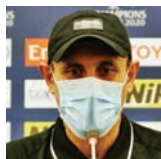




Nuclear armed Israel remains biggest threat to peace in West Asia **2**



Persepolis determined to beat Al Sadd: Golmohammadi **3**



Development projects worth over \$425m inaugurated in southern Iran **4**



“The Eleventh Golestan” on Commander Chitsazian published in S. Africa **8**

There will be no dead end

See page 4

Reuters: Iran boosts oil exports sharply in September



©File photo

By Afshin Majlesi
Tehran Times journalist

World Tourism Day: COVID-19 makes a big difference

September 27th is a special day for potential travelers and all tourism insiders: It's World Tourism Day! However, for the first time in the 40-year history of the occasion, it will be held this year with a big difference amid the deep global economic recession, job losses, halted flights, as well as lockdowns and closures due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In this tough time, the tourism and hospitality industry in Iran and other parts of the world have been experiencing significant changes after a sudden standstill. On the international front, it is worth mentioning that the number of foreign travelers to Iran reached almost zero! The Islamic Republic registered only 74 visits during the spring season!

Ahead of the 2020 World Tourism Day, many experts across the world expressed concerns about how to re-start tourism; how to make a balance between the half-dead sector with the public health; and how the outbreak could be a catalyst for a major transformation.

Iranian Tourism Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan has said "Corona is a [bitter] reality but it cannot bring traveling to a complete standstill" as he underlined that "people's health is our first priority."

"If coronavirus-related restrictions persist, the tourism industry of the country will suffer irreparable losses and many tourism insiders will be bankrupt... it's time to replace 'smart and responsible traveling' with 'do not travel' recommendations."

Mounesan said in August that Iran's travel sector had suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Opening up under health protocols

For the time being, lockdown measures have been lifted in Iran and many other places across the globe, and the tourism sector is being gradually opening up but under mandatory strict guidelines for wearing face masks, maintaining social distance, thermal scanning, and sanitization as well as arrangements for testing. The last few months witnessed changes in demand for immediate travel largely due to individuals traveling for essential purposes or to their hometowns. **→6**

Normalization with Israel betrayal of Palestinian cause

By Dr. Khairunnisa Aga

Even though peacebuilding is essential for stability in West Asia, it should be built on the foundation of justice, not on betrayal. Peace today is practically being projected as an entity incompatible with the concept of justice. However the projection has failed in numerous cases by relapsing into violent conflicts in the absence of assurance of fairness.

The peace processes is the case of Palestine also presents an important illustration of deprivation of peace and stability through denial of justice. The peace processes in Palestinian question have normalized the betrayal and failed to bring reconciliation, peace or justice. The operations have relegated Palestinians and made attempts to deviate from the core issue of rights, liberties and justice.

Peace means absence of hostility and violence and is opposite to violent conflicts. The prolonged

conflicts, wars, ethnic tensions, proxies, civil wars, and human rights abuses have depressed human life and in many cases robbed it of dignity. The instances of Palestinian Question that is persistent from the day of establishment of Zionist state has destroyed homes, killed and displaced innumerable Palestinians.

Wars on Iraq and Afghanistan or earlier Iraqi invasion on Iran and Kuwait resulted into disasters and made the people vulnerable. The ethnic conflicts around the world are not new but one group that is suppressed by the other are still fighting for fundamental rights, like Tamil-Sinhalese or Arab-Kurdish tensions. Lebanese civil war or new era proxy wars in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen are indicative of interference of the superpowers and regional rivals and giving rise to displacement and vulnerable life for numerous people. **→5**

U.S. protests: Oregon governor sending state police to Portland for protests

The governor of the U.S. state of Oregon said Friday she is sending state troopers and sheriffs deputies to Portland through the weekend to help monitor a weekend rally in the city by the Proud Boys, a right-wing group, and counter-protests.

Portland has been racked by often violent protests for more than three months, following the police killing of George Floyd in the U.S. state of Minneapolis, which prompted a nationwide movement against police brutality and anti-Black racism.

Demonstrations that went into a lull during Oregon's recent wildfires resumed this week, driven by a Kentucky grand jury's decision to not indict officers in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor.

Governor Kate Brown told reporters she is exercising her gubernatorial authority to place Multnomah County Sheriff Mike Reese

and Oregon State Police Superintendent Travis Hampton in charge of Portland's public safety on Saturday and Sunday.

Brown said that Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler supports the plan.

"This is our entire community coming together to protect our community," Brown said. "We want the highest level of coordination and the strongest leadership possible."

According to al Jazeera, Oregon State Police Superintendent Hampton said that the change in command "is in no way an indictment of our colleagues at the Portland Police Bureau for the job that they have done or would have done this weekend".

"The Portland Police Bureau, their officers have endured some incredibly mentally and physically taxing situations for over 100 days, while they have done the best they can to keep Portland streets safe," Hampton said.

Global partnership prerequisite to counter COVID-19

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – A global crisis needs global cooperation to be tackled, the coronavirus pandemic showed that in today's world many dangers can cross all boundaries and affect the whole world so that it magnifies the importance of international cooperation.

With all its smallness, COVID-19 challenged global governance to such an extent that even the most important global gathering was inevitably held virtually. So that, it once again reminds all

of us members of human society that tackling common global issues is only possible through global participation.

As the U.S. government's unilateralism increased and the role of the United Nations diminished, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres criticized the lack of multilateral solutions to global problems at the opening session of the UN General Assembly calling for "inclusive multilateralism".

He further emphasized the need for expand-

ing the circle of engagement, drawing on the capacities of civil society, regions, and cities, businesses, foundations, and academic and scientific institutions.

According to the latest statistics, over 32 million people worldwide have been diagnosed with the virus so far, of which more than 980,000 have died; The United Nations recently issued a resolution calling for comprehensive and coordinated action by the international community to combat the epidemic. **→7**



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Iraqi FM in Tehran for bilateral talks

TEHRAN – Fuad Hussein, the Iraqi foreign minister, visited Tehran on Saturday to hold bilateral talks with his Iranian counterpart and other officials.

Hussein held talks with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif immediately after he arrived in Tehran. After the talks, the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued two short statements saying the Iraqi foreign minister will also meet with other Iranian officials.

During the talks, Zarif denounced as "unacceptable" any attack on diplomatic facilities, underlining the need to stop such attacks, according to a statement issued on Saturday by the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Zarif also underlined the need to protect the Iranian diplomatic facilities in Iran. **→3**

American threats of assassinations: What follows?

By Abir Bassam

It seems that American President Donald Trump is greatly enjoying the game of power. He must have lost his balance as a credible businessman to becoming a genuine cowboy, raising his pistol, and shooting all around. His ego is becoming more inflated every day. This was bluntly expressed on the 16th of September in his interview on Fox News, bragging his decision to assassinate another state's president.

However, Trump is a typical image of the white European settlers of the new world. They would kill and shed blood to get things done in their own way, a symbol of power in any Hollywood action movie, which simply justifies the nature of the Americans portrayed and created in Hollywood and Western media.

The issue may not be that simple. However, this is one way to understand the policy that the official American caretaker applies for the justification of assassination. The other way is to blackout the non-humanitarian actions the American soldiers are practicing during the military campaigns and labeling the citizen in the occupied states as terrorists. That is exactly what the Hollywood industry reinforces in the minds of the youths and adults.

This strategy has been working in the USA for more than a century till now. At every stage, a new enemy is portrayed. In the 1930s and the 1940s, the American society's enemies were the Italians and Irish descended families. They represented the Mafia Syndicates, which manipulated law and order. In the 50s and on, it was Communism, which was portrayed as a great danger to the American unique lifestyle. **→5**

Trump endangered Iranian lives much more brutally than Saddam: government

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — The Iranian government spokesman has compared the atrocities of U.S. President Donald Trump with those of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussain, saying Trump has endangered the lives of Iranians more than Saddam did.



"Today, Trump has endangered the life, health and livelihood of Iranians much more aggressively and brutally than Saddam," Ali Rabiei said in a note titled, "Yesterday's Defense, Today's Defense".

"If Saddam wanted to take Khuzestan and Khoramshahr and even Arvand Rud from us, today Trump has targeted every single part [of Iran] as well as undermining Iran, destroying the national moral and identity of the Iranian society," he wrote, Mehr reported.

Rabiei wrote the article on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week.

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

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

Iran on Monday held a ceremony to honor more than one million war veterans. The ceremony kicked off at a Sacred Defense museum in Tehran, and it was attended by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution via videoconference.

"Those days, Saddam's regime tore down the Algiers Agreement in front of the cameras, and Trump's regime has done the same with Barjam (nuclear agreement) with the same mindset today," Rabiei wrote.

He said Saddam threatened Iranian cities and towns with destruction and Trump has threatened to destroy Iranian cultural sites.

"Those days, Saddam's regime bombarded people with missiles and bombs, and today Trump's regime has been targeting people's health, life and livelihood with the 'bombardment of sanctions and economic terror'," he added.

In May 2018, Trump withdrew his country from the Iran nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and introduced the "toughest ever sanctions" on Iran.

Meanwhile, Washington has accused Tehran of violating the JCPOA and attempted in vain to reimpose the UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

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

U.S. economic siege will lead nowhere, says Shamkhani

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), has said the United States' economic siege will lead nowhere due to Iran's active resistance.

"Defeat of the Abadan siege on October 26, 1981, confronted the illusory Ba'athist enemy with the miracle of #ResistanceCulture," Ali Shamkhani wrote in a tweet on Saturday.

"Even today, economic siege, from an enemy who thinks he is a thousand times stronger than us, will do nothing, with #ActiveResistance," he added.

U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally quit the 2015 Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 and introduced the harshest ever sanctions in history on Iran as part of his administration's "maximum pressure" strategy against Iran.

Tehran has said that Washington's "maximum pressure" has produced "maximum resistance" in Iran, and that it will continue to resist.

Iran has also described the U.S. sanctions as "crimes against humanity", "economic terrorism" and "medical terrorism".

General: Iran relying on homegrown equipment to counter threats

TEHRAN (MNA) — The Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army noted that unlike some Persian Gulf States dependent on Western countries, Iran is relying on its homegrown military equipment to counter any threats.



Speaking in a ceremony at AJA University of Command and Staff (DAFOOS) on Saturday, Brigadier General Mohammad Hossein Dadras referred to Iran's progress and achievements under cruel and all-out sanctions of the US, adding that, "History shows that nations and societies will never step forward to achieve perfect results without experiencing hardship and limitations."

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran has been under the pressures and limitations, he said and noted that it is for those limitations that today the country has achieved developments.

He noted that for example, arms embargoes on Iran made Iranian experts rely on indigenous knowledge to produce the needed military equipment.

Rouhani calls Pompeo 'secretary of crimes'

'We have never seen such savage people in White House'

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani has referred to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as "secretary of crimes", quoting Pompeo as saying proudly that the U.S. has blocked \$70 billion of Iran's resources and prevented a \$5-billion IMF loan to Iran, which would have been spent on medicine and healthcare.

In remarks on Saturday morning, Rouhani also praised the Iranian people for resisting against the U.S. pressure and bullying, saying people should have been able to live better in the past few years but they have faced many problems because of the White House's crimes.

President Donald Trump has withdrawn the United States from the internationally-endorsed Iran nuclear deal and pursued a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

Earlier, the Trump administration announced a move to trigger the snapback of all UN sanctions on Iran after failing to get the UN Security Council to pass a resolution aiming to indefinitely extend an arms embargo on the country.

All other parties to the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have strongly rejected Washington's unilateral moves.



Indignant over rejection of UN sanctions by 13 members of the Security Council, the U.S. immediately imposed more of its own sanctions against Iran on Monday.

"Our maximum economic pressure campaign remains but remember, President Trump has said that he wants a peaceful resolution with Iran and he has said that he's willing to negotiate for a new and better

deal," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortugus told CNBC's Hadley Gamble on Wednesday.

"So peace and diplomacy remains on the table anytime the regime and Iran would like to take us up on it," Ortugus added.

■ 'We have never seen such savage people in White House'

Iran has condemned Washington's

Nuclear armed Israel remains biggest threat to peace in West Asia: Tehran

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Iran has called on the international community to stand for a nuclear-free world, and condemned the U.S. and the Zionist regime for their destabilizing policies and activities which threaten world peace.

"The International Day for the Total Elimination of #NuclearWeapons, provides an opportunity for the int'l community to re-emphasize on its commitment to nuke disarmament as a priority. We believe in a peaceful & secure world, with no state possessing weapon of mass destruction," the Foreign Ministry wrote in a series of tweets on Saturday.

The UN General Assembly commemorates September 26 as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The occasion provides an opportunity for the world to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a priority.

"The Int'l Day for the total elimination of #NuclearWeapons is an opportunity to re-express our total rejection of all

kinds of WMDs," the Foreign Ministry said.

Unfortunately, the ministry added, the U.S. regime's disregard for international treaties and its plans to produce new nukes has brought the world closer to a new arms race.

"Also in our region, the Israeli Regime with its 10s of nukes remains the biggest threat to peace & security & - supported by the U.S. - prevents the ME to become a NWFZ," it said.

The Foreign Ministry added that responsible nations should stand for a nuclear-free world.

Israel is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and has refused to either confirm or deny the possession of nuclear weapons in its arsenal.

The regime is believed to possess 200 nuclear warheads, making it the only country in West Asia that has nuclear weapons.

Iran has signed the NPT and its nuclear program is inspected regularly by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The IAEA has in numerous occasions certified the



peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program.

Tehran also signed a nuclear agreement with six major powers in 2015 to assure the world that its nuclear program is peaceful in nature. The U.S., however, exited the deal in 2018.

Iran censures EU statement on its human rights



treaties have always been among Iran's priorities, and it has practically committed itself to observing them," the spokesman added.

The Iranian ambassador and permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva also reacted to the statement.

"They (some European states) are competing with each other for the sale of billions of dollars in arms to Saudi Arabia and the region's despots for the massacre of defenseless people of Yemen," Foreign Ministry spokesman says.

Speaking in 45th committee of Human Right Council, Esmail Baghaei Hamaneh criticized that some European countries have turned the Human Rights Council into an arena to intervene domestic affairs of developing countries.

He said that it is a pity that some countries are advising others over respecting for human rights, while they're ignoring their previous and current crimes and they are concealing the fact that much of the suffering of others is the result of their past colonial policies and their own hegemonic mentality.

Criticizing western countries' approach towards Human Rights, the envoy attributed such a policy only as a political tool to achieve some purposes such as creating

conflicts between countries and the degradation of Human Rights.

Some European countries have turned the Human Rights Council into an arena for intervention in the affairs of the developing countries, he added.

Pointing out that the enforcement of laws is the necessary way to protect and respect human rights, Baghaei Hamaneh called it unacceptable to put pressure on other governments under the name of human rights to change the countries' domestic legal system or to interfere in court cases.

He said that the best way to achieve the goals of the Human Rights Council is the dialogue and cooperation based on the principle of neutrality and avoiding accusing others.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he warned of continuing widespread and systematic violations against Palestinian human rights in the Occupied Territories and called on the Human Rights Council to prevent the Zionist Regime, whose existence is based on terrorism and aggression, from normalizing its brutality and gross violations of Human Rights.

Prosecutor general: "Economic war is harder than military war"

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — National Prosecutor General Mohammad-Jafar Montazeri said on Saturday that "economic war is harder than military war."

The prosecutor general was openly referring to Donald Trump's economic war against Iran in line with his administration's policy of "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

Drawing a comparison to the imposed war on Iran in

the 1980s and Trump's current economic war against the country, the prosecutor general said, "We as the inheritors of the Islamic Revolution and the Sacred Defense are tasked to guard the achievements of the Revolution. However, today our Jihad against the enemy is different. Today we are in economic and cultural war which its destructive effects are far more."

Montazeri also said all are tasked to keep alive the memory of those who resisted against the invaders during Saddam Hussein's war against Iran.

Saddam invaded Iran from land, air and sea on September 22, 1980 that lasted until 1988.

The resistance against the invading army of Saddam is known as Sacred Defense.

Guardian Council censures sanctions against judicial officials

TEHRAN (Press TV) — The spokesman for Iran's Guardian Council has dismissed new U.S. sanctions against a number of Iranian judicial officials, hitting back at the U.S. administration over police brutality and racial injustice against African-Americans in the country.

The condemnation on Friday came a day after the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump blacklisted several Iranian officials and entities in the country's Judiciary over rights abuse accusations.

Washington also slapped sanctions on a judge that it claimed was involved in the high-profile case of Navid Afkari, a convict that was recently executed over murder.

The imposition of U.S. sanctions was criticized by Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei, spokesman for the Guardian Council, which vets legislation passed by the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) for compliance with the country's Constitution.

"In continuation of mounting pressure on Iran, Donald Trump has imposed new sanctions on our country's judges," Kadkhodaei said in a tweet in Persian.

"Would the Iranian Judiciary be able to impose similar sanctions on the killers of Black people in that country who torture them upon arrest and kill them without trial?"

Kadkhodaei was referring to the May 25 killing of unarmed African American

George Floyd in the U.S. city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, after a white officer pinned him to the ground and knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. The brutal murder drew thousands of protesters to the streets and prompted minority groups across the U.S. to vent their long-felt indignation about systemic racism, also breathing new life into the 'Black Lives Matter' movement.

The U.S. Treasury Department announced in a statement posted on its website on Thursday night that it had levied sanctions on Seyed Mahmoud Sadati and Mohammad Soltani, judges of branch one of Shiraz Revolutionary Court and the Ad-

elabad prison in southern Fars province, where Afkari was sentenced to death.

The 27-year-old was executed after being convicted of fatally stabbing a government employee in Fars province in 2018.

Afkari had stabbed Hassan Turkman, a water supply company employee, in the southern city of Shiraz during riots over fuel prices at that time.

As part of a so-called maximum pressure campaign, Iran has been under a series of economic sanctions imposed by the United States since 2018, when Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Iran deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Assistant holds talks with UN Syria envoy

POLITICAL DESK **TEHRAN** — Ali-Asghar Khaji, a senior assistant to Iranian foreign minister in special political affairs, spoke by phone with UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir O. Pedersen on Syria-related issues, including the activities of a committee that is tasked with drafting a new constitution for Syria.

During the Saturday talks, the two sides exchanged views on the political process and activities of the Syrian Constitutional Committee, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

In a statement on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said Khaji and Pedersen "underlined the promotion of political dialogue and the continued work of the Constitutional Committee within the framework of respecting the country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Over the past few months, the two officials held at least three telephone conversations on Syria including a phone



Khaji

Pedersen

call in mid-September during which they highlighted the need to move forward with the political process and the Syrian Constitutional Committee. Two days after his conversation with Khaji, Pedersen briefed the UN Security Council on his efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis.

"The discussions within the Committee were mostly substantive and on the agreed agenda. The Co-Chairs told me that they sensed that some common ground was emerging on some subjects. There were practical suggestions from members on how to identify such common ground and how the discussion could move forward. I was very pleased with this," the UN Syria envoy told the Security Council on September 18. Pedersen added, "This said, there were very real differences on substance even at the quite general level of the discussions. And the Co-Chairs were not, as I had hoped, able to agree while in Geneva on an agenda for the next session. We need a proposed agenda if the Committee is to meet."

Rouhani underscores U.S. withdrawal from Iraq

POLITICAL DESK **TEHRAN** — During a meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, President Hassan Rouhani underlined the need for the withdrawal U.S. forces from the region.

"We consider the presence of U.S. armed forces in the region, whether in Iraq, Afghanistan or the southern countries of the Persian Gulf, as detrimental to security and stability in the region," the presidential website quoted Rouhani as saying on Saturday evening.

The president further reiterated that removing the U.S. forces from the region is not up to Iran, instead, it is up to every country that the Americans are present in.

"We consider what the Iraqi parliament and the representatives of the Iraqi people passed in this regard as a positive step which is supported by the Iraqi nation and us," Rouhani asserted.

He also said Iran doesn't seek and has never sought to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, adding that "we always believed that the Iraqi factions should have good



"We always believed that the Iraqi factions should have good relations in order to protect" their country, Rouhani notes.

relations in order to protect" their country.

Hussein arrived in Tehran on Saturday morning to hold talks with several high-ranking Iranian officials including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Secretary of Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani.

Rouhani also underlined the need to hasten the implementation of the agreements reached during the visits of Iranian and Iraqi officials.

"It is up to us, as the officials of the two countries, to lay the groundwork for the deepening of relations in the future."

Rouhani hoped that during Hussein's visit to Tehran, Iran and Iraq take "good and comprehensive" measures to implement bilateral agreements.

For his part, the Iraqi foreign minister appreciated the Iranian assistance to Iraq. He said the two countries should make efforts to implement all previous agreements step by step.

Normalization with Israel betrayal of Palestinian cause

1→ The root cause of all these conflicts is betrayal and denial of justice as is seen in the case of Palestine. Peacebuilding cannot be conceived on the shaky ground of injustice, human rights abuse and complete rejection of it. Betrayal is a word with negative connotation with an intention to harm. The most dangerous betrayal that the world has seen is seen in the form of dehumanization of majority of world's population through the process of colonialism by the Western powers. The Palestinian Question is a colonial legacy as many more conflicts like Kashmir Question between India and Pakistan, Sri Lankan ethnic tensions, Lebanese and Somali civil wars and so on. The conflicts are mostly outcome of the imposition of arbitrary and imaginary borders by the colonialists that is wounding for the indigenous people but beneficial for the grand colonial schemes. As Prof. SD, Muni maintains that majority of the conflicts of the world are born to colonial interests and arbitrariness of hegemonic forces.

The betrayal for Palestinians started right in the 1948 with the facilitation and support for the establishment of a Zionist state on its land. Imperial Iran and Imperial Turkey were the first Muslims to recognize Israel and extend the support under pressure of the Western powers. The betrayal for Palestinians entered into its second phase with the façade of Arab unity propagated by the Arab leaders. In this project not only Palestinians but Arabs at large were betrayed. The betrayal was constituted with the non-commitment and non-seriousness to the idea of ending all forms of oppression. The cracks in facade appeared when Arab countries like Jordan and Egypt took the lead in legitimizing Zionism.

Zionism is a political belief that desires an exclusive Jewish state in the area of Palestine that is considered the promised land for people without land. Zionism is manifested in two ways; the one is in hard form and includes aggression, wars and military tactics. As opposed to the hard form, it is a soft form

through cooptation policy that started with the violent death of state sponsored autocratic Arab nationalism. The cooptation demands believing in the lies of Zionists and closing eyes to the pain of Palestinians and pushing a narrative that projects the Palestinian cause parochial and support for Israel fashionable. The policy gradually resulted into criminalization of the national liberation movement of the Palestinians. This is also the beginning of securitization of Muslim identity and construction of vague and unilateral term of 'Islamic Terrorism'.

The peace processes in the case of Palestinian Question is another form of betrayal. An abundance of evidence is available that substantiates that Palestinians were brought to the table of negotiations but were relegated every time. All such processes, especially the ones brokered by Washington disempowered the Palestinians and institutionalized structures of oppression. In this way, layers after layers of oppression were added and the settler colonialism of Zionist movement facilitated by the Western hegemony almost legalized the occupation. Further, in the process the Palestinians are dehumanized and forced to face de facto discrimination and military occupation on the daily basis. There are several barriers of restriction on movement, on thought and on expression and so on.

Palestinians are systematically deprived of basic human rights such as access to drinking water, to sanitation, to electricity and healthcare. They are being deprived of political rights. There is no actual participation in the political process that decide for their life. The Palestinian universities are ransacked and bombed, staff, students and faculty are tear-gassed, shot dead and arbitrarily detained. The refugee word has become synonymous with the Palestinian life, numerous of them are forced to live in exile in refugee camps with no hope to return. On the other hand, Israel is freely erasing Palestinian land, livelihood, stories, personhood, histories in live

direction to erase Palestinian resistance and the voices calling for end of the oppression.

The settler colonialism is employing every colonial tactic to enhance its control over Palestine. The smear campaign against Palestine and those supporting them is undertaken by the section of paid media of the West. The project includes misrepresentation and demonization of the Palestinians through different means. A good part of academia is also giving place to Zionist narrative and Islamophobia plays key role in this. Palestinians have only social control over the vicinities and exits and entries are occupied by the Israeli security forces. The excessive presence of security forces paves way for massive militarization of the Palestinian society. The life of Palestinians is under constant siege and military occupation. Therefore, it is apartheid that is in place in Palestine. Dr. Mitri Raheb says that apartheid in Palestine is like 'swiss cheese' where cheese is taken by Israel and Palestinians are pushed into the holes. Thus Palestinians have no autonomy and control over their own lives and resources and make a classic case for the denial of basic human rights and right to self-determination under the nose of the bodies like UNO.

Subsequently comes the question of normalization of betrayal. The betrayal is normalized through many tools and manipulations with the truth. Here I focus on 'Islamic Zionism' that is rampant in today's time. We have seen Arab Zionism, Christian Zionism or Hindu Zionism and so on, but now Islamization of Zionism is being prepared to normalize the occupation. By Islamic Zionism, I mean using Islam to serve the imperial project and normalizing the occupation through justifying it with the help of Islamic sources. Though, it is crucial to understand Islamic Zionism in the context of recent developments and include normalization of trade, cultural, diplomatic, strategic, and security relations between Israel and the Persian Gulf Arab countries.

The normalization of Israel-UAE relations is not an overnight affair. Israel opened its diplomatic office in UAE's capital city of Abu Dhabi in 2015 that also included wide range of exchange of officials, athletes, etc. However, the illusory retention of Israel in annexing the occupied West Bank territories was dramatically returned by the Emirati ambassador. The ambassador acknowledged Israel's desire to normalize its relations with the Arabs in the Persian Gulf region by writing a piece published by Israel's top daily. It was followed by Bahrain and much more is expected to surface. Consequently, a trilateral accord is in formation to which the name is given as 'Abraham Accord' to honor the common patriarch of the three religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

It is indicative of the development of a kind of Zionism that will legitimize existence of Israel through Islam and a section of Islamic Zionists is using Quran and hadith to justify this. I see this paradigm shift after the Israel-Hezbollah war in 2006 that was followed with a sudden escalation in sectarian tension in the region and appearance of Shia-phobia. Yet, the point that I want to emphasize here is that the betrayals are normalized by the regimes while as people are not involved in such decision-making. Islamic Zionism, if kicks off, will become one more force to normalize and legitimize racism, exclusion, oppression and human rights abuse. It will legalize the Zionist assumption that Palestinians are not native of Palestine but the land is without people promised for the people without land. Joining Tel-Aviv-Washington nexus can fetch regime security for the Persian Gulf countries in the backdrop of rising Islamism in Turkey and influence of Iran but it will compromise more considerable stability of the region. I conclude by stating that Palestine is redline and oppressors are to be stopped here and questioned.

The writer is a PhD student at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Iraqi FM in Tehran for bilateral talks

1→ The Iraqi foreign minister also met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday afternoon. He discussed boosting bilateral ties as well as the implementation of Iran-Iraq agreements reached earlier this year during the visit of Prime Minister Mostafa al-Kadhimi to Tehran.

Rouhani told the visiting Iraqi foreign minister that the Iranian nation and government consider Iraq as their friend and have been standing by the Iraqi government and people at various times to help them.

In his first foreign trip, al-Kadhimi paid a visit to Iran in July, when he signed several agreements with Iran. Zarif had visited Iraq a few days before al-Kadhimi's visit to Iran. During his one-day visit to Baghdad, Zarif discussed many

political, economic, security, judicial as well as regional issues.

The prime minister's visit to Iran came on the heels of Zarif's trip to Iraq and laid the groundwork for the deepening of ties between Iran and Iraq in various sectors. President Hassan Rouhani discussed with al-Kadhimi the ways to increase bilateral trade to \$20 billion up from the current \$12 billion.

"Two nations are willing to increase the trade between the two countries to \$20 billion. The two countries are also determined to implement all terms of the agreements approved by the two governments in March 2019 in Baghdad," Rouhani said at the joint press conference with al-Kadhimi.

For his part, the Iraqi prime minister appreciated the Iranian help to Iraq in the fight against terrorism, saying

that Iraq will never forget the Iranian assistance.

"We fought against terrorism and Takfiri groups, and Iran was the first country to stand by Iraq in this fight. We will not forget this. That's why Iraq is standing by Iran so that it tackles its economic challenges. Iraq has become a market for Iranian goods," said al-Kadhimi, adding that his country will not allow any threat against Iran from the Iraqi soil.

Hussein's visit to Iran comes at a time when Iraq and Iraq seek to implement the agreements reached during the recent visit by al-Kadhimi to Iran.

The Iraqi foreign minister is expected to meet with Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's supreme national Security Council, on Sunday.

SPORTS

President Tabatabaei sees a bright future for Iran basketball

1→ Tabatabaei says that one of the main keys to the country's rise has been their dedication to identifying talents at a young age. It is something that they have done well and are committed to continue doing over the past years.

In an exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Tabatabaei talked about the future of basketball in Iran.



Tehran Times: Iran basketball team have qualified for the Olympic Games in Tokyo and now the Iranian people are expecting their team to make a splash in the prestigious Games. How far can Iran go?

Tabatabaei: As you know, Iran have qualified for the Olympic Games for the third time. We qualified for the Games in the 1948 Olympics in London and also participated in the competition in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. At the Tokyo Olympics, a total of 12 teams will be divided in two group of six teams and four teams from each group will qualify for the next stage. Our first goal is to advance to the next phase since we want to be among the world's top eight teams. In the Tokyo qualification which was held last year, we showed an outstanding performance against Spain, Puerto Rico, Tunisia, Angola and the Philippines. We were the best Asian team in the tournament which was held in China. In Tokyo, Iran will have a chance to defend their credibility and we want to qualify for the next stage for the first time ever.

*The teams and players were forced to halt their trainings due to COVID-19. How and when will the players return to action?

-FIBA has published recommendations on returning to basketball, with the Return to Basketball Protocol in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The league competition will start on Nov. 5 with stringent health protocols and our players will start their training but the safety of them is more important than basketball. We will also start our trainings for the 2021 FIBA Asia Cup qualification, where Iran will have to play Saudi Arabia, Syria and Qatar in November and February. The league will be finished in March and the National Team's training will start in April for the Tokyo Olympics.

*Iran iconic players Hamed Haddadi and Samad Nikkhab Bahrami will most likely play their last Olympics in Tokyo. Is there any plan to inject the young players to the team?

-With the talent identification programs, Iran basketball can find the new replacements for the legendary players. The FIBA U16 Asian Championship 2019, which was originally scheduled to be held in Lebanon in April 2020, was cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic and it was a big blow to our basketball since it was a golden opportunity for us to build our new team with the next generation.

The team had participated in several international tournament as part of preparation for the FIBA U16 Asian Championship 2019 but the event was cancelled. We have identified about 560 talents across the country in just one age category so far and it could be increased to 2,000 players in the future. We can choose the best 12 players from them for the 2024 Olympic Games. The future of Iran basketball is bright.

Nikkhab and Haddadi are not easy to replace but there are talented players who can go the distance. We must boost up the fundamental skills in these age categories for the future.

*Iran booked a place at the Olympics under tutelage of Mehran Shahintab. Will he remain the National Team head coach in Tokyo?

-Shahin Tab worked hard and helped Iran qualify for the Olympic Games and has a good chance of being appointed as Iran coach at the Olympics. The technical committee of the federation will appoint the head coach for the National Team considering the coach's performances in the last two years. The result of the session will be announced soon after the meeting.

*Hamed Haddadi cannot play in Iran Basketball Super League according to the league's rules since he is considered as an overseas player.

According to the league's regulation, the player, who is going to join an Iranian team from a non-Iranian team, will be considered as a foreign player. So, Haddadi, who has most recently played at Chinese club Nanjing Monkey Kings, can join an Iranian team as a non-homegrown player under the current system. The Iranian team can sign him as their overseas player quotas.

Persepolis determined to beat Al Sadd: Golmohammadi

SPORTS DESK **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team head coach Yahya Golmohammadi says that they are determined to defeat strong Al Sadd on Sunday.

The Iranian giants will meet Al Sadd at the Education City Stadium at the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16.

"It will be tough match for both teams and we know how strong Al Sadd are. They have a good coach and are favorites to win the title. But we have also shown that we are a united team," Golmohammadi said in the news conference.

"Al Sadd are a star-studded team and it makes our job difficult. We need to concentrate on the match in terms of taking our chances. They are an organized team and have a smart coach but we are optimistic about our players.

"Persepolis have great plans and our players dedicate themselves for our goals. Some Persepolis players are suffering injuries and have played through pain in the previous matches. It shows that how important the team's success is," the former Iran defender stated.

"Our style is straightforward against Al Sadd since we are well-known for attacking football. We want to make our fans happy and proud in the competition," Golmohammadi concluded.

TEDPIX starts week with growth

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 4,075 points to 1.615 million on Saturday, which is the first day Iranian calendar week, IRNA reported.

The index had fallen 93,000 points, or 5.7 percent, to 1.611 million in the previous week.

TSE, which had witnessed drop of its main index in five consecutive weeks, experienced growth in the week ended on September 18.

Although, 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.

Iran constructing 100,000 houses for less privileged people

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran's Budget and Planning Organization (BPO) Mohammad Baqer Nobakht said that the government is constructing 100,000 residential units for the poor and less privileged people.

Making the remarks during a meeting with local officials in a visit to southwestern province of Ilam on Friday, Nobakht said that the housing project is being carried out by Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and Housing Foundation of Islamic Revolution in collaboration with the BPO.

Back in August 2019, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani officially launched the government's National Housing Action Plan, by inaugurating a project for constructing 110,000 affordable housing units across the country.

The National Housing Action Plan aims to construct 400,000 small and medium-size apartments (70-100 square meters in size) across the country and particularly in Tehran, where housing prices have risen most sharply.



Nearly half of the total number of the said homes will be constructed in Tehran's suburban "new towns" such as Parand and Pardis, respectively located in the west and east of the city.

According to Iran's Minister for Transport and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami, the government plans to complete the new units by April 2021.

While the ministry will provide the land for the new developments, it will only supervise construction, enlisting private sector construction firms who will bid for contracts that entitle them to receive state loans and subsidized building materials.

As reported, the government's investment in construction will help create new jobs across the country and is expected to boost wages among laborers.

Providing housing to low-income families could also help alleviate economic hardship, especially if government's assistance can help inflation-hit renters become homeowners.

Last week, a member of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Civil Committee said that 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.

"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", he lamented.

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.

Tehran, Kuala Lumpur getting closer to sign PTA

1 → Following the mentioned emphasizes up to date four rounds of meetings have been held to discuss the technical and legal aspects of the PTA agreement.

Earlier this month, the third round of the talks for finalizing the mentioned agreement was held through video conference, in which the two sides decided that the lists of the trade items should be prepared by the two sides based on the national tariffs of the other country and exchanged by October 15, 2020.

This meeting was attended by representatives of relevant executive bodies, including Iran's Vice Presidency for Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Also on September 24, Director-General of the Asia-Pacific Office at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Reza Seyed-Aghazadeh and Hairil Yahri Yaacob, the deputy secretary-general of Malaysia's International Trade and Industry Ministry, met via video conference to continue discussions over the mentioned PTA.

While reviewing the technical issues under discussion between the negotiating teams of Iran and Malaysia, the officials expressed hope that the negotiations will reach the final stage soon.

In this meeting, the Malaysian side was also notified that the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has agreed with the issuance of trade invoices by a third country.

The IRICA consent is an important step in finalizing the negotiations (mainly about the rules of origin) between the two sides.

Although in some years the bilateral trade between Iran and Malaysia has exceeded \$600 million, over the past five years the annual trade between the two countries has averaged \$300 million.

The two countries, however, have the capacity to increase their mutual trade to levels much higher than currently is.

Gas condensate, steel sheets, Duranite, bitumen, urea fertilizers, steel ingots, steel cylinders, sponge iron, butadiene rubber, and molybdenum oxide are the major commodities exported from Iran to Malaysia, while palm oil, natural latex, heater, natural rubber, cocoa butter, stearic acid, graphite electrode, medical gloves, acetic acid, Glycerin, cocoa cream oil, and Lauryl alcohol are the main items imported from Malaysia.

Reuters: Iran boosts oil exports sharply in September

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The latest reports on Iran's oil exports indicate that the country has risen oil exports sharply in September in defiance of the U.S. sanctions.

Data from TankerTrackers and two other firms indicated exports are rising in September, although the figures fall into a wide range of between 400,000 bpd and 1.5 million bpd, Reuters reported.

The amount was twice that of August. TankerTrackers data showed, and around 11 percent of it was ultra-light crude, known as condensate. The range for August's exports is 300,000 bpd to 750,000 bpd.

The two other firms also see an increase in September, although not to the same extent.

One of them said it was seeing an increase of at least 100,000 bpd in September to 400,000 bpd. That is a sizeable volume, according to tracking firm Kpler.

Washington reimposed tough sanctions



on Iran after U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal with

the world powers.

While the U.S. sanctions have been

Plans underway to promote dual-fuel vehicles

By Mahnaz Abdi

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

Since then, implementation of the rationing plan has led to the reduction of gasoline consumption, while promoting consumption of compressed natural gas (CNG) in the country.

Iran's CNG consumption stood at 19 million cubic meters (mcm) per day before the implementation of the fuel rationing scheme, it is while last week, an official with the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) announced that the daily consumption of CNG has reached 25 million cubic meters in Iran.

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

To promote the consumption of CNG instead of gasoline, the government has already started some programs, among them converting cars to the dual-fuel vehicles, and increasing the number of CNG stations across the country are two major ones.

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

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

As announced by Baqeri, six contractors were selected for converting 1.46 million public vehicles into the dual-fuel cars in the first place, and the contractors were supposed to equip 186 centers to do the job.

Oil Ministry has been supportive of the industry since the very beginning through supporting the production of CNG-powered engines and converting automobile plants

'Issuing commercial ID cards in new system should have been tried first'

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The Secretary General of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Bahman Eshghi said that the plan for issuing and extending commercial ID cards via the new comprehensive commerce system should have been first implemented in a trial basis for one province and then generalized, TCCIMA portal reported.

Noting that over the past 49 days only one ID card has been issued in the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Eshghi said: "The system should have first started operating on a trial basis in a small province to identify its problems."

To keep track of the activities of the major enterprises and companies in foreign trade, the government has assigned special commercial ID cards to the mentioned companies and traders by which they will be able to clear their imported goods or export their products.

The process of issuing and extending of the mentioned cards was previously carried out through a system which was supervised by the country's chambers of commerce, but recently the government decided to put the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) in charge of the mentioned task and carry

out the said processes through the new comprehensive system of commerce under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade.

However, some technical problems with the new system in issuing and extending the businessmen ID cards created serious disruptions in the activities of the traders so that the TCCIMA had to intervene and write a letter to the Industry Ministry to focus their attention to the problem.

Following the mentioned complains, the Industry Ministry decided to once again allow the previous system to resume operation and provide service to the traders along with the new system for at least two months until the technical problems of the new system are resolved.

The Vice Chairman of TCCIMA's Trade Committee Abbas Argon, however recently told the Tehran Times that, despite the Industry Ministry's agreement with the chambers of commerce, it has not been possible for the two systems to work in parallel, and this solution has also faced some problems.

The official said on September 20, that the two sides were still negotiating to resolve the issues and hopefully the technical issues will be eliminated as soon as possible.

Iran-EU trade stands at €2.65b in 7 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The trade between Iran and European Union countries during the first seven months of 2020 stood at €2.65 billion, data released by the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) showed.

The trade between Iran and the EU nations has decreased by nine percent compared to the last year's same period in which the figure stood at about €3 billion, ISNA reported.

Most of the decline in the trade between Iran and its 27 European trade partners have been due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, the TCCIMA report said.

The mentioned data indicate that in January 2020, when the coronavirus had not been widespread in different parts of the world, trade between Iran and Europe grew by more than 17 percent, but this figure decreased in the next month and fell to negative since March.

The biggest drop in the trade between the two sides was reported for July when the trade fell by about 20 percent.

As reported, Iran's exports to the EU increased by 45 percent and 42 percent in the first two months of the year, respectively, however, the trend became

negative in the following months.

EU's exports to Iran also plunged 11 percent in the mentioned period compared to the figure for last year's same time span.

Germany, the Netherland, Spain, and France were respectively Iran's major trade partners in the mentioned seven months.

Like the previous periods, Germany was the country's top trade partner among the European nations.

Europe's trade with Iran dropped significantly following the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic, indicating the EU's failure to defend Iran's interests in the context of the nuclear deal despite its promises.

In May 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump formally pulled the United States out of the nuclear deal that was struck between Iran and world powers in July 2015.

Following Trump's decision, in January 2019, France, Germany, and Britain (known as the E3) introduced an Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) which was meant to facilitate legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran in order to convince Iran to stay in the 2015 nuclear deal.

Development projects worth over \$425m inaugurated in southern Iran

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri inaugurated several development projects valued at about \$425.9 million on Saturday during a one-day visit to the southern Hormozgan Province, IRNA reported.

The second development phase of South Kaveh Steel Company, 12 port and maritime projects, some telecommunication projects, as well as a 130-bed hospital were among the inaugurated projects.

As reported, the second development phase of South Kaveh Steel Company was put into operation with an investment of €311 million (about \$361.7 million) by the Mostazafan Foundation in the Persian Gulf Special Economic Zone in Bandar-Abbas (the center of province).

With the mentioned phase going operational, 1.2 million tons will be added to the country's steel ingot production capacity, and the company's total production capacity will reach 2.4 million tons per year.

Jahangiri also inaugurated 12 port and maritime development projects valued at 1.4 trillion rials (about \$33.3



Jahangiri inaugurates second development phase of South Kaveh Steel Company in the southern Hormozgan Province on Saturday.

million) in the mentioned province.

These projects include a transit and export terminal,

construction of storage facilities for oil products, construction of 12 floating tourist wharf posts in six designated areas of the province, modernization of 16 to 20 wharves of Shahid Rajaei port, and renovation of the port's railway lines, as well as a pollution and trash collecting barge.

A 130-bed specialized obstetrics and gynecology hospital was also inaugurated in Bandar-Abbas in which 1.3 trillion rials (about \$30.9 million) was invested.

Jahangiri who arrived at Bandar-Abbas International Airport on Saturday morning to attend a meeting of the Hormozgan Province's Resistance Economy Headquarters and visit the province's customs, was welcomed by the local officials including the province's governor and parliament members.

The first vice president was accompanied by the acting minister of industry, mining and trade, the ministers of agriculture, transport and urban development, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, and the head of the Mostazafan Foundation in his one-day visit to Hormozgan.

IME's monthly worth of trade rises 44%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value of trades at Iran Mercantile

Exchange (IME) has risen 44 percent during the past Iranian calendar month (August 22-September 21) from its previous month, IME Public Relations and International Affairs Department reported.

As reported, 3.152 million tons of products worth \$303 trillion rials (about \$7.214 billion) were traded at the IME in the past month, showing a 17-percent growth in terms of weight on a monthly basis.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran

Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

On April 21, IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad unveiled the market's new outlook plan, which depicts IME's devel-

opment roadmap until the Iranian calendar year of 1404 (March 20205-March 2026). Materializing the slogan of this Iranian year, which is "Surge in Production" is seriously considered in the mentioned plan and it is, in fact, the strategic approach of the outlook plan.

Facing defeats, Saddam started using chemical arms against Iranians in 1983: expert

Saddam's war against Iran "was a disaster" for Iraqis, says analyst

By Mohammad Mazhari

Part 2

TEHRAN — An Iraqi analyst says Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein started gassing Iranians at the start of the 1983 because he realized that his army was being defeated by Iranian military forces.

"Using chemical weapons at the beginning of 1983 reflects Saddam's military failure and his failure to achieve any victory," Najah Mohammad Ali tells the Tehran Times.

Saddam who launched a comprehensive air, land and naval war against Iran on September 22, 1980, finally was forced to agree to the 1975 Algiers accord that he had torn apart in the parliament on September 17, 1980.

Following is the second part of interview with Mohammad Ali that first part of which was published on Saturday:

■ Why did Saddam, despite having a well-equipped classic army, failed to achieve his goals after eight years of war with Iran?

A: Yes, Saddam imagined that within a week or two weeks, and at most within a month, to end this war. He believed that he would arrive in Tehran and bring down the Islamic Republic of Iran because the American intelligence provided him with a study in this regard explaining to him that Iran's situation was in his favor.

Indeed the government of Mahdi Bazargan took two remarkable steps for the benefit of the enemies before the war started. The first step was to reduce the period of military service for the Iranians to one year, which led to half of the Iranian military camps becoming empty of soldiers. The second step was that the interim government led by Mehdi Bazargan canceled an important agreement with the United States of America to supply Iran with F-14 fighters, which left Iran without air cover.

Yet, the great military strength of the Iraqi army, the huge logistical capabilities that the Persian Gulf states provided to Saddam's regime, the intelligence information provided by America, the advanced weapons, and Mirage aircraft provided by France all failed to bring victory for Iraq. Yes,



"The disaster is that the reactionary Arab regimes that provided him with money and weapons, and after that helped to topple him now promote him as a hero."

the war was prolonged, because if Iran had had the same capabilities, it would have determined the fate of the war from the beginning. With its experts' intelligence, Iran could manufacture missiles with a range of 70 and even 120 kilometers at the time. Saddam could occupy Iranian territory by using heavy weapons and the air force that he was superior, while Iran did not have sufficient weapons.

However, the Islamic Republic was able to achieve victories under the leadership of Imam Khomeini and the heroism of the Basij forces that changed the equation and spread panic in the Iraqi forces' hearts. This factor caused the Islamic Republic to take the initiative soon after the start of the war.

Using chemical weapons at the beginning of 1983 reflects Saddam's military failure and his failure to achieve any victory. It overturned the result of the

war, and Iraq was defeated and weakened and agreed to the international resolution to stop the war while Iran was insisting on punishing Saddam and toppling him. Saddam agreed to return to the Algiers Agreement, which means ending the war without Iraq getting anything, and in terms of military and politics, despite all the losses between the two countries, Iran is considered victorious. It preserved the Islamic Republic system and expelled the occupiers from its lands, especially Khuzestan, and prevented it from being cut off. Saddam returned to the agreement that he tore up in September 1980.

■ How was the Iran-Iraq war recorded in the memory of Iraqis? Do they consider the war against Iran a glory?

A: This war was not glory to the Iraqis; it was a disaster. The Iraqis considered the cease-fire a great victory for them that they were stating that this war would

eliminate them and their youth. When Iran announced that it had agreed to Resolution 598, the Iraqis poured into the streets dancing and celebrating. The Iraqi regime wanted to portray this celebration as a celebration of victory, while it was a celebration that the Iraqi people felt that they would survive. If you search on Facebook and the internet, you see how the Iraqi people view this war's memory. You will find that every blogger writes his memories and these notes confirm that they celebrated it because they were saying that the Iraqi president is crazy who does not accept to quit his position.

Saddam was doubtful about some of the men he thought were his surrogates in any deal with Iran to stop the war, including Adnan Khairallah, his cousin, and the Iraqi defense minister, who was killed eventually.

The disaster is that the reactionary Arab regimes that provided him with money and weapons, and after that helped to topple him now promote him as a hero. Their outlets talk about Saddam as a protector of the homeland, who could stop the Iranian advance on the Arab territories until he invaded Kuwait. After that, they contributed to his overthrow and execution. The war officially stopped on August 8, but some skirmishes continued by the Iraqi regime, which took advantage of the war's cessation.

Now the situation between Iraq and Iran is a state of no war and no peace, which paves the way for plotting conspiracy between the Iranian and Iraqi people.

Today America, the Zionist-Saudi axis, the supporters of normalization with Israel are on one side, and Iran and the axis of resistance on another side. There is constant incitement in the media, on the street, and on social networks inciting young people who do not know the truth of the Iran-Iraq war and the tragedies and disasters it left behind.

Iran should employ all its efforts to end a state of no war and no peace with Iraq and reach an agreement on the remaining differences and outstanding issues from Resolution 598 and sign a treaty of non-aggression and mutual defense with Iraq.

American threats of assassinations: What follows?

➔ In the 70s, in particular, after the October War in 1973, the enemy was and still is the Palestinians, the Syrians, and the Arab figures. However, after the Iranian revolution in 1979, the enemy was a unique mixture of Arab- Islamic terrorists that are rich idiots who enslave women.

In the 80s, Beirut was the greatest theme. It was the capital of chaos and weapons, which was represented as the Bronx of all the world's Bronxes. In the 90s, it was Kabul, Iran, Russians, and the Syrians in particular. The great American people were actually manipulated and prepared to accept a bold witty white man such as Trump, who may mount the podium and brag about his intention to assassinate president Assad of Syria in 2017 in a TV interview.

Hence, Trump was playing the well-established American cinematic game: the good gay and the bad gay. While he was expressing his intentions to liquidate President Assad, his secretary of defense, the war man, James Mattis, refused. This widely open declaration would cause governments' fall in any other part of the world, except for Israel, of course. However, since Trump is going to make America great again, this will hold as great propaganda among his voters.

In an American movie that was released in 1990, "the Two Jacks," Jack Nicholson plays the role of a detective, who was supposed to expose the wife's lover's name. The lover was killed by the husband in a rage of temper.

Since the detective is our hero, he reveals the secrets behind the attempted murder. Simply, the dying husband wanted to save his wife's stolen fortune once he passes away. The investigations led to the interference of a powerful man, Mr. Boyden, who was the owner of the biggest oil company in Louis Angeles. With the help of the lover, the company stole the wife's hidden fortune under her land. When our great detective confronted Boyden, the latter said to him: "the name of



the game is oil."

Oil makes the cars and factories run. Cars need building bridges and roads. Bridges cross the cities that need to be built. Oil is the essence of industry and progress. If you hold back the oil from reaching any state, even the bakeries will not work, and we can measure accordingly. That is exactly why Trump wanted to keep the Syrian oil, and control its sale to China, and so on.

In the United States, every step or decision the president makes in the first four years of the presidential period is an election campaign. It aims to promote the prosperity of the Americans "supposedly" and the big companies, Israel's security, which is an American establishment, and oil.

The Americans would kill and assassinate anyone who would obstruct the American control over the oil fields or the oil pipelines, whether it was the assassination of a leader, a scientist, or even a terrorist. However, to discuss the assassination of a president or leaders as bluntly as Trump did reflects one of the two following reactions, which were clearly stated.

The first one was by the Syrian Foreign Ministry. It said Trump's statements about targeting al-Assad

confirm that this administration represents "a rogue and outlaw state that uses the same methods the terrorist organizations use to kill and liquidate without any regards to legal, humanitarian, moral controls, or rules in order to achieve their interests in the region."

The second was by the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, Hossein Salami, who commented on Trump's talk of his "planning" to assassinate Syrian President al-Assad, by describing him as "lacking a political mind." Salami considered that the U.S. is losing its common sense as a great power.

It is also important to keep in mind that war of eliminations and assassinations was led through the history of the power struggle. However, in modern history, it requires blunt and vulgar leaders such as Trump or the Israeli regime's leaders to assassinate scientists and intellectuals in the region such as Emad Mughniyeh, General Qassem Soleimani, and Syrian lieutenant General Mohammad Suleiman in 2008, who was the trusted officer with Hezbollah and the Syrian commandment in Damascus. He was a mechanical engineer who participated in developing the famous Cornet, the conqueror of the Merkava.

The partial list that was put ahead of the leaders targeted by the Americans or by the Israelis fall within the same policy, which the two conniving parties have been trying to impose since the end of the Second World War.

Now the American department is leading the region into normalization agreements with Israel. Therefore, Trump's declaration holds within threats of assassination to the Syrian president, in case of his refusal to be part of the agreement in the Middle East (West Asia) or the Arab region in particular. It is all in support of Israel's security and prosperity. It is difficult to see Trump's announcement outside this box. In addition, Trump is a showman. He believes that any publicity is good publicity.

and others on Wall Street attempted a fascist coup against President Roosevelt, but the heroics of General Smedley Butler exposed that, yet rarely makes it into the history books.

Trump boldly says that he will not abide by the November election results if it goes against him. He uses all kinds of lies, conspiracy theories, and outright intimidation to move a resolution in his direction and at the expense of democracy itself. His campaign team is working with friendly state legislatures to annul the people's voice, claiming that the mail-in ballots are fraudulent, being that most of them would be from Democrats, as they

are more likely NOT to stand in line to vote during a pandemic. He is choosing a Supreme Court Justice to assure a win in the Supreme Court as it will likely end up there. And he is having his goons and right-wing militias fan out all over the country during the balloting to intimidate mostly people of color as they vote.

We are in a nightmarish situation but a situation created by the 2-party system that gave us Trump. After he's gone, if he goes, conditions will remain for another Trump.

Myles Hoenig is a political analyst in Baltimore, Maryland. He ran for Congress in 2016 as a Green Party candidate.

(Source: Press TV)

Lebanon PM-designate steps down

Lebanon's prime minister-designate Mustapha Adib has announced his resignation after his efforts to line up a non-partisan cabinet ran into trouble, particularly over who would run the finance ministry.

In a televised address on Saturday, Adib said he was stepping down from "the task of forming the government" following a meeting with President Michel Aoun, al Jazeera reported.

Adib, a former ambassador to Berlin, was picked on August 31 to form a cabinet after the last government led by Hassan Diab resigned following the Beirut port blast on August 4 that killed some 200 people and left thousands homeless.

Iraq reveals plans to build nuclear reactors for research purposes

The Iraqi Radioactive Sources Regulatory Authority (IRSRA) says Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has ordered the formation of a committee tasked with construction of nuclear reactors for research purposes.

The head of the IRSRA, Hussein Latif, told the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) that Kadhimi is "aware of the importance of the issue of atomic energy," having discussed the matter in a recent meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron earlier this month.

Latif added that Iraq is "looking forward to restoring its position in nuclear science, which it assumed during the 1970s and 1980s," emphasizing that the UN Security Council lately passed a resolution in support of Iraq's renewed work on peaceful nuclear energy.

According to Press TV, the reactors will be able to help produce medical isotopes and pharmaceuticals, in addition to having agricultural and industrial applications such as seed irradiation, nuclear insect sterilization for pest control, and the production of radioactive isotopes with various industrial benefits, the senior Iraqi nuclear official pointed out.

WHO warns 2 million COVID-19 deaths 'likely' before vaccine ready

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that the global death toll from COVID-19 could more than double to two million before a successful vaccine is widely used – and could be even higher without concerted action to curb the pandemic.

"Unless we do it all, (two million deaths) ... is not only imaginable but sadly very likely," Mike Ryan, head of the UN agency's emergencies programme, told a briefing on Friday.

The number of confirmed deaths some nine months since the new coronavirus was detected in China is currently at 988,965. Overall, more than 32.5 million infections have been registered, while almost 22.5 million people have recovered.

U.S. asks Sudan to normalize ties with Israel in return for coming off terror list

The United States is pressing Sudan to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in return for removal of the Northeast African country from a U.S. list of states that sponsor terrorism.

Three Sudanese government officials familiar with the matter, however, told Reuters news agency on Thursday that Khartoum is resisting the linkage of the two issues.

"Sudan has completed all the necessary conditions" an official said on condition of anonymity. "We expect to be removed from the list soon."

Resistance News

Israel destroying last opportunity for peaceful settlement: Abbas to UNGA

INTERNATIONAL DESK **TEHRAN**— Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said that Israel is destroying its last chance for a peaceful settlement by pushing forward with the U.S.-devised "deal of the century," a plot that unilaterally grants Israel much of the occupied West Bank.

Addressing the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Friday, Abbas said the so-called plan would effectively annex 33 percent of Palestinian land, a clear violation of previous international accords.

"The Palestinian nation will continue with its endurance and resistance, will never surrender and will eventually be victorious," Abbas said.

The Palestinian president called on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to launch an international conference that can make way for "a genuine peace process" early next year.

"Until when should the cause of the Palestinian people remain without a fair resolution? A solution should be conceived on the basis of international regulations."

"Security, peace, stability and coexistence are not possible under occupation," he added.

According to Press TV, Abbas added that Israel and the U.S. seek to subvert international regulations and accords with the "deal of the century."

"The Palestinian Liberation Organization has not granted any individual or country permission to represent it or the people of Palestine," he noted.

By Myles Hoenig

During the final days of Watergate and Nixon's demise, we were afraid. We didn't know what he would do. Was Alexander Haig going to stage a coup? Would he be impeached and removed? Would he send troops abroad to take the focus off of his criminality? We just didn't know. But today it's far different. We know what Trump might do, and it's terrifying.

We've had our moments of right-wing authoritarian actions by the federal government. During WW1, anti-war activists, including religious pacifists, were jailed. The Palmer raids of 1919-1920 targeted left activists and

anyone suspected of being a Red. J Edgar Hoover's COINTELPRO illegally persecuted and murdered, left activists, especially the Black Panthers. And throughout all this time, American police forces maintained a reign of terror in black and activist communities, and often with impunity, as the latest murder du jour attests to.

President Trump is banking on his white supremacist thugs' strength, including many in the police, and his frightened and submissive Republican members of Congress, to do what has never been close to accomplishing, a neo-fascist coup in the U.S. It has been attempted in the past when President Bush's grandfather Prescott Bush

A neo-fascist coup is in the making in U.S.

Turkish Airlines resumes flights to Tehran after six months halt

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** – Following months of ups and downs, Turkey’s flag carrier Turkish Airlines resumed its flights to Tehran on Saturday after six months of suspension over the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although according to the schedule, 31 flights per week were to be carried out to Tehran, Shiraz, Tabriz, Isfahan, and Mashhad, now there will be only seven flights per week between Tehran and Istanbul, Alireza Majzubi, an official at Tehran’s Imam Khomeini International Airport announced on Saturday.



He also noted that the outbound passengers need to hold a health certificate with a negative coronavirus PCR test result, otherwise the boarding pass won’t be issued for them.

In late August, Turkish Airlines extended the suspension of its flights to Iran until October 1, reneging on its previous announcement for resuming flights to Tehran and four other cities of Tabriz, Shiraz, Mashhad, and Isfahan as of September 1.

Although Turkey resumed flights to many countries in June and July after few months of suspension over the COVID-19 pandemic, it kept its common borders with Iran closed, while these repeated delays in the reopening Iran-Turkey borders have damaged the tourism ties between the two countries.

As Turkey is a country through which many trips of Iranians living abroad and foreign nationals to Iran are made, the flight suspensions prevented several businessmen and students from continuing their activities and even left patients who want to go abroad for further treatment helpless.

The pandemic has taken a huge toll on Iran’s civil aviation sector with reports showing that airlines lost hundreds of millions of dollars because of flight cancellations during the busy New Year travel season in late March.

Achaemenid-era gold relics seized from smuggler

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iranian authorities have recently confiscated 278 gold objects dating back to Achaemenid-era (c. 550 - 330 BC) from a smuggler in western Kermanshah province.



The objects include earrings, pendants, rings, brooches, medals, rings, plaques, and belt buckles, said Amir Rahmatollahi, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage, CHTN reported on Saturday.

He also noted that the culprit was detained and surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites including Bisotun and Taq-e Bostan, both on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The Achaemenid Empire was the largest and most durable empire of its time, stretching from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, to Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia, and to India.

Gem cutting workshop being held in northwestern Iran

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – A handicrafts workshop for cutting precious and semi-precious stones has been held in Khoy, the northwestern West Azarbaijan province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The workshop aims at developing the art of cutting precious and semi-precious stones, utilized in making personal ornamentation and handicrafts, in the region, Aziz Mirzai announced on Saturday.

He also noted that this art could be considered as a national and commercial asset as it has the most benefit with the least facilities.



Iran exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19), according to data compiled by the handicrafts ministry. Of the figure, some \$273 million worth of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces.

According to deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian Iran globally ranks first in terms of having the topmost number of world cities and villages of handicrafts.

“Some 295 fields of handicrafts are currently practiced across Iran with more than two million people engaging, majority of whom are women... Handicrafts also play an important role in the economy in our rural villages.”

World Tourism Day: COVID-19 makes a big difference

→ 1 Now that we are in the unlock phase, we are seeing destinations such as the southern Caspian Sea areas being the top picks for tourists.

Looking on the bright side, this may signify an opportunity to rethink the future of the sector, including how it contributes to the sustainable development goals in the cultural, social, political, and economic arenas. Post-COVID tourism may usher us into a realm of highly digitalized, personalized, and safer than ever; travels of the future may be a hybrid experience between the physical and the digital. Meanwhile, some believe the pandemic may turn tours and travels into luxury items as observing health protocols will raise traveling costs.

Government bodies and counterparts in the private sector have been helpful in kick-starting and building confidence in the digital world. The coronavirus-era is laying the ground for travel companies to further realize the importance of constantly engaging with the consumers via digital channels.

Stakeholders are adopting a two-way communication strategy more than ever to convey vital information to their clients; to engage, create dialogues, and convey information through various digital platforms. The shift in consumer behavior, stringent safety measures, digital boost, innovative communication strategies, government intervention to create travel bubbles, also known as travel corridors and corona corridors, and measures to contain the virus will drive the travel and tourism demand in the post-pandemic era.



The ‘new normal’ entails strict sanitization and hygiene processes at all travel touch points. From the hospitality industry to transport services, there are guidelines laid down by different stakeholders to provide customers a safe environment and further boost their confidence to travel. Each destination is developing to be more digitalized to minimize human contact, and information is being conveyed through apps and reliable sources using technology letting consumers are well-informed regarding protocols for each destination.

“Tourism and Rural Development”

Regarding the World Tourism Day, it should be reminded that “Tourism and Rural Development” is selected as the motto of 2020 World Tourism Day to encourage countries around the world to look to tourism to drive recovery in rural communities where the sector is a leading employer and economic pillar.

Addressing the occasion, UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili has said: “All around the world, tourism empowers rural communities, providing

jobs and opportunity, most notably for women and youth. Tourism also enables rural communities to hold onto their unique cultural heritage and traditions, and the sector is vital for safeguarding habitat and endangered species. This World Tourism Day is a chance to recognize the role tourism plays outside of major cities and its ability to build a better future for all.”

Out of some 64,000 villages that are dotted across Iran, some 33,000 have been deserted and 25,000 villages are each inhabited by less than 20 households. Iranian officials hope to stop and possibly reverse rural-urban migration by mounting rural tourism and creating sustainable jobs for local communities. The Islamic Republic is considering tourism as a strong alternative for petrodollars.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Over the years reasons for travel have evolved, and it is an integral part of our life, allowing people to experience new cultures and traditions, discover new communities, places, rituals, lifestyles, and cuisines. Travel insiders are confident that the love and passion for sightseeing will reignite among people once again, setting a new path for the tourism industry.

Tabriz, Istanbul bazaars agree on sisterhood agreement

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** – The director of the UNESCO-registered bazaar of Tabriz has said that signing a sisterhood agreement with the Grand Bazaar of Istanbul is in process.

“After exchanging experiences about the two historical bazaars with the Istanbul Municipality agents during an international summit in Istanbul last year, we decided to define protocols for a sisterhood agreement,” Hossein Esmaeili Sangari said on Saturday.

The agreement is being pursued by East Azarbaijan province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department General, East Azarbaijan Governor General’s Office, and Turkish Consulate in Tabriz, the official added.

He also mentioned that parts of the bazaar are under some rehabilitation work, while there are few visitors due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.

“Coronavirus has cut tourists the historic bazaar by 90 percent, while there are no foreign tourists and domestic visitors travel less compared to the previous years.”

The historic bazaar of Tabriz, which caught fire in 2019,

has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2010 and was mentioned by Marco Polo when he traveled the Silk Road in the Middle Ages.

A labyrinth of interconnected covered passages that stretches for about 5 km, the bazaar has been a melting pot of cultural exchange since antiquity.

It embraces countless shops, over 20 caravanserais, and inns, some 20 vast domed halls, bathhouses, and mosques, as well as other brick structures and enclosed spaces for different functions. Its history dates back to over a millennium, however, the majority of fine brick vaults that capture most visitor’s eyes date from the 15th century.

One of the largest and oldest covered bazaars in the world, the Grand Bazaar of Istanbul is over 30,000 square meters with over 60 streets and alleys and 4,000 shops. The original historical core of the bazaar was completed by Mehmet the Conqueror in the 15th century.

Over the years, the Grand Bazaar expanded from this core to become a sprawling roofed complex of thousands of shops, fringed by the tradesmen’s inns and workshops. By



the 17th century, it had reached its present size, with over 4,000 shops and nearly 500 stalls.

While today the Grand Bazaar is no longer the commercial center of Istanbul, it is still one of the best places to get a taste of life in Ottoman-era Turkey.

Women’s car rally to commemorate Sacred Defense, National Tourism weeks

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – A number of female drivers will take part in a vintage car rally on Wednesday to commemorate Sacred Defense Week as well as National Tourism Week.

Organized by the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI), the two-day rally will be held between Tehran and the northern village of Namak Abrud, Mazandaran



province.

Strict health protocols and social distancing will be observed during the rally.

Every year, the Sacred Defense Week, which marks the beginning of the 1980-88 Iran–Iraq war is commemorated through several programs in Iran.

The Iraqi army invaded Iran on September 22, 1980, nearly 19 months after the Islamic Revolution, setting the stage

for eight years of war.

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

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

National Tourism Week, which begins on World Tourism Day on September 27 every year, aims at promoting and developing Iran’s tourism capacities.

Millennia-old tomb, skeleton and spearhead unearthed in western Iran

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – A team of Iranian archaeologists has discovered an ancient human skeleton with a spearhead beneath its ribs in a tomb chamber in a rural area, western Kordestan province.

The skeleton is estimated to date back to the Parthian-era (247 BC – 224 CE), the provincial tourism department announced on Saturday.

Supervised by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism, the survey was conducted near the construction site of a dam in Sarvabad county. The tomb chamber was found in one of the archaeological trenches in a rural landscape.

“In the Parthian burial tradition, [giant] jars usually



played the role of coffins, and in the discovered tomb, according to the Parthian culture, the body was placed inside two earthen jars... Below the ribs, the body appears to have belonged to a person who died of injuries,” Shokouh Khosravi, who led the project, explained.

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power in ancient Iran. The Parthians largely adopted the art, architecture, religious beliefs, and royal insignia of their culturally heterogeneous empire, which encompassed Persian, Hellenistic, and regional cultures. At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to eastern Iran.

A peek into Gilan rural heritage museum

Gilan is the land of geographical mixture giving this green piece of Iran great cultural diversity which has enabled various ethnicities such as Gilak, Talesh, Galesh, Turk and Kurd to live amicably together for centuries.

To see the geographical diversity, you don’t have to visit all cities and villages in Gilan; the 260-hectare Gilan Rural Heritage Museum is one of the biggest eco-museums in West Asia, displaying nearly all attractions of the beautiful emerald.

Following the devastating 1990 earthquake in Rudbar and other cities in Gilan, many started to think that part of Gilan’s culture lay in its traditional architecture and that culture may be preserved by building a museum, though symbolic.

Anthropological and architectural studies

and the physical construction of the museum would take a lot of time and finally, Gilan Rural Heritage Museum was opened in 2007 in Saravan Forest Park. Gilan Rural Heritage Museum is a unique museum reflecting the diversity of Gilan’s rural culture. In fact, to build this museum, houses on the verge of perishing are identified in Gilan and after relocating their materials to the museum site the structure is reassembled. The natural and environmental items such as farms, orchards and meadows surrounding the rural villages are reconstructed and preserved like their originals and even the residents of the villages have generously offered the museum their old domestic tools and equipment.

That is why when you walk in this museum it feels as if you’re walking and enjoying the

whole of Gilan. In addition to rural sites, the museum accommodates spaces for traditional games and performances, medicinal herb and local plant farms, handicraft workshops, rice farms and tea plantations, children playgrounds, traditional teahouses and restaurants, and relaxation camps where you can stroll and enjoy and complete your trip.

The museum’s traditional restaurants are the best option to taste the real diversity of Gilani food. It is impossible to visit the museum and not try Torsh Tareh, Mirza Qassemi, Morgh-e Torshi, Baqli Qatqu or Fesenjan-e Torsh. To buy souvenirs and keepsakes from Gilan province, just pay a visit to the souvenir and traditional shops built in the museum and purchase such traditional products as pottery, Gomaj, Rashti Doozi,



Mats, carpets, felt, bed-pieces, clothing and even local bread and cookies to take back with you as souvenirs.

Since visiting all the villages in the museum takes a lot of time, you can find accommodation in the museum sites or stay in one of hotels or inns in Rasht, the capital city.

Persian Gulf ‘aquatic kindergarten’ seeking UNESCO inclusion

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Khorkhoran Wetland, one of the largest and most important marine environments in Iran that is regarded as an aquatic kindergarten in the Persian Gulf has been waiting to be included in the UNESCO list for three years.

Stretching to over 102,000 hectares, the wetland is located in Bandar Khamir in southern Hormozgan province, which was designated a Ramsar site in 1975.

Ramsar Wetlands are sites inscribed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”) under the Convention on Wetlands.

The city of Bandar Khamir has also joined the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities this week, according to UNESCO, and received a certificate of membership in the network.

The international and protected wetland of Khorkhoran has long been of special importance to the people as well as the environmental officials.

In 2018, Bandar Khamir got the international accreditation to be a Ramsar wetland city.

An event held on World Wetlands Day in Bandar Khamir, with the participation of local communities and NGOs, and in collaboration with the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project.

The event included the opening of



CEPA (the Ramsar Convention’s program on Communication, Capacity-building, Education, Participation, and Awareness), to facilitate the international accreditation of Bandar Khamir as a Ramsar wetland city.

According to the announcement of the Hormozgan department of environ-

ment, Khorkhoran is known as the largest wetland in the province and even in the south of Iran. Therefore, over the past three years, its global registration has been in the focus of the attention of environmental officials at the national and international levels, as well as UNESCO. Khorkhoran wetland hosting different

species of aquatic animals and migratory birds, numerous islands and waterways as well as mangrove forests created a unique ecosystem for tourism.

This biosphere is as important that its extinction actually affects up to a billion lives.

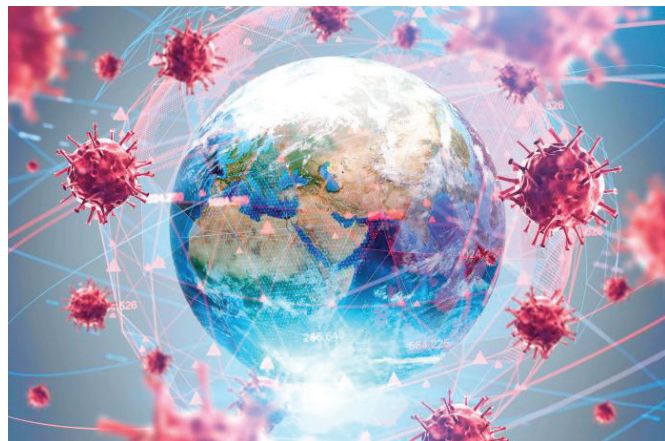
Bing, a nationally-protected area, the wetland is home to 200 species of migratory birds from different regions of the world.

Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They store water and ensure its quality, providing resilience against drought. They play a central role in sustainable development by supplying all our freshwater.

Wetlands play a major role in protecting the land against floods and the impacts of storms. They provide food and diverse habitats which support genetic, species, and ecosystem biodiversity. Wetlands play a key role in the life cycles of many species and in annual migration patterns.

Unfortunately, wetlands are being degraded and lost due to pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and human population growth. In recognition of these challenges, the RAMSAR Convention, an international treaty, was adopted in 1971.

Global partnership prerequisite to counter COVID-19



1 → In the resolution, UN member states reiterated their call for international cooperation, multilateralism, and solidarity at all levels, as the only possible way to deal effectively with the global crisis and its aftermath.

Also recently, former UN General Assembly President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande called “Solidarity of Nations through this international body” the best option for a multilateral response to the epidemic.

Comprehensive fight against the pandemic requires the cooperation of all countries and international organizations, regardless of political, racial, or national differences. This year, more than ever, the UN tribune has become a platform for confronting unilateralism.

In his first speech to the UN General Assembly, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga called for global solidarity in the fight against the coronavirus.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi at the General Assembly stressed the rejection of the approach of confrontation and coercion and called on the international community to publicly support the policy of engagement, cooperation, and the process of multilateralism.

Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated his support for multilateralism in a video conference with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the occasion of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

“We can no longer take multilateralism for granted,” said Josep Borrell, the EU’s special envoy for political affairs and international security. Some even try to ignore the multilateral system, but the Europeans do not.

In a video message to the United Nations, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the organization was facing a crisis of confidence in the face of some unilateralism, while multilateralism, which reflects current realities, should be maintained at the United Nations.

■ ‘American unilateralism’ biggest challenge

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations underscored multilateralism as the U.S. government sought to undermine it by moving in the opposite direction.

In the wake of the outbreak, shortages of medicine and medical supplies have increasingly disrupted the treatment system to deal with COVID-19. Meanwhile, the imposition of U.S. sanctions, especially on medicine, is aimed at putting pressure on governments and nations that do not follow unilateralist policies, including Iran and Venezuela.

President Hassan Rouhani also stressed that tackling common

global issues is only possible through global participation and said that “We are all going through a difficult time in the world.” But instead of enjoying global cooperation, my nation faces the toughest sanctions in history in clear and fundamental violations of the UN Charter, international agreements, and Security Council Resolution 2231.

In the midst of the global epidemic, the Trump administration continues to seek to hit the economies of other countries, including Iran, he added.

He went on to note that U.S. sanctions to prevent the sale of medicine, medical equipment, and humanitarian goods have severely hampered efforts to combat the outbreak in Iran; In fact, they attacked millions of people through economic terrorism.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also stated that “We must jointly confront the destructive impact of unilateral coercive measures to combat the epidemic; Such actions are nothing but economic and medical terrorism, and we must refrain from following these illegal actions to combat the scourge of humanity.”

“We must all face this great global challenge, one that has challenged all geographical, political and socio-economic divisions, and most importantly, turn to multilateralism and reject unilateralism,” he said in a virtual meeting of foreign ministers at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

The U.S. withdrawal from the World Health Organization, which violates the principle of cooperation and solidarity of governments in dealing with international problems, also indicates that the country not only does not pay the least attention to international obligations, but basically people’s health and their fundamental right to health care is completely neglected, and there are no equivalent human rights in the dictionary of American officials, he explained.

■ International obligations of countries

Cooperation between countries and members of the United Nations is one of the most frequently used terms in international instruments; The Charter of the United Nations as the Constitution of the International System with 193 Member States, including the United States, emphasizes on “Achieving international cooperation in resolving international issues with economic, social, cultural or humanitarian aspects”. Chapter 9 of the Charter, in Article 55, also calls for “international cooperation” in various matters to resolve international economic, social, and health issues.

Numerous international instruments have also been adopted on the need to maintain international cooperation between governments. For example, UN General Assembly Resolution (2625), entitled “Declaration on the Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation between States under the Charter of October 24, 1970”, states that regardless of the differences in the cultural systems, political and social interests call for cooperation in accordance with the Charter in order to maintain international peace and security, as well as to facilitate international economic stability and public welfare.

The end of crises has usually been the beginning of change. With the end of the coronavirus, it remains to be seen how the role of governments, the balance of power, and international institutions will change.

However, the global crisis has so far emphasized the concept of commitment to cooperation, especially in the field of fundamental human rights, showing that “common human threats” are only tackled through the “common human interest”.

International cooperation to advance and solve the problems of humanity is not a choice but a necessity.

Koala may be given endangered listing as numbers plummet

The koala is being considered for official listing as endangered after the summer’s bushfire disaster and ongoing habitat destruction on the east coast forced the government to reconsider its threat status.

The iconic species, which is currently listed as vulnerable under national environment laws, is among 28 animals that could have their threat status upgraded, the federal environment minister, Sussan Ley, said on Friday, the Guardian reported.

The greater glider, which had 30% of its habitat range affected by the bushfire crisis, is also being assessed to determine whether it should move from vulnerable to endangered, while several frog and fish species, including the Pugh’s frog and the Blue Mountains perch, are being considered for critically endangered listings.

Several Kangaroo Island species, including the Kangaroo Island crimson rosella and Kangaroo Island white-eared honeyeater,

are among birds being assessed for an endangered listing.

Ley has asked the threatened species scientific committee to complete its assessments by October next year.

The koala assessment will apply to the combined populations of New South Wales, Queensland and the ACT, where more than 10% of the population was affected by bushfire. Koalas on the east coast are also under multiple other pressures due to continued habitat destruction, drought and disease.

Environmental groups, which nominated the species for an endangered listing, said already severe populations declines had been made worse by the 2019-20 bushfire disaster.

“We welcome prioritisation for the koala but also hope the process can be sped up and the koala listed as endangered before October 2021,” said Nicola Beynon of Humane Society International.

Josey Sharrad, of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, said koalas on Australia’s east coast were “sliding towards extinction” and immediate action was needed to bring the species back from the brink.

A recent NSW parliamentary inquiry found koalas would be extinct in the state by 2050 without urgent intervention to protect habitat and help the species recover.

Ley said on Friday that because of the ongoing effects of the bushfires, the government would introduce additional nomination processes for the listing of threatened species over the next two years on top of the annual nomination process.

The 28 species included on the finalised priority assessment list for formal assessment in the 2020 period include two reptiles, four frogs, seven fish, six mammals and 12 birds, bringing the total number of species currently being assessed to 108.

Coronavirus, climate change and disasters: 2020 has been a hell of a year

While we have all been justifiably distracted by COVID-19, the Northern Hemisphere has not been OK.

Fires in Siberia, heatwaves in Europe, record wildfires in California, flooding in Africa, many, many tropical storms, and possibly the highest temperature reliably recorded on Earth.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent has released a report indicating hundreds of millions of people have been affected by the multiple whammies of natural disasters and coronavirus.

* 51.6 million people affected by floods, droughts or storms and COVID-19

* 2.3 million affected by fire and COVID-19

* 431.7 million people in vulnerable populations have had to face extreme heat and COVID-19

■ Fingerprints of climate change

Not all natural disasters have direct links to climate change, but as the World Meteorological Organisation put it recently, “a clear fingerprint of human-induced climate change has been identified” on many extreme weather and climate events.

Heatwaves have the most straightforward and quickest-to-quantify links to anthropogenic climate change.

Michael Wehner from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has pulled together an attribution statement, based on previously published methods, of the 2020 California heatwave — including Death Valley reaching a ridiculous 54.4C, a potential new reputable world heat record.

It states that climate change has caused rare California heatwaves to be 3 to 4 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than they would have been without human-induced forcing.

And the US has not been the only place hot under the collar this year.



Accomplices to Saddam’s 8-year war against Iran

When Iraq invaded Iran in September 1980, the two countries’ circumstances were completely different. Iran lacked any kind of foreign support but Iraq’s Ba’athist regime entered the war with Iran with the official and unofficial support of 80 countries. Various Western and Arab countries provided Saddam with the most advanced equipment.

Western supporters of Iraq The U.S. (main supporter):

Operation Staunch: Made diplomatic efforts to identify the entrances of arms flow to Iran and to stop the sending of war equipment to Iran.
Financial operations: Made efforts to meet the monetary needs of Iraq through American companies. Intelligence operations: Provided Iraq with military intelligence on Iran.
Anti-Iran operations in international organizations: Condemned Iran in these organizations and prevented the Iranian authorities’ voice to be heard by other countries.

Provided Iraq with the most advanced weapons.

Each year, forty Iraqi military pilots were trained in the British Royal Air Force’s base, while private companies such as C.S.I supervised those training courses.

Provided Iraq with weapons.

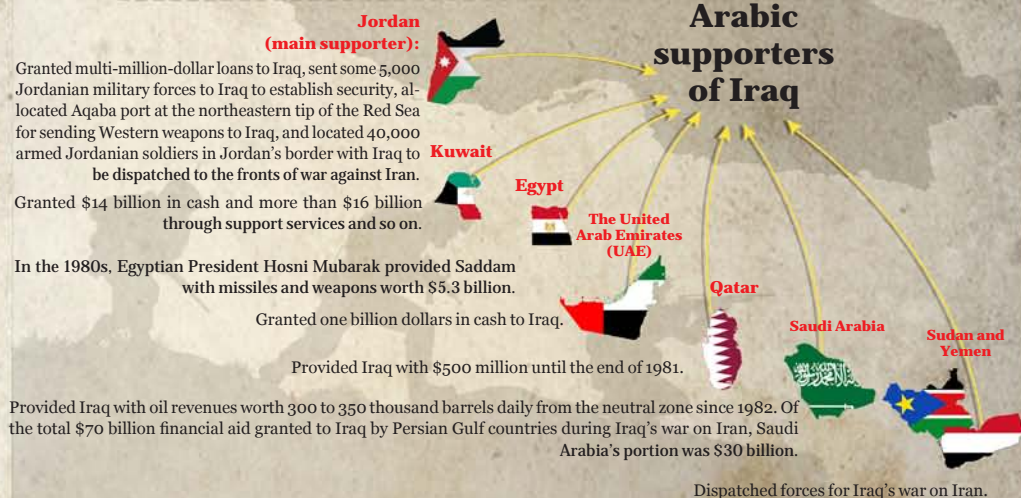
Provided Iraq with advanced anti-tank missiles.

Provided Iraq with advanced anti-tank missiles, and helped Iraq build long-range artillery.

Some 85 percent of the equipment used by Iraq against Iran was made in the Soviet Union, including more than 400 T-55 tanks, 300 Sud-B ballistic missiles, 1000 T-62 tanks, more than 500 advanced T-72 tanks and some 200 MiG fighter jet aircraft.

Granted \$7.4 billion in financial aid, and provided Iraq with Super Etendard fighter aircraft and laser missiles.

Sent chemical materials to Iraq (martyrdom of 1,100 people in Sardasht and other Iranian towns and 5,000 in Halabcheh by 6,000 chemical bombs).



INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

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

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
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» Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



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No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.O. Box: 14155-4843
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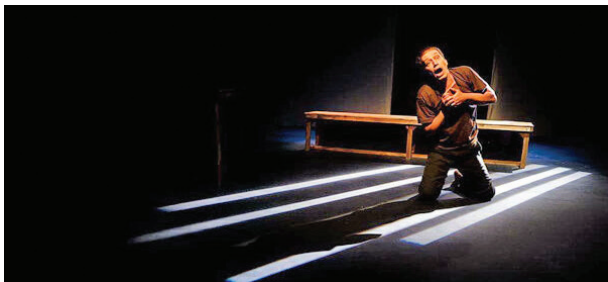
GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

God will help the person who cares about other people's needs, both in this world and the hereafter.

Imam Hussein (AS)

“Awakening”, “Misunderstanding”, “Friends” on stage at Tehran theaters

A R T **TEHRAN** — French playwright Albert Camus’ “The Misunderstanding”, Japanese dramatist Kobo Abe’s “Friends” and British writer Julian Garner’s “The Awakening” are on stage at Tehran theaters.



A member of director Davud Daneshvar's troupe performs Julian Garner's play “The Awakening” at the Qashqai Hall of Tehran's City Theater Complex.

Nader Naderpur is director of “Friends” on stage at Ahura Theater. The play stars Ramtin Soleimani, Mahshid Delavari, Hossein Karami, Notash Niknejad and Mahsan Farrokhi.

The absurdist drama is about the gradual destruction of the individual. A family enters the apartment of a young man and announces that they will save him from his loneliness by living with him. Slowly, they destroy everything, in the cheerful psychotic name of “brotherly love”.

Starring Reza Emami, Gilda Hamidi, Afshin Zarei and Farzaneh Neshatkhah, the award-winning play “The Awakening” directed by Davud Daneshvar is at the Qashqai Hall of the City Theater Complex.

“The Awakening” tells the story of Johannes who is serving a life sentence for murder. Released on parole from an abusive prison system, reformer Agnes secures him a place working on a remote farm. Here he unwittingly becomes embroiled in an old, unresolved grudge.

Left on his own in the world for the first time, events take a turn in ways they could never have been predicted.

Da Theater is hosting “The Misunderstanding” starring Leila Borufeh, Nima Zaker, Atefeh Musavi, Mehdi Abbasi and Alireza Valipur. Zaker is also the director of the play.

The play is about a man who has been living overseas for many years and then returns home, only to find his sister and widowed mother are making a living by taking in lodgers and murdering them. Since neither his sister nor his mother recognizes him, he becomes a lodger himself without revealing his identity.

The play has frequently been performed by many Iranian troupes. An Iranian troupe led by director Javad Molania staged it in its original language at Baran Theater and Molavi Hall in Tehran in 2017 and 2018.

Director Reza Mirkarimi hires actor Navid Mohammadzadeh for “The Night Watchman”

A R T **TEHRAN** — Reza Mirkarimi, director of the award-winning drama “Castle of Dreams”, has signed a contract with actor Navid Mohammadzadeh for his new project named “The Night Watchman”.



A combination photo shows director Reza Mirkarimi (L) and actor Navid Mohammadzadeh.

Mohammadzadeh is the first actor who has been picked for the movie, a public relations team announced on Saturday, however, they gave no details about the plot.

“Castle of Dreams” won Mirkarimi the award for best director at the 56th edition of the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival while its star, Hamed Behdad, was picked as best actor at the Turkish event in November 2019.

Mohammadzadeh won the Orizzonti Award for Best Actor for his role in Jalilvand brothers’ acclaimed drama “No Date, No Signature” at the 74th Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy in 2017.

Persian writer Hamid Hesam’s “Just Be a Servant of Hussein” published in English

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — Iranian writer Hamid Hesam’s book “Just Be a Servant of Hussein” has recently been published in English.

The book, for which Hesam was crowned the Islamic Revolution Artist of the Year in 2018, was unveiled during a ceremony in Tehran on Thursday.

Organized by the Iran Book and Literature House in Tehran, the unveiling ceremony was attended by writer Hesam and the translator, Mojtaba Seyyed-Baqeri, at the Sacred Defense Museum.

The book is a biography of a war veteran, Hossein Rafiei, from a village in the west-central province of Hamedan, whose father’s name was Gholam.

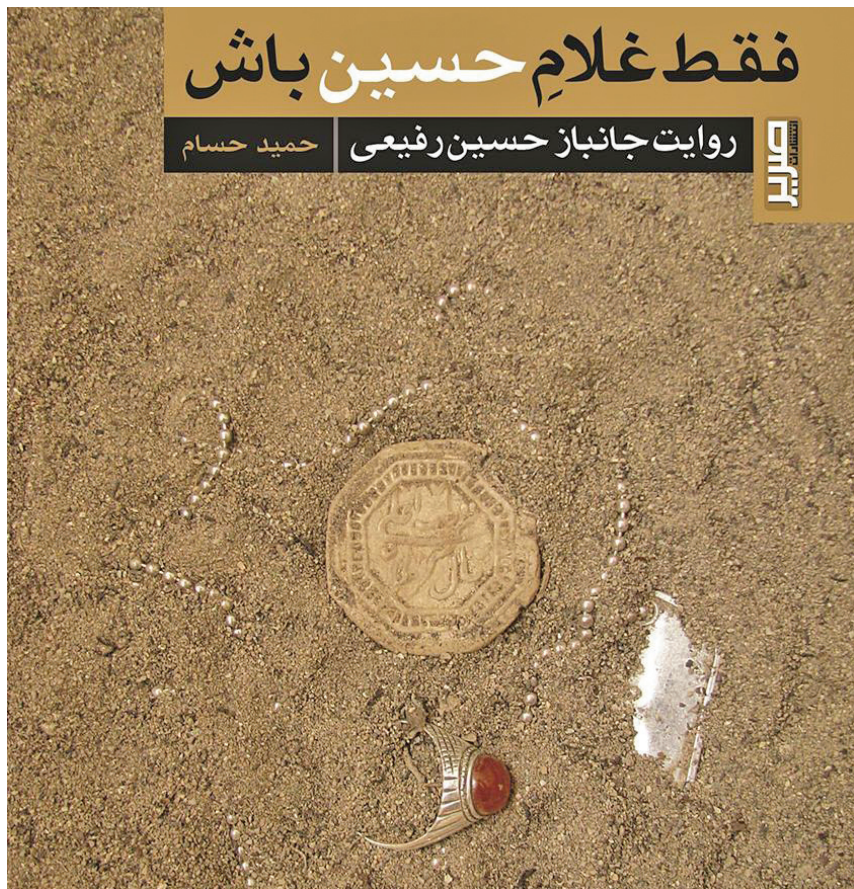
Speaking at the ceremony, Seyyed-Baqeri said that among the problems he faced in translating the book was the translation of some concepts such as martyrdom, bravery

and freedom, however, he tried to make use of words that would be more tangible for an English reader.

“What was most attractive in the translation of the book was that my father was also a soldier in the Iran-Iraq war fronts and had tried to share his experiences, and that I could gain complete information about the war through reading this book,” he said.

“I think I can compare Hesam’s book with ‘Secondhand Time’ written by Belarusian writer Svetlana Alexievitch in 2013 on life after the Cold War in Russia. Of course, part of the book that narrates the worries of the wives of the martyrs can also be compared with ‘War and Peace’ by Tolstoy,” he explained.

“What was annoying for Hossein Rafiei before the Islamic Revolution was that the society was devoid of divine thoughts, but he found his lost ego during the Iran-Iraq war,” he said.



Front cover of the original version of the book “Just Be a Servant of Hussein” by Iranian writer Hamid Hesam.

“During the time that I was working on the translation, I was along with the narrator; sometimes he took me to the

war, and sometimes to his close friends who were martyred with bravery and freedom,” he concluded.

“Exam”, “Talker” win awards at Tirana Intl. Film Festival

By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN — Iranian movies “Exam” and “Talker” were honored with awards during the closing ceremony of the 18th Tirana International Film Festival in the Albanian capital, the organizers announced on Friday.

Directed by Sonia Haddad “Exam” received the award for Best Live Action Short Film.

“Exam” is about a teenage girl who gets involved in the process of delivering a pack of cocaine to a client, and gets stuck in a weird cycle of occurrences.

“A simple story that has illustrated enough about the position of women and youngsters against authority and repression,” the jury said in its statement.

“For its everlasting effect and progressive change of emotion, for its surprising cycle of events, for its lead teenager actress and her weary fatigued distinguished face that carried the story until a poignant closure,” they added.

“Talker” by Mehrshad Ranjbar won the award for Best



A combination photo show scenes from the Iranian movies “Exam” (L) and “Talker”.

Student Film. The movie is about an elderly woman who has cared for her infirm husband for many years until one day this habit ends.

The jury said, “For its unique poetic film language, for its concise artistic choices and its great usage of its space, for how the film feeds the slow narrative force exclusively through powerful silent images to result in a beautiful mosaic of quotidian life of an old couple shot in a cinematic way.”

The Iranian movies “Subjection” by Alireza Mirzai, “The Lock” by Ali Javan, “White Winged Horse” by Mahyar Mandegar and “Witness” by Ali Asgari were also screened at the festival. However, they failed to win an award.

The Golden Owl for Best Feature Film went to “Zana”, a co-production between Kosovo and Albania by Antoneta Kastrati.

Dito Tsintsadze was selected as best director for “In-hale-Exhale” from Georgia, Russia and Sweden.

The award for best screenplay was presented to “Exile” written by Visar Morina. The film is co-produced by Germany, Belgium and Kosovo.

“The Eleventh Golestan” on Commander Ali Chitsazian published in S. Africa

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Cultural Office in South Africa has published the English translation of “The Eleventh Golestan”, a book that contains memories of Commander Ali Chitsazian’s wife, Zahra Panahirava.

The book has been written by Behnaz Zarrabizadeh based on narratives from Panahirava. The writer received the Eurasian Literature Award for her book in 2019. The award was handed to the Russian publisher of the book in Moscow.

The Eurasian literature award was established by Kazakhstan, Russia, Iran, Belorussia, Tajikistan and India in 2013.

The award is dedicated to the best literary work, documentary and best journalist.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has written a commendation for the book.

“This is a sensational narrative of the devotional and jihadi life of a man who was able to attain the place of great divine men in his youth,” the Leader has written about the book.

“The narrator, the partner of his short life, has also clearly expressed her honesty and kindness in her innocent narratives,” he added.

Zarrabizadeh is also the writer of “Daughter

of Sheena”, a book that recounts the memories and experiences of Qadamkheyr Mohammadi during the 1980s when her husband, Sattar Ebrahimi-Hajir, left his family to join Iranian combatants in the Iran–Iraq war.

She wrote the book based on her interviews with Mohammadi. She passed away in 2009 months after she ended narrating her memories for Zarrabizadeh.

“God bless this patient and faithful lady and also the pure young mujahid who never gave up despite the immense sorrows his beloved wife felt,” the Leader wrote in praise of “Daughter of Sheena”.

Iranian publishers attend smart Beijing Intl. Book Fair

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — Iranian publishers are attending the 27th edition of the Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF), which moved to a digital format in the Chinese capital this year.

Dubbed “Smart BIBF 2020”, this year’s event will provide online resources to give publishers the chance to exhibit, network and negotiate virtually, which will be available for a year, the organizers have said.

A number of award-winning Iranian books on Persian literature, art, children, religion and the Iran-Iraq war are on display at the virtual fair.

The Iran Book and Literature House, the Alhoda International Publishing Group, Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, the Pol Literary and Translation Agency, and the London-based Iranian-British publishing house Candle and Fog are among the

participating publishers.

The Iran Book and Literature House has introduced the history of the publishing industry in Iran for the participants in the fair, in addition to introducing top Iranian authors in the field of children and young adults, as well as introducing the Tehran International Book Fair.

Right in line with other major fairs, festivals and trade shows of the publishing year, Beijing is describing its online offerings as being designed “to give publishers the chance to exhibit, network and negotiate virtually.”

Iran was the guest of honor at the Beijing International Book Fair in 2017 and China was the special guest of the Tehran International Book Fair 2019.

The Beijing International Book Fair is one of the major Asian events in the publishing industry, and will be running for one year.



A poster for the 27th edition of the Beijing International Book Fair.

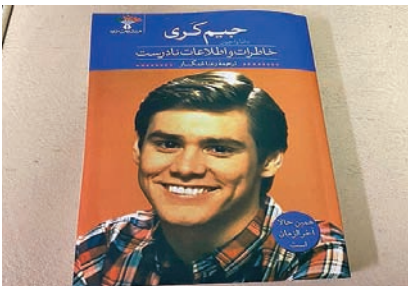
Jim Carrey’s “Memoirs and Misinformation” published in Persian

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of “Memoirs and Misinformation” co-written by the award-winning actor and artist Jim Carrey and Dana Vachon has been published by Tav Publications.

The book has been translated into Persian by Rana Ghangosar.

“Meet Jim Carrey. Sure, he’s an insanely successful and beloved movie star drowning in wealth and privilege--but he’s also lonely,” the book says.

“Maybe past his prime. Maybe even getting fat? He’s tried diets, gurus, and cuddling with his military-grade guard dogs, but



A Persian copy of “Memoirs and Misinformation” co-written by Jim Carrey and Dana Vachon.

nothing seems to lift the cloud of emptiness and ennui. Even the sage advice of his best friend, actor and dinosaur skull collector, Nicolas Cage, isn’t enough to pull Carrey out of his slump,” it says.

“But then Jim meets Georgie: ruthless ingénue, love of his life. And with the help of auteur screenwriter Charlie Kaufman, he has a role to play in a boundary-pushing new picture that may help him uncover a whole new side to himself--finally, his Oscar vehicle! Things are looking up!” it adds.

But the universe has other plans.

“Memoirs and Misinformation” is a fearless semi-autobiographical novel, a

deconstruction of persona. In it, Carrey and Vachon have fashioned a story about acting, Hollywood, agents, celebrity, privilege, friendship, romance, addiction to relevance and fear of personal erasure.

Carrey is a Canadian-American comedian who established himself as a leading comedic actor with a series of over-the-top performances and who won plaudits for his more-serious portrayals as his career progressed.

Vachon is the author of the novel “Mergers and Acquisitions”. His essays and journalism have appeared in The New York Times, Slate and Vanity Fair. He lives in Brooklyn.