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## New industry minister nominee holds talks with private sector

**TEHRAN** — President Rouhani's new nominee for heading the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry met with the representatives of the country's private sector at Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Saturday.

In the meeting with Alireza Razm Hosseini, the ICCIMA members addressed the most important problems in the way of boosting domestic production and outlined the priorities that the ministry

should pursue during the final months of the current government's office, ICCIMA portal reported.

Speaking in the gathering, the ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie underlined the strong background of the proposed minister and said: "Mr. Razm Hosseini has an important characteristic compared to other cabinet members, he has already been engaged with the private sector for 20 years." ➔4

## Sanctions impede Iran's ability to fight Covid-19: Zarif

**TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has accused the United States of impeding Iran's ability to fight the coronavirus outbreak, saying that U.S. sanctions have prevented the purchase of critical medical supplies.

In an interview with Russia Today published on Sunday, Zarif said Washington's efforts to stop Tehran from exporting oil have limited the government's ability to

respond to the global health crisis and provide relief to the Iranian people.

Iran also has "quite a bit of money stashed in countries abroad," he said, adding that the U.S. has prevented Tehran from gaining access to these funds, even to buy medicine. The top Iranian diplomat noted that, due to U.S. sanctions, Iran could not use its "own money" to ensure access to coronavirus vaccines under development. ➔2

## Top stage artists of Iran war theater honored

**TEHRAN** — A number of theater directors, writers and actors active in the field of Sacred Defense theater were honored with lifetime achievement awards in the program "Narrators of Resistance" at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday.

The honorees were Alireza Hanifi, Roya Afshar, Hamidreza Azarang, Majid Kazemzadeh, Malek Seraj, Kamran Shahlaei,

Morteza Shakkaram and Shahram Karami. Two plays with the central themes of Sacred Defense (1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War) were introduced and honored at the ceremony.

"I Wish Your Lips Were Retuned Instead of Your Bones" written by Shahram Karami and "Where Are You Ebrahim" written by Leili Aaj were unveiled at the ceremony. ➔8

By Farrokh Hessabi  
Tehran Times journalist

## Iranian young football coaches enter the race

With the twentieth editions of the Iran Professional League (IPL) will start next month, there have been nine departures of football coaches so far, some of which are dismissals, and the remaining are resignations.

During the last season, a total of 13 teams changed their coaches out of 16 teams, and it seems that this process continues in the upcoming season.

However, the cycle of the changing coaches has been accompanied by the club directors' strong desire for new and mostly young faces on the bench, a cycle that seems very different compared to the past.

Moharam Navidkia (Sepahan), Majid Namjoo Motlagh (Esteghlal), Mehdi Rahmati (Shahr Khodro), Rahman Rezaei (Zob Ahan), Vahid Bayatloo (Machine Sazi), and Mohammad Rabiei (Mes Rafsanjan) will sit on the benches as head coaches for the first time in their careers.

It is clearly the decision of club chairmen whom they hire and fire, and when, but the statistics show that a club is likely to end up worse off when the manager is sacked.

Confidence in the new faces to lead IPL teams has been so high that it has made it so difficult to predict the team's performance and result in the next season.

This confidence may have positive effects on the Iranian football in the long term, and of course, on the other hand, it may cause the disappearance of young coaching talents under the heavy pressure of the Iran league and other major tournaments such as Hazfi Cup and also the AFC Champions League.

No one says that a club should never change their coach. The football context changes over time, clubs' circumstances alter, and employer and employee's goals may no longer match.

Today's head coaches in the Iranian clubs have a small window of opportunity to impact their club. Therefore, it is vital for the coaches and the clubs to set clear, mutually agreed aims and objectives.

Of course, time proves a lot of things since football has its ups and downs, however it seems the previous generation needs to be replaced by the fresh blood.

## Iran calls for immediate ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh

**TEHRAN** — Iran has called on Azerbaijan and Armenia to "immediately stop" the fighting over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region and resolve disagreements through dialogue.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is worryingly and closely watching the clashes between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia and, while urging restraint, it urges the two countries to immediately stop the clashes and start dialogue," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, also expressed Iran's readiness to use everything in its power to help achieve a ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia and facilitate talks between the two arch-foes.

On Sunday, violent clashes flared up between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the volatile Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is internationally

recognized as part of Azerbaijan but controlled by Armenian forces.

Accusing Azerbaijan of starting the clashes, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announced the downing of two Azerbaijani helicopters and three drones as well as the destruction of three tanks in response to what he called "Azeri invasion". Pashinyan accused Azerbaijan of declaring war on the Armenian people.

"Today, from early morning, Artsakh was subjected to the aggression of the armed forces of Azerbaijan. The civilian population of Artsakh, the capital Stepanakert, and civilian infrastructures are being bombed. At the moment, there are casualties and wounded, including among the civilian population. Using heavy weapons, the enemy is attacking the positions of the Defense Army in all directions," the Armenian prime minister said in an address to his fellow citizens. ➔3

## U.S. protests: Hate-group rally breaks up in Portland

The Proud Boys — designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center — rallied Saturday in Portland in numbers far below what they'd projected, and then began to disperse after less than two hours.

The city had braced for violence as the group, known for confrontations with left wing and antifascist protesters, arrived at Delta Park in North Portland around 10 a.m. A counterdemonstration took place at nearby Peninsula Park.

The Proud Boys rally was organized by national leaders of the group who do not live in Oregon, but have traveled to the city before to try and stoke violence.

On Friday, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown declared a state of emergency and put the Oregon State Police in charge of law enforcement's response to the rally. The move cleared the way for more officers to participate in

efforts to separate dueling groups.

Elected officials had denounced the demonstrations Saturday, saying their only goal was to provoke violence following a summer of protests for racial justice in the city. Though the Proud Boys applied for a permit to hold the gathering, city parks officials denied it because it violated state health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Though the Proud Boys said they expected thousands of people and a demonstration that would last three hours, the group fell far short of its expectations on both fronts.

After 90 minutes spent gathered at Portland's Delta Park on Saturday, a group of 200 to 300 people began to disperse and leave the area.

A variety of people gave speeches at the event while the largely mask less crowd waved American, Confederate and Trump 2020 flags.

## Free influenza vaccines for 80,000 underprivileged people

**TEHRAN** — Influenza vaccines have been provided free of charge to some 80,000 people under the coverage of the Welfare Organization, the head of the Organization has announced.

The Ministry of Health is implementing a national plan aiming to provide two million doses of influenza vaccines for at-risk groups such as the elderly, transplant patients, cardiopulmonary patients, and pregnant women to reduce COVID-19 effects.

According to the national plan on influenza vaccination, the distribution of vaccine is the responsibility of the University of Medical Sciences in different provinces, Vahid Qobadi Dana stated.

Personnel and the elderly living in daycare centers as well as the physically disabled in the Welfare Organization are in priority, he highlighted.

He went on to note that up to 80,000 people who are in welfare organization's

care centers are eligible to receive free vaccines.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 and the observance of health protocols such as social distancing, personal hygiene, disinfection of hands, and use of masks, the flu infection will be much lower than the previous years. Therefore, vaccination is not necessary for the whole population, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of the Food and Drug Administration, said. ➔7



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## IRGC launches permanent aerospace fair, showcases ballistic missiles

**TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Sunday inaugurated the Permanent Exhibition of Achievements and Capabilities of the IRGC's Aerospace Division in Tehran.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, IRGC Chief Major General Hossein Salami said Iran will never stop promoting its defense power.

During the ceremony, the IRGC unveiled its third-generation naval strike ballistic missile, Press TV reported. ➔2

## Ready for a time travel? Just cross the threshold of Zaman Museum in Tehran

**TEHRAN** — In lots of places, "time" is just a self-evident concept people designed, and the universe really does not verify that seconds, minutes, or hours really exist. A day on earth is directly measured by the stances of the Sun.

Time travel, which is a widely recognized concept in philosophy and fiction, is the concept of movement between certain points in time, similar to movement between different points in space by an object or a person, typically with the use of a hypothetical device known as a time machine.

Here, at the Tehran's Time (Zaman) Museum with the help of your imagination, you can experience a time travel to the past, to the centuries and even millennia before to witness how our ancestors made every efforts to gauge the time from water clocks and oil clocks to the sun clocks and ones being operated with the use of candles or sand grains.

Tehran's Time Museum is the first museum of clocks, watches, and other time-measuring tools in Iran. Inaugurated in the early 21st century, the museum has considered the importance of time over the years by displaying the evolution of time-measuring instruments from initial clocks to the modern mechanical ones. Situated in the Zaferanieh neighborhood, the museum building is an old and two-story structure that dates back to the Qajar era.

The clocks of famous people such as Nasserdin Shah Qajar, and Professor Mahmoud Hessabi, who was an Iranian nuclear physicist and senator, are also being kept at this museum there are also documents related to the subject of time, mechanical clocks, and other kinds of clocks. ➔6



## Abdullah Abdullah to visit Iran

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Abdulla Abdullah, the head of d e s k Afghanistan's peace council, plans to visit Iran after making a visit Islamabad, Pakistan.

He also plans to make trips to New Delhi, Ankara, Beijing and Tashkent to win support for Afghan peace talks.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has held constant telephone conversations with his Afghan counterpart Mohammed Haneef Atmar expressing Tehran's support for peace talks between warring sides in Afghanistan.

The Afghan talks in the Qatari capital Doha are aimed at ending 19 years of war in Afghanistan.

Some sources in the Afghan government say that Abdullah plans to personally take the initiative and lead regional diplomacy surrounding the talks between the government and the Taliban.

Some have cited worries about the Afghan talks as the reasons behind scheduled tours by Abdullah.

In a telephone conversation with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has said his country backs ceasefire and peace in Afghanistan.

According to Dunya News, Abdullah will be visiting Islamabad on a three-day visit from Monday.

According to Foreign Office spokesperson, he will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including prominent members of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR).

## 'Iran among top 5 countries in drone, missile tech'

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — The Commander of IRGC Aerospace Force noted that the country's defense sector enjoys high-tech equipment made by Iranian experts.



Iran's aerospace section and its achievements are standing at the world's top-level, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said on Sunday in the inauguration ceremony of an exhibition which showcases the achievements of the force.

"When we talk about missile, drone, and radar development, these are cutting edge technologies and we are among the top five countries in these fields," he added.

He noted that the defense achievements of the country have been the result of experiences during Sacred Defense. "We learned from Imam Khomeini to stand on our own feet. Of course, we faced challenges in the path. At the time of the Soviet Union collapse, millions of dollars' worth missiles and launchers were being easily offered to us but the Leader of the Islamic Revolution opposed. If those purchases had been made, we would have not gained these achievements and this progress is the result of the wisdom of the Leader."

## Army Ground Force unveils military robot among 7 new achievements

**TEHRAN (Press TV)** — The Iranian Army Ground Force has rolled out seven new completely indigenous and high-tech military achievements, including a robot that can carry light to semi-heavy weaponry.

The achievements were unveiled on Sunday in the presence of the force's Commander Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari, and Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army Aviation, Second Brigadier General Yousef Qorbani.



The robot has been named Caracal after a type of wild cat that can be found in parts of Iran. The automaton, which has been designed for ground warfare, has a top speed of 30 kilometers (18 miles) per hour, and has an operating range that exceeds 500 meters (0.3 mile).

Caracal is equipped with an independent suspension system, smart remote control mechanism, laser rangefinder and an optical system.

The ceremony also wheeled out Hadaf (Goal)-2, a new missile launcher with a canister capable of holding and firing two missiles at the same time. The launcher can be used for rapid deployment purposes and is fitted with an automatic leveler that can help it identify the best possible location for deployment.

The Ground Force also inaugurated the Gohar (Gem) 4WD vehicle that is empowered to carry as much as 500 kilograms (1102 lb) off-road, and travel as far as 700 kilometers (434 miles) at a maximum speed of 120 kilometers (74 miles) per hour.

Gohar can also travel across 70-grade lengthwise and 35-grade edgewise slopes and wade into waters that run 80 centimeters deep.

Chabok (Agile), an extremely fast frequency shuffling system, was another item that was put on display during the event. The apparatus provides a highly secure link among ground and airborne communication devices by changing the frequencies traveling between them at a 200,000-per-second rate, thus blocking all radar jamming attempts by the enemy.

The ceremony also featured unveiling of piston engines for drones with capacities ranging from 40 to 400 milliliters. At the former capacity, the engines can fly a 30-kilogram (66-lb) drone. A relief and rescue robot dubbed Masih (Messiah) and a new tank carrier were also exhibited at the event.

The Ground Force's commander hailed Messiah as a remarkable helping hand for the military's medical staff, who are busy fighting the new coronavirus pandemic.

# IRGC launches permanent aerospace fair, showcases ballistic missiles

General Hajizadeh says Iran among top 10 countries in aerospace industry

**I →** The IRGC showcased the Zolfaghar-e Basir missile, with a range of more than 700 kilometers (434 miles), as its new-generation ballistic missile — after its predecessors Khalij-e Fars and Hormuz.

The newest projectile is fitted with a warhead that is guided by an optical seeker head. The precursors to the naval military achievement could respectively fly as far as 300 and 250 kilometers (186 and 155 miles).

Zolfaghar-e Basir's surface-to-surface version can also travel a 700-to-750-kilometer distance.

The IRGC has previously deployed the missile against overseas targets such as gatherings of the terror group Daesh as well as the United States' Ain al-Assad Airbase in western Iraq, which was targeted after the U.S. assassination of Iran's top anti-terror general Qassem Soleimani.

"We have [well] understood the equations governing independence and esteem, and will never stop manufacturing power," General Salami said.

The ceremony was also attended by Chief of the IRGC's Aerospace Force Brigadier



General Amir Ali Hajizadeh and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.

Salami explained that the exhibition featured a comprehensive display of Iran's deterrence power, adding, "The war underway

today is one of willpower. The Iranian nation continues down this path with conviction by clearly recognizing its way forward."

The IRGC's other capabilities were also demonstrated in the exhibition, includ-

ing its missiles, UAVs, satellites, defense systems, reconnaissance apparatuses, and electronic warfare, as well as some of the invading drones that have been successfully shot down by the Corps in the past, including American and Israeli ones.

The general also pointed out that many of the achievements exhibited on the premises had been attained under sanctions, saying this indicated Iran has managed to turn the illegal bans into "an opportunity for expeditious advancement in the defensive areas."

"We managed to create an opportunity from the sanctions," he said. "The amazing achievements and wonderful efforts that we see in this exhibition has been reached in the era of sanctions."

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, General Hajizadeh said Iran is certainly among the top ten countries in terms of aerospace industry.

"Today as we talk about surface-to-surface missiles, cruise missiles, unmanned arial vehicles (UAVs) an aerospace fields, radar... we can say with strong confidence that we are at least among the top ten countries in the world," Hajizadeh stated.

## Iran calls on Iraq to pursue Soleimani assassination case

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran has called on Iraq to pursue the case of U.S. assassination of top Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), in the Iraqi soil.

"Serious pursuit of the cowardly assassination of martyrs Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis through international bodies is the least measure that the Iraqi government is expected to do," Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), said on Sunday.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, who was in Iran to meet top Iranian officials.

Hussein on Saturday met President Hassan Rouhani, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.

Shamkhani described the assassination as a clear example of "state terrorism", saying the least punishment for the perpetrators would be their immediate expulsion from the region, especially from Iraq.

On January 3, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered strikes that martyred General Soleimani, chief of the IRGC Quds Force, and al-Muhandis.

In the early hours of January 8, the IRGC attacked Ain al-Assad airbase in Anbar province in western Iraq as part of its promised "tough revenge" for the U.S. terror attack. Iran notified the Iraqi government beforehand so as to avoid casualties.

In June, Tehran said 36 individuals have been identified in connection with the Soleimani assassination.

"36 individuals who cooperated, collaborated, and participated in the assassination of Hajj Qassem, including

political and military authorities of the U.S. and other countries, have been identified," Tehran Prosecutor General Ali Alqasi-Mehr said.

Alqasi-Mehr named Trump as the key individual at the top of the list, saying his pursuit will continue even after his tenure as U.S. president.

During the Sunday meeting, the Iraqi foreign minister said that his country will never forget the sacrifices made by Iranian people in order to root out Takfiri terrorism from Iraq.

Describing Iran and Iraq as two friendly, brotherly neighbors, he said, "Saddam, with the 8-year war, could not drive a wedge between the two nations, and this is a good reason that no other foreign side will also be able to negatively impact the good relations between the two countries."

**■ Ghalibaf says Soleimani assassination was 'insult' to Iraq's sovereignty**

During a separate meeting with Foreign Minister Hussein On Saturday evening, Ghalibaf said that the U.S. assassination of General Soleimani was an insult to Iraq's sovereignty and a violation of the country's independence.

"One of the demands of the Iraqi people, government and parliament is the U.S. exit from that country," he said, branding the United States as the source of instability in the region.

"Evidence shows that the U.S. has strengthened terrorists in the region, including Daesh (ISIS)," the speaker remarked.

Ghalibaf also underlined the need to boost peace and security in Iraq and the region, saying the only way to resolve Iraq's problems would be the U.S. withdrawal from the country.

Hussein, for his part, expressed the hope that Iran would



*Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein (L) met with Parliament speaker Ghalibaf late on Saturday.*

continue to support his country.

He also said Baghdad is determined to protect its independence and territorial integrity.

Since the Trump-ordered assassination of Soleimani, the Islamic Republic has ramped up calls for the U.S. expulsion from the region.

In his meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister, President Rouhani underlined the need for the withdrawal U.S. forces from the region, saying, "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 president further noted 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.

## Israel would collapse if Western support stops: general

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Chief of d e s k Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri says the Zionist regime would collapse if the U.S. and other Western countries stop their economic, political support for the regime.

"One day, the Zionist regime's motto was 'from the Nile to the Euphrates' but today it is besieged and should find a solution for the reverse migration of the Jews," Bagheri said in a TV interview on Saturday night.

"There have been day-and-night protests in front of the criminal prime minister of the Zionist regime, and instability is pervasive there," he added.

Bagheri's remarks came while Iran is in the final days of the Sacred Defense Week, which commemorates the martyrs and veterans of the 8-year war of Iraq against Iran in the 1980s.

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

The war drew to a close in August 1988. The United Nations declared Saddam as



the initiator of the war.

According to official statistics, 225,570 Iranian people were martyred and 574,101

became disabled during the Sacred Defense. Also, the number of freed prisoners of war was 43,173.

"The Sacred Defense formed Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's resistance," General Bagheri said, adding, "As a result, the Sacred Defense's outreach has been much farther than our borders."

He also pointed to the normalization of ties between "reactionary regimes of the region with the Zionist regime", saying the UAE had sent numerous messages to Iran in the last two years to say that they are not like the Saudis and they want to be friendly toward Iran.

"We decided to ignore their wrongdo-

**"If the Zionists enter this region (Persian Gulf) and incidents happen that would disrupt our national security and defense, we will view them (the countries signing normalization deals with Israel) as the enemy's base and we will deal with them in the same way we deal with the enemy," General Bagheri warns.**

## U.S. sanctions impede Iran's ability to fight Covid19-: Zarif



**I →** Iran cannot even purchase doses of influenza vaccine, Zarif lamented.

"Whatever the Americans are saying about their sanctions not affecting humanitarian items, it's just a lie... It's

basically medical terrorism," he said.

The foreign minister also pointed out that even Washington's European allies have stated that they will not abandon their commitments under the Iran nuclear agreement.

The nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was signed in July

2015 between Iran, China, France, Russia, Germany, Iran, the UK, the EU and the United States. However, Washington unilaterally exited the deal in May 2018, and pursued a policy of "maximum pressure" against Iran.

Tehran has described the U.S. sanctions as "economic terrorism" and "medical terrorism" on various occasions, citing

the high number of deaths as a direct result of the illegal sanctions.

On Thursday, Zarif urged the international community to confront the United States' economic and medical terrorism.

"We need to jointly confront the destructive impact of unilateral coercive measures on efforts to combat the pandemic," Zarif told the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) on Thursday.

"They are nothing but economic and medical terrorism, and we must refuse to comply with these unlawful measures in our collective endeavor to tackle this common affliction of humanity," he added.

**"Whatever the Americans are saying about their sanctions not affecting humanitarian items, it's just a lie... It's basically medical terrorism," Zarif notes.**



## SPORTS

### Persepolis edge Al Sadd to reach 2020 ACL quarters

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team from **d e s k** Iran defeated Qatari giant Al Sadd 1-0 to book a place at the 2020 AFC Champions League quarter-finals.

On Sunday, Persepolis edged Xavi's Al Sadd 1-0 thanks to Issa Alekassir's 88th minute goal.

Persepolis defender Siamak Nematy was sent off in the 90th minute.



"I am very happy with this win since as I have already said several players are suffering injury but we showed a good performance against Al Sadd," Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi said in the post-match news conference.

"From now on, we have to concentrate on the next match in the quarter-finals. I hope we can continue our winning streak in the competition," he added.

Persepolis join Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli Saudi FC and Pakhtakor of Uzbekistan in the quarter-finals, with the draw scheduled for Monday.

Al Nassr and Al Taawoun SC square off in an all-Saudi affair in the last of the Round of 16 ties.

The quarter-finals matches will be held on Wednesday.

### Esteghlal fall short against Pakhtakor

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor came **d e s k** from behind to defeat Esteghlal football team 2-1 in the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16 at Al Janoub Stadium on Saturday.

Pakhtakor qualified for the quarter-finals for the first time since 2009.

In the 32nd minute, Esteghlal midfielder Ali Karimi beautifully curled the ball into the back of the net from the free-kick.

Two minutes before the end of the first half, Pakhtakor found their equalizer. Sardor Sobirkhodjaev set-up Alijonov to cross from deep at the far post where Dragan Ceran was first to the ball, guiding his header past Hossein Hosseini to draw Pakhtakor level.

In the absence of COVID-19 stricken coach Shota Arveladze, it was down to his Dutch assistant Pieter Huistra to deliver the halftime talk, and his words set up Pakhtakor for a red hot start to the second half as they added their second within a minute of the restart.

A swift and progressive exchange of passes in the opposition half allowed Sobirkhodjaev to find Erin Deriyok with plenty of space down the right and the Swiss striker drilled a half-volleyed effort from the edge of the box into the bottom corner to give Pakhtakor the lead for the first time in the game.

Esteghlal looked to respond and by the 54th minute, they had a major goal scoring chance when Mehdi Ghaedi cut inside from the left and whipped a cross into the six yard box for Diabate who poked it goalward, but Suyunov was well positioned and clutched into the ball to keep his side in front.

Pakhtakor controlled possession for long stretches of the second half and booked a match in the next stage.

"Our team and my players deserved to be in the quarter-finals, but I have to congratulate Pakhtakor for their win," said Namjoo Motlagh.

"We have a good team and we worked really hard, but football is like this sometimes. When there is a lot of pressure and you have put a lot of physical effort throughout the game, you lose concentration, and that is what happened to Diabate. In normal situations he would easily score those chances, but he was tired," he added.

### Kolakovic: Hospitality rooted in Iranian culture

Former national volleyball team head coach Igor Kolakovic praised the Iranian culture, saying they're the most hospitable nation in the world.

The Montenegrin is coach of Polish club Zawiercie at the moment after parting company with Iran.

"I had a great staff there and I always felt that the players, assistants, medical staff and team manager were part of my family not my colleagues. I met many great people, a new culture, customs and lifestyle. Iranian people are very friendly. The country's volleyball players are good guys and great athletes as well," Kolakovic said.

There have been quarrels between Iran and Poland volleyball teams in the recent years. However, Kolakovic says that most of the meetings between the two teams went quite normally.

"In my opinion, the matches between the two teams are based on sports rivalry. When these two teams play together, there is always a good show. The quarrel between Iran and Poland started in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. In the 2019 FIVB Volleyball World Cup we lost 3-0 to Poland but the players shook hands after the match and that's it.

"Before of the match, I talked to my players about the previous quarrels and they told me not to worry about it since it was a thing of the past. In fact, the last disagreement between Iranians and Poles took place four years ago in Rio. I believe that Iranian volleyball players are respected in Poland. Milad Ebadipour currently plays in PlusLiga and Mohammad Mousavi and Pouria Fayazi have already played in the league," Kolakovic added.

"The Iranian people like to help others, especially foreigners. In the building where I lived, it happened many times that one of the neighbors stood at my door with a supermarket bag saying it was for me. Great hospitality and willingness to help are deeply rooted in the Iranian culture," he concluded.

(Source: sportowefakty.wp.pl)

# Iran calls for immediate ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh

**1→** "The totalitarian administration of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has switched to military operations. This is a war declared on the Armenian people. This is a war against our independence, freedom and dignity. The Armenian people are ready for this war, because they have always soberly realized that the hatred for Armenians, which Azerbaijani totalitarianism has been feeding its people for decades, could not lead to any other result than war."

Pashinyan declared martial law and general mobilization as Azerbaijan announced that the Armenian forces were retreating from the battlefield while suffering big losses.

"At the decision of the Government, martial law and general mobilization is being declared in the Republic of Armenia. I call on the personnel attached to the troops to present themselves to their district commissariats," he tweeted on Sunday, hours after the deadly clashes began, claiming that the clashes were "pre-planned" by neighboring Azerbaijan.

"Recent aggressive statements of



Azerbaijani leadership, large-scale joint military exercises with Turkey, as well as rejection of the Organization for Securi-

ty and Co-operation PRCiO monitoring requests clearly indicate this aggression was pre-planned and constitutes large-

scale provocation against regional peace and security," tweeted the prime minister.

On the other hand, Azerbaijan has rejected Armenian accusations that it started an aggression on Armenia, saying they are only "liberating" its "occupied territories" from Armenia.

"Azerbaijan has not resorted to any provocation. Azerbaijan simply defends its interests, supports its position and pursues its policy openly. We have repeatedly stated that Nagorno-Karabakh is historical and ancient land of Azerbaijan, and this is true. When the prime minister of Armenia says that "Karabakh is Armenia", it is a lie. When I say that "Karabakh is Azerbaijan", it is true. The whole world recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan," President Aliyev said in an address to his fellow citizens.

Aliyev added, "We are on the right path! Ours is the cause of justice! We will win! Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!"

Accusing Armenia of firing on Azerbaijani military positions, President Aliyev said the Azerbaijani Army was responding to Armenia.

## Military official says Iran able to thwart any threat

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — A top military official said **d e s k** on Sunday that Iran is able to immediately respond to any threat.

"During the imposed war, when we were attacked by a missile, we went to shelters, but today we have reached a level of deterrence where we are able to respond decisively and promptly to any threat against the Islamic Republic of Iran," said Brigadier General Saeed Shabanian, the deputy coordinator at the Iranian Defense Ministry.

The top general was referring to the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s — also known as the Sacred Defense— during which the Baathist regime of Saddam Hussein showered Iranian cities with missiles while Iran was unable to respond because it didn't have long-range missiles.

Shabanian said, "We went to war with the Baathist regime of Iraq while we were not enjoying a desirable level of deterrence in terms of military capabilities."

According to the general, during the war Iran used the weapons that were imported by the Shah regime, but the countries selling the weapons to Iran were backing Saddam Hussein, the former dictator of Iraq, and that Iran faced difficulties acquiring spare parts.

However, Shabanian said, Iran put the production of defense equipment on the agenda and achieved very significant successes and advances in this field.

Iran is now domestically producing a variety of weap-



ons, he added.

"Today, almost all of our defense products are indigenous and made by our own specialists, and there is no need for foreigners in these areas," Shabanian stated.

He also expressed the armed forces' readiness to help industrial sectors in terms of producing spare parts in light of U.S. sanctions on Iran, which he described them as an "all-out economic war."

Shabanian added, "We are ready to transfer our experiences and technology to industry sectors, and this issue has been repeatedly reflected in the media by the minister of defense."

In March, Shabanian said the Iranian Defense Ministry has begun producing disinfectants to help the country get through the coronavirus pandemic.

"There is the capacity to produce 100,000 liters of disinfectants and more than 30,000 N95 face masks on a daily basis and up to now, more than 1 million liters of disinfectants and 280,000 face masks have been produced and handed over to the Ministry of Health and the work is going on," the deputy defense minister was quoted as saying by Mehr news agency in March.

Pointing to the produced coronavirus test kits in the Defense Ministry, he said that these kits have passed all the required protocols and are being used in a number of hospitals across the country.

According to Mehr, the Defense Ministry had announced mass production of coronavirus test kits, face masks, disinfectants, ambulances, and hospital beds to help the country battle the outbreak.

Shabanian also said that the ministry produced thousands of car parts after foreign firms withdrew from Iran due to U.S. sanctions on the country.

"During the all-out economic war, at the request of public and private industry sectors and following the non-fulfillment of the foreign companies' commitment to supply parts to the country's industrial sectors, we produced and delivered more than thousands of parts in the field of automobiles to automakers," the deputy defense minister noted.

## Enemies can do nothing: IRGC navy commander

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — A top general **d e s k** with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Sunday that the enemies of Iran failed to inflict damage on the resistance of the Iranian people during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s and they will once again fail to harm the Iranian people.

"The internal and external enemies should know that our nation was always united against oppression and arrogance during the imposed war, and the hostile countries could not harm this popular resistance, and the enemies today cannot certainly do anything," said Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri, the commander of the IRGC's navy.

Speaking in a ceremony in the southern city of Abadan, the commander said Iran is a rich country and, therefore, the enemy cannot bring the Iranian nation to its knees.

"Today, the main issue of our country is the livelihood of the people. Officials should use everything in their power to resolve problems," noted Tangsiri. He added, "The official who works in the Islamic Republic, if he hears the voice of justice and does not act on it, must be accountable to God and God's people. We must be careful that worldly assets do not change us because the enemy is always in ambush; one day with Umayyad dinars and today with U.S. dollars."

In a clear warning to the enemies, the top commander said Iran will give a tough response to the enemy's threat.

"If the enemy threatens our nation, we will respond to him with the strongest threats. Before the revolution, the range of imported missiles for our vessels was limited to 45 km, while today, thanks to the capable youth of



the Revolutionary Guards and the Ministry of Defense, our cruise missiles have a range of 700 to 1000 km," said Tangsiri.

He also pointed to the assassination of

IRGC Quds Force commander General Qasem Soleimani, saying, "The enemy is doing his best to assassinate the likes of General Soleimani, but he does not know that the nation that longs for martyrdom is not afraid of death, and after our departure, there would be many Hajj Qasems in this country who will respond to the call of truth."

The IRGC's Quds Force commander was assassinated in an American drone strike in early January near Baghdad's international airport along with Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy commander of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces. In response, Iran showered an Iraqi base housing American troops in the western governorate of al-Anbar. Dozens of American service members have incurred brain injuries as a result of the Iranian missile attack.

## Zarif offers help to end Nagorno-Karabakh violence

"Our neighbors are our priority and we are ready to provide good offices to enable talks"

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — In a bid to calm tensions **d e s k** between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Iran expressed its readiness to help the two countries resolve their differences through dialogue.

"Iran is closely monitoring the alarming violence in Nagorno-Karabakh. We call for an immediate end to hostilities and urge dialogue to resolve differences. Our neighbors are our priority and we are ready to provide good offices to enable talks. Our region needs peace now," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet on Sunday evening.

Iran's Foreign Ministry also offered help to put an end to the violence over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, saying Iran is ready to use everything in its power to help achieve a ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia and facilitate talks between the two arch-foes.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is worryingly and closely watching the clashes between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia and, while urging restraint, it

urges the two countries to immediately stop the clashes and start a dialogue," Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

Violent clashes erupted on Sunday morning between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the volatile Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but controlled by Armenian forces. The two countries accused each other of starting the clashes as their militaries exchanged fire along their borders in the disputed region. They both declared martial law and general mobilizations in efforts to prepare their people for war.

"At the decision of the Government, martial law and general mobilization are being declared in the Republic of Armenia. I call on the personnel attached to the troops to present themselves to their district commissariats," tweeted Nikol Pashinyan, the Armenian prime minister.

On the other hand, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev also signed a decree on the introduction of a martial law starting 00:00 (GMT+4) on Sept. 28, 2020.



## Iran offers condolences over Ukraine plane crash

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — In statement **d e s k** on Sunday night, Iran offered condolences to Ukraine over a military plane crash that killed 26 people.

Following the plane crash, Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran's

Foreign Ministry, offered his condolences to the Ukrainian government and people, as well as to the families of those killed in the tragic crash.

Only one person survived the crash.

A Ukrainian military plane carrying doz-

ens of cadets and officers came down Friday near the eastern city of Kharkiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky declared a day of mourning after the crash, saying he wanted "objective and unbiased" investigation carried out im-

mediately into the crash.

He said, "We have lost young cadets and experienced military servicemen who had their whole life ahead of them. It is hard to choose the words to describe the pain of this loss."



## Commodities worth over \$305m traded at IME in a week

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Nearly 620,000 tons of commodities valued at over \$305 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on September 28), IME Public Relations and International Affairs Department reported.

As reported, last week, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 321,331 tons of various products worth \$170 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 301,009 tons of steel, 7,700 tons of aluminum, 6,880 tons of copper, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrates, 12 tons of precious metal concentrates, 610 tons of zinc ingot as well as 5,000 tons of iron ore concentrates were traded by customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 291,276 tons of different commodities with the total value of \$192 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 40,000 tons of VB feed stock, 75,332 tons of bitumen, 78,766 tons of polymer products, 50,368 tons of chemical products, 17,000 tons of lube cut oil, 1,795 tons of insulation, 2,365 tons of base oil, 150 tons of argon as well as 25,500 tons of sulfur were traded.

Furthermore, 6,476 tons of commodities were traded on the side market of the IME.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange has risen 44 percent during the past Iranian calendar month (August 22-September 21) from its previous month.

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

## Projects worth \$13b to be implemented in free trade, special economic zones

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — An official with the Iranian Free Zones High Council announced that about 600 development projects worth over 550 trillion rials (about \$13.095 billion) will be implemented in the country's free trade zones and especial economic zones by the end of the current government's incumbency (August 2021).

Ahmad Jamali, the deputy secretary-general of the Free Zones High Council for the economic affairs, also said that the mentioned projects will create jobs for 102,000 people, ILNA reported.

Last week, the secretary of Free Zones High Council said that over 40 percent of Iran's exports is done through the country's free trade zones and special economic zones.

Morteza Bank believes that the figure would have been higher if there had not been the banking limitations due to the sanctions.

The current government has defined special programs for the development of these zones and commodities worth \$169 billion have been exported from these areas in the past seven years.

The mentioned programs have also led to the attraction of domestic and foreign investment to the free and special zones.

Bank has previously announced that the value of exports from Iran's free trade zones and special economic zones stood at \$17 billion during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

He said that commodities worth \$5 billion produced in these zones have been sent to different areas in the country during the previous year.

Bank put the value of products imported to the free trade zones and special economic zones at \$5 billion in the past year.

Emphasizing that the value of imports to these zones is very low compared to the worth of exports from them, the official said, "We are planning to reach the same level of exports in the current year as well."

In recent years, considering the important role that free and special zones play in promoting the country's export and employment, Iran has been seriously pursuing the development of its existing zones and the establishment of new zones as well.

## Monthly production record, an introduction for annual production record

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Hormozgan Steel Company managed to produce 137,391 tons of slab in the Iranian month of Shahrivar (ended on September 21) and registered a new production record.

Seyyed Asghar Madani, Deputy CEO of Hormozgan Steel Company for Operation Affairs, broke the news and added, "Benefited from the most experienced manpower, Hormozgan Steel Production Company proved that attaining the production record is achievable by relying upon the assistance of the Almighty God."

The company managed to produce 137,391 tons of slab in the reported month, registering a new production record after two years.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Madani reiterated, "This record was registered at a time that restrictions had been imposed at the company due to the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19."

Generally speaking, the company could improve its previous production record in the field of steel manufacturing field, he said, adding, "Registering new record in production of steel in steelmaking unit after two years was taken after at the unsparing effort and endeavors of steel and personnel of the company and contractors as well as unsparing supports of the respected managing director."

The company had managed to produce 135,699 tons of steel in Iranian month of Khordad in year 1397 (June 2018).

Elsewhere in his remarks, Madani pointed to the following factors that brought about unprecedented production record:

- Reducing emergency stoppages and delay in steelmaking units as well as continuous casting, increasing the average metal rate charge to the arc furnaces, improving the quality of slag pot of electric arc, consecutive control of production process, consecutive relations with Direct Reduction Iron (DRI) in line with increasing quality of sponge iron, establishing effective relations with purchasing raw materials and spare parts in line with increasing quality of raw materials and spare parts.

# Oil, gas wells digging industry noticeably progressing in Iran

By Mahnaz Abdi

**TEHRAN** — While the development of Iran's oil and gas industry has never been halted by the U.S. sanctions, and also not hindered by the coronavirus pandemic, the industry has been even experiencing major progress and development in different sectors.

One of the major areas with proper development has been the digging industry.

Not only the digging operations of oil and gas wells have been conducted as expected, this sector has also managed to indigenize the know-how to manufacture some major parts and equipment.

Back in May, an official with the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) said that the company has indigenized the knowledge for manufacturing 6,000 drilling equipment in collaboration with domestic manufacturers and engineers in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

According to Behnoud Mansournejad, the head of NIDC's Technology and Engineering Department, before this success, the technology for manufacturing the mentioned equipment



was in the possession of a handful of foreign companies.

Among this equipment, the parts related to the rotary Blow out Preventers (BOP) used in air drilling operations have been tested in operation and approved by the operational units for optimal performance.

Mansournejad said that the use of the do-

mestically-made parts and equipment saved the country 45 billion rials (about \$107 million) in the previous year.

For the current year, a list of basic equipment needs of the country have been identified in collaboration with NIDC's operational and support departments to be indigenized by local companies and knowledge-based firms for the

first time, he added.

Besides the measures taken for indigenizing the manufacturing of parts and equipment required in the digging industry, NIDC has also achieved outstanding successes in conducting the digging operation.

The most recent report in this due shows that the National Iranian Drilling Company has dug 64 oil and gas wells during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21).

Some 36,547 meters of digging has been conducted for the mentioned onshore and offshore wells.

The drilled wells consisted of 21 development/appraisal wells, 42 workover wells, and one exploration well.

Holding 70 onshore and offshore drilling rigs as well as equipment and facilities for offering integrated technical and engineering services, National Iranian Drilling Company accounts for a major part of drilling exploration as well as appraisal/development wells in the country.

As previously announced, the company has dug over 240 oil and gas wells across the country in the past two years.

## New industry minister nominee holds talks with private sector

**1 →** Accordingly, we hope that someone like him will be able to make up for the shortcomings of the Industry Ministry, especially in the past months, when it was run without a minister."

Also in the meeting, Saeed Mombeini, the chairman of Iran Chamber of Guilds (ICG), criticized the Industry Ministry's lack of paying attention to guilds and small commercial units, saying: "Despite the Leader's emphasis on production over the past years, unfortunately, little practical results have been achieved in this area, and the commercial sector has also been neglected. However, if we believe that the commercial sector is also a stimulus for production, we will pay more attention to this sector."

The private sector representatives expressed hope that with the new minister taking office, the Industry Ministry will place more importance on the private sector as a crucial

player in the country's economic development.

Razm Hosseini for his part pointed to market management, downsizing and streamlining, creating full coherence in the Ministry of Industry's interaction with related institutions and ministries, cooperating with the private sector, and taking advantage of the sector's views as its most important plans for his ministry.

Back in May, Rouhani fired the previous Industry Minister Reza Rahmani and immediately appointed Hossein Modarres Khiaabani as caretaker minister of industry, mines, and trade.

Later in August, the parliament turned down Rouhani's nominee, asking the president to propose another person for the mentioned position.

Later on, Rouhani introduced Alireza Razm Hosseini as his new nominee for heading the controversial ministry.



New Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Nominee Alireza Razm Hosseini (C) and ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) in a meeting with private sector representatives in Tehran on Saturday.

## Nearly \$10.6m of hygienic, cosmetic products exported in 5 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran exported 13,765 tons of hygienic and cosmetic products worth \$10.598 million during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi said that the mentioned products have been exported to 21 countries, including Afghanistan, Britain, Germany, Canada, Austria, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Russia, Iraq, Bahrain, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Kazakhstan, IRIB reported.

The IRICA spokesman said that Afghanistan, Iraq, and Azerbaijan were the top three export destinations of the Iranian hygienic and cosmetic products, in a row, during the five-month period.

As previously announced by the IRICA head, Iran has exported \$10.9 billion of non-oil goods during the first five months of the present year.

Iran's top five non-oil export destinations



during this period were China with over \$3 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$2.406 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$1.554 billion, and Afghanistan with \$871 million as well as Turkey with \$513 million, according to IRICA.

China accounted for over 28 percent of Iran's total exports, followed by Iraq, UAE, Afghanistan, and Turkey with 22 percent, 14 percent, 8 percent, and 4.7 percent, respectively.

According to the IRICA head, polyethylene, natural gas, liquefied propane, and other light oils and products rather than gasoline were Iran's top five exported items during this period, and gasoline was the top export commodity with \$1 billion worth of exports.

## Daily gasoline consumption at about 75m liters

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Average daily gasoline consumption in Iran has settled at about 75 million liters, a figure similar to the days before the outbreak of the coronavirus, the head of Iran Gas Station Owners Union told ILNA.

According to Homayoun Salehi, gasoline consumption is now at the same level as after the implementation of the rationing scheme and before the coronavirus outbreak, however at some points when new restrictions are imposed consumption falls again.

Salehi noted that before the implementation of the gasoline rationing system in November 2019, the average daily gasoline consumption was about 98 million liters, while after the rationing scheme the consumption fell about 30 percent to 75 million liters per day.

In late March, following the outbreak of the coronavirus and the imposition of restrictions and health protocols, gasoline consumption decreased yet another 60 percent to 42 million liters per day, he added.

In April and after the implication of more serious protocols, consumption declined

even further, so that in some days of April, consumption fell to even 22 million liters per day, Salehi said.

As the coronavirus-related restrictions eased and people went back to their normal routines in July, average daily gasoline consumption once again rose back to 74 million liters.

Salehi also put the consumption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in the country at 25 million cubic meters per day.

Iranian government imposed an intercity travel ban in late March to prevent further spread of the coronavirus during the New Year holidays.

Gasoline consumption in Iran was already following a downward trend since the implementation of a rationing plan by the government.

In mid-November 2019, the Iranian government started rationing of subsidized gasoline and increased fuel prices as part of a plan to reduce the energy subsidies to use the revenue for supporting underprivileged families.

## Over 117,000 tons of tea leaves harvested since late March

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's deputy agriculture minister said that 117,126 tons of tea leaves have been harvested in the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Mohammad-Ali Tahmasbi said that the output has been reached despite the cold weather at the beginning of the harvest season and a 10-day delay in starting harvest, IRIB reported.

Tea production in Iran is expected to reach 130,000 tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), according to Head of Iran's Tea Organization (ITO) Habib Jahansaz.

Tea harvest season starts in farmlands across the northern provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran in early May.

More than 55,000 families grow tea over 28,000 hectares

of farmland in the two provinces, accounting for 90 percent of the country's total tea production.

In late December 2019, Jahansaz named Azerbaijan, Iraq, and Afghanistan as the top destinations for Iranian tea exports.

Iran exports tea to India, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Canada, Australia, Spain, the Czech Republic, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

## Iran's stored natural gas rises in H1

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The volume of natural gas stored in Iran's storage facilities during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) has increased considerably compared to the same period last year, Head of National Iranian Gas Transmission Company (NIGTC) said.

According to Mehdi Jamshidi Dana, gas storage in Sarajeh and Shourijeh facilities during the said period increased by seven percent and 48 percent, respectively, compared to the last year's first six months, IRIB reported.

The volume of gas stored into the Sarajeh storage facility was 748 million cubic meters during the H1 of last year, while this year with an increase of eight percent the figure reached more than 810 million cubic meters, Jamshidi Dana said.

"Gas stored in Shourijeh storage facility was 938 million cubic meters last year, which increased by 48 percent this year and reached more than 1.385 billion cubic meters," he added.

According to the official, this increase in storage will greatly contribute to the stability of

the country's gas supply during the cold season.

Iran has two major natural gas storage facilities in Sarajeh and Shourijeh, in which every year the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) stores the gas received from gas refineries all over the country to be used in the colder months of the year.

As the first natural gas storage facility in Iran and the West Asia, Sarajeh storage facility was officially inaugurated in January 2014 near Qom, 124km south of Tehran.

Back in November 2019, NIGC awarded the development project of Shourijeh gas storage

facility in the northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province to an Iranian company based on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract.

As one of the world's top gas producers, Iran is planning to expand its underground natural gas storage capacity to ensure that enough natural gas is available during peak demand periods to avoid electricity supply shortfalls in the future.

According to NIGC plans, the capacity of the two storage facilities, Sarajeh and Shourijeh, is planned to increase to over seven billion cubic meters in near future.

## Registering unprecedented production record in lifetime of Sarcheshmeh Copper Mine in Sept.

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Dr. Ardeshtir Sa'd-Mohammadi, Chief Executive of the National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO), pointed to an unprecedented production record in lifetime of the company in the past Iranian month of Shahrivar (ended on September 21) in the year named after 'Surge in Production' by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

He went on to say that the company managed to register a new production record in the reported month, adding, "Total production of Oxide Sulfuric and dumping produced at Sarcheshmeh Copper Mine hit as much as 2,746,722 tons in this period."

He further reiterated that the company managed to register a new production record in the field of producing oxide sulfuric and

dumping in this period.

With producing more than 2,746,722 tons, National Iranian Copper Industries Company's production record surpassed 2,725,400 tons in Sept. 2019 and marked the unprecedented record in the monthly production of corporate sector in the lifespan of its mining and mineral activity.

Sa'd-Mohammadi seized this opportunity

to express his special thanks to the industrious personnel of the company in registering this production record and added, "The industries personnel of the company, despite the outbreak of the coronavirus, COVID-19, in the country managed to overcome difficulties with their unity and amity and by relying upon the assistance of the Almighty God coupled with high expertise and capabilities."



News

## Armenia imposes martial law after clashes with Azerbaijan

Armenia has declared martial law and ordered the total mobilization of its military after claiming to have destroyed several Azerbaijani aircraft and tanks in clashes over a disputed region on Sunday.

Armenia said Azerbaijan had carried out an air and artillery attack on the disputed region, Nagorno-Karabakh, but Azerbaijan said it had responded to Armenian shelling.

According to Guardian, Human right activists in Armenia said two civilians – a woman and a child – had been killed by Azerbaijani shelling. Armenian military officials have reported at least 10 casualties on their side.

Officials in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, said an unspecified number of their civilians had been killed and six wounded, and Nagorno-Karabakh said 10 of its military staff had been killed. The reports could not be independently confirmed.

Azerbaijan's army said it had taken control of six villages in Nagorno-Karabakh as of Sunday afternoon, a claim that Armenia rejected.

## Yemen gov't, Houthis agree to exchange over 1,000 prisoners

Yemen's fugitive government and the Houthis have agreed to exchange around 1,000 detainees and prisoners, including 15 Saudis, as part of trust-building steps aimed at reviving a stalled peace process, the United Nations said.

The Yemeni government, backed by a Saudi-led military coalition, and the Houthi movement signed a deal to swap some 15,000 detainees in 2018, but the pact has been slowly and only partially implemented.

## Resistance News

## Israel cannot understand language of normalization: Fatah leader

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN** —Israel does not understand the language of normalization, says a high-ranking member of the Fatah movement, denouncing the recent agreements by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain to establish diplomatic ties with the Tel Aviv regime.

"We (Palestinians) do not know how normalization will serve the Arabs. In time, they will realize they have committed a crime against Palestine, and normalization is not the language that Israel can comprehend," said Secretary General of the Fatah Central Committee Jibril Rajoub in an exclusive interview with the London-based and pan-Arab al-Araby al-Jadeed media outlet.

"Everyone is now looking for a channel of communication with us, and our unity, steadfastness and struggle will turn the table on those parties [that embark on normalization with Israel]."

"We will not wave a white flag, and we hope all Arabs will help the Palestinian nation," Rajoub said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed agreements with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al Zayani during an official ceremony hosted by U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on September 15.

Palestinians, who seek an independent state in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem al-Quds as its capital view the move as betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

# A bizarre election: American democracy at dead end

By Mohammad Mazhari

U.S. election will be on the line this November, but what about the American democracy? Trump's policies and statements not only have dangerously made America's democratic health hang in the balance but also the country's integrity as a whole.

Many consider Trump as a very example of a politician who values and respects no moral principles and is so narcissistic and power-hungry that it is hard for him to imagine leaving the White House. In such a perspective, it seems that the upcoming election may prove more critical and controversial than the previous ones.

When asked during a press briefing at the White House on September 23 about it, Trump replied: "We're going to have to see what happens, you know that. I've been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster," according to the Guardian.

Trump refused to commit when asked again: "Get rid of the ballots, and you'll have a very peaceful – there won't be a transfer, frankly. There will be a continuation. The ballots are out of control. You know it. And you know who knows it better than anybody else? The Democrats know it better than anybody else."

Critics say Trump wants to maintain his power and will use every means to stay at the White House, even if it leads to a deep split in the American society or a civil war. "The only way they can take this election away from us is if this is a rigged election," Trump said at the Republican National Convention on August 24.

Unless he wins a bona fide victory in the Electoral College, Trump looks determined to refuse to concede, and his mere denial of defeat may have cascading repercussions.

In such a situation, it is natural for the American society to be in a panic about the future of the country because, in case of a civil war, all eyes will be on the army. That is why top generals in the Pentagon have expressed their concerns about if Trump orders



the active-duty military into the streets to quell protests after the presidential election.

General Mark Milley of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in remarks released last month, made clear that the U.S. military is determined not to play a role in resolving the dispute over election results.

"I believe deeply in the principle of an apolitical U.S. military," Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in written answers to questions from House lawmakers released last month. "In the event of a dispute over some aspect of the elections, by law, U.S. courts and the U.S. Congress are required to resolve any disputes, not the U.S. military. I foresee no role for the U.S. armed forces in this process."

On August 11, John Nagl and Paul Yingling, both retired Army officers and Iraq war veterans, published an open letter to General Milley on the website Defense One.

"In a few months' time, you may have to choose between defying a lawless president or betraying your constitutional oath," they wrote. "If Donald Trump refuses to leave the office at the expiration of his constitutional term, the United States military must remove him by force, and you must give that order."

Meanwhile, Trump gave officials no

solace when he refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power no matter who wins the election.

On Thursday, he doubled down by saying he was not sure the election could be "honest." His hedging, along with his expressed desire in June to invoke the 1807 Insurrection Act to send active-duty troops onto American streets to quell protests over the killing of George Floyd, has caused deep anxiety among senior military and Defense Department leaders, who insist they will do all they can to keep the armed forces out of the elections.

Despite statements by Pentagon spokesman Brooke DeWalt who said last Thursday that the Department of Defense has no role to play in the post-election transfer of power, experts predict that Trump may use the "insurgency law" to deploy military officers on the streets to suppress the protestors amid controversial election results.

The Insurrection Act is a federal law that enables the President to deploy U.S. Federal Army personnel in special circumstances, such as the suppression of disorder and insurgency within cities.

Not to mention that Trump and the Republican Party will not accept the result of the elections, there are reports that the Democrats

may refuse to accept the election results if Trump wins.

At the same time, there have been reports of renewed anti-racist protests in U.S. cities after a grand jury's decision on Wednesday not to bring charges related to Breonna Taylor's death against the police officers.

Breonna Taylor was a black female who was killed in the city of Louisville.

In New York, anti-racism protesters block Brooklyn Bridge during the Breonna Taylor demonstration and demanded justice for the black woman killed by police.

The recent consecutive events reveal America's true face, which was once a dreamland for those who look for a democracy. It seems that the November American elections will turn into a nightmare if both nominees or even one of them reject the results. In that case, it will undermine conceptions like "American dream" and "great America".

The upcoming danger is not merely that the 2020 election will bring political and social split. Americans fear something worse may happen. The country is facing highly serious challenges, such as the coronavirus pandemic, a reckless psycho leader, a deep-rooted racial discrimination, and a failed political system that is apt to resort to violent acts against protests. These are enough to overthrow empires or superpowers.

"From Myanmar to Canada, people are asking: How did a superpower allow itself to be felled by a virus? And why won't the president commit to a peaceful transition of power?" according to the New York Times.

We should take warning by New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman seriously when he declared on Thursday that the U.S. could be headed toward a second civil war following Trump's comments around not carrying out a peaceful transition of power should he lose in November.

"You know, I began my career as a journalist covering Lebanon's second civil war in its history, and I'm terrified to find myself ending my career as a journalist covering America's potential second civil war in its history," Friedman said.

## Neither Biden nor Trump bodes well for Turkey: Turkish politician

By Payman Yazdani

**TEHRAN** – Faruk Logoglu says Biden has been consistently anti-Turkish throughout his political career, and Trump doesn't see Turkey as an ally, so it is up to Turkey to review its outlook and policy toward the U.S.

Due to the U.S. position in the economic, political, security, and military spheres, the country has taken many unilateral steps in the international arena in recent decades, which has led to the formation of a trend in its foreign and economic policy.

Although this unilateral foreign and economic policy emerged with the post-World War II ups and downs during most U.S. presidents' presidency, it seems to have become even more during Donald Trump's term.

Trump's unilateralist policies not only created tensions between the country and other world powers such as Russia and China but have even raised tensions between the United States and its European and NATO allies.

Now that the first term of Trump's presidency is coming to an end, many in the world are waiting for the U.S. presidential election results.

Both U.S. Democrats and Republicans have been following very unclear and suspicious policies towards their ally Turkey including arming separatist groups like PKK and other terrorist groups. The U.S. is also siding Turkey's rivals in the East Mediterranean and so on.

U.S. Democratic Presidential candidate for the 2020 election Biden has even interferingly asserted that he would try to



remove Erdogan from power in case he wins the election.

To know more about the effect of the U.S. 2020 Presidential Election result on the U.S. and its NATO ally Turkey relation, we reached out to Dr. Osman Faruk Logoglu, a senior member of Turkey's CHP and veteran politician.

Comparing the possible policy of Trump and Biden's policy towards Turkey if they win in U.S. 2020 Presidential Election, Logoglu said, "Aside from the differences with regard to domestic issues including the economy, racism, climate change, health care, and COVID-19, there are significant differences between Biden and Trump in relation to foreign affairs."

Referring to Biden's stance towards Turkey, Logoglu added, "On Turkey Biden has been consistently anti-Turkish throughout his political career whether as Senator, as Vice President and now as the Democratic Party nominee. He is an ardent supporter of Armenian claims of genocide, sides with Greece and the Greek Cypriots on Turkish-Greek issues, oppose sales of U.S. arms

to Turkey, and is critical of Turkey's stance in the eastern Mediterranean. He harbors dreams of dividing Iraq to meet Kurdish aspirations for independence. And now he oversteps his bounds by rudely interfering in Turkey's internal affairs, claiming that if elected U.S. President, he intends to remove Turkey's elected president from power. So, a Biden presidency will probably be a trying and difficult period in Turkish-American relations."

Commenting on Trump's policy towards Turkey, Turkish politician noted, "The incumbent President Trump is another story, one that is not necessarily better for Turkey despite appearances to the contrary. President Erdogan and President Trump mutually boast about their close relationship. And Trump never misses a chance to pay compliments to his Turkish counterpart. But the actual state of the ties between the countries tells us a different story. Whether at the bilateral or regional level, none of the long-standing issues have been resolved. The relationship is at a standstill. Turkey's purchase of the Russian S-400 missiles issue remains as the key problem. American support to the terrorist PYD/YPG in Syria is another vital divider between the two allies. More recently, his administration has supported Greek and Greek Cypriot claims in the eastern Mediterranean and lifted the arms embargo and then signed a so-called security agreement with the Greek Cypriots."

Logoglu added, "However, the more fundamental danger lies in Trump's unpredictability. In the recent past, he has twice threatened to destroy the Turkish economy

if his demands were not met by Turkey. This shows that deep down, Trump does not really see Turkey as an ally but a country that it can work with to suit his needs.

Thus, as Presidential candidates, neither Biden nor Trump bodes well for Turkey at the end of the day, albeit for different reasons. It is, therefore, up to Turkey to review its outlook and policy toward the U.S. and prepare itself for a period replete with challenges no matter which candidate wins the elections in November."

## Russia says EU meddling in Belarus' affairs

Russia says the European Union (EU)'s decision not to recognize Alexander Lukashenko as the legitimate president of Belarus constitutes meddling in the Eastern European country's affairs.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Friday that the EU's decision contradicted international law and would complicate the bloc's dialog with Belarus.

Peskov stressed that the decision would not affect the relations between Moscow and Minsk.



Alexander Lukashenko was sworn in as president of Belarus for a sixth term on Wednesday. He won the country's presidential election in August. The opposition rejected the official results of the election and claimed there had been voter fraud. Belarus has been experiencing unrest since.

Western governments have repeated the Belarusian opposition's allegations. The EU announced on September 15 that it did not recognize Lukashenko as the legitimate president of Belarus. On Thursday, the EU's 27 member states said in a statement that Lukashenko's inauguration "directly contradicts the will of large parts of the Belarusian population, as expressed in numerous, unprecedented and peaceful protests since the elections."



Lukashenko has rejected the allegations of vote rigging but proposed the drafting of a new constitution less reliant on the head of state.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin pledged to grant a loan of 1.5 billion dollars to Belarus, reaffirming support for the elected administration in the country.

 <b>Call for public tender (First/Second publish)</b> <b>Two- Stages (semi compressed) tender</b> <b>Subject of Tender: P/F: COILED TUBING UNITS</b> 			
N.I.O.C 1399.3319		National Iranian Drilling Company	
The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial)
National Iranian Drilling Company	19 /350 /216	Tender No.:FP/04-99/036 Indent No.: 08-22-9845013	30, 936, 054, 600
<b>Tender descriptions:</b>			
Method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Based on minimum scoring (50) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.		
<b>Qualitative evaluation of tenderers</b>			
Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof ) <b>October 10, 2020</b>		
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN 061-34148656-06134148615	
	Submitting Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 190,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491( Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank.</li> <li>Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.</li> </ul>	
Documents Receiving Method	Closing date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14Days after the last time of Purchasing) <b>October 27, 2020</b> </li> </ul>	
	Address	Hall No. 107, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569	
<b>Purchasing &amp; Submitting</b>			
Value of guarantee	<b>1.547.000.000Rial 9,151 Euro</b>		
Type of guarantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> <li>Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 ( Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> </ul>		
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.		
( Foreign Procurement Dept.) More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: <a href="http://www.nidc.ir">www.nidc.ir</a> <a href="http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr">http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr</a> تهران تایمز نوبت دوم ۹۹/۷/۷			



## 192 archaeological sites, dating from Stone, Copper and Bronze ages, identified in western Iran

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** – A total of 192 archeological sites and human settlements, dating back to various epochs including the Stone Age, Copper Age, and Bronze Age and the Neolithic, have been identified during a recent archaeological survey in Lorestan province, western Iran.

The sites were discovered in the mountainous regions of Mi-an-koooh situated in Pol-e Dokhtar county during a two-month survey supervised by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism (RICHT), provincial tourism chief Seyyed Amin Qasemi announced on Saturday.



“Cultural and ancient sites related to the later Islamic eras have also been identified in the survey.”

“Of the sites, over 40 ones are [human] settlements, which date back to the Lower Paleolithic (c. 23.3 Ma – 300 ka), the Middle Paleolithic (c. 300–50 ka); the Upper Paleolithic (c. 50–10 ka); the Epipalaeolithic (a period occurring between the Upper Paleolithic and Neolithic during the Stone Age); and the Neolithic (or the New Stone Age; 10,000–4,500 BC). And these significant discoveries demonstrate the region is of very high importance in terms of history and archaeology,” provincial tourism department quote Qasemi in a press release issued on Saturday.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official noted that several tomb chambers and evidence on Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid settlements and their ruined architectural vestiges came to light in the survey.

The existence of the ruined administrative and defensive structures that particularly date back to the middle and the later Islamic eras as well as frequent roadside inns and caravanserais suggest this region had been strategically important for the central governments of the time, he explained.

Lorestan, meaning the “Land of the Lurs”, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period. Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

Extensive mountains stretch northwest-southeast; between the higher ranges are well-watered pockets with lush pastures. Oak forest covers the outer slopes, together with elm, maple, walnut, and almond trees.

Lorestan proper stretches between the Dez valley (used by the Trans-Iranian Railway) and the Upper Karkheh River and northward toward Nehavand. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy; crops include rice, wheat, barley, cotton, oilseeds, sugar beets, vegetables, and fruits. Industries produce cement, sugar, processed foods, carded wool, and ginned cotton.

## Restorers launch project at Tehran’s UNESCO-tagged palace

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** – A team of restorers and cultural heritage experts have commenced working on some tile work that covers the exterior walls of Golestan Palace located in downtown Tehran, adjacent to the Grand Bazaar of the Iranian capital.

Some scaffolds have been installed at the entrance of Kharimkhani edifice, overlooking the yard of the UNESCO-registered complex, where rows of tile work had been collapsed previously, ISNA reported on Sunday.



According to instructions attached to a nearby wall, the restoration project entails the following steps: “Documentation, pathology, coding of tiles, separation, and removal of [damaged] tiles, cleaning and separation of surface sediments and desalination, drying of tiles, fixing of the peeled glazes, joining of broken tiles, application of gypsum putty suitable for reconstruction, installation of tiles on walls, injection of mortar and strengthening of the back of the tiles, color balancing of the patterns and final stabilization.”

A destination for domestic and international travelers, Golestan Palace is located in the heart and historic core of Tehran. The palace complex is one of the oldest in the Iranian capital, originally built during the Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) in the historical walled city.

Following extensions and additions, it received its most characteristic features in the 19th century, when the palace complex was selected as the royal residence and seat of power by the Qajar ruling family (1789-1925). At present, the Golestan Palace complex consists of eight key palace structures mostly used as museums and the eponymous gardens, a green shared center of the complex, surrounded by an outer wall with gates.

UNESCO has it that the complex exemplifies architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar era including the introduction of European motifs and styles into Persian arts.

# No doubt tourism development will promote culture of tolerance: minister

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iranian tourism minister Ali-Aghar Mounesan has said that the development of tourism will lay the ground for promoting the culture of tolerance both on national and international levels.

“There is no doubt that tourism development in Iran and throughout the world can unify and share the national benefits and promote the culture of tolerance,” Mounesan said in a message issued on the occasion of World Tourism Day.

“September 27th, the World Tourism Day, has been also included in our formal calendar as ‘the national tourism day’. This day is also concurrent with ‘the Holy (Sacred) Defense National Week’, the event that all of us are indebted to; we are all are indebted to the sacrifice and self-devotion of the Iranian brave youth who defended the country.”

He also expressed delight that segments of the Sacred Defense reminiscences constitute tourist destinations in the country, noting “Fortunately, a part of the Holy Defense memories is registered as an important tourist destination through the committee of Rahian-e Noor (the Pursuers of Glory).”

The minister referred to the slogan that the World Tourism Organization has selected for the 2020 World Tourism Day, saying: “This year’s slogan is ‘Tourism and Rural Development’, something that all tourism activists believe that villages and villagers are playing a crucial role in tourism, especially in ecolodges.”



ism, especially in ecolodges.”

“We hope that our plans for setting up 2,000 ecolodge units throughout the country would be a promising event to build up the rural regions. A 50% increase in the number of accommodation units in Iran and the addition of travel to the household commodities can affect the economy and development of less-developed, lesser-known, and rural regions.”

“There is no doubt that tourism development in Iran and throughout the world can unify and share the national benefits

and promote the culture of tolerance. So, it can be said that World Tourism Day is the day of international solidarity, the day when the struggle is substituted by mutual understanding and the understanding of tourism philosophy can lead to a better understanding of the world.”

Referring to the predicaments the tourism industry faced during the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 2020), Mounesan said: “Last year was a tough one; it was started by the deadly floods and ended with the spread of COVID-19. Nevertheless, at

## Ready for a time travel? Just cross the threshold of Zaman Museum in Tehran

**➔ 1** Furthermore, you would also find the ship clock, two-stroke watches, guard watches, ancient Iranian calendars, and time-measuring dishes in different parts of the museum.

The Time Museum boasts very beautiful architecture and decorations, along with a relaxing environment. It is home to a variety of antique Iranian and foreign watches made in France, Switzerland, England, and Germany.

The main museum building has two floors, each of which includes sights.

On the first floor, you can tour clocks from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. Many clocks such as a pendulum, wall, and stand clocks are decorated in an artistic way that shows the importance of the clocks in the past.

The replicas of the various clocks, all of which combine art and craftsmanship, are very interesting in this section. Some of these clocks are gifts from political figures from their travels to other countries and some from people’s personal property.

Another interesting piece of art in this section is a bronze clock, covered with a thin layer of gold, made in France, which is decorated in the style of Louis XVI and shows the body of Homer, the epic Greek poet.

In this part of the building, there is a niche wall clock with an engraved image of the first Pahlavi in Tehran’s Ghorkhaneh, which dates back to 1934.

Also, the room of Isfahan on this floor fascinates you with its unpretentious designs by prominent masters. The ceiling of this room is decorated with Isfahan carpet design, 99% of which is made of copper and 1% of which is made of gold.

The second floor is dedicated to the display of Houshang Foroutan’s works. The reason for displaying his works in this museum is his collages, made by unused pieces of old clocks. On this floor, there is a circular display with clock repair tools.

Other interesting sights of this floor are the clocks

displayed from the Qajar period, such as the sun clock of Nasser al-Din Shah. In this part of the floor, there is an old astrolabe, which has been an astronomical device and a permanent calendar. Elsewhere, there is a celestial sphere that was used to measure time.

The museum’s facilities include a restaurant-café and a time gallery (to purchase works by artists). Photography is also free inside and outside the museum.

Here are some highlights of the museum:

### ■ Oil clock

This clock had two uses, to indicate the time and to create lighting during the night. The clock had a graduated tank in which special oil was poured. When the wick was turned on within an hour, the oil in the tank was used as fuel, and the time was measured by the oil levels of the tank according to the amount of oil remaining.

### ■ Sun clock

The clock was invented about 5,500 years ago and had a vertical stick called the index, which the sun’s rays cast on the surface of the horizon, which determined the size of the time. These clocks were made in two types, large and small. The small type was used in travel and the large type was used in old houses and churches until the 18th century in Europe.

### ■ Water-powered mechanical clock

As the water clock became popular in Greece, the mechanical clock appeared. In this clock, water was pouring down from the upper tank. The toothed stick was placed in the tank and the cork was at the end of it. As the surface of the water rose, the cork and the toothed stick were pulled up.

### ■ Candle clock

This clock was first used about 1,000 years ago, and its invention is attributed to Alfred the Great, the then King of England. To measure the time in this method, the body of the candle was graded. By burning and melting the candles, they realized the remaining and burnt degrees of time.



### ■ Sand clock (hourglass)

The sand clock or hourglass is the most well-known shape of the clock that is still used today. Due to the roughness of the real sand grains, eggshells were used during these clocks. The passage of sand through the upper reservoir by a narrow middle hole was the way this clock worked. The time of which was determined by the amount of sand in the reservoirs. These clocks are more useful for short sections of time or a fixed amount of time. It was widely used in churches and ships.

### ■ Rope clock

A rope clock is a type of fuel clock consisting of a number of ropes. The knots at the rope level are equally a kind of time rating. By burning the rope, the knots were removed and the remaining knots of the time were identified.

### ■ Dragon boat clock

This clock is kind of a Chinese fuel clock, similar to a boat. In the middle of this boat, a candle is lying. In the direction of the boat, weights are hung at certain distances from the rope. As the candle burned and the flame approached each string, the weights fell into the metal container under the boat, setting the time by an alarming sound.

## Achaemenid-era embankment dams still source of inspiration for modern architects, engineers: archaeologist

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** – An Iranian archaeologist believes that embankment dams constructed in the country during the Achaemenid era (c. 550 – 330 BC) and their role in water management is still a source of inspiration for modern architects and engineers.

“Achaemenid-era embankment dams were built with such knowledge, extent, and durability that after 25 centuries, [modern] earthen dams are still built in accordance with the Achaemenid engineering model,” ILNA quoted Hamia Karami as saying on Saturday.

The archaeologist pointed to “Bostan Khani” Dam, which is registered in the



National Heritage list, as one of the “engineer masterpieces” the Achaemenids, saying: “Excavations and surveys on Bostan

Khani Dam, as one of the engineering masterpieces of the Achaemenid period... can increase our knowledge and understanding of the methods and techniques of dam construction and architectural structure that is currently being practiced.”

Located on a branch of the Pulwar River, near the UNESCO-registered Pasargadae, the dam was built during the reign of Cyrus the Great. According to sources, archaeologists believe that this unique work was designed to contain floods and store large amounts of water for public use as well as use in agriculture and horticulture.

The Achaemenid [Persian] Empire

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

Building activity was extensive during the height of the empire, and of the several Achaemenian capitals, the ruins at Pasargadae and at Persepolis are probably the most outstanding. Achaemenian sculptured reliefs and a great number of smaller art objects present a remarkably unified style for the period. Metalwork, especially in gold, was highly developed, and a variety of carefully executed examples survive.

## Mahabad: Transformation of small village into developed city in the pass of time

Mahabad is a green and cool city in the northwest of Iran dating back to thousands years ago. The city had a vicissitudinous history experiencing various conditions; it was a small village in the past which has been transformed into a developed city and the governing center of a tribe (Mokri tribe). The natural attractions, the pleasant weather, especially in the spring, along with the border markets has increased the reputation of Mahabad.

The main population of this city is the follower of Sunni Islam and a minority of Armenian Christians, Jews, and Shia’ Muslims live with them, too.

Mahabad shares land border with Miandoab to the north and is restricted to Sardasht to the south. The center of it city is Mahabad city. Most of people are occupied with agriculture here, however, the prevalence of the market of imported items and establishing the biggest market of second hand items in Iran have attracted a part of work force in recent years.

Mahabad has cold winters and pleasant springs and summers. The best time for traveling to this city is the spring. In addition to the historical attractions remained here related to different centuries, the main attraction of Mahabad is the beautiful nature.

The most accessible and spectacular natural attraction of Mahabad is Mahabad River passing through the city. Sahvalan Cave, the second biggest water cave in Iran after Alisadr, is placed in the neighborhood of Mahabad where you can visit the cave riding on the boat.

The most popular local food in Mahabad is a traditional sandwich named Shour Mazeh Kolouche (meaning a salty cookie) made like a bread fried in the oil within which the baked peas (shour Mazeh) are arranged and served.

Mahabad has many other local foods, too; interesting among them are Dokolio pottage, Dolmeh Kalam, Mashineh, Sangeh Sir and

Shami Kebab. The main souvenirs of Mahabad are handicrafts and agricultural products. Different local and Kurdish customs, Kalash and Giveh, Guipure weaving, hook weaving, leather artefacts, coin sewing and embroidery are those handicrafts popular among the travelers.

Most of rituals related to the ceremonies have been gradually faded in this region; however, the Kurdish dance is a part of people’s identity in this city which is never forgotten in Kurdish regions. Dionysian dance along with the Kurdish musical instruments such as Ney, fife and Serena are inseparable parts of the ceremonies in Mahabad.



# Virtual events present technological needs of industries to knowledge-based firms

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Six virtual events have been held since the beginning of this year (March 21) to introduce the technological needs of the country's major industries to knowledge-based companies.

Since last year, 14 big tech events were held, through which 1,600 technological needs of various industries were presented with the presence of 1,150 knowledge-based companies, and memorandums of understanding worth 47 billion rials (nearly \$1.1 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) were signed.

Since the beginning of this year, due to the outbreak of coronavirus, 6 virtual events have been held to provide technological needs for the electricity industry, agriculture, organizing industries and jobs in the city, medical equipment, medicine and health, communication security, and information technology, and social work.

In these events, 191 technological needs were presented and 273 sessions were held, an official with the Iran National Innovation Fund, Siavash Malekifar, said.

The purpose is to use advanced technologies, strengthen self-sufficiency, create sustainable employment and market



development, prevent the outflow of foreign exchange, and meet the country's technological needs, he explained.

He went on to say that after these events, facilities are defined for both the

industries and the knowledge-based firms.

Up to 3.7 billion rials (about \$89,000) in non-repayable loans are provided for supporting intellectual property, he added.

He mentioned the support of knowledge-based companies to participate in domestic and foreign exhibitions as another facility of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund.

Sourena Sattari, the vice president for science and technology, told the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview that Iran is playing the leading role in the region in the fields of fintech, ICT, stem cell, aerospace, and is unrivaled in artificial intelligence.

Fortunately, last year, companies achieved a record sale of 1.2 quadrillion rials (nearly \$28.5 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials), which is expected to increase by 40 percent this year.

To date, 42 knowledge-based companies with a total value of 2.8 quadrillion rials (nearly \$66.6 billion) have been listed on the stock exchange and they will soon turn into the biggest businesses in the country," he said.

Sattari said that U.S. sanctions caused exports of knowledge-based companies to decline three years ago, however, it has returned to growth and is projected to reach the pre-sanctions level of more than \$1 billion by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 20, 2021).

## Children's museum to be established in Tehran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Members of the Tehran City Council approved on Sunday the establishment of a children's museum in the capital.

During the last 40 years, no significant project has been implemented in Tehran for children and adolescents, and children have the least private space in public places in the city, Nahid Khodakarami, a member of the Council, stated.

The establishment of the Children Museum, taking into account the current world standards, can make Tehran an attractive destination for tourists, and Tehrani children can be prepared for the future life in an environment conforming to their imaginations and mental abilities, she highlighted.

She went on to note that the children's museums can include environmental, health, imaginative units, as well as confidence-building games, object storage, insect science, social interaction, technology and communication, and more.

In these museums, engaging children and families to discover new experiences to enjoy a better world by improving basic life skills and making learning and continuing education attractive in an informal but serious environment is the most important principle, she added, emphasizing that today, museums are a place to experience life.

According to Khodakarami, the children's museum is established in a natural environment or a sense of security and trust for the growth of imagination, curiosity, and realism.

It is our duty to work to strengthen innovation and improve the future prospects of children, she concluded.



## Abu Rayhan Biruni Research Festival to be held focusing on COVID-19



**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The 21st Abu Rayhan Biruni Research Festival will be held virtually on December 22, with a theme of "Coronavirus defeat in the shadow of research".

In this festival, the top international and national researchers and prominent researchers in the fields of students, centers, colleges, journals, and articles are introduced and honored.

Abu Rayhan Biruni Research Festival of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences is held every year in honor of Iranian scholar and polymath Abu Rayhan Biruni (973-1050), aiming to commemorate the

researchers and spread the spirit of research and innovation, motivate and improve the quantity and quality of research and create a suitable platform for research interaction.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, all events even the most important global gathering was inevitably held virtually.

Earlier in May, deputy health minister Reza Malekzadeh stated that Iran ranked third in terms of scientific findings on coronavirus in the world.

He went on to explain that most of the coronavirus research currently being conducted in the country is interventional schemes, and 35 schemes are finding effective treatments for COVID-19.

Moreover, the World Health Organization (WHO) has announced clinical trials of only 12 countries, including Iran, with scientific and high-level research capabilities that can be cited worldwide.

In the press briefing on Sunday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 3,362 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 446,448. She added that 374,170 patients have so far recovered, but 4,059 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 195 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 25,589, she added.

Lari noted that so far 3,932,571 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

She said the high-risk "red" zones include provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, East Azarbaijan, South Khorasan, Semnan, Qazvin, Lorestan, Ardebil, Khuzestan, Kermanshah, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Gilan, Bushehr, Zanjan, Ilam, Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Alborz, West Azarbaijan, Markazi, Kerman, North Khorasan, Hamedan, and Yazd.

## Marine heatwaves are human-made

A marine heatwave (ocean heatwave) is an extended period of time in which the water temperature in a particular ocean region is abnormally high. In recent years, heatwaves of this kind have caused considerable changes to the ecosystems in the open seas and at the coast. Their list of negative effects is long: Marine heatwaves can lead to increased mortality among birds, fish and marine mammals, they can trigger harmful algal blooms, and greatly reduce the supply of nutrients in the ocean. Heatwaves also lead to coral bleaching, trigger movements of fish communities to colder waters, and may contribute to the sharp decline of the polar icecaps.

Researchers led by Bern-based marine scientist Charlotte Laufkötter have been investigating the question of how anthropogenic climate change has been affecting major marine heatwaves in recent decades. In a study recently published in the well-known scientific journal Science, Charlotte Laufkötter, Jakob Zscheischler and Thomas Frölicher concluded that the probability of such events has increased massively as a result of global warming, according to the Science Daily website.

The analysis has shown that in the past 40 years, marine heatwaves have become considerably longer and more pronounced in all of the world's oceans. "The recent heatwaves have had a serious impact on marine ecosystems, which need a long time to recover afterwards



-- if they ever fully recover," explains Charlotte Laufkötter.

■ **A huge increase since the 1980s**

In its investigations, the Bern team studied satellite measurements of the sea surface temperature between 1981 and 2017. It was found that in the first decade of the study period, 27 major heatwaves occurred which lasted 32 days on average. They reached maximum temperatures of 4.8 degrees Celsius above the long-term average temperature. In the most recent decade to be analyzed, however, 172 major events occurred, lasting an average of 48 days and reaching peaks of 5.5 degrees above the long-term average temperature. The temperatures in the sea usually fluctuate only slightly. Week-long deviations of 5.5 degrees over an area of 1.5 million square kilometers -- an area 35 times the size of Switzerland -- present an extraordinary change to the living conditions of marine organisms.

■ **Statistical analyses demonstrate human influence**

For the seven marine heatwaves with the greatest impact, researchers at the University of Bern carried out what is referred to as attribution studies. Statistical analyses and climate simulations are used to assess the extent to which anthropogenic climate change is responsible for the occurrence of individual extremes in the weather conditions or the climate. Attribution studies typically demonstrate how the frequency of the extremes has changed through human influence.

■ **Without ambitious climate goals, marine ecosystems might disappear**

According to the findings of the attribution studies, major marine heatwaves have become more than 20 times more frequent due to human influence. While they occurred every hundred or thousand years in the pre-industrial age, depending on the progress of global warming, in the future they are set to become the norm. If we are able to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, heatwaves will occur once every decade or century. If temperatures rise by 3 degrees, however, extreme situations can be expected to occur in the world's oceans once per year or decade. "Ambitious climate goals are an absolute necessity for reducing the risk of unprecedented marine heatwaves," emphasizes Charlotte Laufkötter. "They are the only way to prevent the irreversible loss of some of the most valuable marine ecosystems."

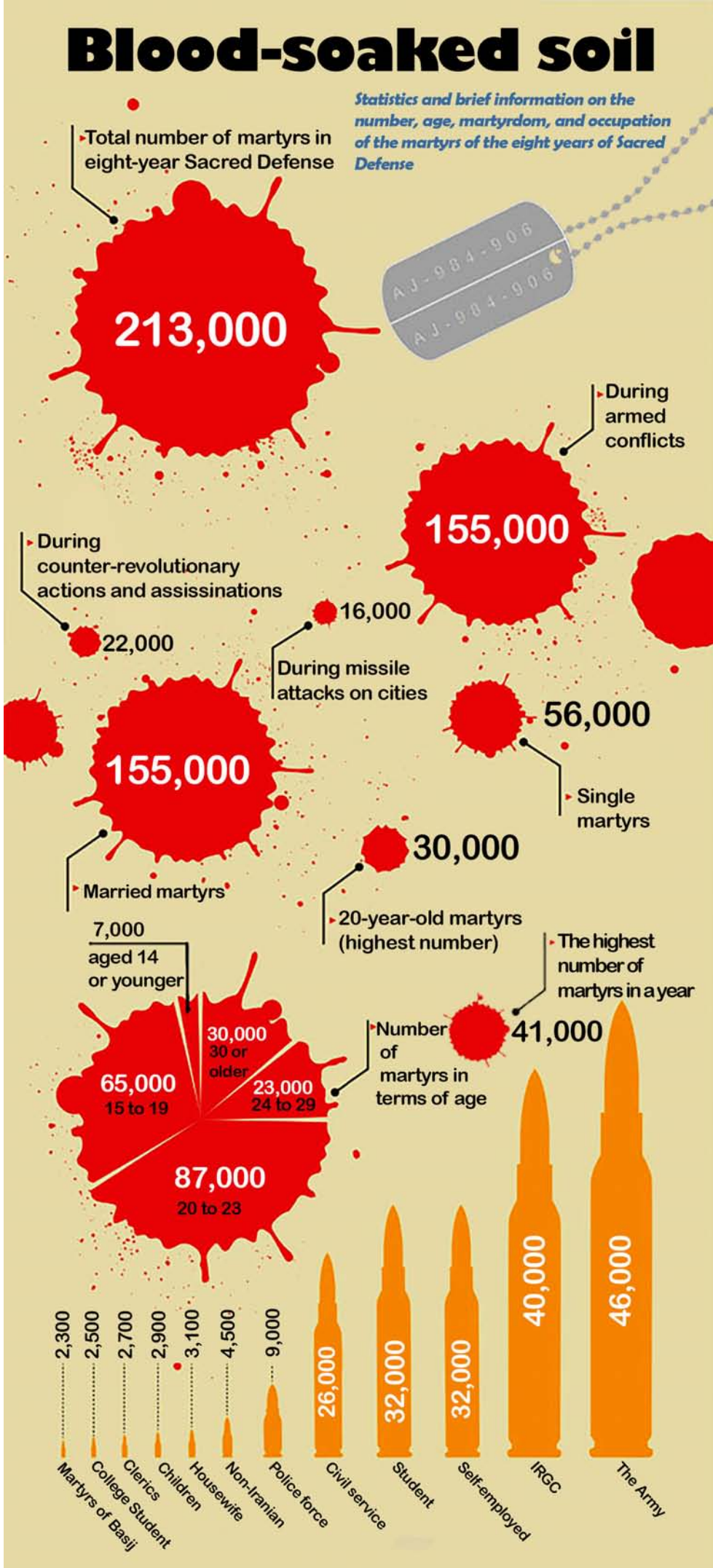
## Free influenza vaccines for 80,000 underprivileged people

➔ In the press briefing on Sunday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 3,362 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 446,448. She added that 374,170 patients have so far recovered, but 4,059 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 195 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 25,589, she added.

Lari noted that so far 3,932,571 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

She said the high-risk "red" zones include provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, East Azarbaijan, South Khorasan, Semnan, Qazvin, Lorestan, Ardebil, Khuzestan, Kermanshah, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Gilan, Bushehr, Zanjan, Ilam, Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Alborz, West Azarbaijan, Markazi, Kerman, North Khorasan, Hamedan, and Yazd.





INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
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» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
» Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

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

The most incapable person is the one who can't pray.  
Imam Hussein (AS)

## Top stage artists of Iran war theater honored

➔1 In addition, the research book “Narration of Thousands of the Insane”, which includes top plays from four decades of Sacred Defense, written by Mehdi Nasiri was unveiled at the ceremony. The program was organized by Iran’s Association of Sacred



A poster for “Narrators of Resistance”.

Defense and Revolution Theater in collaboration with the Art and Cultural Organization of the Tehran Municipality.

The 40th anniversary of the Iran-Iraq war is being commemorated by performing several plays at the Sacred Defense Museum in Tehran.

“War and One Thousand Years of Solitude” written by Masud Mehrbi and directed by Parvaneh Alizamani, “In Color of Jujube” by Mohammad-Hadi Atai, “Fulfillment of the Promise” by Ahmad Samimi, “The Soldier” by Pejman Shahverdi and “The Lost” by Abuzar Chehel-Amirani are among the performances.

## Isfahan festival to review India’s Smile festival shorts

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A lineup of six short films selected from India’s Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth will be reviewed during the International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Isfahan, the organizers have announced.

The short films selected from the category “The Kids of Picture Paathshala” feature films with the central themes of peace, nature and friendship with different titles of Roshni, Rang, Life, Photograph, Batata and Sahara.



A poster for India’s Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth.

The 33rd edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth will be held online from October 18 to 23 this year due to a spike in coronavirus cases in the country, the director of the festival, Alireza Tabesh, said.

This edition of the festival will be held in the two national and international sections, and the Farabi Cinema Foundation, Cinema Organization of Iran and the Isfahan Municipality are the main organizers of the gala.

According to Tabesh, the variety of national and international films is extremely high.

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

The organizers have also called on Iranian young adults living outside the country to take part in the fourth edition of the Youth Film Making Olympiad of Iran.

Interested youths aged 12 to 17 can take part in the program and submit their 5-minute short films to the festival.

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

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

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

# Top IRGC commander Mehdi Bakeri subject of docudrama

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A TV series portraying the life story of Mehdi Bakeri, the chief of IRGC 31st Shura Division that carried out several major operations during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, is being made at Sima Films, a film production studio affiliated with IRIB.

Hadi Hejazifar is the director of the docudrama named “The Bakeri Martyrs”, which also gives details about Bakeri’s brothers, Ali and Hamid, who were martyred during the unrest of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the war respectively.

The 31st Shura Division under Bakeri conducted numerous operations, including Beit ol-Moqaddas, Wa al-Fajr 1, 2, 3, 4, and Kheibar, and he finally was martyred under siege from Iraqi forces during Operation Badr in 1985.

A group volunteered to bring back his

remains, but on their return, their boat was totally destroyed after being targeted by an Iraqi RPG squadron.

His brother, Hamid, and some other soldiers were martyred earlier in the heart of the battlefield during Operation Kheibar. His men informed him about the martyrdom on a walkie-talkie, so a group was assigned to bring back Hamid’s body from the arena. However, Mehdi asked them to halt the group, and then told them, “They all are my brothers; if you can bring them all back then bring Hamid back too.”

Hejazifar also stars as Bakeri in the series. In 2013, he also portrayed Ahmad Motevasselian, an IRGC commander who was kidnapped by the Zionist regime in 1982 in Lebanon, in director Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian’s movie “Standing in the Dust”.



Hadi Hejazifar portrays Martyr Mehdi Bakeri in the TV series “The Bakeri Martyrs”.

## Iranian director Kurosh Zarei restages play on Imam Hussein (AS) in Aleppo



A poster for the play “The Sun Rises from Aleppo”.

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Kurosh Zarei restaged “The Sun Rises from Aleppo”, a play about Imam Hussein in the aftermath of the Ashura uprising, on Saturday evening in Aleppo, the second-largest city in Syria after the capital Damascus.

A cast of 60 Syrian actors are collaborating in the performance, which was held on Sunday and will be on stage until October 3.

Zarei directed the play earlier during October 2018 in Damascus in the holy shrine of Hazrat Zeinab (AS), the sister of Imam Hussein (AS).

The story of the play is set after Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram, the day upon which Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions are martyred in Karbala as a result of their valiant stand against the injustices of the oppressive Umayyad dynasty in 680 CE.

Now, the Umayyad army is taking the heads of

the martyrs and the captive people to Damascus to receive a reward from the caliph. On their way to Damascus, they arrive at a hermitage in Aleppo, where Shimir, the killer of the Imam (AS), gives the heads of the martyrs to the hermit for safekeeping. But after he finds out that one of the heads belongs to Imam Hussein (AS), the hermit begins dressing down Shimir and his men.

The play is being performed in the place where the hermitage was located.

Marwan Ghariwati, Samir Tawil, Yasin Adas, Muhammad Saqqa and Bassil Zain al-Din are among the members of the cast.

The theater program has been designed in collaboration with the Owj Arts and Media Organization, a major Iranian institution that produces revolutionary works in art and cinema.

## Italy’s Linea d’Ombra Festival to screen animations from Iran

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Four animated movies by Iranian filmmakers will be screened in the various sections of the 25th edition of the Linea d’Ombra Festival in Italy.

“Once Upon a Time in the World”, “This Side Other Side” and “V. Cycle” will be competing in the Vedo Animato, a section dedicated to short films made with different animation techniques in digital format.

“Once Upon a Time in the World” is a Western gunfight and coronavirus vs nurse directed by Babak Beigi.

“This Side Other Side” is a production from Iran’s Documentary and Experimental



“Once Upon a Time in the World” by Babak Beigi.

Film Center directed by Lida Fazli.

The animation shows that we are always so afraid of the other side, even though we are all the same. When a war rips their world apart, a little girl and little boy from opposing sides come together to heal it with their magical crayon. But we all know that’s just a fantasy. Real wars are not so easy to stop; the damage is not so easy to fix.

In “V. Cycle”, director Ahmad Khoshniat illustrates the modern man under attack from various ideologies.

“Under the Walnut Tree” by Mohammad Heidari-Khalili will be screened in Vedo

Verticale, a category dedicated to short films of any genre, rigorously conceived and produced in 9:16 format (1080×1920).

The Linea d’Ombra Festival, which will take place in Salerno from October 23 to 31, is an international festival of cinema, organized and managed by SalernoInFestival and supported with the contributions and the support of public and private associations, foundations and sponsors.

The festival is an event that aims for trans-disciplinary interaction to relate different forms of creativity and promote them to the public.

## “My Sister, the Serial Killer” appears in Persian

**CULTURE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of Nigerian-British writer Oyinkan Braithwaite’s novel “My Sister, the Serial Killer” has been published by Qoqnu Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Sahar Qadimi. “Korede is bitter. How could she not be? Her sister, Ayoola, is many things: the favorite child, the beautiful one, possibly sociopathic. And now Ayoola’s friend is dead,” the book says.

Korede’s practicality is the sisters’ saving grace. She knows the best solutions for cleaning blood, the trunk of her car is big enough for a body, and she keeps Ayoola from posting pictures of her dinner to Instagram when she should be mourning her “missing” friend. Not that she gets any credit.

Korede has long been in love with a kind, handsome doctor at the hospital where she works. She dreams of the

day when he will realize that she’s exactly what he needs.

But when he asks Korede for Ayoola’s phone number, she must reckon with what her sister has become and how far she’s willing to go to protect her.

Sharp as nails and full of deadpan wit, Oyinkan Braithwaite’s deliciously deadly debut is as fun as it is frightening.

Oyinkan Braithwaite is a graduate of Creative Writing and Law from Kingston University. Following her degree, she worked as an assistant editor at Kachifo, a Nigerian publishing house, and has been freelancing as a writer and editor since.

In 2014, she was shortlisted as a top-ten spoken-word artist in the Eko Poetry Slam, and in 2016 she was a finalist for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. She lives in Lagos, Nigeria.

“My Sister, the Serial Killer” is being translated into 30 languages and has also been optioned for film.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Oyinkan Braithwaite’s novel “My Sister, the Serial Killer”.

## Mario Vargas Llosa’s latest story “Fierce Times” comes to Iranian bookstores

**CULTURE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of Nobel laureate Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa’s latest story “Fierce Times” has been published by Nimaj Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Mehdi Sarabi.

The military coup perpetrated by Carlos Castillo Armas and supported by the United States via the CIA toppled the legitimate government of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala in 1954, the book relates.

Behind this violent act is a lie passed off as the truth, which changed the development of Latin America: the



Front cover of the Persian translation of Mario Vargas Llosa’s book “Fierce Times”.

accusation by Eisenhower’s government that Arbenz encouraged the spread of Soviet communism in the Americas.

“Fierce Times” is a story of international conspiracies and conflicting interests in the time of the Cold War, the echoes of which are still felt today. It is a story involving several countries, in which some persecutors end up as victims of the very plot they helped construct.

In this thrilling novel, which is connected to the acclaimed “The Feast of the Goat” (La Fiesta del Chivo), Mario Vargas Llosa fuses reality with two fictions, that of the narrator who freely recreates characters and situations, and the one designed by those who would

control the politics and the economy of a continent by manipulating its history.

Mario Vargas Llosa was born in Arequipa, Peru, in 1936.

Although he had premiered a drama in Piura and published a book of short stories, his literary career gained notoriety with the publication of “The City and the Dogs”. In 1965 his second novel appeared, “La Casa Verde”, which won the Critics’ Prize and the Romulo Gallegos International Prize.

Subsequently, he has published theatrical pieces including “Beautiful Eyes, Ugly Pictures”, “The Thousand Nights and One Night” and “The Plague Tales”.