatest air attack (H-3 airstrike)

The most complicated amphibious operation (Vafaj-e 8)



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People are slaves of this world. Religion is just what they say. They use it as long as it provides them with their living. When they are tested, there remain only a few true religious ones.

Imam Hussein (AS)

Chinese, Iranian calligraphers team up for exhibition “Silk Script”

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian calligrapher Bahman Panahi and the Chinese calligrapher of Islamic scripts, Hajji Noor Deen Mi Guang Jiang, have teamed up to display their latest works in a joint online exhibition.

The exhibition, which has been organized by the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, will be launched on September 29 on the web site gallery.irunesco.org.

The virtual form of the exhibition has been designed at the tomb of Ferdowsi, the poet of the epic Persian masterpiece Shahnameh. Copies of the artworks will be showcased at exhibits in Tehran and Mashhad at the same time.

In a press release published by the commission on Tuesday, Panahi expressed his happiness over the organizing the event and said, “I think that this exhibition will be really helpful and inspiring for future plans.”

Panahi has studied art at the College of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran, ESAD - École Supérieure d'Art et de Design de Valenciennes, France, and Paris-Sorbonne University. He wrote his doctoral thesis on connections between music and calligraphy.

He has held courses and exhibitions at world-renowned academic centers, including Harvard University and Northeastern University. Born in 1964, Hajji Noor Deen Mi Guang Jiang, who is an expert in Chinese style Islamic calligraphy and a native of China's Shandong Province, teaches at an Islamic college in Zhengzhou, the capital city of Henan Province in China.

In 1997, he was the first Chinese Muslim to be awarded the Egyptian Certificate of Arabic Calligraphy and to be admitted as a member of the Association of Egyptian Calligraphy.

During the 3rd Global Islamic Economy Summit in Dubai in 2016, he received the Dubai Islamic Economy Award “in recognition of his valuable contribution toward the development of the global Islamic economy.”

His work has been displayed around the world and has been acquired for the permanent collections of many museums including the British Museum, San Francisco Asian Museum, National Museum of Scotland and Harvard University Art Museum.

Iranian artists join intl. exhibit in Istanbul

A R T TEHRAN — 22 Iranian artists are displaying their artworks in a group art exhibit with the central themes of peace and women at the Luna Art Gallery in Istanbul under the title of “Color of Peace”.



An art aficionado visits artworks from the exhibit “Color of Peace” on view at the Luna Art Gallery in Istanbul.

The exhibit opened on September 19 and will be running until September 25.

This is the third edition of the exhibit with 44 Iranian and international artists displaying 70 works, the organizers have announced.

Sara Asef, Leila Imani, Sohrab Ahmadi, Fatemeh Badri, Kiana Hassanzadeh, Zahra Maqsadi, Puran Ghaffari and Afsanh Nikdel are among the participating Iranian artists.

Resistance festival opens with tribute to war cinema dead

A R T TEHRAN — The 16th Resistance International Film Festival opened at the Sacred Defense Museum in Tehran on Monday, paying tribute to five cineastes of the Iranian war cinema who have died over the past year.

These are filmmaker Khosro Sinai, producer Hadi Meshkat, documentarians Hossein Fahimi and Gholamreza Janantkhan, and composer Reza Atarodi.

Sinai's close friend Habib Ahmadzadeh, the author of the acclaimed novel “Chess with the Doomsday Machine”, talked about Sinai at the opening ceremony.

“There are many like Sinai, it is our problem that we cannot speak with them in a proper language. We only know to talk with others in our own language. I think one of our problems is that our language is not up-to-date. Sinai used to attend all the student festivals of Sacred Defense (the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war) held in the border towns. His wife used to teach children painting and his daughter theater,” Ahmadzadeh said.

“Sinai never said no to the Sacred Defense-themed works. I am happy this honoring ceremony has been held for him as well. Abbas Kiarostami was also like Sinai. When he visited the Tehran Peace Museum he said that he would do anything for the war veterans who had asked him to echo their voices of oppression to other countries.”

Addressing the audience, he continued, “Afterwards, anytime Kiarostami was to attend an event outside the country, he used to ask us



Organizers unveil a poster for the Rasul Award named after the war film director Rasul Mollaqlolpur during the opening ceremony of the 16th Resistance International Film Festival at the Sacred Defense Museum in Tehran on September 21, 2020.

to prepare several documentaries about the war veterans who were injured by chemical weapons during the war with subtitles in the language of the country of his destination. He used to screen the films in his workshops and classes for the foreign cineastes.”

“I ask once again to consider that our language might not be the right one and we cannot talk with people. We must blame ourselves this is us we cannot communicate with people not them,”

he concluded.

The ceremony continued with paying tribute to the family of late filmmaker Rasul Mollaqlolpur. The organizers honor innovative filmmakers with the Rasul Award named after the war film director.

In appreciation of the medical workers' efforts on the front lines of the campaign against COVID-19, the festival has initiated a category titled “Health Defenders” in collaboration

with the Health Ministry.

Films focusing on the endeavors health workers have made during the pandemic will be competing in this section.

A lineup of Iranian and international short documentaries are competing in the “Health Defenders” category.

They include “Social Distance” by Erkan Özcan from Turkey, “Portugal Coronavirus Documentary” by Carlos A. Costa from Portugal and “Italy Lockdown: How the Coronavirus Has Forever Changed Our Lives” by Carla Falzone and Sacha Biazio from Italy.

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

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

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

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

The 16th edition of the event will go online due to a spike in the coronavirus cases in the country.

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

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

Iran sympathizes with Lebanon in music video “Restless for Balqis”

→1 “Hello to the people, who have always been beside Lebanon amid difficulties, sympathizing with us,” he added. “Music is part of the Lebanese culture and we are really happy being with Iranian artists at this meeting,” he noted.

Al-Ajami praised the collaboration between Iranian and Lebanese musicians in the project “Restless for Balqis” and added, “We shout out that Beirut neither burns nor sinks, Beirut stands and conveys the message of peace and friendship to the entire world.”

AlHaj also praised Khalatbari for his compositions and added, “This video is the one project that I will never forget.”

For his part, Khalatbari said, “Cultural diplomacy helps achieve our humane aims and to have a friendly interaction with each other,” and added, “I hope in the National Orchestra, we can follow the Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra in some movements.”

Rudaki Foundation Management Director Mehdi Afzali also said, “There has been a close relationship between Iran and Lebanon, and this helps implement the cultural task.”

The National Orchestra was founded in 1998 by maestro Farhad Fakhreddini who has attracted a huge number of musicians, including legendary vocalist Mohammadreza Shajarian, to collaborate with the orchestra.



Iranian composer Fardin Khalatbari (L) and Lebanese maestro Andre AlHaj attend a meeting at Tehran's Radaki Hall on September 22, 2020 to unveil the music video “Restless for Balqis”. (ILNA/Alireza Ramezani)

Kenro Izu's photo collection on view at Steve House in Kashan

A R T TEHRAN — A collection of photos by Kenro Izu, a world-renowned U.S.-based Japanese photographer, is on display in an exhibition at the Steve House in the central Iranian city of Kashan, famous for its rosewater and historical monuments.

Photos from his series “Sacred Places”, “Still Life” and “Blue”, which were displayed at Tehran's Nabshi Center last autumn, have been selected for the showcase.

“Taking pictures is just a personal experience. To me, it is an experience as a human being, and that is why I call it a pilgrimage with my camera,” Izu told the Tehran Times in October 2019 when he was in Tehran to promote his exhibition.



Japanese photographer Kenro Izu attends the opening ceremony of his exhibition at Tehran Nabshi Center on September 27, 2019. (Honaronline/Mehdi Azadbakht)

Born in 1949 in Osaka, Japan, Izu uses his custom-built, large-format, three-hundred-

pound Deardorff camera to produce his timeless photos.

“As a human being, everybody has a journey through the passage of life, and I personally try to seek why I am here and what is my mission and what is the passage in front of me. However, I must say I still don't know,” Izu asserted.

“But in order to observe myself as to where I am, the camera has really been helpful. It forced me to concentrate, and after that I started to keep it in my mind. It provided a real opportunity like a good mirror reflecting myself,” he said.

In 1970, Izu visited New York to learn photography as he was studying art at Nippon University in Tokyo. He subsequently decided

to stay and work. In 1975, after working as an assistant to other photographers, Izu established Kenro Izu Studio in New York City, to specialize in still life photography, both commercial and fine art.

All photos in Izu's series are black and white. He found the black and white photos to be more beautiful.

Hossein Farmani is the founder and chief curator of Steve McCurry's House in Kashan. He has restored a historical house in Kashan having named it after the American photographer Steve McCurry with a comprehensive collection of photos by Steve McCurry.

The exhibit will be running until October 30.

“Reality Is Not What It Seems” at Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — Italian theoretical physicist Carlo Rovelli's book “Reality Is Not What It Seems: The Journey to Quantum Gravity” has recently been published in Persian in Tehran.

Ali Shahi is the translator of the book published by the No publishing house.

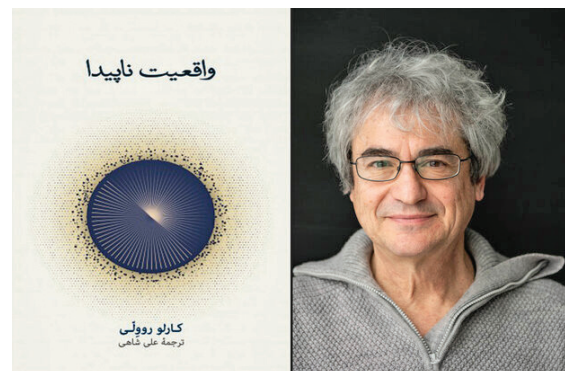
“Reality Is Not What It Seems” is an illustrated book that discusses quantum gravity. It was first published in Italian in 2014 before the author's bestseller “Seven Brief Lessons on Physics”. It was published in English in 2016 by which time an English translation of “Seven Brief Lessons” had already appeared.

The book's opening chapters trace the history and evolution

of quantum gravity. Starting with pre-Socratic philosopher Democritus through to the ideas of Sir Isaac Newton and, eventually, Albert Einstein, Rovelli puts forward a theory that quantum gravity brings great unity to the universe.

Rovelli then states that space and time, waves and particles, energy and matter are all the same. Rovelli then seeks to disprove the concepts of continuity and infinity.

Rovelli's work is mainly in the field of quantum gravity, where he is among the founders of the loop quantum gravity theory. He has also worked in the history and philosophy of science. He collaborates regularly with several Italian newspapers, in particular the cultural supplements of Il Sole 24 Ore and La Repubblica.



This combination photo shows Italian writer Carlo Rovelli and the front cover of the Persian translation of his book “Reality Is Not What It Seems”.

Ken Liu's “Paper Menagerie and Other Stories” appears in Persian

in Persian by Fanus Publications in Tehran.

The book has been rendered into Persian by Fardin Tavassolian. This is the first book by Liu to be translated and published in Persian.

With his debut novel, “The Grace of Kings”, taking the literary world by storm, Liu now shares his finest short fiction in “The Paper Menagerie and Other Stories”.

This mesmerizing collection features many of Ken's award-winning and award-finalist stories, including “The Man Who Ended

History: A Documentary”, “Mono No Aware”, “The Waves”, “The Bookmaking Habits of Select Species”, “All the Flavors”, “The Litigation Master and the Monkey King” and the most awarded story in the genre's history, “The Paper Menagerie”.

Liu has won the Nebula, Hugo, and World Fantasy awards, as well as top genre honors in Japan, Spain, France, and several other places.

Prior to becoming a full-time writer, Ken worked as a software engineer, corporate lawyer, and litigation consultant.

Ken frequently speaks at conferences and universities on a variety of topics, including futurism, cryptocurrency, history of technology, bookmaking, the mathematics of origami and other subjects of his expertise.

Ken, who lives with his family near Boston, Massachusetts, is also the translator for Liu Cixin's “The Three-Body Problem”, Hao Jingfang's “Vagabonds”, Chen Qiufan's “Waste Tide”, as well as the editor of “Invisible Planets” and “Broken Stars”, anthologies of contemporary Chinese science fiction.



Front cover of the Persian translation of American author Ken Liu's book “The Paper Menagerie and Other Stories”.

CULTURE TEHRAN — “The Paper Menagerie and Other Stories” written by the American author of speculative fiction, Ken Liu, has been published