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Iran's share in Turkey's future gas market

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – Iran, for long, has been one of the most important energy suppliers to Turkey, and the two countries already have a 25-year gas supply contract.

Recently, however, the news of a gas field discovery in the Black Sea as well as new developments in Turkey's energy geopolitics have caused some speculations about the future of energy cooperation between the two neighbors and some claim

that Turkey is not going to be needing Iranian gas in the future.

In this regard, the Tehran Times had an interview with Mohammad Sadegh Jokar, a political economy and energy expert at the Institute for International Energy Studies (IIES) to see what the future holds for Iran and Turkey's energy relations.

Turkey's energy geopolitics
Having little sources of discovered hydrocarbons so far, **→4**

Zarif urges Azeri-Armenian talks amid clashes

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has called on Azerbaijan and Armenia to exercise restraint, after a fresh round of clashes between the two neighboring countries.

In separate phone conversations with his Azeri and Armenian counterparts on Sunday, Zarif invited the two sides to agree on a ceasefire and launch negotiations.

During the phone conversations, Zarif was informed about the latest conditions and on-the-field situation in the disputed region, the Foreign Ministry website reported.

He expressed concern about the flare-up of tensions and called on the warring sides to stop violence and begin negotiations within the framework of international law and regulations. **→2**

"The Survivor" tops at Resistance filmfest, composer Majid Entezami receives first Rasul Award

By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN — "The Survivor", late Iranian director Seifollah Daad's 1995 drama on the Palestine issue, was named best film at the Resistance International Film Festival on Sunday as the event's first Rasul Award went to composer Majid Entezami.

The movie was screened in Festival of Festivals, a section dedicated to reviewing

movies produced over the past 40 years on the Islamic Revolution, resistance and the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is known as the Sacred Defense in Iran.

The organizers of the 16th edition of the festival also launched the Rasul Award named after war film director Rasul Mollaqaolipur to honor innovative filmmakers and those artists active in the motion picture industry. **→8**

Iranian students improve status at International Mathematical Olympiad

TEHRAN — The team of Iranian students won six colorful medals at the 61st International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO 2020), putting the country at 18th place with five steps rise compared to the past year.

Held on September 21-22, IMO 2020 was hosted by Saint Petersburg, Russia.

The six-member student team, which participated in the 2020 World Mathematical Olympiad, climbed five steps compared to last year, winning one gold medal, three silver, and two bronze medals, taking 18th place among 110 countries.

Alireza Haghi was the gold medal winner, while Kian Shamsaei, Mohammad Moshtaghifar, and Ali Mirzaei Anari grabbed the silver medals.

Seyyed Reza Hosseini Dolatabadi and Matin Yadalahi won a bronze medal each.

In 2019, Iranian students earned six medals at the 60th IMO held in the United Kingdom on July 11-22.

IMO is the World Championship Mathematics Competition for High School students and is held annually in a different country. The first IMO was held in 1959 in Romania, with 7 countries participating. It has gradually expanded to over 100 countries from 5 continents. The IMO Board ensures that the competition takes place each year and that each host country observes the regulations and traditions of the IMO.

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

The International Olympiad in Informatics is one of several international science Olympiads held annually around the world. Exceptional high school students from various countries compete in the prestigious algorithmic competition to sharpen their informatics skills, such as problem analysis, design of algorithms and data structures, programming, and testing.

Iranian students snatched 4 medals at the 52nd International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO 2020) held in Turkey on July 6 to 15.

The International Olympiad was held virtually due to coronavirus outbreak and restrictions, with 234 students from 60 countries attending the competition.

Connection between JFK assassination and 9/11

By Robert David Steele

Editorial Note: In an earlier publication, Interview: A Counterintelligence Perspective on the Wuhan Virus – A Zionist Bio-War False Flag Attack? (Tehran Times, February 12, 2020) the author forecast with precision the false flag nature of that event, the associated insider trading and control of the media narrative by the Deep State, and what ultimately proved to be a failed attempt to destroy President Donald Trump. In today's publication, the author does something that has not been done anywhere else: he connects, by name, key players in the JFK Assassination and 9/11, and connects false flag atrocities to Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA), pedophilia and the torture and murder of children, and the Red Mafiya -- the criminal state of Israel never to be confused with the Jewish faith that increasingly rejects that Zionist state, and U.S. citizen Zionist billionaires who appear

to be traitors to the USA.

Contextual overview

As a clandestine operations officer I managed a false flag operation for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) while assigned overseas. False flag operations are very real.

I have published several books on false flag operations, including 9/11 Truth, Sandy Hook Truth, and False Flag Attacks: A Tool of the Deep State, as well as many articles and chapters. All of my work on this topic is free online and easily accessed through my online primer <https://tinyurl.com/Steele-False-Flags>.

The term "false flag" originated in maritime warfare, when pirates or enemy ships would fly the flag of their prey in order to get close enough to launch a surprise attack. The term today is applied to any event that is not what it appears to be. As I will outline below, the entire official narrative about 9/11 is completely false. **→5**

U.S. Protests: 28 arrests made during protests in Louisville

At least 28 people were arrested overnight as civil unrest continued in Louisville over a grand jury's controversial decision in the Breonna Taylor case.

Tensions have boiled over in the streets of Kentucky's largest city in the days since a grand jury declined to indict three white police officers in the death of Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman shot in her own apartment in March, ABC News reported.

Police began arresting people as soon as a 9 p.m. curfew imposed by Mayor Greg Fischer went into effect Saturday, authorities said.

Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) officials said in a Twitter post that just before the curfew started, orders were given over loudspeakers for protesters to clear out of Jefferson Square Park in the downtown area. Officials said the orders to disperse were made when police officers saw people "gathering plywood shields and other items that could be used as weapons" and gleaned from media reports that

demonstrators were intending to engage in a standoff with police.

While many protesters left the area, police said a large group sought sanctuary at the First Unitarian Church, several blocks from the park.

Just before midnight, according to police, a small group of people left the church and set pieces of wood police described as "plywood shields" on fire in the street outside the church and began causing destruction in the area.

Many windows at Spalding University, a private Catholic school, and at nearby Presentation Academy, a women's college-preparatory high school, were smashed, police said.

LMPD officials released police helicopter surveillance footage of several people apparently throwing objects through the windows of a car parked on the Spalding University campus, and two people lighting an incendiary device and throwing it inside the car, causing a small explosion and fire.

General says Iran able to target any flying object in the region

TEHRAN — Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard, commander of Iran's Air Defense Force, has said Iran observes the sky in the region in addition to its own airspace, stating that his forces can detect and target any flying object in the region.

"Today, in addition to observing our own country's airspace, we observe the sky of the region as well," Sabahifard said on Sunday, according to Mehr.

He said Iran has made great advances in the fields of radar systems and detection of flying objects.

"In the current year and in the Air Defense Week, we witnessed the inauguration of 30 achievements that were designed, produced and operationalized by the scientists of this force," the general stated.

"Most of these achievements and air defense equipment are stealthy equipment and cannot be unveiled through the media," he said. "Only a limited number of them were unveiled through the media."

Sabahifard also said serving in the "sacred Islamic Republic of Iran" is a divine blessing and

"we are proud of the uniform we are wearing."

Last month, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that Iran owes its security to preparedness and vigilance of the Air Defense Force.

"Send my greeting to vigilant staff of the country's air defense; security of the country owes to preparedness and vigilance of the air defense," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a message on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the Air Defense Force. **→2**

New Sacred Defense documents inaugurated

TEHRAN — In a ceremony on Monday, the new Sacred Defense documents and researches were unveiled.

The ceremony, attended by military commanders, was held at the Islamic Revolution and Sacred Defense Garden Museum.

Resistance against the invading army of Saddam Hussein in the 1980s is known as Sacred Defense.

The commanders of the war and narrators in area of Iran's oral history and a number of families of martyrs were also honored at the Monday ceremony. **→2**



© Tehran Times / Shahab Ghavvami

'Majestic Iran, a Different Experience' chosen as tourism motto

TEHRAN — 'Majestic Iran, a Different Experience' was introduced as the official motto for Iran's tourism industry on Sunday as the country aims to hammer home the message of diversity and richness in recreational, cultural, and medical tourism.

"Turquoise Simorgh" and "Majestic Iran, a Different Experience" were respectively selected as the logo and the motto of Iran's tourism industry in a special ceremony held in Tehran to mark the World Tourism Day.

Addressing the event, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said Simorgh is the most comprehensive logo for the country's tourism because it depicts the religious and national identity of the people and conveys all the positive characteristics of Iranians. It is unique and belongs to Iran, ISNA reported.

Mounesan added that the shape of this mythical flying bird signifies the rise of Iranian tourism.

On the wings of this Simorgh, Muqarnas - a form of ornamented vaulting in Islamic architecture - is depicted. The tail of Simorgh consists of seven feathers, whose number is a symbol of the sanctity in Iranian culture and other religions and nations. The bird is illustrated in turquoise blue (Persian blue) with the word "Iran" in terracotta, displaying the dominant color of nature and architecture of Iran.

According to Zahed Shafiei, project manager of the tourism brand, the selection of this logo and motto took more than two years. **→6**

Judiciary chief: Iran respects ‘genuine human rights’

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi says Iran regards “genuine human rights” as respectable, vowing that “we will not tolerate the slightest rights violations.”

“We respect human rights that is genuine and is based on religion and teachings of Islam,” Raisi said in remarks on Monday.



In an indirect reference to the execution of Navid Afkari who was convicted of murder, the chief judge also said, “The enemy wants to present murder and crime in (Iran’s) society as normal, and accordingly it strives to undermine courageous men and women working in the security and judicial spheres.”

Certain Western countries and foreign-based opposition media outlets created a commotion over the issues surrounding the Afkari case.

Raisi said the enemy attempts to stigmatize determined figures who are protectors of Iran’s security and power in order to make them unproductive.

Raisi added that the enemy uses human rights as a tool to advance its agenda, “while they themselves are the founders of the school of murder and plunder and torture throughout the world.”

General says Iran able to target any flying object in the region

1 → The Leader added, “Our religiously devoted people praise your incessant efforts, be appreciative of this.”

On September 2, the Air Defense Force unveiled “Kashef-99” radar, a mobile system capable of detecting small flying objects. Kashef-99 is reportedly able to detect 300 targets simultaneously within a range of 12 kilometers.

The domestically produced device is a 3D phased-array radar system that is carried on a vehicle, suitable for detecting small aircraft and objects.

IRGC spokesman: U.S., Europe not able to confront Iran

TEHRAN (FNA) — Islamic Revolution Guards Corps spokesman Brigadier General Ramazan Sharif underlined the weak position of the U.S. and Europe, saying that they are not able to stand against Iran.

“Today, the Americans and Europeans are much weaker than the past in treating Iran and they will not be able to confront Iran in any areas,” General Sharif said, addressing a ceremony in the Northeastern province of Khorassan Razavi on Monday.

He added that the Iranian nation’s strong determination and obedience to the Supreme Leader have paralyzed the enemies in confrontation against the country.



“If we were not a powerful country, the Americans would not raise such hues and cries against us,” General Sharif said.

In relevant remarks on Saturday, Iranian Army Deputy Commander Brigadier General Mohammad Hossein Dadras said that the U.S. power to impose its unilateral policies to the world is declining.

“Today, we have attained such a power and honor that if we send a ship to the other side of the world (Latin America), it carries out its mission well without being disturbed; this is the shadow of our power in that region,” General Dadras said.

He referred to the U.S. declining power, and said, “Today the countries which have been under the U.S. hegemony have distanced themselves from the country and we are witnessing new world powers and [the U.S.] unilateralism is being annihilated.”

Deputy Head of Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization Jalil Eslami underlined last month that given the Iranian vessels’ professional behavior in international waters, Washington is not able to seize them under the pretext of sanctions.

“If a country acts based on the technical and engineering protocols and the rules, no country can seize its ships,” Eslami told reporters in Tehran.

He referred to the U.S. sanctions against Iran and Washington’s attempts to use them as a pretext to carry out illegal acts against the Iranian vessels, and said, “Experience has shown that the U.S. can adopt no measure against the ships which have Iranian flag and identity.”

Eslami reminded of the Iranian vessels’ recent voyage to Venezuela to supply the country with its needed fuel, and said, “Iran’s oil tankers met all international maritime rules and the U.S. could not do anything.”

Early in June, five Iranian oil tankers carrying millions of barrels of gasoline and components entered the ports of the fuel-starved South American country and came back to Iran.

The ships, their cargoes and their insurance papers had all been issued by Iran.

President Maduro appreciated Iran, China, Russia and Cuba for their assistance to Caracas, describing them as the real friends of his country.

Late in June, the sixth Iranian ship loaded with food and medical supplies anchored at the port of La Guayra in Venezuela to help the Latin American country in fighting coronavirus epidemic.

President Rouhani said his country is always entitled to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and warned that if his country’s oil tankers in the Caribbean or anywhere in the world get into trouble by the Americans, Tehran will definitely retaliate.

“Although some of the U.S. measures have created unacceptable conditions in different parts of the world, we will not be the initiator of tension and clash,” Rouhani said in a phone call with the Qatari Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in May.

Referring to the American moves in the Caribbean, he reiterated, “If our oil tankers face problems in the Caribbean Sea or anywhere in the world by the Americans, they will face problems reciprocally.”

Zarif slams American rulers as ‘cowards and savages’

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has described American rulers as “cowards” and “savages” over the January 3 assassination of Iran’s top anti-terror general Qassem Soleimani.

“You cowardly killed the number one enemy of Daesh (ISIS),” Zarif said on Monday in a ceremony to honor Foreign Ministry staff who were martyred during Iraq’s war against Iran in the 1980s.

“This is how you are. You are cowards and savages but you couldn’t bring these people to their knees,” he added.

U.S. President Donald Trump on January 3 ordered strikes that martyred General Soleimani, chief of the IRGC Quds Force, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Units (PMU).

In the early hours of January 8, the IRGC attacked Ain al-Assad airbase hosting U.S. forces 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.

Iran has announced that it will continue



to take its tough revenge on those who were behind the assassination.

In his remarks, Zarif said it is because of the martyrs’ sacrifices that no country can tell Iranians that if it stops its supports,

“you will be speaking in another language in ten days.”

The foreign minister said it is because of the martyrs’ sacrifices that former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein failed to reach its

Tehran welcomes Kuwait’s proposal for regional dialogue

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday that Iran welcomes the Kuwaiti prime minister’s proposal for regional dialogue and cooperation between Iran and other Persian Gulf countries.

“Iran’s response has been given to these remarks, with the proposals we put forward, the latest of which was the Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE),” Khatibzadeh said during his weekly press briefing on Monday.

He expressed the hope that Kuwait could convince the reluctant parties to engage in talks as well.

“We think we’d be able to hold inclusive dialogue as soon as possible in the Persian Gulf region among the regional countries for stability and peace in the region,”

he said, according to Tasnim.

Iran has always favored plans for regional dialogue and will continue to do so, the spokesman emphasized.

Addressing the 75th UN General Assembly, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah invited Iran for dialogue and cooperation with Arab countries to end regional tensions.

“Kuwait once again calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to take serious measures to build trust in order to start talks based on respect for the sovereignty of countries and non-interference in the internal affairs of these countries,” he said.

He also called on Iran to cooperate with the international community to end tensions and unrest in the region.

Majlis set to decide about industry minister nominee today

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Parliament is set to approve or reject the nominee for the post of industry, mining, and trade minister on Tuesday.

Vice president for parliamentary affairs Hossein-Ali Amiri told IRNA on September 22 that President Hassan Rouhani has written a letter to the Majlis naming Alireza Razm Hosseini as the candidate to run the ministry.

MPs have been studying the eligibility of Razm Hosseini over the last few weeks. Razm Hosseini has also attended related parliamentary committees to inform MPs about his priorities.

Normally, first the Majlis Industry and Mining Committee presents a report about the proposed minister and then two MPs speak in favor and two others against. Each MP speaks for 15 minutes.

Later, the proposed minister is given 30 minutes to elaborate on his plans.

At a time of the harshest sanctions in history against Iran, the Industry Minister is tasked with great responsibilities. The responsibly is getting heavier as the country is fighting the Coronavirus pandemic.

President Rouhani has said minister

of industry, mining, and trade is “at the forefront” of the economic war waged against Iran by the Trump administration.

Homayoon Sameh Yeh Najafabadi, a Jewish MP, has told IRNA that Razm Hosseini has a bright record in areas of industry and mining.

In view of his performance as governor general at Kerman and Khorassan Razavi provinces, he can reform the ministry, the Jewish lawmaker predicted.

MP Hojatollah Firouzi, the spokesman for the Majlis Industry and Mining Committee, has also said, “Studies show that he will garner to the votes of the representatives.”

Also, Mohammad Sabzi, the representative of Saveh in the parliament, predicted that the Majlis will endorse Razm Hosseini for the post because the ministry has been managed by a caretaker minister for a long time and the term of the current administration will come to an end in August 2021.

MP Mohammadreza Dashti Ardakani who represents the Ardakan constituency in the parliament also says Razm Hosseini is a good candidate for the job.



“Mr. President’s proposed minister has great competence in the fields of industry and mining. And of course, he has enough competence in the area of commerce,” he stated, adding, “I consider him a qualified person for the ministry.”

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

Later in August, the parliament turned down Rouhani’s nominee, asking the president to propose another person for the

plan of conquering Iran in a week.

Also, back in 2018, Trump said close U.S. ally Saudi Arabia and its king would not last “for two weeks” without U.S. military support.

“We protect Saudi Arabia. Would you say they’re rich? And I love the king, King Salman. But I said ‘King – we’re protecting you – you might not be there for two weeks without us – you have to pay for your military,’” he said.

Pointing to the support former Iraqi despot Saddam Hussein received from all the powerful countries in the world to invade Iran, Zarif said, “Today, you claim to be civilized in front of us? What does not suit you at all is being civilized.”

“You sent weapons [to Saddam] and all of you cooperated [with him],” he added.

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

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

mentioned position.

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

The nominee to lead the ministry met with the representatives of the private sector at Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Saturday.

In the meeting, 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 chief 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. 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.”

Zarif urges Azeri-Armenian talks amid clashes

1 → The foreign minister also notified the two neighboring countries that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to employ all of its capacities for the establishment of ceasefire, the start of dialogue, and restoration of peace and calm.

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.

Armenia accused Azerbaijan of shelling Karabakh and Baku accused Armenian-backed rebels of attacking Azeri military and civilian positions.

Ethnic Azeris fled Karabakh in 1992 when Armenian separatists seized it in a move supported by Yerevan after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The two neighbors frequently accuse each other of attacks around Karabakh and along the separate Azeri-Armenian frontier.



Border clashes in July claimed the lives of 17 soldiers

from both sides. In April 2016, some 110 people were killed in the deadliest fighting in years.

In a tweet on Sunday evening, Zarif wrote that Iran is closely monitoring the alarming violence in Nagorno-Karabakh, calling for an immediate end to hostilities and urging dialogue to resolve disputes.

“Our neighbors are our priority and we are ready to provide good offices to enable talks,” Zarif said. “Our region needs peace now.”

Iran’s Foreign Ministry also offered help to put an end to the clashes, saying Iran is ready to employ all of its capacities to help achieve a ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia and facilitate talks between the two warring sides.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is closely and worriedly monitoring the military clashes between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement on Sunday.

“Iran calls on the two sides to exercise self-restraint, and demands an immediate end to the clashes and the launch of dialogue between the two states,” Khatibzadeh added.

New Sacred Defense documents and researches inaugurated

1 → Speaking at the ceremony, the IRGC chief said the Leader’s wise solution toward enemies’ maximum pressure has thwarted conspiracies and changed all equations at the international level.

Major General Hossein Salami said, “With respect to the unequal military

arrangement in the imposed war, Iran could have been defeated... however the victory of Iran, under the leadership of Imam Khomeini, in that unequal war changed all equations.”

Iran’s victory revealed that it is not the equipment that changes the equations

in a war, but manpower and powerful leadership that bring about changes, the top general commented.

“Today, after several years, hostilities against Iran have not ended yet,” he continued, according to the Mehr news agency.

Referring to the current all-out pressures and sanctions against Iran, Salami noted, “Iran’s enemies in the economic war put maximum pressure on our country, however, in return Iran’s Leader came up with the wise solution of resistance to foil the plots of the enemies.”

Without achievement: Go back home

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – Facing a fateful election with a troubled campaign, the Trump administration deepened the mistrust in the region while also endangering U.S. interests in West Asia.

With the November election only a few weeks away, President Trump and his foreign policy team seek to avoid further endangering U.S. interests in the region. They now threaten to launch merciless attacks on some Iraqi resistance groups while making preparations to close the U.S. embassy in Baghdad.

In a telephone conversation with Iraqi President Barham Salih, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed the U.S. deep resentment over the attacks on U.S. interests in Iraq, warning that the U.S. was ready to close the U.S. embassy in Baghdad and take action against Iraqi resistance groups, according to the Iraqi news website Iraq24.

Citing well-placed sources, the website quoted Pompeo as telling Salih that “The decision to close the embassy in Baghdad is in President Trump’s hands and is ready... If our forces withdraw and the embassy is closed in this way, we will eradicate everyone who is proven to be involved in these acts.”

U.S. forces in Iraq have come under pressure from Iraqi popular resistance groups working to expel the U.S. occupying forces from their country. These groups say the U.S. embassy is not a diplomatic facility. Instead, it is a military stronghold providing logistic support for the American forces.

“The American embassy is a group of occupiers who use a covert den for their crimes. Its name is an embassy,” Akram al-Kabi, the head of Alnujaba group, said in a statement.

The U.S. says the main goal of its forces in Iraq is to fight Daesh and train Iraqi forces. But the Iraqis say the U.S. didn’t help Iraq in the face of the Daesh terrorist group.

“Daesh has come [to Iraq] because they [Americans] stopped all types of military support to Iraq and undercut the foundation of the Iraqi army,” Nouri al-Maliki, the former Iraqi prime minister, said in June.

Al-Maliki, whose during his tenure Daesh occupied large swaths of Iraq, also said, “Washington told the Iraqi delegation; as long as al-Maliki is in power, they will not give weapons to Baghdad to fight Daesh. This is all while Iran and Russia have opened their arms depots to Baghdad in support of the Iraqi army and the Popular Mobilization Forces.”

The former prime minister pointed out that the Americans didn’t want Iraq to win the fight against Daesh, adding that when the Iraqi government decided to expel all American forces from Iraq, the U.S. welcomed the efforts to destabilize Iraq.

Now that the Iraqis are once again calling



for the expulsion of American forces, the White House may pursue a similar policy through closing its embassy in Iraq and taking actions to destabilize the country.

The PMF leaders say the U.S. wants to destabilize Iraq rather than helping it.

“The PMF has worked to stabilize Iraq and has foiled all U.S. plots, which aims to destabilize Iraq and create troubles and crises at various levels,” Kamal al-Hasnawi, a PMF leader, told Shafaq news agency.

Whether the U.S. will close its embassy in Iraq and take action against the country remains an open question. But the U.S. seems to be intent on shutting or at least curtailing its diplomatic presence in Iraq. The Arabic-Language al-Mayadeen news network reported Sunday the U.S. decision to close its embassy in Baghdad has been taken.

The embassy drama comes at a time when the U.S. is still spending millions of taxpayer dollars on military operations in Iraq. And yet is unable to win the heart of the Iraqi people who want to see the U.S. withdraw its forces from Iraq and end the occupation of their country.

The controversy over the U.S. embassy in Baghdad also highlights Trump’s failures in ending what he has campaigned on since the 2016 presidential election: ending the U.S. endless wars.

Before and after the 2016 election, Trump promised to end “the era of endless wars,” because it was not the job of the U.S. army “to solve ancient conflicts in faraway lands that many people have not even heard of.”

He also admittedly said that the U.S. has squandered more than \$7 trillion on

conflicts in the Western Asia region while his administration had difficulty building infrastructures inside the U.S.

“As of a couple of months ago, we have spent \$7 trillion in the Middle East [West Asia]. Seven trillion dollars. What a mistake. But it is what is. We’re trying to build roads and bridges and fix bridges that are falling down, and we have a hard time getting the money. It’s crazy. Think about it: As of a couple of months ago, \$7 trillion in the Middle East and the Middle East is far worse now than it was 17 years ago when they went in and not so intelligently, I have to say, went in. I’m being nice. So, it is a very sad thing,” Trump said in 2018.

Trump made efforts to end the U.S. costly wars in the region, but he failed. In January 2019, Trump ordered a withdrawal of American forces from northern Syria, a decision that stoked fears among foreign policy circles in Washington over ceding the control of the area to the Syrian government and Russia. The decision faced firm opposition from officials inside the Trump administration, most notably form then-National Security Advisor John Bolton, who put brakes on Trump’s withdrawal from Syria. Many analysts believe that Bolton stopped the abrupt withdrawal.

Bolton himself didn’t hesitate to express his opposition to his boss’s decision. In a bid to assure U.S. allies in the region, Bolton traveled to Israel and Turkey. During his visit to Israel, he said certain “objectives” must be achieved before a pullout could take place. He also said the withdrawal could put U.S. Kurdish allies in Syria in danger.

Zarif appreciates role of Ayatollah Sistani in Iraqi politics

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – In a tweet on Monday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif paid tribute to a grand Iraqi religious leader, after a distinguished Iranian journalist criticized the figure.

“The grand Marja, his eminence, Ayatollah Sistani is the fortress of Iraq, the security valve for the region, and an asset for the entire Islamic world. Iran appreciates the role of his eminence in establishing security and stability in Iraq, preserving its sovereignty and territorial integrity, getting rid of the occupation forces, and building a new Iraq according to the requirements of its brotherly people,” tweeted Zarif.

The foreign minister’s tweet came after the prominent journalist, Hossein Shariatmadari, the managing editor of

Kayhan newspaper, criticized the grand Marja for calling on the United Nations to help Iraq in holding transparent parliamentary elections. During a meeting with Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, the special representative of the secretary-general for the United Nations assistance mission for Iraq, Ayatollah Sistani called on the UN to provide support to the Iraqi authorities in terms of overseeing the parliamentary election.

Accusing the UN of advancing U.S. interests, Shariatmadari said in an editorial published by Kayhan that the Iraqi Marja shouldn’t have called on the UN to monitor the Iraqi election.

Shariatmadari’s criticism sparked a wave of outrage among Iraqi leaders, which encouraged the journalist to offer his apologies to the Marja.



Iran’s response to assassination of General Soleimani includes U.S. withdrawal from region: General Naghdi

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — General Mohammadreza Naghdi, the deputy coordinator of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, has said the U.S. withdrawal from the region is the proper response to the assassination of IRGC Quds Force commander General Qassem Soleimani.

General Soleimani was assassinated in an American drone strike on January 3 near Baghdad’s international airport along with Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes, the deputy head of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Forces. In response, Iran launched a missile attack on the U.S. troops at Ain Al-Assad airbase in western

Iraq, inflicting brain injuries on dozens of U.S. servicemen. Following the attack, Iran put the policy of expelling the U.S. forces from the region high on its agenda.

“The response to the assassination of martyr Soleimani is for America to leave the region and it will leave. The attack on the Ain Al-Assad base was merely meant to demonstrate the determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond, and America still did not receive a response. The strike on Ain Al-Assad was important. All super-powers of the world sent messages saying that we would have not dared to do this. The world understood how powerful the Islamic

Republic is and how weak the America is. The attack had so many implications, but it was not that tough revenge,” General Naghdi was quoted as saying by Fars news agency.

Commenting on the advisory role of Iran in countries fighting terrorism in the region, he said, “Wherever the Islamic Republic of Iran was present, it was at the request of the people or government of that country and within the required limit, not more.”

The general also said the IRGC presence in the region is based on a decision from Iran’s Supreme National Security Council.

“It’s not like the Guards goes everywhere it wants. Rather, the Supreme National Security

“It’s also very important that as we discuss with members of the coalition, [and] other countries that have an interest, like Israel and Turkey, that we expect that those who have fought with us in Syria... particularly the Kurds,” not be put in “jeopardy” by the withdrawal, said Bolton.

Bolton succeeded in nullifying Trump’s decision. In October 2019, Trump once again ordered another withdrawal of American forces from Syria, a few weeks before he fired Bolton. But this time Trump also failed to end his country’s participation in the Syrian war. Trump pursued a similar policy toward Afghanistan. While he campaigned on ending U.S. endless wars in West Asia, he failed to secure a face-saving withdrawal of U.S. troops from the U.S. longest war – the Afghanistan war. Of course, the U.S.-Taliban peace negotiations are still underway, but they are far from securing a peace deal in the foreseeable future, at least until the U.S. November election.

Since 2016, Trump has been promising ordinary Americans that he will bring home the Americans. He kept his promise and brought Americans home, but not soldiers rather diplomats. While U.S. servicemen are coming under attack in Iraq and Afghanistan and dying in endless wars, the Trump administration is busy devising plans to evacuate diplomats, leaving soldiers in despair. This may well be the reason behind a significant rise in military suicides among U.S. servicemen.

Military suicides have increased by as much as 20% this year compared to the same period in 2019, and some incidents of violent behavior have spiked as service members struggle under COVID-19, war-zone deployments, national disasters, and civil unrest, according to an Associated Press report.

Senior U.S. Army leaders told the Associated Press that they’ve seen about a 30% jump in active duty suicides so far this year and that they are looking at shortening combat deployments.

The U.S. has spent billions of dollars over the past few decades on wars in the Western Asia region without securing its long-term interests. Trump, who publicly railed against these wars, has failed to stop them. Trump may lose the November election and hand over the White House keys to his Democratic rival Joe Biden. But will Biden, who played a major role in starting many of U.S. wars, be able to end these wars? There is a little doubt that Biden will move forward with U.S. warmongering policies. But U.S. wars may never come to an end, but its influence and dominance may have already started to decline.

S P O R T S

2020 ACL (West) Quarters: Persepolis to meet Pakhtakor

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Persepolis football club will meet Pakhtakor of Uzbekistan in the 2020 AFC Champions League (West) quarter-finals in the west region.

Persepolis, runners-up in 2018, will play Pakhtakor on Wednesday at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha.

Saturday’s semi-final also will be played at the same venue. The two quarter-finals and semi-final will be one-legged affairs.

Persepolis sealed their quarter-final berth in dramatic fashion on Sunday, with Issa Alekasir scoring an 88th minute winner for the Iran Pro League champions against Qatar’s Al Sadd SC.

Al Nassr and Al Ahli will play in an all-Saudi Arabia clash in another quarters.

None of the four West Zone quarter-finalists have won the AFC Champions League before, with Al Ahli Saudi and Persepolis finishing runners-up in 2012 and 2018 respectively. Al Ahli Saudi were also runners-up in the 1985-86 season of the Asian Club Championship.

Pakhtakor were semi-finalists in 2003 and 2004 while Al Nassr, runners-up in the 1995 Asian Club Championship, will be appearing in their second successive AFC Champions League quarter-finals.

Alipour completes medical examination to join Maritimo

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian forward Ali Alipour underwent a routine medical examination to join Portuguese club Maritimo.

Alipour signed an initial agreement for a two-year contract with the Primeira Liga’s Maritimo in early September but failed to travel to Portugal due to the visa problems.

The 25-year-old joined Maritimo from Persepolis.

He has joined his compatriot Amir Abedzadeh in the team.

Alipour was one of the key players of Persepolis in recent years, playing significant role in claiming four consecutive Iran league titles in the past four seasons.

We deserved to win against Al Sadd: Golmohammadi

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi says that they deserved to defeat Qatar’s Al Sadd in the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16.

Sunday night, the Iranian giants edged past Al Sadd at the Education City Stadium thanks to Issa Alekasir’s late goal.

“I am very happy for the win because it was a tough match. We came here with so many problems but deservedly won the match. Al Sadd benefit from several attacking players but we could stop them with a good defensive performance,” Golmohammadi said after the match.

“I would like to dedicate the win to our fans. I also want to thank my players who made the Iranian fans proud. They played with all their might and completely dedicated themselves to the game,” he added.

Persepolis qualified for the AFC Champions League finals in 2018, where the Reds lost to Japan’s Kashima Antlers 2-0 on aggregate.

Golmohammadi says that they have a difficult task ahead to repeat the success but will do their best to make it happen. “We have reached quarter-finals while we were fourth in Group C. We did a great job but we are not finished yet. We know that every team in the quarters are a strong team. We will concentrate on the next match since we want to keep going our good run,” Golmohammadi stated.

Issa Alekasir opted best player by OPTA

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Persepolis FC’s matchwinner Issa Alekasir topped the OPTA rankings of the AFC Champions League Round of 16 (WEST).

After the conclusion of four thrilling Round of 16 ties, OPTA, the AFC’s official data provider, have compiled their list of candidates for the Player of the Week.

Alekasir topped the OPTA rankings for this week as the striker scored the tie’s only goal as the Tehran giants eliminated home side Al Sadd SC following a 1-0 win on Sunday.

The 30-year-old forward, who was also nominated for the Matchday Six Player of the Week award, netted for the second time in consecutive matches and he was a constant threat up front for the Iranian side with five shots on goal, two aeriels won and two duels won for his 7.7 OPTA rating.

Everything is possible in this game, Pakhtakor Coach Says

Pakhtakor football team coach Pieter Huistra says that Persepolis are a great team but everything is possible in this game.

The Uzbekistan side will meet Persepolis of Iran on Wednesday in the AFC Campions League (west) quarter-finals.

“All three teams would have been difficult opponents,” said Pakhtakor assistant coach Pieter Huistra. “Persepolis are a great team and we know them quite well because we faced them last year in the group stage and they are champions of Iran, so we have to be ready and have to be in good shape but we are confident. We played some good games already here and we are looking forward to Wednesday to play again.”

“They had four clean sheets and we had three clean sheets, so I think we are similar teams. Everything is possible in this game,” the Dutch coach stated.

“We believe in ourselves and we will be ready for this game. We played two teams from Iran already in this competition, so we are getting used to it. Iranian teams are always strong, we know that. It will be an exciting and strong game,” he added.

(Source: AFC)

Iran won’t negotiate with U.S.: spokesman

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, rebuffed on Monday reports that Iran was secretly negotiating with U.S. officials in Oman, saying Tehran did not and will not negotiate with Washington.

Responding to a question on news media reports about alleged secret negotiations between Iran and the U.S. in Oman, the spokesman said, “There have been no negotiations, and there is not, and there will not be any negotiations.”

Khatibzadeh also responded to a question about U.S. President Donald Trump’s remarks that he seeks to make a deal with Iran but Iran wants to wait until after the election.

“Recently, I was asked the same question that Trump has said, ‘after the election, I will be making a deal with Iran in half a day.’ He needs to make clear whether he will be making a deal with Iran in half a day or basically he will be tougher.”

President Trump has recently said that if he wins the November election, he will make a deal with Iran within a few weeks.

“If we win ... we will have a deal with Iran within four weeks,” he said in August, according to a video of his remarks from inside a New Jersey fundraiser.

However, Trump did a complete flip-flop by announcing that reaching a deal with Iran will be “much tougher” if he wins the election.

“Whether it’s Iran, or whether it’s Venezuela ... And they already want to talk. Everybody wants to talk, but they want to wait, I want to wait until after the election, because Isay, ‘Wait.’ And a year ago, I said, you have a choice. We can talk now, or we can talk after the election, but after the election, it’s going to be a much tougher deal.” Trump said while hosting a “Latinos for Trump” roundtable event on September 25 in Florida. Khatibzadeh said Trump has no “proper understanding” of international relations.

“Mr. Trump has no proper understanding of the nature of international relations and U.S.-Iranian relations. His advisers are also not going to understand what happened.

There have been no negotiations, and there is not, and there will not be any negotiation [with the U.S.], all of this is for domestic consumption. It may benefit Trump, but it does not benefit Iran-U.S. relations,” Khatibzadeh was quoted as saying by Fars news agency.

He added, “The way is clear. The United States must first acknowledge its grave mistake and respect international rules and its obligations, as well as end this inhumane and all-out war and oppressive sanctions against the Iranian people, and compensate all the damage it has done to the Iranian people through this war. If it takes all these steps, it maybe finds a place for itself in a corner of the JCPOA room. We have nothing more to say. So they can say what they think will benefit them in their election.”

The spokesman underlined that Iran is not going to change its position.

“Our position is firm and clear, and if this question is asked a thousand times, we will give the same answer,” he noted.

IFX climbs 167% in six months on year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — IFX, the main index of Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), rose 167 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The index stood at 17,599 points at the end of the sixth month. During the sixth month of this year, 38 billion securities worth 960.575 trillion rials (about \$22.87 billion) were traded, indicating 15 percent, and 357 percent rise in the number and value of traded securities, respectively, compared to the sixth month of the previous year.

Although IFX experienced growth in the first half, it declined six percent in the sixth month compared to its previous month. IFB is one of the four major stock exchanges of Iran. The other three ones are the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Iran Fara Bourse operates under the supervision of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), a member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).

It was established in November 2008, to be a gate for the majority of companies to enter the capital market and enhance their corporate governance and their businesses by providing easier listing requirements.

Providing Initial Public Offering (IPO), and trading services to the listed companies, IFB sets a strategy to diversify the range of instruments to respond to every risk appetite in the market and every need for fundraising for the entire lifecycle of the companies, by securitizing assets and liabilities.

Nowadays, Iran Fara Bourse offers a wide range of products and services to the market; listing, IPOs, and trading in different sections of the equity market as well as providing a platform for Unlisted Securities Trading (UTP). Also, In the Structured Financial Products Market (SFP), various types of Sukuk, CDs, Mortgage Rights, and Funds are available.

Cage culture plans supported by Agriculture Ministry

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's Agriculture Minister Kazem Khavazi said that his ministry supports the cage culture plans, IRNA reported.

The minister also said that Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute helps those active in the implementation of these plans.

Referring to the request of the units active in the cage culture for the development of this sector, Khavazi said, "This sector was unknown in the country at the time of its establishment; related issues and the probable problems were unclear, but now we do not have any limitation for the development of this sector and entrance of new investors in this area."

Fishery production has increased noticeably in Iran in the recent years.

Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) Head Nabiollah Khoun-Mirzaei has put the country's annual fishery output at 1.28 million tons in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), and said the figure is anticipated to reach 1.37 million tons in this year, and surpass 1.5 million tons in the next year.

Khoun-Mirzaei has announced that the country's fishery export stood at 146,000 tons worth \$538.9 million in the past Iranian year, while the import was 29,000 tons valued at \$98.9 million, so Iran's fishery trade balance was \$440 million in the previous year.

He has also said that 233,059 persons are currently working in the country's fishery sector.

Putting the country's fishery output at 1.28 million tons in the past year, the official said it is while the planned figure was 1.25 million tons, and underscored that this amount of output was achieved despite the sanctions and related difficulties in the previous year.

He noted that the output, which was more than the projected amount, was achieved through the help of research sectors as well as the ground laid by the private sector.

Referring to the high quality of Iran's fishery products, the head of the IFO said that these products were sold easily in the export markets.

In mid-January, he had also said that new export destinations have welcomed Iran's high-quality fishery products in the past Iranian calendar year.

"New markets including China, South Korea, and the Eurasian Union nations have opened up for Iranian fishery products in this year", Khoun-Mirzaei said at the time.

"Based on the negotiations and agreements signed between Iran and China by the minister of agriculture, the Chinese fishery market has been opened to Iranian products. The Eurasian nations and South Korean markets have also welcomed Iranian fishery products and have the potential for exports," the official explained.

According to the IFO Deputy Head Hossein Ali Abdolhay, some 12 aquatic species are already bred in Iran and the figure is planned to reach 17 by the end of the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (March 2021).

Nearly 60,000 tons of sugar beet harvested since late March

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Nearly 60,000 tons of sugar beet has been harvested in Iran since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), according to an official with the Agriculture Ministry.

Peyman Hesadi, the operator of sugar beet plan of the ministry, said that the mentioned amount of sugar beet has been harvested in 1,100 hectares of land, and has been delivered to the sugar plants with which the related contracts have been signed, IRNA reported.

Earlier this month, the Advisor to the Agriculture Minister Saeed Saadat said that Iranian Agriculture Ministry is going to implement the first phase of a program called "Cultivation Pattern" to improve the country's agricultural output in the new crop year in the country.

With the implementation of this program, an important part of the farmers' and producers' problems, including unplanned and excess cultivation will be eliminated, Saadat stated.

Referring to the importance of food security in the country, he said: "Ensuring 90 percent of the country's food security is the responsibility of the Agriculture Ministry."

During the last Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), \$5.8 billion worth of agricultural products were exported from the country and the share of the agricultural sector in employment was 18 percent, the official stressed.

He further noted that 32.5 percent of the country's value-added share is related to agricultural businesses, which shows the important role that this sector plays in the country's economy.

"Also last year we experienced a growth of 8.8 percent in this sector, while the economic balance was negative in many other areas," he added.

Iran's share in Turkey's future gas market

1 → Turkey meets most of its energy requirements from imports, and natural gas accounts for over 90 percent of the country's energy imports.

Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia have been the major exporters of natural gas to the country through pipeline, and in recent years Turkey has also started importing some Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Algeria, Qatar, and the U.S. as well.

According to Jokar, to have a clear picture of Turkey's energy geopolitics we should take three factors into consideration: first, the fact that the country is diversifying its energy basket by developing new renewable and nuclear power plants and also expanding the use of coal in the industrial sectors; secondly, the changes in the country's political relations and forming new alliances have consequently led to new economic ties, and finally the discovery of a new gas field in the Black Sea which is going to change the country's energy dynamics drastically in the coming years.

Turkey and Qatar have become strong allies in the region and under the shadow of Saudi Arabia and its allies' threats, Qatar is counting big on Turkey for support and in return the country is providing LNG to Turkey with significantly good prices, Jokar explained.

"On the other hand, the U.S. has been taking serious measures for increasing its share in Turkey's LNG market and under political pressures and in an effort to keep Washington on its side, Turkey has been increasing its LNG intakes from the U.S."

Jokar further mentioned Turkey's strategic location and the significant role which the country plays as a bridge for transporting Russian gas to Europe through Nord Stream 2 and Turk Stream pipelines, saying: "The Russians need Turkey for transmitting their gas to Europe so they are also providing Turkey with military



services and armaments in addition to big discounts over their gas exports."

Having close cultural and ideological bonds with Turkey, Azerbaijan is also benefiting from shared backgrounds for boosting its gas exports to the country.

"Shah Deniz gas pipeline project which is planned to boost Azerbaijan's gas exports to Turkey by six billion cubic meters, is already in its final stages and will go operational by the end of the current year."

Turkey's gas demand

Affected by its dynamic economic developments and rapid population growth, Turkey's energy demand has grown rapidly in the past few years and is expected to continue growing.

According to Jokar, Turkey's demand for natural gas is going to increase by about 15 billion cubic meters in the next 10 years,

however considering the current changes in the country's energy portfolio, clearly, most of the mentioned demand increase is going to be met by sources other than the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Russia, the U.S., Azerbaijan, and Qatar all are trying to increase their share in Turkey's energy market, while the discovery of the new gas field in the Black Sea is expected to add at least 10 billion cubic meters to the country's gas production capacity in less than five years, he said.

Iran's economic policy

With all the above-mentioned factors in the play, the question is "what Iran should do to keep its share in Turkey's gas market?"

Iran and Turkey currently have a deal, based on which Turks are going to buy 10 billion cubic meters of gas from Iran annually. This contract expires in 2026,

'Govt. should facilitate private companies listing on stock exchange'

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) called on the government to further facilitate the listing of private companies on the country's stock exchange to help them attract the necessary capital for their development.

Speaking in the ninth meeting of the ICCIMA board of representatives, Gholam-Hossein Shafeie criticized the government's performance in managing the stock market and said offering the shares of government-owned companies in the stock market and awarding them to the private sector should entail changing their management as well.

According to Shafeie just selling the shares of state-owned companies is not privatization if the management is not also handed over to the private sector.

"It will only promote more corruption in such companies," he said.

He suggested that the government should consider putting tax on capital gains to prevent turbulence in the stock market and to limit speculation and reduce volatility.

He further called on the government for reforming the country's banking system, saying: "Given that the country's banking system is grappling with many problems, today is an opportunity for banks to raise capital through the stock market."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Shafeie mentioned some of the problems that the country's production sector is faced with like the supply of raw materials for the production units, and criticized some of the regulations that have created new challenges for the mentioned sector.

"The sanctions and the problem of importing raw materials, in addition to capital and financial problems have caused many difficulties for the country's production units. In addition to the above factors, volatile forex market and high exchange rates have also increased the cost of supplying raw materials to the mentioned units so that it has become difficult for producers to continue operating."

Also, problems regarding the allocation of foreign currency with official rates to the importers are also



preventing the producers from accessing their required machinery and raw materials.

He finally called on the government to put more importance on the private sector as the main players in the country's economic scene in the current situation and noted that neglecting the potentials of the private sector is going to make the country's economic situation worse.

TPO to announce Iran's top exporters of year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has finished the process of evaluating the country's top exporting companies in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) and 50 top companies, as well as six excellent ones, have been selected, TPO Head Hamid Zadboum announced.

According to Zadboum, the process of identifying, evaluating, and selecting the country's top exporters has been carried out in collaboration with the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

Based on the agreements reached last year, for the maximum participation and cooperation of TPO with the private sector representatives (ICCIMA members) in selecting the country's top exporters, this organization has tasked ICCIMA with the selection of this year's best ex-

porting companies on the national and provincial scale and TPO will supervise the process, the official said.

In this regard, a special secretariat was formed at ICCIMA for selecting the country's top exporters in which necessary meetings were held and public calls for nominees were announced and applicants were registered.

In the admission process, a total of 871 applicants, including 771 firms and 100 individuals were applied for the title, of which 614 companies active in a variety of fields including industry, mining, agriculture, food, and services were finally registered, according to the TPO head.

If the necessary permits are obtained from the National Headquarters for Fighting Coronavirus, the selected companies will be announced and awarded this year on the National Export Day.

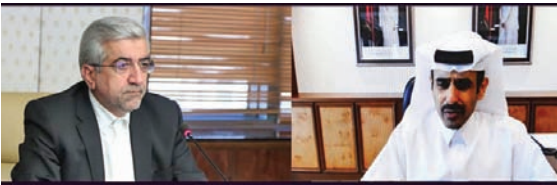
Iran, Qatar discuss joining power grids through sea

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian and Qatari Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi held an online meeting to discuss joining the two countries' electricity networks via sea, Iran's Energy Ministry portal (Paven) reported on Monday.

During the online meeting, the two sides also discussed a regional initiative for developing cooperation in the field of unconventional water resources, including seawater desalination and the use of treated wastewater.

As reported, the mentioned issue had been discussed and approved at a recent meeting of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM) hosted by Tehran.

In this regard, Al-Kaabi announced his country's



Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian (L) and his Qatari counterpart Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi

readiness for participating in this initiative and suggested that regular meetings would be held in the region's countries so that experts could exchange information on the related projects.

Further in the meeting, Ardakanian, who is also the

chair of the two countries' joint economic committee, referred to the continuous exchange of electricity between Iran and its neighbors, saying that Qatar at some points has surplus electricity generation which can be swapped with the countries in the region such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq through Iran.

Mentioning the possibility of joining the two countries electricity networks, Al-Kaabi said: "Electricity transfer between the two countries is possible and this proposal should be worked on."

"In my opinion, this idea is practical and it is possible to implement it," he said.

"Regarding cooperation in energy and water, good fields of cooperation can be defined with the presence of the private sector of the two countries," the official added.

Connection between JFK assassination and 9/11

➡ After the assassination of John F. Kennedy (JFK), the CIA, which was the primary execution agent under the direct control of Allen Dulles, the CIA coined the term “conspiracy theory” as a means of marginalizing any individual or organization advancing evidence contradicting the official lies.

For those who are skeptical about the reality of false flag atrocities as a routine practice by many countries including China, France, Germany, Russia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and of course the USA, see the documented descriptive list, “53 Admitted False Flag Attacks” (*Global Research*, 3 September 2019).

In the summer of 2018, after observing that false flag events had started occurring in the USA beginning with Sandy Hook in 2012 followed by the Boston Bombing 2013, and then multiple others events, I decided that it was necessary to document the 9/11 event for what it was – a false flag event – and make that volume available to President Donald Trump in support of his promise to fully disclose who brought down the World Trade Center buildings. I recruited 25 other top experts, and the volume was delivered to the President, the Attorney General, and multiple others on 8 August 2018. Free online, it has been read by millions at <https://tinyurl.com/911-POTUS>.

■ **9/11 – 28 memoranda for the president of the USA**

9/11 disclosure – as well as full disclosure on Deep State child trafficking and torture and murder, is the precondition for Making America Great Again. There are over 12 specific people that need to be brought to justice, and multiple Shadow Government criminal networks that must be taken down.

The overarching importance of 9/11 in my view is its impact on the public – this event was so catastrophic and the official narrative so clearly falsified, that it began the Great Awakening and may have been the catalytic event for the White Hats who launched the presidential campaign of Donald J. Trump in direct response to this crime against humanity executed by the Deep State using the Red Mafia comprised of Russian criminals in close alliance with the Zionist State of Israel (never to be confused with the Jewish faith); and with selected leaders of New York and New Jersey, and Vice President Dick Cheney. This distinction between criminal Zionism and the Jewish faith is so important I have published an extensive commentary at <https://tinyurl.com/Zionist-Parasite> and I salute the Supreme Leader of Iran for also making clear this distinction – the State of Israel must end, while all Jews are welcome to thrive in a restored Palestine just as they thrive within Iran.

9/11 is best understood as the book-end to another false flag event, the assassination of JFK by his own government, an endeavor led by Lyndon Baines Johnson, carried out by nine different parties with the Zionists sending two witnesses: Yitzhak Rabin who is dead, and Arnon Milchan, whom I believe to have been the theatrical producer of 9/11 working closely with Larry Silverstein and Maurice Greenberg.

This is my summary of the findings that can be read in detail free online.

01 Planning for the contrived controlled demolition of the twin towers began no later than 1989 and possibly as early as 1987 when the EPA is reported to have identified structural failings that would – if not corrected – mandate the manual deconstruction – controlled demolitions were explicitly forbidden – of these terribly built buildings with considerable asbestos and other toxic hazards, to be completed by 2007. This made the twin towers an immediate 2 billion dollar liability, and set in motion planning by some combination of New York and New Jersey, New York City, and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey officials, with Zionist players such as Larry Silverstein, builder of original WTC 7 and buyer of the twin towers months before the scheduled false flag event, and Maurice Greenberg, the pass-through insurer, toward some form of insurance fraud that would allow the buildings to be “catastrophically” brought down with controlled demolitions for the double benefit of ignoring the EPA ruling against controlled demolitions, and claiming insurance benefits against alleged terrorists. The twin towers were a Rockefeller project forced on the citizens and small businesses dislocated by this project.

02 Coincident with the decision to set in motion some form of catastrophic event at the state – Red Mafia or Russian-Zionist-USA state-sponsored organized crime level Dick Cheney was appointed to be Secretary of Defense under George



H. W. Bush, who was himself present at the JFK assassination and apparently an active participant in the assassination as a CIA non-official cover officer. I believe that both Cheney – long known to be owned by the Zionist state of Israel – and Yitzhak Rabin, one of two Zionists in Dallas for JFK and soon to be Prime Minister of Israel, were briefed no later than 1990. I speculate that they agreed that this was a heaven sent opportunity to create the ultimate false flag terrorist incident to justify a police state within the USA and an eternal global war on a fictional enemy – terrorism – abroad.

03 Others were clearly briefed as well. Benjamin Netanyahu, the furniture salesman promoted to notional leader of the invented state of Israel, also known to speak to Larry Silverstein every week, put the idea of 9/11 and the twin towers specifically into his book, *Fighting Terrorism: How Democracies Can Defeat Domestic and International Terrorism* and explicitly wrote in the book about a nuclear bomb being planted by Muslim terrorists in the basement of the twin towers.

04 Rudy Giuliani was Mayor of New York City from 1994 to 2001. Giuliani's intimate relationship with the Red Mafia is best understood by focusing on the fact that Michael Chertoff was his ostensible deputy, perhaps his handler, when Giuliani and the FBI were hired by the Red Mafia to put the Italian mafia out of business so that the Zionists and their Russian criminal cohorts – the Lansky's and Bronfmans and Wexners – could take over organized crime across the USA. It merits comment that the twin towers were not “sold” to Silverstein until July of the year in which the alleged terrorist incident took place. It is now known that Wexner funded the Epstein pedophilia operation, and also alleged that he funded 9/11, one of 12 Zionist billionaires now under scrutiny for high crimes beyond the pale.

04 Once Bush Junior and Vice President Dick Cheney took office, the stage was set for the long-planned catastrophic event. Maurice Greenberg of AIG insured it and quickly resold the insurance to others so that he and AIG would not suffer any losses. The Patriot Act was written in advance, the Zionists installed the controlled demolitions that assisted what I believe was clearly a directed energy controlled frequency event in the twin towers, controlled demolitions alone for WTC 7, and a massive cover up was prepared. I am undecided about the nuclear aspect, but quite certain this was more than just thermite.

05 CIA and John Brennan played a role. While I have no direct knowledge, it is clear that the Saudis provided passports for the patsies, several of whom were not Saudi, and it is reported that John Brennan, as Chief of Station for the CIA in Saudi Arabia in 1996, may have played a role in facilitating Saudi logistic support for the US-Israel false flag attack even though this meant framing Muslims for a Zionist atrocity. Indeed, it merits comment that according to one of our authors, eight of the alleged patsies are still alive today and complaining of identity theft.

06 9/11 was used to achieve multiple economic objectives including the laundering of \$240 billion dollars in illicit wealth from the CIA Gold War against Russia managed by Buzzy Krongard and John Brennan; to the theft of stocks of gold; to insider trading; to the destruction of all Security and Exchange Commission files on Wall Street crime.

07 9/11 cases did not go to trial. Controlled Zionist judges and prosecutors ensured that all cases were generously settled so as to avoid any threat of discovery – of demands for evidence that must be met. There appears to be one case against Silverstein that advanced toward a settlement after partial discovery. In a nutshell, every elected and appointed official in the entire New York – New Jersey Port Authority and City and state

complex was in some way complicit in covering up the facts on 9/11.

08 Aircraft did not bring down the twin towers. The AIG offices appear to have served as the theatrical set for pre-positioned explosives, and a US Air Force information operations aircraft appears to have managed the holograms of aircraft melting into the buildings. The media was pre-scripted and in one instance read their script seven minutes too soon. It is highly significant to me that Arnon Milchan, one of two Zionist participants in the JFK assassination, managed a movie and a TV series prior to 9/11 in which he practiced the staging of aircraft flying into buildings. I am compelled by the physics of steel beams every 14 inches, and the complete absence of airplane debris less one carefully placed engine having nothing to do with any of the flights, to find that this was pure theater – optics.

09 The Pentagon was arranged by Donald Rumsfeld. There was no aircraft and there may not have been a missile although that is a distinct possibility. One of our authors documents her view that the Pentagon blew the hole in the wall from the inside out and then blew up an aircraft as part of the simulation. I have no direct knowledge of the degree to which the insider attack on the Pentagon was intended to destroy the very people investigating the mis-appropriation of trillions of dollars from the USA to Zionist Israel via DoD Comptroller Dov Zaheim, but one of our authors addresses this directly. At best this was a missile or drone, as was stated by a US Major General on television when the hole was still visible before the façade collapsed – and with no airplane debris anywhere to be seen.

10 The crash in Pennsylvania was staged. At the time I was working closely with the US Special Operations Command and their analysts told me that the scene was clearly a bomb crater into which a truck load of parts had been dumped. The narrative about cell phone calls from aircraft in flight is beneath contempt but one of our authors destroys this narrative in detail. Other explanations are possible including a remote controlled aircraft sacrificed for an area display – the false narrative about cell phone calls and “let's roll” is the kind of detail that helps assess the official narrative for what it is – a pack of lies advanced with the active collaboration of a treasonous media controlled by the Deep State.

11 The cover-up is most interesting to me. Philip Zelikow, a key Zionist who helped pioneer the whole concept of “catastrophic terrorism” appears to have shown up on the first day of his role as executive director for the investigative commission with an outline of how the report would be structured. There is no question but that this commission was as dirty as the Warren Commission, an almost poetic joining of the JFK assassination and the 9/11 false flag atrocity as the book-ends for the Great Awakening and the death of the Deep State. I testified to this Commission, and note with sadness that two of the Commissioners were forced to condemn the Commission for failing to serve the public interest.

■ **The decline and fall of the deep state and its shadow government puppets**

I wish to conclude my remarks with three observations:

First, it is no accident that Michael Chertoff, evidently the Red Mafia handler for Rudy Giuliani back in the day, was the second Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security created in the aftermath of 9/11 to facilitate and accelerate the creation of a police state in the USA. Under Chertoff's direction, I speculate, DHS made it possible for the Zionists to penetrate all law enforcement computers and communications at the local level; and DHS mutated the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from a disaster relief organization into a false flag coordinating authority and a manager of prison camps in

waiting across the USA. Extensive Zionist training of US police was facilitated and funded, teaching US police – generally in urban areas – that US citizens should be treated as the Zionists treat the Palestinians, as “cockroaches.”

Second, under FEMA leadership, and after Obama-Biden modified the Smith Mundt Act to permit active deception of the US public, we had a spate of domestic false flag events from Sandy Hook to the Boston Bombing, to Orlando and beyond. I published my second book, *Sandy Hook Truth*, delivered to the White House, the Attorney General, two Congressional Committees, and the new Secretary of DHS, to stop these events. I believe I was successful. Subsequent false flags in the USA, such as the Pittsburgh synagogue, appear to be entirely Zionist in nature, with a wink and nod from FEMA and the FBI. My edited work on that event can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/SH-POTUS>.

Third and finally, I conclude that COVID-19, a fake pandemic tied closely to a global economic meltdown necessary to cover over \$300 trillion in naked short selling positions, with the total complicity of the mainstream and social media controlled by the Deep State (with the Anti-Defamation League being the primary censorship and information manipulation authority within Amazon, Facebook, Google, MeetUp, Twitter, and YouTube), is the last desperate attempt of the Deep State to destroy Donald Trump by destroying the US economy (while profiting from insider trading). They have profited – and they have failed to achieve their political and cultural objectives. My original analysis is easily read at <https://tinyurl.com/Steele-Wuhan>.

We are at a turning point in human history. I have been sponsoring a book, *Pedophilia & Empire: Satan, Sodomy, & The Deep State*, with all chapters and a tag cloud of names free online at <https://pedoempire.org>, precisely to make the point that in addition to false flag events and wars based on lies, predatory murderous pedophilia embodied in Satanic Ritual Abuse is the essence of the Deep State and its Zionist underbelly. President Trump has recognized Q Anon for what it is – a network of digital soldiers – General Mike Flynn's phrase – that understands that at root both the JFK assassination and 9/11 are the work of Satanists engaged in pedophilia and murderous pedophilia to control and diminish every Commonwealth.

To understand 9/11, one must understand Satanism and elite pedophilia, and vice versa.

To understand 9/11, one must understand that this was a Zionist state-sponsored act of terrorism.

From prayers in Tibet to meditation around the world; from activist alternative media channels to the new organization of sheriffs and pastors saying no to state and federal authorities that have been bribed and blackmailed – often with pedophilia videos – to prey on the public – goodness and truth are ascendant.

9/11 was an atrocity whose architects are known by name. I pray for the day that Cheney and Rumsfeld and Giuliani and Zelikow; that Silverstein and Greenberg and Milchan and Wexner; are properly investigated, interrogated, indicted, convicted, and incarcerated. The Deep State is a parasite, and the expulsion of that parasite looms large.

JFK Jr. pledged to expose all those who assassinated his father. I myself am pledged to expose all those who carried out 9/11, and to hold President Trump to his promise made in Bluffton, South Carolina on 16 February 2016, to wit, “You will find out who really knocked down the World Trade Center.”

The truth at any cost lowers all other costs. The truth – and trust – are the foundation of civilization. In my view, Election 2020 is about the truth and trust, about faith, family, and freedom, versus Satanists and pedophiles, versus Sodom and Gomorrah. From the assassination of JFK to 9/11 with all the atrocities including wars based on lies that we have suffered, I sense both a Great Awakening and the resurrection of virtue in America and the world.

From JFK to the USS Liberty to 9/11, it is the Zionists who have made Satanic evil commonplace. Henry Kissinger famously anticipated the end of the invented State of Israel by 2022. I am still on that timeline.

Robert David Steele, a former Marine Corps infantry officer and CIA spy as well as an activist for Open Source Everything Engineering (OSEE), contributes regularly to Tehran Times.

Protesters in London condemn U.S. meddling in Iraq

A group of protesters have gathered outside the Iraqi embassy in London to condemn the United States' meddling in the Arab country's internal affairs.

According to Press TV, in the Sunday rally, the protesters denounced the U.S. interference by chanting “God is the Greatest U.S. is the Great Evil.”

The U.S. has reportedly said it is shutting down its embassy in Baghdad unless Iraq prevents rocket attacks.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reportedly called Iraqi President Barham Salih and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi on Sunday.

“What we're being told is that it is a gradual closure of the embassy over two to three months,” an Iraqi official was cited as saying in a Wall Street Journal report.

Armenia and Azerbaijan step up fighting in fiercest clashes since 1990s

Fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan escalated sharply on Monday in and around the mountain territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and at least 30 people were killed in a second day of heavy clashes.

Forces of the two ex-Soviet neighbors pounded each other with rockets and artillery in the fiercest explosion of the decades-old conflict in more than a quarter of a century, Reuters reported.

Any move to all-out war could drag in major regional powers Russia and Turkey. Moscow has a defense alliance with Armenia, while Ankara backs its ethnic Turkic kin in Azerbaijan.

“We haven't seen anything like this since the ceasefire to the war in the 1990s. The fighting is taking place along all sections of the front line,” said Olesya Vartanyan, senior analyst for the South Caucasus region at Crisis Group.

She said increased deployment of rockets and artillery brought a higher risk of civilian casualties that could make the escalation hard to stop by diplomatic means.

Turkey ‘indicts six more Saudis’ over Jamal Khashoggi murder

Turkish prosecutors have filed a second indictment against six Saudi suspects over the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, according to Turkey's state news agency.

Anadolu news agency said on Monday that two of the suspects were facing charges carrying aggravated life jail sentences. The charges against the other four carry sentences of up to five years in jail.

According to the indictment, the two were consulate staff members and were part of the team that left Turkey after carrying out the murder of the Saudi journalist, Anadolu reported. The other four suspects are reportedly accused of tampering with evidence by going to the crime scene immediately after the murder. They are also not in Turkey.

Trump paid no income tax in 10 of last 15 years

The New York Times has reported that U.S. President Donald Trump paid only \$750 in federal income taxes in both 2016 and 2017, citing tax return data.

Trump also paid no income taxes in 10 of the last 15 years, the newspaper reported on Sunday, despite receiving \$427.4m through 2018 from his reality television programme and other endorsement and licensing deals.

The U.S. president is worth an estimated \$2.1bn – down by \$1bn during the coronavirus pandemic, according to the latest estimate by Forbes magazine.

Resistance News

African nations call for end of Israeli occupation of Palestine

INTERNATIONAL DESK **TEHRAN**— Palestine remains a priority for Africa, as more than a dozen leaders from across the continent stressed the need for Israel to end its occupation of Palestine and reiterated the inalienable, legitimate right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and freedom during their addresses via video at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly last week.

Kenya, Senegal, Namibia, South Africa, Niger, Algeria, Egypt, Lesotho, Libya, Morocco, Burkina Faso, Congo, The Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe all mentioned the need for the creation of a Palestinian state to ensure a just, long-lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis.

Leaders also stressed the need for Israel to halt annexation plans, the construction of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and for the international community to step up efforts to hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law.

Kenyan leader, Uhuru Kenyatta called for “renewed and genuine international efforts to find a just and lasting solution” to end the Israeli occupation within the framework of UN resolutions.

Senegalese foreign minister, Amadou Ba underlined the “right of the Palestinian people to an independent and viable Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.”

View gigantic ziggurat of Tchogha Zanbil in 360 virtual tour

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Cultural heritage enthusiasts and ordinary people can virtually walk through the amazing ziggurat of Tchogha Zanbil, a UNESCO-registered prehistorical capital in southwest Iran, using a cutting-edge 3D technology.

“Nowadays, digital heritage has revolutionized the research, identification, preservation, and most importantly, the introduction of cultural heritage to audiences..... and in this regard, Tchogha Zanbil is recently been equipped with a 360-degree virtual tour system that enables people to tour the UNESCO-registered site,” Atefeh Rashnoei, director of the World Heritage, announced on Sunday.



A topmost tourist destination in Khuzestan province, the magnificent ruins of Tchogha Zanbil is considered by many the finest surviving example of the Elamite architecture in the globe. It was made a UNESCO site in 1979. Its construction started in c. 1250 BC upon the order of the Elamite king Untash-Napirisha (1275-1240 BC) as the religious center of Elam dedicated to the Elamite divinities Inshushinak and Napirisha.

The ziggurat overlooks the ancient city of Susa (near modern Shush) in Khuzestan Province. Reaching a total height of some 25m, the ziggurat was used to be surmounted by a temple and estimated to hit 52m during its heyday. UNESCO says that Tchogha Zanbil is the largest ziggurat outside of Mesopotamia and the best preserved of this type of stepped pyramidal monument. Tchogha Zanbil was excavated in six seasons between 1951 and 1961 by Roman Ghirshman, a Russian-born French archeologist who specialized in ancient Iran.

The World Heritage also includes Haft-Tappeh (literary meaning “Seven Mounds”), which is located 15 kilometers to the south of the ancient city of Susa. Early excavations in Haft-Tappeh conducted by the late Iranian archaeologist Dr. Ezzatollah Negahban yielded a large number of petroglyphs bearing cuneiform inscriptions in Akkadian, belonging to Elamite kings. The petroglyphs contain information on the religious beliefs, trading methods, and the political, cultural, and social relations of the time.

Lipar, an enigmatic little lake in pink

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – Lipar, a small lake which usually turns pink, is an off-the-radar tourist destination in Iran, which has never been introduced completely!

When people look at the lake, they think it is filled with strawberry syrup.

Due to the special type of the soil surrounding the lake, its water surface seems shining with pink color during some five months of the year and it reportedly covers an area of 10 hectares.

The lake and a nearby lagoon of the same name boast beautiful and unique landscapes, a potential attraction for domestic tourists and foreign travelers. They are situated some 20 kilometers east of Chabahar in Sistan-Baluchestan province. Chabahar is a humid port city commonly considered as one of the warmest places in Iran.

Water levels of the seasonal lake routinely depend on the amount of rainfall. Gaz shrubs, whim, and straw are amongst its topmost vegetation. It is also home to flamingos, pelicans, white and gray hawks amongst other birds.



Some environmental experts believe the pink color of the lake is due to planktonic activities. The presence of large plant planktons in the region, and the abundance of organic and materials, in some seasons, leads to a significant increase in biological production.

Such aspects, along with the impact of monsoon storms, which are unique features of the oceanic region of Oman Sea, cause an increase in the number of plant planktons and pure pink color of the lake in December.

The monsoon winds, which flow from the Indian subcontinent in summer, make Chabahar the coolest southern port in the summer and the warmest part of Iran in the winter.

That is why Chabahar is called “four springs” in Persian which indicated the fact that the climate is all year long similar to spring.

Chabahar is a beautiful unknown destination, even to most of Iranians. There are good reasons for visiting the region: hospitable people, their unique culture, lifestyle, rituals, historical sights, the scenic Oman Sea, its stunning rare nature surround, and the Chabahar Free Trade-Industrial Zone.

In addition, travelers to the region are amazed at multi-colored mountain ranges, which are famous as the Mars Mountains, located on the route that connects Chabahar to the Hara Forest and Pakistan.

In March 2017, provincial tourism authorities announced putting a new face to Sistan-Baluchestan was on their agenda in a bid to turn it into a tourist destination.

‘Majestic Iran, a Different Experience’ chosen as tourism motto

➔ Studies of Iran’s tourism brand officially began two decades ago. Different logos, ranging from lotus flower to saffron flower, were selected and Iran has sometimes appeared in international forums with slogans such as ‘See Iran’. However, none of them have survived to this day.

The Cultural Heritage, Handcrafts and Tourism Organization – which later turned into a ministry, formed a committee for designing slogans, logos, and brands of Iran’s tourism in 2013.

The tourism ministry now believes that field studies have made Iran’s new tourism brand defensible, saying it had received the opinions of about 1,700 experts to design the logo, slogan, and color for Iran’s tourism industry.

Earlier this month and regarding the coronavirus pandemic, which has been crippled traveling in Iran and many other countries across the globe, Mounesan said: “Tourism [industry of Iran] was growing



before the corona [outbreak], its revenues reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, near the average share of tourism in the world GDP.”

“Corona has caused damage to many countries around the world, and our country’s travel sector has so far suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials).”

In one of his latest speeches, the minister said that responsible tourism is a workable solution for holidaymakers to get assured of safe traveling during the coronavirus pandemic.

“The tourism ministry has no authority over [people’s plans for] travels and we cannot tell people to travel or not.

Many people travel on their own without using the capacity of tours, which can have its own impacts the virus spread but if trips are carried out through tours and in official accommodation centers that follow all health protocols, they would be safer with lower risks.”

Ashgabat exhibit featuring handicrafts, tourism potentials of Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – A select of handicrafts and tourism potentials of Iran are being showcased at an exhibition which opened its doors to the public in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, on September 27, concurrent with the World Tourism Day.

Cultural attaches and diplomats from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Azerbaijan were amongst attendees to the opening ceremony of the exhibit at the cultural office of the Islamic Republic.

Addressing the ceremony, Tehran’s ambassador to Ashgabat, Abbas Arbabkhales, expressed hope that the exhibit will be laying the ground for further cultural co-operation between Iran and Turkmenistan.

“This exhibition is organized by the cultural counselor of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkmenistan with the aim of getting acquainted with the country’s numerous capacities in the field of handicrafts and tourism and [I hope it would be] the first step to start cooperation in this region, especially between Iran and Turkmenistan.”

“We are ready to host meetings with the cultural representatives of the countries present at this ceremony to expand tourism [ties].... and to prepare the necessary arrangements for the tourism boom in the post-coronavirus era. [I hope that such cooperation would] pave the way for the prosperity of this industry among the countries of the region, in particular between Iran and Turkmenistan.”



Another speaker was Reza Khanian, the cultural attaché of the Islamic Republic, who also attached importance to broadening ties between Iran and its northeast neighbor, noting “This exhibit of handicrafts and tourism has been set up in Ashgabat to commemorate World Tourism Day and on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of Turkmenistan’s independence....”

“Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov has always underlined paying more attention to [common] cultural elements that exist between Turkmenistan and its neighbors,” Khanian added.

Iranian, Indian travel experts discuss Shiraz history, tourism, and culture

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – A number of travelers, tour operators, and marketers exchanged views on Shiraz, its history, culture, and unique travel destinations during a webinar held on Monday evening.

The general directors of tourism from Shiraz and Hyderabad were amongst attendees at the webinar, which was organized by the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Indian city, CHTN reported.

The event was also aimed to provide a perspective for potential investors to have an initial assessment of the travel and

hospitality market, as well as investment opportunities in the southern Iranian city, the report said.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, night-ingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation. It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Shiraz is home to some of the country’s most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign

and domestic sightseers flocking into this provincial capital. Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa’di, Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

The UNESCO-registered Persepolis, once the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (c. 550-330), is situated 60 kilometers northward of Shiraz. Persepolis is surrounded by many other splendid Achaemenid sites such as the UNESCO-registered Pasargadae; and Naghsh-e Rostam necropolis.



Aside from skyscrapers, high-rise buildings, Tehran embraces historical structures of note mostly in downtown

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Modern Tehran is home to many skyscrapers and high-rise buildings and in particular hundreds of thousands of ordinary buildings of all variations, but there are many other beautiful structures of note.

Over the past decades and centuries, inhabitants of the Iranian capital have built impressive houses, mansions and so on, used by and home to some of the most important figures and merchants, many of which still stand, providing some of Tehran’s major tourist attractions.

The following is a list of ten historical buildings scattered across the hectic metropolis that indeed worth to pay visit to. The sites have been selected by theculturetrip.com.

Masoudieh Palace

Masoudieh Palace is one of the most beautiful historical buildings of the Qajar dynasty. Built in 1879, this palace has witnessed many events, including the formation of the first ministry of education and the establishment of the first official library.

Among its characteristic traits are the plasterwork, mosaics, and gardens. Today, it’s a popular spot with visitors brunching in its cozy cafe with stained glass windows, before walking around to snap some photos of the picturesque edifice.

Cinema Museum

Cinema Museum of Iran at the Ferdows Garden (Bagh-e Ferdows) in northern Tehran houses a Qajar-era mansion surrounded by a well-manicured garden.

The most delightful feature of the monument may be its balcony, with walls and columns adorned in detailed floral plasterwork and arched wooden-framed windows.

There are exhibitions take you through Iran’s century-old film industry, and the



surrounding cafés allow you to admire the building (and check out Tehran’s artsy crowd) a little longer as you sip on some tea.

Saray-e Roshan

On Naser Khosrow Street, one of the oldest streets in downtown Tehran, stands the bewitching Saray-e Roshan. Established in 1932 as one of the first commercial centers, this gothic-inspired building is strikingly unusual in the setting of Iran.

While the faces and statues, nearly non-existent elsewhere in Iran, are more reminiscent of European architecture, the symbol of Zoroastrianism in the center, Ahura Mazda, gives it a distinctly Persian flavor.

Tamasha-gah-e Zaman (The Time Museum)

Sitting amidst a luxurious Persian garden, the Time Museum not only has an extensive collection of timekeepers, but the building itself is the epitome of authentic Iranian architecture.

This decades-old manor once belonged to Hossein Khodadad, a well-known Iranian merchant, but now serves as a museum to showcase numerous clocks and watches. The pastel-blue exterior boasts windows that resemble cream-colored lace, and the

inside does not cease to dazzle with it decorated ceilings, plasterwork, and colorful orosi (stained-glass) windows.

Abgineh Museum

The remarkable Glassware and Ceramic Museum is housed in a beautiful Qajar-era building constructed almost a century ago by Ahamd Qavam as his private residence and work office. It later served as the embassy of Egypt, before turning into a museum in 1976.

It gracefully blends European and Iranian architectural styles with a Russian staircase to connect the first and second floors. The ornate plaster, carved wooden columns, and crystal chandeliers make the interior of this building just as beautiful, if not more so, as the exterior.

Golestan Palace

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2013, Golestan Palace consists of a group of royal buildings that once served as the seat of government during the Qajar era. It exemplifies a fusion of Persian and Western designs, with immaculate archways, mirrored halls and ceilings, and decorative tiles all placed within the confines of a lavish Persian garden. Words don’t do justice to the ancient Persian badgir, windcatchers, and exquisite varied mosaics bordering the rounded windows, which are among the many highlights.

Shams-ol-Emareh

Although it comprises part of Golestan Palace, Shams-ol-Emareh, or “Edifice of the Sun”, is a masterpiece deserving its own recognition.

The Qajar monarch Nasser-ol-Din Shah started with the idea to build a tower that gave a panoramic view of the city, and in 1867, construction was finished two years after it began. Twin two-tiered towers sit

atop the structure with arched windows, intricate tile work, and an open hall in the center. Though it’s not possible to climb to the top, it’s easy to imagine Nasser-ol-Din Shah’s success in achieving his desired view.

Green Palace

One of the buildings of the Sa’ad Abad complex, which is located in northern Tehran, and perhaps its most beautiful is the Green Palace. Built at the end of the Qajar era and later remodeled by Reza Shah, serving as his residence for one year, before turning into a guest house. Brought from mines in the Zanjan and Khorasan provinces, the marble used to construct its exterior has a unique hint of green. Just as elaborately designed are the interiors, with a mirror hall and a Persian rug woven over a period of seven years, among their other ostentatious features.

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art

One of the largest art museum in the country, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is an impressive concrete feat in itself. To design this building, architect Kamran Diba was inspired by integrating traditional Persian architectural elements with modernity.

This is particularly embodied in the four structures sitting atop the building, which resemble a modernized twist on the windcatchers of ancient Persia.

Te’atr-e Shahr (City Theater)

Completed in early 1970s, the City Theater deserves regard for its cylindrical design that combines both the traditional and modern.

The standing columns add geometric patterns to the roof, which are then filled in with ceramic tiles. The grand entrance is made of wood, giving it a warm, earthy feel. It contains several stages and continues to be a top venue for the performing arts.

Iran attends UNIATF meeting on COVID-19, NCDs

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – Iran participated in a meeting of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (UNIATF) which was held on Sunday with the aim of examining the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the world.

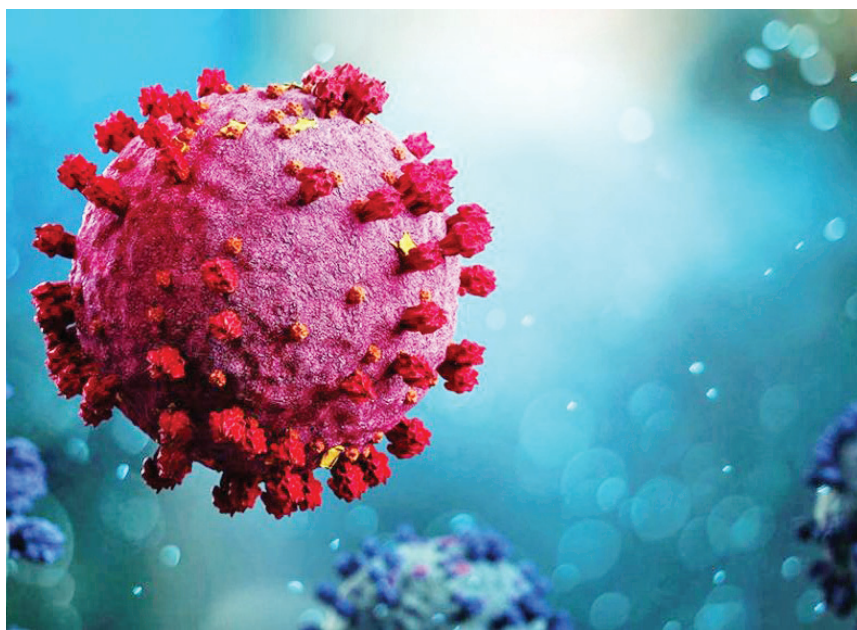
Hosted by the Russian Federation, the meeting was attended by health ministers and officials of member countries, as well as officials of the World Health Organization, and a number of influential political figures.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, and health ministers expressed their views on the impact of the coronavirus crisis on NCDs prevention in the world.

It was agreed at the meeting that countries would increase their responses to non-communicable diseases during the pandemic.

High risk of COVID-19 in patients with non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, impaired access to health services, especially in patients with cancer and diabetes, impaired access to the medicine during the epidemic, health gaps in the prevention of non-communicable diseases, the failure of governments to achieve sustainable development goals as a result of the pandemic were among the most important topics discussed at the meeting.

The UNIATF working group follows the commitment of heads of states to the UN Declaration on NCDs and the implementation of the World Health Organization's Global



NCDs Action Plan in coordination with UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations whose activities are relevant to supporting governments in their commitment to responding to the global non-communicable disease epidemic.

In Iran, the National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases was established in 2015 in the Ministry of Health with the participation of the Departments of Health, Treatment, Education, Research and Technology, Development, Social Affairs, Nursing, and the

Food and Drug Administration.

One of the most important achievements of this committee is the development of a national document for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in a 10-year period, which has made the goals and strategies of the country to reduce mortality and disability due to non-communicable diseases.

Also, due to the serious challenges of COVID-19 in the management of non-communicable diseases, the National Program for Prevention and Control of Non-Communi-

nicable Diseases and Related Risk Factors in Iran has been developed and announced to medical universities.

Nigeria, Mexico, Armenia, Russia, the United Kingdom, India, Norway, Brunei, Ghana, Argentina, Brazil, the United States, Australia, and Japan also attended the meeting presenting their significant achievements in the field of prevention and management of non-communicable diseases.

Earlier, in 2018, the UNIATF Award was presented to Iran for the prevention of NCDs.

COVID-19 mortality in Iran

In the press briefing on Monday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 3,512 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 449,960. She added that 376,531 patients have so far recovered, but 4,068 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 190 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 25,779, she added.

Lari noted that so far 3,959,783 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

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

The provinces of Kurdistan, Hormozgan, Fars and Golestan are also on alert.

Over 200 programs to be held during Tehran week

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – On the occasion of Tehran Week, October 3-9, more than 200 cultural programs and virtual seminars will be held in the capital with the theme of "School of Tehran".

Holding a painting workshop on the theme of a healthy city, opening Parvin Etesami's house at Kharazmi University, setting up waste recycling shops in some areas, clearing forest and environmental spaces, holding nature photography competition, and video mapping in Ferdows Garden are part of the announced programs to be held.

Holding Rey city commemoration ceremony, an exhibition of Rey cultural monuments, a narration of Tehran neighborhoods, an international webinar on Tehranology, and the launch of Tehran museum are other programs to be held during Tehran week.

Appreciating medical staff and health workers for their



round-the-clock efforts during the coronavirus outbreak in the country will be one of the most important programs in this week.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Rey.

Rey, in which signs of settlement dates from 6000 BC, is often considered to be Tehran's predecessor. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

Tehran has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass and Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

World leaders pledge to halt Earth's destruction ahead of UN summit

World leaders have pledged to clamp down on pollution, embrace sustainable economic systems and eliminate the dumping of plastic waste in oceans by the middle of the century as part of "meaningful action" to halt the destruction of nature on Earth.

Some 64 leaders from five continents warning that humanity is in a state of planetary emergency due to the climate crisis and the rampant destruction of life-sustaining ecosystems. To restore the balance with nature, governments and the European Union have made a 10-point pledge to counteract the damage to systems that underpin human health and wellbeing.

The commitments include a renewed effort to reduce deforestation, halt unsustainable fishing practices, eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies and begin the transition to sustainable food production systems and a circular economy over the next decade. The leaders describe the pledge as a "turning point" by which future generations will judge their willingness to act on environmental destruction.

All signatories to the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, launched virtually in New York on

Monday, have committed to putting wildlife and the climate at the heart of post-pandemic economic recovery plans, promising to address the climate crisis, deforestation, ecosystem degradation and pollution.

The announcement comes ahead of a major UN biodiversity summit on Wednesday, which will be hosted virtually from New York, and part way through negotiations on a Paris-style international agreement on nature. The speaking slots at this week's summit are oversubscribed, with more than 116 heads of states and governments asking to address the event.

"Science clearly shows that biodiversity loss, land and ocean degradation, pollution, resource depletion and climate change are accelerating at an unprecedented rate. This acceleration is causing irreversible harm to our life support systems and aggravating poverty and inequalities as well as hunger and malnutrition," the pledge reads.

"Despite ambitious global agreements and targets for the protection, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity, and notwithstanding many local success stories, the global trends continue rapidly in the wrong

direction. A transformative change is needed: we cannot simply carry on as before."

The leaders also commit to ending environmental crime and cracking down on organised crime groups involved in the illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, according to the Guardian.

Boris Johnson will speak at the pledge's launch on Monday. The prime minister will say: "We must turn these words into action and use them to build momentum, to agree ambitious goals and binding targets.

"We must act now – right now. We cannot afford to dither and delay because biodiversity loss is happening today and it is happening at a frightening rate. Left unchecked, the consequences will be catastrophic for us all. Extinction is forever – so our action must be immediate."

He will also announce that 30% of the UK's land will be protected for nature by 2030, meaning an extra 400,000 hectares, the size of the Lake District and South Downs national parks combined, will be conserved.

Other signatories to the pledge include the leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colom-

bia, Costa Rica, Fiji, Kenya, Seychelles and Mexico. The presidents of the US, Brazil and China – Donald Trump, Jair Bolsonaro and Xi Jinping – have not signed the pledge, despite Xi spearheading global biodiversity talks.

Earlier this month, the UN announced that the world failed to meet a single target to slow the loss of the natural world for the second consecutive decade, including goals to protect coral reefs, preserve natural habitats and reduce plastic and chemical waste to levels that do not damage ecosystems.

There have been a series of damning reports and studies about the state of nature on Earth in recent weeks, including the WWF and the Zoological Society of London's (ZSL) Living Planet Report 2020, which found global populations of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles plunged by 68% on average between 1970 and 2016.

The UN's biodiversity head, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, welcomed the new commitment by world leaders, describing it as an "inspirational contribution" to ongoing negotiations due to "the urgency, unity and ambition of the pledge".

Over 3,800 inmates of unintentional crimes released

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – Some 3,809 inmates of involuntary crimes have been freed over the first six months of this year (March 21-September 22), according to the report published by the Blood Money Organization.

Some 3,684 male prisoners and 125 female prisoners were released with the support of the benefactors.

Based on the report, 96 percent of released prisoners were convicts or financial crimes.

Also, Hay'ats, religious bases which hold mourning ceremonies for Imam Hussein (AS) during the month of Muharram, have released some 330 inmates of involuntary crimes since the beginning of the month (August 29 this year).

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes concurrent with the holy month of Ramadan, which started on April 27 this year.

This year, heads of the three branches of the government and the private sector have donated 6.5 billion rials (nearly \$150,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to release prisoners who had committed involuntary crimes.

President Hassan Rouhani, Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, and Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi made a total of 3.9 billion rials (around \$92,000) in contributions to free prisoners of unintentional crimes.

Moreover, the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, and the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, representing the private sector, and also Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, participated in the event by donating 2.6 billion rials (about \$62,000).

According to the Blood Money Organization's report, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has donated 4.5 billion rials (about \$110,000) this year, and more than 25 billion rials (about \$600,000) over the past ten years, helping release over 700 prisoners of unintentional crimes in the country.

Last year, some 8,599 inmates of unintentional crimes were released from prison with the help of charities.



Relief foundation generates 70% more jobs year on year

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation created 53,000 jobs for the deprived over the first six months of this year (March 21-September 22), showing more than 70 percent rise compared to the same period last year.

In the first six months of last year, about 30,000 job opportunities were opened up. Hojjatollah Abdolmaleki, deputy head of the Foundation stated.

He went on to explain that 11,000 job opportunities have been opened with the cooperation of employers who benefited from relief foundation incentive packages such as loans and employer insurance payment.

Some 41,000 job opportunities have been created through the implementation of business plans and self-employment projects, he noted, adding, some of these projects have been created under the guidance of career leaders who are professional entrepreneurs of the country.

In addition to job generation and financial empowerment of the deprived, other services such as building or buying houses, cultural services, medical services, and other facilities are provided, for example, in the field of treatment, more than 80,000 patients of incurable diseases are currently under the Foundation's coverage.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 34)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

Vocabulary	واژگان
they; he; she	ایشان /i'sān/
to	به /be/
you sing	تو /to/
what (what + job)	چکار /ce'kār/
present; ready	حاضر /hā'zer/
to read	خواندن /xān'dan/
university	دانشگاه /dānesh'gāh/
to study	درس خواندن /dars xān'dan/
friend	دوست /dust/
to go	رفتن /raftan/
life	زندگی /zende'gi/
to live	زندگی کردن /zende'gi kar'dan/
many; much	زیاد /zīyād/
family; family name	فامیل /fā'mil/
which (one)	کدام /ko'dām yek/
to do	کردن /kar'dan/
country	کشور /ke'svar/
person	نَفر /nā'far/
	هشت /hašt/

* ستاک حال همه‌ی افعال بعد از مصدر آنها، هم در فهرست واژگان درس و هم در واژه‌نامه، آورده شده است.

دُختر (xā'har)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Medical waste disposal become possible using plasma technology in Iran

Using plasma gasification, Iranian researchers managed to dispose medical wastes and disassemble all its hazardous gases by filters, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Considering numerous problems encountered in medical and urban waste management in the country, we decided to employ high technology to overcome them, Mahmood Quran-Nevis, an official with Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has said.

He went on to add that currently, autoclaves are used as waste disposal facilities in hospitals; the temperature of the autoclave is 130 degrees and most of the bacteria are not killed and subsequently they can contribute to various environmental problems.

امحای زباله‌های بیمارستانی با کمک فناوری پلاسما

محققان کشورمان با بهره‌گیری از فناوری پلاسما موفق شدند ضمن امحای تمام زباله‌ها، گازهای خطرناک آن را توسط فیلتری جداسازی کنند.

محمود قرآن نویس مجری طرح امحای زباله‌های بیمارستانی به روش پلاسما گفت: با توجه به مشکلات زیادی که در حوزه زباله‌های بیمارستانی و شهری در کشور وجود داشت، به این نتیجه رسیدیم که باید این مشکل را از طریق فناوری «های تک» حل کنیم.

وی افزود: در حال حاضر در بیمارستان‌ها برای امحای زباله از اتوکلاوها استفاده می‌شود که دمای حرارت این اتوکلاوها ۱۳۰ درجه بوده و بیشتر باکتری‌ها در این دما از بین نمی‌روند و مشکلات زیست محیطی زیادی را به وجود می‌آورند.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you don't believe in any religion, at least be free-spirited and honest in your actions.

Imam Hussein (AS)

Persian bookstores offer “Let’s Pretend This Never Happened”

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — American author Jenny Lawson’s autobiography “Let’s Pretend This Never Happened: A Mostly True Memoir” has recently been published in Persian.



Front cover of the Persian translation of American author Jenny Lawson’s autobiography “Let’s Pretend This Never Happened”.

Saman Shahraki is the publisher of the book published by Khazeh publishing house in Tehran.

The book originally released by Amy Einhorn Books in April 2012 was the number-one New York Times bestseller in May.

Lawson realized that the most mortifying moments of our lives — the ones we’d like to pretend never happened — are in fact the ones that define us. In “Let’s Pretend This Never Happened”, Lawson takes readers on a hilarious journey recalling her bizarre upbringing in rural Texas, her devastatingly awkward high school years, and her relationship with her long-suffering husband, Victor.

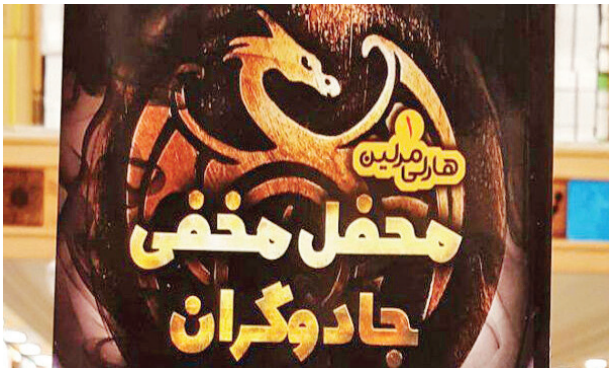
She recounts her life from childhood through school, romance, marriage and motherhood in her first book.

Chapters include: “Stanley the Magical, Talking Squirrel”, “A Series of Angry Post-It Notes to My Husband”, “And Then I Snuck a Dead Cuban Alligator on an Airplane.” Pictures with captions (no one would believe these things without proof) accompany the text.

“Harley Merlin and the Secret Coven” appears in Persian

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — The first volume of the Harley Merlin series “Harley Merlin and the Secret Coven” by Bella Forrest has been published in Persian in Tehran.

Tandis is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Zahra Cheflaki.



Front cover of the Persian translation of “Harley Merlin and the Secret Coven”.

Harley Merlin can sense people’s emotions, among other things. It’s how she snagged her first job pinpointing cheaters at a casino.

But she has no clue where she got these freakish powers because she spent her childhood jumping from home to home in the foster system, and her father left her with nothing more than a cryptic note.

Then she crosses paths with a terrifyingly real monster, which is when a mysterious and annoyingly arrogant young warlock named Wade Crowley steps in, introducing her to a hidden world of beasts, magicians and covens riddled with secrets, as well as clues about her murky past.

Whether she likes it or not, this new world is where she belongs. But after a disturbing twist of events, Harley quickly realizes that her past is darker than she could ever have imagined.

And that someone in the coven is out for her blood.

With the help of Wade and her new friends, she must figure out who the traitor is and why they’re targeting her, before the human and magical worlds dangerously collide.

Forrest is a lover of fantasy, romance, action and mystery infused stories with twists you don’t see coming. She has sold millions of books since her first novel was published in 2012.

“The Survivor” tops at Resistance filmfest, composer Majid Entezami receives first Rasul Award

→1 The closing ceremony of the festival, which is organized every year to mark the anniversary of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, was organized at the Sacred Defense Museum in Tehran.

“I try to feature what I feel in my music,” Entezami said after accepting the honor. “Composing music is not an easy task; every official has his own view and may like my works or not. Today, artists do not behave gracefully and I have given up music over the past eight years due to the disgraceful behavior towards me.”

Entezami has been honored at Iranian film festivals for his compositions for several acclaimed war dramas, including “From Karkheh to Rheine” and “The Glass Agency”.

Producer Manuchehr Mohammadi received the award for best feature for “The Survivor”. The movie was directed based on Palestinian author Ghassan Kanafani’s novel “Returning to Haifa”. It tells the story of a Palestinian couple who goes back to Haifa after the 1967 war to look for their baby, whom they were forced to leave behind in the war of 1948.

The award for best feature-length documentary went to “Women with Gunpowder Earrings” by Reza Farahmand, while “A Letter from Damascus” by Mehdi Ebrahimkhani was selected as best short



Composer Majid Entezami accepts the Rasul Award during the 16th Resistance International Film Festival at the Sacred Defense Museum on September 27, 2020. (Fars/Mehdi Marizad)

documentary.

“All Maryams” by Mohammad Eskandarzadeh won the award for best short fiction and “Silent City” by Amir Mehran was picked as best animation.

The organizers also honored director Jamal Shurjeh, producer Mohsen Ali-Akbari and actor Jamshid Hashempur with lifetime

achievement awards.

Shurjeh, director of the co-production between Iran and Algeria “Ahmed Bey” who is suffering from a brain disease, received his award sitting on his wheelchair and acknowledged the audience on stage by raising his hand in salute.

In his acceptance speech, Ali-Akbari

Judiciary officials attend Tehran premiere of “The Thin Red Line”



A scene from “The Thin Red Line” by Farzad Khoshdast.

A R T **TEHRAN** — A number of officials from the Iranian Judiciary, Foreign Ministry, as well as the Cinema Organization of Iran attended the Tehran premiere of “The Thin Red Line” by Farzad Khoshdast at

Farhang Theater on Sunday.

The film tells the story of a group of young adults serving their sentences in a juvenile detention center where they decide to stage a play with the help of several acting tutors, so that they can leave the center to attend the Fajr theater festival, but some cast members plan to escape on the day of the performance.

Hadi Sadeqi, the Judiciary chief’s deputy for cultural affairs, Alireza Delkhosh, the director of Foreign Ministry’s Department for Public Diplomacy, Farabi Cinema Foundation director Alireza Tabesh, producer Gholamreza Musavi, documentarian Mostafa Razzaq-Karimi and theater director Amir Dejakam were among the officials attending the premiere of the drama.

Speaking at the ceremony, Khoshdast said that it is an honor that the judiciary officials have shown special attention to the film.

“It was a while ago when a teenager who grew up in an orphanage gave me a message on my cellphone saying that the film made him withdraw from a plan for a big robbery after he had watched the film in Mashhad. This is a good

achievement for the film,” he said in a short speech made before the screening.

“The film wants to say a school of psychodrama is needed to be established in the country. I am sure the result could be seen across the society if this kind of school is established. Felony and crime lead to felony and crime, and aggression ends to aggression, but this school could break this chain,” he explained.

Dejakam also made a short speech and said that he has been pursuing the establishment of a psychodrama school to decrease the number of young criminals.

Hojjatolislam Sadeqi also talked about the film and said art enjoys high potentials but it has not been used much in the country.

Delkhosh also said that the juvenile detention center or a prison can both act like a place to serve the sentence, while it can also act like a university and a good opportunity for a successful life.

Starring Farhad Aslani, Hengameh Qaziani, Amir Dejakam, Afshin Hashemi and Yasser Khaseb, the film was honored at the 38th Fajr Film Festival.

Iran Photographers House hosts “Children of Ruhollah”

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — An exhibition named “Children of Ruhollah” displaying a collection of photos of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war opened on Sunday at the Iran Photographers House, which is affiliated with the Art Bureau.

Art Bureau director Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman, Revayat Cultural Foundation director Mohammad Yashar Naderi and several other cultural figures attended the

opening ceremony of the showcase.

The collection contains 59 photos by 24 photographers, including Javad Shamaqdari, Amir-Ali Javadian, Mohammad-Hossein Heidari, Mohammad Noruzi, Khalil Sadeqi, Ali Fereiduni and Reza Mohammadi.

The photos have been selected from the archives of the Association of Revolution and Sacred Defense Photographers.

Iranian Photographers Center director

Ehsan Baqeri is the curator of the exhibition, which has been organized to mark the 40th anniversary of the war that is known as the Sacred Defense.

A book entitled “Children of Ruhollah”, which carries all the works of the collection, was also unveiled at the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

Ruhollah refers to the first name of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini.



“Children of Ruhollah” organizers unveil a book of the same title during the opening ceremony of the photo exhibition at the Iran Photographers House on September 27, 2020.

Iran’s “Weekend” tops at KinoDrome Film Festival

By Manijeh Rezapoor

TEHRAN — “Weekend” by Ario Motevage from Iran stood first at the 2020 KinoDrome Film Festival, which went online this year.

The film was screened in the long-short film category of the festival, which is an IMDb verified short-form festival, filmmaking competition and screenwriting contest, based out of Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

“Weekend” is about the Moniri and Kheradmand families, whose members are at the park for a picnic. After finishing the meal, it is revealed that they are here for something else.

In addition, the Iranian short “12:34” by Bahman Harati stood third in the Experimental Short Film category. The first



A scene from “Weekend” by Ario Motevage.

place winner was “Lairs” by Emma Penaz Eisner from the U.S.

“What I noticed the last moment before I was drowned was my desktop clock which showed 12:34, but I suddenly woke up and found out it was a nightmare, but then again suddenly...,” reads the film “12:34” synopsis.

The award ceremony went on stream on Sunday and winners in the different sections were announced.

In the Animation category, the first-place winner was “Faust” by Marianna Atlas from Poland.

“La Villa Hispana” by Obediya Jones-Darre from the U.S. stood first in the Music Video category and “Elegy for Unfinished Lives” by Adam E. Stone, also from the U.S., was first in the Poetic Cinema category.

The COVID-Flick category’s first-place winner was “Coronalone” by Nigel Gould-Davies from the U.K.

Iran Book and Literature House attends Indonesia fair

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — The Iran Book and Literature House is participating in the Indonesia International Book Fair (IIBF), which opened virtually on Monday.

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



A poster for the Indonesia International Book Fair (IIBF) 2020.

The center is also introducing the works acclaimed at Iran’s Book of the Year Awards and Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards, Iran’s most lucrative literary prize.

The fair is an annual book exhibition established in 1980 under the name of the Indonesia Book Fair (IBF). To reach a bigger audience, in 2014 the Indonesia Book Fair became the Indonesia International Book Fair (IIBF) with Saudi Arabia as its first guest of honor, followed by South Korea in 2015 and Malaysia in 2016.

The IIBF 2020 is not just a book fair. It’s a book affair, a rendezvous for international promotions, transactions, as well as interaction among publishers, authors, readers, literary agents, librarians, actresses, educators and other professionals of the creative industry in Indonesia.

A number of webinars, book reviews and book launches have also been arranged on the margins of the fair running until October 7.

“Democracy on the Road of Saveh” honored at Mammoth Lakes festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian studio Oomafilm announced on Monday that its “Democracy on the Road of Saveh” by director Turaj Kalantari has received an honorable mention at the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival in the town in California’s Sierra Nevada mountains.

The documentary has an up-close, humorous look at the campaigns of three local candidates, and the grotesque political maneuvering in the run-up to council elections in Robat Karim, a small town in Tehran Province.

Oomafilm co-produced the film with the Owj Arts and Media Organization.

The Mammoth Lakes Film Festival is dedicated to discovering and supporting the next generation of filmmakers. There’s a reason MovieMaker magazine has named the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival as one of the “Top 50 Film Festival’s Worth Your Entry Fee” for the last five years in a row.