



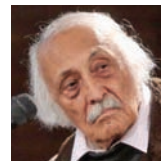
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# Will Trump be forced to follow Obama Iran policy?

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**Inside Trump's efforts to cover up 'maximum pressure' failure**

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**By Mahnaz Abdi**  
Head of Economy Desk

## Complete steel chain supply in IME for real price discovery

**I**ranian steel industry, which plays a significant role both in materializing the country's motto of achieving self-reliance and in boosting the non-oil exports, has been in a development route in recent years.

According to a report released by the World Steel Association (WSA), Iran's crude steel production increased by 30 percent in 2019 while the average global growth in this sector stood at 3.5 percent.

Also, the WSA's latest report indicates that the production of crude steel in Iran has increased 14.4 percent in July from the figure for the same month in the past year, while the average global production for this commodity has fallen 2.5 percent in the mentioned month.

Such reports show that how the Iranian steel industry has been constantly developing against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The steel sector is being noticeably developed, and through implementing different projects in recent years a good market has been formed for the steel and steel products, but there is still some controversy over the prices, and some dispute between the upstream and downstream industries in this regard.

Offering the complete steel chain in Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) is said to be the solution to this problem.

It is believed to put an end to all the challenges in terms of price, as this strategy will let the market discover the real price, considering the benefits of upstream and downstream units.

Also as stated by the IME Managing Director Hamed Soltaninejad, the IME lays the ground for transparent competition.

He says that if the complete chain of steel is offered in this exchange, transparency will dominate trades in the whole steel sector.

"Transparency should not be just for some sectors of the industry, while the whole industry including the downstream sector should enjoy transparent condition", according to Soltaninejad. **→4**

## Let's care more for our elderly during coronavirus

**By Faranak Bakhtiari**

**TEHRAN** — Many people around the world, particularly the elderly, are suffering from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The predicament is changing older people's daily routines, the care and support they receive, their ability to stay socially connected and how they are perceived.

Older people are being challenged by requirements to spend more time at home, lack of physical contact with other family members, friends and colleagues, temporary cessation of employment and other activities; and anxiety and fear of illness and death — their own and others. It is therefore important that we create opportunities to foster healthy ageing during the pandemic.

"The pandemic is causing untold fear and suffering for older people across the world. Beyond its immediate health impact, the pandemic is putting older people at greater risk

of poverty, discrimination, and isolation. It is likely to have a particularly devastating impact on older people in developing countries," UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in a message on the occasion of International Day of Older Persons, which is observed globally on October 1.

The year 2020 marks the 30th Anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons. This year has also seen an emergence of COVID-19, which has caused upheaval across the world.

Considering the higher risks confronted by older persons during the outbreak of pandemics such as COVID-19, policy, and programmatic interventions must be targeted towards raising awareness of their special needs.

Recognizing their contributions to their own health and the multiple roles they play in the preparedness and response phases of current and future pandemics is also important. **→7**

## Lebanon hits back at Israel, defends Hezbollah at UN Human Rights Council session

Beirut has strongly reacted to the Israeli envoy's interventionist remarks against Hezbollah at a UN Human Rights Council session, describing the resistance movement as an "inseparable part" of Lebanon and slamming the regime's history of rights violations in Lebanon and other Arab states.

The Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants issued a statement on Monday in condemnation of the comments by Merav Marks, the legal counselor to the Israeli mis-

sion to the UN and international organizations in Geneva, who had attacked the Hezbollah resistance movement for its role in Lebanon during a general debate at the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

The Israeli envoy accused the UN Human Rights Council of not dealing with what she called Hezbollah's efforts to hamper the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and attempts to manipulate the Lebanese government.

## U.S. protests: Police arrest 30 over weekend as governor calls for review

At least 30 people were arrested in Oregon during unrest over the weekend, as Gov. Kate Brown announced that she has asked law enforcement officials to investigate "any alleged incidents" involving their officers.

The dozens arrested amid the protests in Portland included one juvenile and people from outside of Oregon, including California, Canada, Minnesota, Washington and Texas, the Multnomah Co. Sheriff's Office said Monday.

The minor, a 17-year-old Portlander, was charged with three counts of assaulting a public safety officer, riot, interfering with a peace officer, and disorderly conduct, officials said. Police withheld the person's name as is required given their age, Fox news reported.

The other people who were arrested ranged in age from 18 to 48. Their charges include assaulting a public safety officer, disorderly conduct, robbery, riot, aggravated harassment, harass-

ment and escape. Two others received criminal citations for illegal possession of a loaded firearm and unlawful possession of a gun, police said.

Protests and unrest followed a relatively tame right-wing rally in the Oregon city, despite the presence of counter-protesters during the daytime event, according to officials and reports.

Several hundred people, dozens of them wearing militarized body armor, gathered to support President Donald Trump and his "law and order" reelection campaign Saturday afternoon. The attendance was far fewer than the 10,000 organizers had expected after tensions boiled over nationwide following the decision not to charge officers in Louisville, Ky., for the death of Breonna Taylor. No serious injuries or violence were reported, officials said. Police were investigating an assault after one person who was documenting the event was pushed to the ground and kicked in the face, according to the Associated Press.

## Pompeo on lifetime mission to upend regional stability

**TEHRAN** — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is using everything in his power to advance policies that could result in nothing other than chaos and instability in a region already suffering from ill-considered policies and violence.

Pompeo's unconstructive policies were on full display in Lebanon and Iraq, where they stood in stark contrast with not only the interests of the Lebanese people but also with the Europeans' interests.

In Lebanon, Pompeo's State Department failed the French initiative to form a national salvation government to handle the country's growing crisis after a huge explosion razed to the ground Beirut port in early August.

On August 4, a large amount of ammonium nitrate stored at the port of the city of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, exploded, causing at least 200 deaths, 6,500 injuries, \$10–15 billion in property damage, and leaving an estimated 300,000 people homeless. The explosion sent shock waves across Lebanon, leading to the resignation of the Lebanese government.

The explosion came at a time when the country was grappling with an unprecedented financial crisis, soaring inflation, and rising unemployment. Then-Prime Minister Hassan Diab announced his resignation amid uproar over the blast, creating a dangerous political vacuum that the Lebanese political factions were not prepared to fill. After the resignation of Hassan Diab, French President Emmanuel Macron offered a political initiative to fill the vacuum during his visit to Lebanon following the deadly explosion. Macron visited the destroyed parts of Beirut port with great fanfare, offering a carrot and a deadline. He demanded change and reforms. **→3**

## World Maritime Day marked

World Maritime Day was held on Tuesday, September 29, at the presence of the deputy transport and housing minister.

A number of navigators were also honored at the ceremony.

The theme of the World Maritime Day was "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet".

The theme provides an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to showcase the work that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its member states are undertaking to achieve the targets.



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## Zarif hopes for broader Iran-China partnership

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has congratulated the Chinese people and government on the eve of the 71st anniversary of the founding of new China, expressing the hope for broader partnership between Iran and China.

In a tweet on Tuesday, Zarif said on October 1 the Chinese people will celebrate the 71st anniversary of the founding of New China and the Mid-Autumn Eve.

“China’s success in controlling the pandemic and achieving a strong economic recovery was hard-won but difficult,” Zarif wrote in Chinese, according to Iran Press.

“On these two occasions, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the Chinese government and people. I wish China more prosperity, and I also wish the prospects of the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries will be broader,” he added.

A partnership plan between Iran and China, officially known as “Comprehensive Cooperation Plan between the People’s Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran,” is still under negotiation.

Some details of the 25-year partnership have been leaked to the press. According to the leaks, China will invest a whopping \$400 billion in various Iranian sectors including oil and gas. In exchange, Iran will ensure steady energy supplies to China for a period of 25 years at a discounted rate.

In remarks on June 21, President Hassan Rouhani elaborated on the strategic partnership, saying that the agreement is a positive step towards increasing the importance of global energy and sustainable development of oil and gas resources, as well as renewable energy and joint investment in free zones.

“This cooperation is a ground for Iran and China’s participation in basic projects and development of infrastructure, including the large ‘Belt and Road’ initiative, and an opportunity to attract investment in various economic fields, including industry, tourism, information technology, and communication,” he added.

## Parliament confirms Razm Hosseini as industry minister

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Majlis on Tuesday confirmed Alireza Razm Hosseini as the nominee for minister of industry, mining and commerce.

Out of 264 MPs present in the parliament, 175 voted in his favor, 80 voted against, and 9 abstained.

Razm Hosseini, 59, is a commercial economy graduate who has served as governor general of Kerman and Khorassan Razavi provinces.



In the process of vetting the proposed minister, first the Majlis Industry Committee presented a report confirming the competence of the nominee for the post.

Instead of President Rouhani, Vice President Es’haq Jahangiri attended the parliament, a move which prompted criticisms by certain MPs.

However, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf rejected the criticisms, saying the president did not attend the parliament due to the coronavirus pandemic.

MP Ali-Asghar Anabestani, who spoke in favor of Rezm Hosseini, praised the record of the proposed minister and said he is “jihadi” and not “factional”.

Ehsan Arkani, who represents Neishabour in parliament, also said, “I am not a friend of Razm Hosseini, but I should say that he had a very good performance as Korrassan Razavi governor general and he has a jihadi spirit.”

Arkani also rejected rumors that Razm Hosseini is a dual national. MP Mohammad Hossein Farhangi, a veteran representative from Tabriz, spoke against the proposed minister, saying the question is why Razm Hosseini had imported goods into the country for many years to the detriment of the production sector in the country.

## Three Iranian tankers approach Venezuela with fuel cargoes

The first of three Iranian tankers carrying fuel to Venezuela arrived on Monday night, demonstrating the ability of the Iranian and Venezuelan governments to bypass American sanctions, according to The Maritime Executive.

The tanker Forest arrived at the El Palito refinery near Puerto Cabello sometime on Monday night, according to TankerTrackers.com, bringing with her a cargo of much-needed gasoline for Venezuelan consumers. Two more, the Fortune and the Faxon, are expected on October 1 and October 4, respectively. All three are Iranian-flagged and Iranian-operated.

The Forest, transporting some 270,000 barrels of fuel, entered Venezuela’s exclusive economic zone around 8:05 a.m. EDT (1205 GMT). The vessel crossed the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea without any disturbances, according to the data.

The Forest, Faxon and Fortune are together expected to deliver about 820,000 barrels of gasoline and other fuels, helping to ease shortages in Venezuela.

Following a virtual meeting between officials of both governments on Monday to discuss trade, Venezuela’s Foreign Minister, Jorge Arreaza, said in a statement that Iran had masterly overcome the “unilateral punitive measures” against Caracas, Reuters reported.

Venezuela is in the midst of a dire fuel shortage, driven by a combination of tough U.S. sanctions and a long-term decline in the maintenance of its refineries. Early this year, the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro reached an agreement with Iran for the delivery of five tanker cargoes (about 1.5 million barrels) of gasoline. The Forest, Faxon and Fortune were part of that shipment, along with the Iranian tankers Petunia and Clavel. The United States added the masters of all five ships to its travel and banking blacklist for their involvement.

Yahya Rahim-Safavi, former chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), told reporters on Sunday that Iran helped “every Muslim and non-Muslim country” that asks for assistance.

He said Iran received gold bars in exchange for the gasoline previously delivered to Venezuela, sent by airplane “so that nothing would happen to it.”

# Rouhani receives credentials of eight new ambassadors

**POLITICAL** **d e s k** **TEHRAN** — President

Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday received credentials of the new ambassadors of eight countries to Tehran, namely Iraq, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Oman and the Czech Republic.

Iran’s new ambassadors to Mexico and Qatar also met Rouhani before departing Tehran for their new destinations, the president’s website reported.

**■ ‘Iran determined to back Iraq’s security’**

In his meeting with Iraq’s new Ambassador to Tehran Nasir Abdul Mohsen Abdullah, President Rouhani described Iraq as a friendly, brotherly country.

“The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to support Iraq’s peace, stability and security,” he said.

Pointed to Iran’s support for Iraq during its fight against the Daesh (ISIS) terrorist group, Rouhani said the martyrdom of General Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis showed that the people of Iran and Iraq are resisting against terrorism together.

**■ ‘Tehran interested in expanding ties with Oman’**

“Iran is interested in the expansion of cooperation in all areas with Oman as a friendly and brotherly country,” Rouhani told the new Omani ambassador Ibrahim bin Ahmad Al-Moeini.

He said the Iran-Oman relations must continue based on the principles of good neighborliness, friendship, and brotherhood, particularly in the economic area.

**■ Rouhani lauds Czech Republic for supporting JCPOA**

Speaking with the new Czech



Ambassador Josef Rychtar, the president said Iran welcomes promoting relations with the Czech Republic in political, economic, scientific, and cultural spheres.

He also voiced his satisfaction over the EU’s stance and also that of the Czech Republic with regard to supporting the Iran nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and their stance against U.S. unilateralism.

**■ Rouhani stresses need to boost Tehran-Copenhagen ties**

In the meeting with the new Danish Ambassador Jesper Vahr, Rouhani hailed the Scandinavian country’s support for the JCPOA as well.

He underlined the need for the promotion of economic and technological cooperation between Tehran and Copenhagen, and lauded the inauguration of a joint medical and pharmaceutical center in Iran amid the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

**■ President hails Norway’s support for JCPOA**

Meeting with Norway’s new ambassador,

Rouhani stressed the ample opportunities for economic and scientific cooperation between Tehran and Oslo.

He also praised Norway’s support for the nuclear deal.

**■ Iran-Germany economic interaction should grow, says president**

In a meeting with Hans Odo Motzel, Germany’s new ambassador to Tehran, Rouhani noted that economic interaction between Tehran and Berlin should grow irrespective of the United States’ illegal sanctions.

He lauded Germany’s stances against the U.S. unilateralism, saying the three European parties to the JCPOA have acted “logically” in dealing with the U.S. illegal and incorrect measures.

**■ ‘Iran ready to cooperate with Portugal against coronavirus’**

In another meeting with the new Portuguese Ambassador Carlos Antonio Rico Da Costa Nos, the president voiced Tehran’s willingness for cooperation with Portugal in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

He also hailed Portugal for its support of international law and multilateral agreements, particularly the JCPOA, and opposing U.S. unilateralism.

**■ Countries facing coronavirus, virus of unilateralism, president says**

Meeting the new ambassador of Spain, Luis Felipe Fernandez de la Pena, Rouhani said many countries are struggling with two viruses, namely the coronavirus and the American unilateralism.

He then called for unity and collective action against the two viruses.

## Military war against Iran ‘basically abandoned’, says IRGC chief

**POLITICAL** **d e s k**

**TEHRAN** — The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)

has said that a military war against Iran is “basically abandoned”.

“They [enemies] have opened an economic infiltration and psychological war channel [against Iran],” Major General Hossein Salami told the parliament on Tuesday morning.

He made the remarks as the Sacred Defense Week, which marks the beginning of Iraq’s war against Iran, came to an end.

Salami said Iran should strive day and night to counter the enemies’ economic war, but argued that the country’s capacities are enough to defeat the enemies.

In Iran, the 1980-1988 war, which was imposed on Iran by Iraq’s former dictator Saddam Hussein, 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.

Pointing to the support Saddam received from all the powerful countries of the world to invade Iran, Salami

said there’s no doubt that the war, which lasted 8 years, was a war imposed by the world on Iran.

“All of us know that while the front of war was the Iran-Iraq border, the supporters of the war were all of the big powers,” he stated.

**■ Salami warns against interaction with enemy**

Elsewhere in his remarks, the commander said the enemy is neither capable nor willing to resolve Iran’s issues.

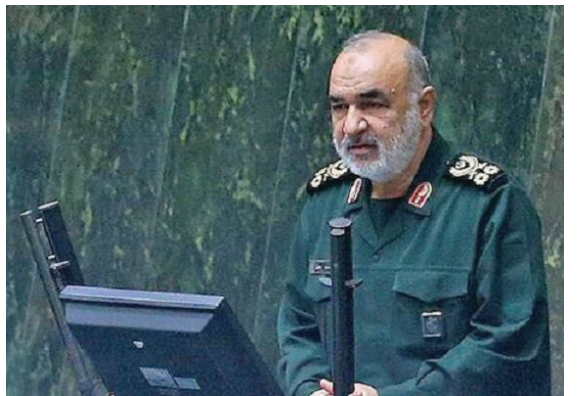
“The path to our welfare never passes through interaction with the enemy,” he said.

“Even if we reconcile with [the U.S.], still it will harm us... and destroy our resolve,” Salami added.

U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear deal, officially recognized as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018, and imposed the “harshest ever sanctions” on Iran to force it to negotiate a new deal.

Iran has strongly rejected Washington’s call for renewed talks, citing the U.S.’s bashing of the internationally-endorsed JCPOA as a manifestation of its untrustworthiness.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said last month that Trump is lost in a daydream when he says



Iran will soon come to the negotiating table.

It came after the U.S. miserably failed to extend an arms embargo on Iran at the UN Security Council, with only the Dominican Republic backing Washington’s anti-Iran resolution. The U.S. “killed” the JCPOA, “buried” it and held a “funeral” for it, but even the corpse of the nuclear pact defeated the United States, Zarif said after the U.S. failure.

## Iran, Turkey, Russia can help restore Azerbaijan-Armenia peace: government

**1 →**

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.

Clashes continued into the third day on Tuesday, despite international calls for a ceasefire and ahead of a UN Security Council emergency meeting over the escalation.

Military officials from both sides confirmed that fighting went on throughout the night, each claiming to have inflicted military and human losses on the other side.

The death toll from clashes rose to 95 on Monday, with Karabakh confirming the loss of 84 forces. 11 civilians were also



reported dead, including nine in Azerbaijan and two on the Armenian side.

“The Islamic Republic’s stance with regard to the necessity of observing and recognizing the Republic of Azerbaijan’s

territorial integrity is very clear and the Islamic Republic of Iran’s government has on numerous occasions underlined this legitimate right within the framework of international law and UN resolutions,” Rabiei said.

“We also believe that the dispute between the two neighbors, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, has a peaceful resolution. Therefore, Iran, Turkey and Russia can help the two neighbors with the execution of UN resolutions in order to resolve their issues in peaceful ways,” he added.

Soon after the clashes broke out, Tehran voiced readiness 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.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also urged Azerbaijan and Armenia to exercise restraint, and invited the two sides to agree on a ceasefire and launch negotiations.

In separate phone conversations with his Azeri and Armenian counterparts on Sunday, Zarif expressed concern about the flare-up of tensions, saying the Islamic Republic is ready to use all its capacities for the establishment of ceasefire, start of dialogue, and restoration of peace and calm.

## Iran Intelligence Ministry breaks up illegal network dealing in virus drugs

**TEHRAN (Press TV)** — Iran’s Intelligence Ministry has arrested members of a network active in illegal selling of drugs used to treat the disease caused by the deadly new coronavirus as the country grapples with the third wave of the pandemic.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Intelligence Ministry said the operation disbanded an organized network of dealers who procured and sold drugs used to treat COVID-19 infection in an illegal manner outside the framework of the official supply chain set up for this purpose by Iran’s Ministry of Health, IRNA reported.

The statement added that the culprits have been handed over to Iranian judicial officials to undergo subsequent legal procedures following their detention.

“A group of brokers and dealers, in cahoots with a small group of medical staff, sold COVID-19 drugs, which had been distributed among official medical centers in quotas, to families of patients at exuberant prices in order to obtain illegal profit,” the ministry said.

The statement also warned that there is a chance that drugs sold by this network could be fake, because they have been procured and distributed without su-



pervision of the official health network.

The Intelligence Ministry concluded its statement by issuing stern warning to all those who embark on the illegal sale of medicine and those people who disseminate fake news to disturb the public opinion.

“In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ne-

cessity of protecting patients and honest personnel of the country’s health network, any kind of profiteering and illegal dealing in this field will be forcefully dealt with,” it said.

Iran has been battling the deadliest pandemic the world has seen in many decades amid the sanctions.

In an interview with Russia Today on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Washington is simply lying when it claims its unilateral sanctions have had no impact on delivery of humanitarian items to the Iranian people.

“Whatever the Americans are saying about their sanctions not affecting humanitarian items is just [a] lie,” the Iranian foreign minister said.

The spokeswoman for Iran’s Health Ministry, Sima Sadat Lari, said on Monday that a total of 449,960 individuals had contracted coronavirus across the country.

She added that 190 fatalities had been registered in the past 24 hours, raising the total toll to 25,779.

Lari said as many as 376,531 individuals had been recovered, and that over 3,959,783 people had been tested for the virus in the country so far.



# Tehran denies transfer of weapons via Iran's soil to Armenia

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, rebuffed on Tuesday allegations that Iranian soil was used as transit route for the transfer of weaponry and military hardware to neighboring Armenia.

"The transit of conventional non-military items through Iran to neighboring countries has always been underway," the spokesman said in a statement on Tuesday.

The statement came after news media outlets claimed that trucks carrying weapons have been spotted along Iran-Armenia border. However, Khatibzadeh said these trucks did not carry weapons and they were crossing Iran as usual.

"The mentioned trucks are crossing Iran simply within the same framework," the statement said.

The spokesman also added, "The Islamic Republic of Iran carefully monitors and controls the trend of transportation and transit of commodities to other countries [via its soil] and does not allow our country's soil to be used for the transfer of arms and ammunition whatsoever."

The border trade between Iran and Armenia has become especially sensitive after a new wave of violence erupted between



Armenia and Azerbaijan in the volatile Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but controlled by Armenian forces. Both countries declared martial law and general mobilizations in efforts to secure victory

in the clashes which began on Sunday in Nagorno-Karabakh but quickly spread into their territory. On Tuesday, Armenia and Azerbaijan accused each other of firing directly into each other's territory beyond the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has urged the warring countries to "immediately stop the clashes and start a dialogue."

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

The Iranian embassy in Azerbaijan also denied the transfer reports.

"The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baku strongly denies the publication and repetition of baseless news regarding the transfer of weapons or forces affiliated with terrorist groups from the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Armenia," the embassy said in a statement, accusing "third parties" of trying to tarnish the image of Iran in Azerbaijan.

The embassy also called into question the authenticity of videos purportedly showing the transfer of weapons and individuals via Iran to Armenia, saying these propaganda was aimed at "destroying the brotherly and friendly relations between Iran and Azerbaijan."

## Will Trump be forced to follow Obama Iran policy? Inside Trump's efforts to cover up 'maximum pressure' failure

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — As Donald Trump's presidential campaign reaches a critical juncture amid unprecedented internal crises, the White House intensifies diplomatic efforts to achieve breakthroughs in foreign policy, especially in U.S. relations with countries in the Western Asia region.

Trump's thirst for election "breakthroughs" was on full display in U.S.-brokered normalization deals between some Arab countries and Israel. The normalization wave started in mid-August when Trump, out of the blue, announced that he brokered a normalization deal between the United Arab Emirates and Israel. A little bit more than a month later, on September 11, Trump once again announced another normalization deal, this time between Bahrain and Israel.

Trump sought to portray these deals as historic breakthroughs that was unimaginable just a few weeks ago.

"So things are happening in the Middle East [West Asia] that nobody thought was even possible to think about, and that's what's going on right now," Trump said on September 11 as he announced the Bahrain-Israel normalization deal, adding, "The significance of the signing will be elevated from an already historic breakthrough to one representing a previously unthinkable regional transformation. And that's exactly what it is. It's unthinkable that this could happen, and so fast."

On September 15, Trump hosted a signing ceremony at the White House with the prime minister of Israel and the foreign ministers of Bahrain and the UAE in attendance. The ceremony was held with great fanfare. And yet it failed to improve Trump's ratings. He is still trailing his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, in national polls. So what will Trump probably do to improve his ratings?

Citing the normalization deals, analysts and commentators believe that Trump has resorted to foreign policy to save his troubled campaign ahead of the November election. But the same deals indicated the limits of the impact the foreign policy "breakthroughs" can have on the public. Despite Trump's hype about the deals, they did little to improve his plummeting popularity. So Trump could resort to making

breakthroughs with U.S. adversaries such as China, Russia, South Korea, and Iran because the U.S. tensions with these countries are so deep that any deals with them will probably catch ordinary Americans by surprise.

With respect to China, Trump is unlikely to make a big deal with in the remaining weeks before the election. Indeed, Trump is boasting that he, unlike Biden, was tough on China. Trump is also campaigning on containing China's growing economic influence.

Russia is another option for Trump. But any deal with Russia will certainly mobilize the Democrats, who are accusing Trump of being too soft on Russia. Besides, there are no urgent disagreements between Russia and the U.S. that Trump can solve. The U.S.-Russia disagreements precede Trump and are likely to outlast him.

But Iran is a manufactured crisis of Trump's own making. Therefore, Trump could find it convenient to make a breakthrough with Iran. But what can he do with Iran?

Analysts and former diplomats point to different scenarios. Some believe that Trump could wage a war with Iran to surprise the Americans and create a rally-round-the-flag moment.

Patrick N. Theros, the former U.S. ambassador to Qatar, has raised this possibility, saying the "October Surprise" could be a war with Iran. Theros said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Elliott Abrams, the U.S. special representative for Iran, could convince Trump into going to war with Iran.

In an opinion piece published by The National Herald, Theros hypothetically wrote, "Pompeo ignores the quizzical look on the president's face, confirming his suspicion that the President had never heard of Iran-Contra, and presses ahead. 'We have a sure-fire way of winning re-election. Elliott here has proven that he can fabricate provocations and organize wars on very short notice. He was the mastermind behind the invasion of Iraq in 2003!' Trump, startled, tells Pompeo 'you know I called that war a disaster, and getting out of Iraq is part of my campaign pledge. I fired Bolton because he was trying to get me into a war.'"

But some analysts believe that the war option has been

removed from the table given the widespread anti-war sentiments among the American people.

So will Trump hold talks with Iran to improve his ratings? Pundits believe that a Trump effort to make a deal with Iran is not impossible given his failure to wage war against Iran and publicly bring it to the negotiation table. Analysts also say Trump has made efforts to foment social unrest across Iran and then tell the American people that his withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal — officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — has yielded concrete results. But Trump failed to do so and Iran remains a stable country. Some even believe that Trump has sought to encourage Iranian opposition groups to create unrest in the country.

But Trump's possible deal with Iran is unlikely to be about the nuclear program because Tehran and Washington do not have enough time to hammer out a complicated deal on Iran's nuclear issue within a few weeks. Therefore, it's likely that Trump would resort to a prisoner swap deal with Iran to improve his ratings.

Iran and the U.S. have previously exchanged prisoners many times. Furthermore, the two countries reached a deal on the release of U.S. spies from Iran during the Obama administration. Jason Rezaian was one of those spies who was released after the U.S. released \$1.7 billion in frozen Iranian accounts. Therefore, if Trump wants to reach a prisoner swap deal with Iran, he will likely find himself obliged to pay Iran a huge sum of money, just as his predecessor did.

Of course, Trump has railed against Obama for paying Iran "barrels of cash". But he may follow Obama's lead in securing the release of American spies from Iran in exchange for paying the country millions of dollars. Trump may do it secretly to avoid being compared with Obama. If he does so, he will be able to tell American voters that he succeeded in securing the release of the Americans from Iran without reaching a comprehensive deal with it. A deal with Iran on the release of American spies will also enable Trump to declare that his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran was successful.

## Pompeo on lifetime mission to upend regional stability

**1→** "Lebanon is facing political and economic crises and an urgent response to this is required," President Macron said after landing in Beirut on August 6. He was the first foreign leader to visit Lebanon after the Beirut disaster.

"If reforms are not made, Lebanon will continue to sink," the French president said, referring to the energy sector, public tenders, and corruption. Macron once again returned to Lebanon in late August in a bid to hasten the formation of a new government. To this end, Macron held a meeting with all Lebanese political leaders, including a representative of Hezbollah. Meanwhile, a Lebanese diplomat was nominated to form the new government. Intense talks were held in Lebanon. The diplomat, Mustapha Adib, met with various Lebanese political figures in an effort to gain their support. Everything seemed to go smoothly until a Pompeo aide interfered in the process of forming the Lebanese cabinet. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale, paid a visit to Lebanon in mid-August. He pressed for marginalizing Hezbollah in the cabinet formation, according to Lebanese newspaper al-Akhbar.

The newspaper said that the Americans "believe that the time is right to apply more political and economic pressure on Lebanon in order to compel Hezbollah to change its direction. They also show their willingness to take steps or impose sanctions to force the party's allies to exert pressure on it in order to force it into giving concessions in the government formation process or to deprive the party of having any representation in the cabinet."

As the U.S. continued its pressure, Lebanon's prime minister-designate announced that he was resigning from his post. Adib did not give any details about what caused him to resign but reports said the prime minister-designate failed to ignore the American demands to marginalize Shia parties in the cabinet formation.

Adib's failure to put together a cabinet is widely attributed to Pompeo's interference who opposed the French efforts to include Hezbollah in the Adib cabinet.

Pompeo himself had said in early September that Lebanon's future government should not include Hezbollah, a demand that torpedoed Macron's effort in Lebanon because his initiative was not aimed at keeping Hezbollah out of the cabinet.

The State Department spokesperson also reiterated Pompeo's opposition to any participation of Hezbollah in the cabinet.

"We, at the State Department and in our Congress, we've all been clear about our opinion for decades now, of Hezbollah being in the Lebanese government. It is not a party that we are willing to do business with," State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus told Al Arabiya in an exclusive interview.

David Hale has recently said the U.S. has spent more than \$10 billion in Lebanon.

"Over the years, we have provided \$10 billion in support to Lebanon both the security services on one hand and to private NGOs on the other for economic development and humanitarian support. No one else has contributed as much foreign assistance as we have," Hale said during a Senate hearing on Thursday, adding that he has met with protest leaders during his visit to Lebanon



after the Beirut explosion.

The U.S. pressure on Lebanon may have been the main reason behind Adib's resignation in the midst of crisis. Following Adib's resignation, the talks on cabinet formation appeared to be put on hold until after the U.S. presidential election. If true, this means that Lebanon will face another period of uncertainty because of Pompeo's insistence on keeping Hezbollah out of government.

Pompeo's destabilizing efforts are not limited to Lebanon. He is also trying to shake the fragile security in Iraq by threatening to launch a military attack on Iraqi resistance groups and closing U.S. embassy in Baghdad.

During a telephone conversation with Iraqi President Barham Salih, the secretary of state issued a stern warning to Iraq over the recent attacks on U.S. interests in Iraq, according to Iraqi news website Iraqi24.

"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," the website quoted Pompeo

as telling Salih.

Pompeo's stark threats came against a backdrop of simmering tensions over attacks on U.S. forces and its embassy in Iraq. Whether the U.S. will close its embassy in Iraq and take action against the country remains an open question. The U.S. sought to suggest that it was 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. However, Iraqi analysts believe that the U.S. may have threatened to close its embassy to force the Iraqi leadership, especially Prime Minister Mustafa al-Khadhimi, into taking drastic measures against some resistance groups.

"So far, it's nothing more than exaggeration," al-Akhbar quoted a senior source in the Iraqi resistance groups as saying of the Pompeo threat to close the embassy.

The Iraqi leadership has moved to deescalate tensions between Baghdad and Washington but analysts voice concerns over possible efforts by Pompeo to convince Trump into taking military action against Iraq as he did in early January when he pushed Trump into assassinating a prominent Iranian general near Baghdad's international airport.

The general, Qassem Soleimani, was assassinated in an American drone strike on January 3 along with Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy head of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF). Iran Launched missile attack on an Iraqi base housing American troops in retaliation for the assassination of General Soleimani and vowed to expel the U.S. forces from the Western Asia region.

## SPORTS

### Shahintab to lead Iran basketball at Tokyo Olympics

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Mehran Shahntab will lead Iran national basketball team at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

In a session which was held in the basketball federation's headquarters in Tehran on Tuesday, the technical committee of the federation selected the 54-year-old as Iran coach in Tokyo.

Shahintab helped Iran book a place at the Olympics for the third time in the competition held in China last year.

Shayesteh Motesharrei and Nika Beyk-Liklee also remained as Iran's women basketball and 3x3 teams' coaches, respectively.

Iran's men basketball team last reached the Olympics at Beijing 2008, losing all five games and finishing 11th out of 12 teams but Ramin Tabatabaei, head of the federation, has said the Persians are aiming to qualify for the Tokyo's quarters for the first time ever.

### Saadatmand calls for reforms at Esteghlal

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football club general manager Ahmad Saadatmand has made a strange revelation about the team's players and said he is determined to reform the club.

The Iranian giants have been engaged in controversies in the recent weeks and the team's players and managers are under huge pressure after they didn't live up to fans' expectations.

Following their 3-2 defeat to Tractor in Iran's Hazfi Cup final in early September, the Blues were also eliminated from the 2020 AFC Champions League, losing to Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor 2-1 in the Round of 16.

Now, Saadatmand, in a video message, has criticized some Esteghlal players and promised that he would reform the club.

"I am sorry to say that some of our players slept until noon and came down to eat breakfast at 1pm in Doha. Why should a player be active on social media four hours after midnight? Why should a player bring shisha pipe to Doha? I will surely fine the players who have violated the rules," Saadatmand said.

"Esteghlal are a cultural club and about 30 million fans hope that their players do their best onto the field but some of them are active on social media four hours after midnight. As long as I am here, I have zero tolerance for these misbehaviors. I want to reform the club's structure," he added.

### Ali Alipour officially joins Marítimo

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis forward Ali Alipour officially penned a two-year contract with Portuguese club C.S. Marítimo.

The Iranian forward reached an agreement with C.S. Marítimo in early September but failed to travel to Portugal due to visa problems.

Alipour won the Golden Boot in the 2017/18 Iran Professional League with 24 goals.

"I am very happy and excited to sign for Marítimo. It will be a new experience for me. I want to help the team achieve their goals. I want to score a lot of goals," Alipour told Marítimo TV. Marítimo finished in 11th place in the Primeira Liga last season.

### Pakhtakor a very tough opponents but we're ready: Golmohammadi

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis head coach Yahya Golmohammadi says that they know how strong Pakhtakor are but they are ready to defeat them.

The Iranian giants are scheduled to meet Pakhtakor on Wednesday in the AFC Champions League (west) quarter-finals at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium on Wednesday.

Pakhtakor defeated Iranian team Esteghlal to reach quarters, while Persepolis edge Al Sadd of Qatar.

"First of all, I wish good health for Shota Arveladze who suffers from COVID-19 and wish him a speedy recovery," Golmohammadi said.

"We expect a very tough match because Pakhtakor are physically strong but we are ready. We have passed difficult situation to reach the stage and don't want to lose our chance easily. Our players are highly-motivated for this match and are ready for this tough challenge mentally," he added.

"We have to play a team who have had one extra day of rest compared to us and are in good condition. Pakhtakor are an organized well-disciplined team and we will have to play with more energy against them," he added.

"It will not be an easy match for us for sure but we are determined to fight for our place in the semis. There will always be ups and downs and you will likely score an early goal and concede and early goal too but I think our players have already experienced these parts of football and can fight back," the former Iran defender stated.

"Persepolis players will never get tired of winning and our fans send us their positive energy and support us from distance. We hope we can our fans happy," Golmohammadi concluded.

### Jordanian Makhadmeh to referee Persepolis v Pakhtakor clash

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Jordanian referee Adham Makhadmeh will officiate the match between Persepolis of Iran and Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor.

Two teams will square off at the AFC Champions League (west) quarter-finals at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium on Wednesday.

Makhadmeh has been a FIFA referee since 2013 and officiated in the first-leg of the 2017 AFC Champions League final between Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal and Japan's Urawa Red Diamonds.

He was also one of the Additional Assistant Referees for the deciding leg in last year's AFC Champions League final between Persepolis and Kashima Antlers in Tehran and the AFC U-23 Championship final between eventual winner Uzbekistan and Vietnam in China earlier in 2018.



## Free trade is Iran’s right: NITC head

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The Head of National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) said that free trade is Iran’s right and no power can intervene in the country’s exports and imports, IRNA reported on Tuesday. “Free trade is Iran’s right and we just need to make more efforts for strengthening the national fleet,” Nas-rollah Sardashti said in a ceremony on the occasion of the World Maritime Day.

Despite all the sabotage by the enemies the National Oil Tanker Company has been able to help the country in maintaining oil exports, he stressed.

Referring to the negative impact of the U.S. sanctions, Sardashti noted that in the current situation foreign shipping lines cannot be counted on because their ships are banned from entering Iranian waters for various reasons.

The official noted that Iran is currently focusing on empowering the private sector shipping companies [which are not banned] for maintaining the country’s trade.

“Private sector shipping in Iran has become very important since it has been able to provide significant assistance to the country in the field of oil exports,” he said.

Captain Sardashti further emphasized that with the help of the country’s maritime organizations, many of the issues in the field have been resolved and the sector’s predetermined goals have been achieved in the best possible way.

He finally noted that NITC has no problem in supplying low sulfur fuel to its fleet and currently Arak Refinery is providing the required low-sulfur fuel for the vessels.

## South Pars phase 12 refinery’s daily output at 40 mcm

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The refinery of the Iranian South Pars gas field’s phase 12 is currently receiving over 46 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas from the platforms of phases 22-24 on a daily basis and produces over 40 mcm of sweet gas, the refinery’s director said.

According to Mehdi Gerami Shirazi, the refinery is also producing other by-products on schedule and according to plans, Shana reported.



The official noted that despite the fact that the said phases have been put into operation recently and are still under some development, they are operating on their best possible capacity to supply the gas for the cold season.

Phases 22, 23, and 24 of the South Pars development project were officially inaugurated by President Hassan Rouhani in March 2019.

The production capacity of the mentioned phases is 56 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas, 75,000 barrels of gas condensate, and 400 tons of sulfur per day in addition to one million tons of ethane and one million tons of propane and butane per annum.

South Pars is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

A total of 14 gas refineries are currently processing the gas extracted from this giant field which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

South Pars covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran’s territorial waters. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar’s territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world’s reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

## Iran, India to discuss agricultural co-op in an online meeting

**1 →** The Chabahar Port development project, in south-eastern Iran, is the anchor for the expansion of economic relations between the two nations.

In an interview conducted by the Tehran Times at the place of the daily in mid-July, Indian Ambassador to Tehran Gaddam Dharmendra said, “Iran is a very import trade partner for us, and this year, especially, is more significant since it marks the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the two countries’ political relations which was started after the signing of a treaty between the two sides.”

“Iran and India’s relationship is not something new, it is very robust and goes back to centuries. We have a very strong foundation to build upon and that is how the two sides’ leaders are stressing the need for expanding relationships in all areas”, the Indian envoy reiterated.

“We are also neighbors, we are maritime neighbors, and now with Chabahar port as the anchor of the two countries’ trade relations, we have become maritime partners as well”, he added.

Prime Minister Modi and President Rouhani have met four times this year and that is the indication of how important the relations are for both sides, Dharmendra said.

“As you see, our economic relations continue despite all the limitations and challenges”, the ambassador underlined.

India was the first country that put in place a banking mechanism to be able to trade with Iran in national currencies, he said, adding this rupee-rial channel is being facilitated by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It has helped the traders in both countries for the exchange of commodities.

# Govt., private sector confer on facilitating clearance of basic goods

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The 98th dialogue council of the government and the private sector was held in Tehran on Monday, in which issues pertaining to the supply and clearance of basic goods from customs were the main subject of discussion.

Senior officials including the Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, and Chairman of the Parliament Economic Committee Mohammad Reza Pourebrahimi attended the event which was chaired by Iran’s Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand, ICCIMA portal reported.

Speaking in the meeting, Dejpasand underlined some of the issues related to the importing and clearance of basic goods from the country’s customs and noted that considering the current economic conditions, the government has decided to ensure that basic goods and raw materials would not be deposited at customs.

“Some of the commodities deposited at customs are perishable, so taking necessary measures to clear them is essential,” Dejpasand said.



Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand (R) and ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie

Further in the meeting, Pourebrahimi also touched upon the issue of clearing goods from the customs of the country’s

free economic zones, saying: “the issue of clearing goods from free zones, especially the zones which cannot be separated from

## Complete steel chain supply in IME for real price discovery

**1 →** Recognizing the necessity of offering the complete steel chain in IME, some measures are being taken to materialize this issue.

Last month, Mohammadreza Kalami, the secretary of Market Regulation Headquarters, announced that the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has set up a joint committee with some other executive bodies to follow up on this issue and the required measures are being taken in the framework of four major pivots.

“Transparency is required in setting the price of steel, and when it is decided to offer steel in the IME, our top priority is definitely controlling the supply of the complete chain of the product”, the official stressed.

Also as announced on Monday by a member of the

parliament’s Industries and Mines Committee, the parliament will soon draft a plan based on which the complete steel chain should be offered in the IME.

Allah-Verdi Dehqani said, “Given the nature of IME, which is transparency and real price discovery based on the supply and demand, through offering the complete steel chain in this exchange, not only is corruption and rent-seeking prevented, but the extra offered commodities can be exported under the appropriate condition.”

The MP said that the parliament’s plan is aimed at the supply of steel required in the domestic market through the commodity exchange and also supporting steel exports.



## Over 11,000 tractors provided to farmers in H1

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Head of Iran’s Agricultural Mechanization Development Center (AMDC) said over 11,400 tractors have been provided for the country’s farmers during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21).

According to Kambiz Abbasi, the government has paid 13.5 trillion rials (about \$321.42 million) of the allocated budget for agricultural mechanization during the mentioned six months, IRNA reported.

The official noted that a total of 15,000 tractors of different types were provided for the farmers in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on



March 19).

Back in August, Abbasi had announced that 7.23 trillion rials (about \$172.14 million) was injected by the government into a special credit line for agricultural mechanization during the

first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21).

The agriculture ministry has been allocating a separate credit line for the mechanization of the agriculture sector every year, so that since the Iranian calendar year of 1392 (started on March 21, 2013) so far, eight credit lines have been opened for this sector.

As reported, statistics show that there is an annual demand for 25 trillion rials (about \$595 million) of facilities for the development and modernization of agricultural machinery.

According to Abbasi, since over 95 percent of the technology and knowledge in this area is domestic, most of the goals in the mechanization of various

agriculture sectors will be achieved without any problems despite the U.S. sanctions.

In the past forty years, since the Islamic Revolution, Iran has witnessed a remarkable improvement in various sectors and the agriculture industry has been one of the areas in which the country has undergone huge development.

Iran’s agricultural mechanization coefficient has currently reached 1.65 horsepower per hectare and this figure is set to increase to 2.1 horsepower.

Implementing billions of dollars worth of development, research, and educational projects across the country is an indication of the significant improvements in this sector.

## Awarding low-electricity consumers with free power to begin soon

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said his ministry’s program for rewarding efficient electricity subscribers with a 100 percent discount on their bills is expected to be implemented as of the next Iranian calendar month (begins on October 22), IRNA reported.

“Preparations have been made for the implementation of the “Power of Hope” program in the country, and low-consuming households will benefit from a 100-percent discount,” Ardakanian said in the inauguration ceremony of some energy projects in West Azarbaijan Province on Tuesday.

He expressed hope that with the implementation of this program, other subscribers will also be encouraged to join the low-consuming subscribers.

Referring to the Energy Ministry’s A-B Iran program, Ardakanian stated: “under this program, so far 121 projects have been put into operation in the country in which 277 trillion rials (about \$6.59 billion) have been invested.”

During Ardakanian’s visit to the northwestern prov-



Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian speaks in the inauguration ceremony of some energy projects in West Azarbaijan Province on Tuesday.

ince, six power transmission projects worth 35 trillion rials (about \$833.3 million) were inaugurated under the

## Housing price in Tehran rises 5.1% in a month

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Housing price in Tehran city has risen 5.1 percent in the sixth Iranian calendar month (August 22-September 21), from its previous month, according to the latest report released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

The CBI’s report put the average price for one square meter of a residential unit at 242.9 million rials (about \$5,783) in the capital city in the sixth month of this year, up 91.7 percent from the figure for the same month in the past year, IRIB reported.

Meanwhile, the number of real estate deals has fallen 6.8 percent in Tehran in the sixth month of this year compared

to the fifth month, while rising 203.7 percent compared to the same month of the past year.

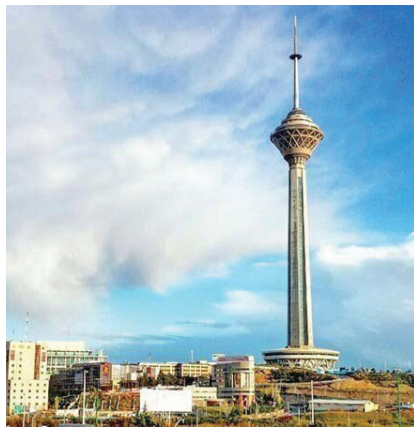
Last week, a member of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Civil Committee said that the drastic and unprecedented rise in housing prices in recent months is going to lead the housing market to a recession in the coming months.

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

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

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

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





News

## Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Sabah dies at age 91

Kuwait's 91-year-old Emir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah died on Tuesday in a hospital in the United States.

Born in 1929, Sheikh Sabah is widely regarded as the architect of modern Kuwait's foreign policy – having served as foreign minister for nearly 40 years between 1963 and 2003 – when he became prime minister.

He became Kuwait's emir in January 2006 after the death of Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah.



In August 2019, Kuwait acknowledged Sheikh Sabah suffered an unspecified medical "setback" that required he be admitted to hospital.

In July 2020, he flew to the United States seeking medical attention after undergoing surgery. A U.S. Air Force C-17 flying hospital transported Sheikh Sabah from Kuwait to Rochester, Minnesota, home of the flagship campus of the Mayo Clinic.

The emir had his appendix removed in 2002, two years after having a pacemaker fitted. In 2007, he underwent urinary tract surgery in the United States.

When the emir was absent in the past, 83-year-old Crown Prince Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the emir's half-brother, was appointed acting ruler as per the country's constitutional law. Sheikh Nawaf is an elder statesman who has held high office for decades, including the defense and interior portfolios.

Sheikh Sabah had pushed for diplomacy to solve regional issues, such as the continuing boycott of Qatar by four Arab nations, and he hosted major donor conferences for war-torn nations such as Iraq and Syria.

According to al Jazeera, Kuwait television earlier interrupted regular programming to cut to Quranic verses on Tuesday, a move that often signifies the death of a senior member of the Gulf Arab state's ruling family.

## Pakistan, Afghanistan shake hands as they aim to end mistrust

Pakistan and Afghanistan have reaffirmed their commitment to closer ties and the Afghan peace process, as the chairman of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, Abdullah Abdullah, continues his tour of his country's eastern neighbor.

Speaking at an event in the capital, Islamabad, on Tuesday, Abdullah struck a markedly conciliatory tone, emphasizing his country's appreciation of Pakistan's help in the peace process and the need for a new era of bilateral relations, which have often gone through periods of deep mistrust, al Jazeera reported.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have routinely accused each other of allowing safe havens for armed groups that target each other's territory, mainly the Afghan Taliban and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

## Nagorno-Karabakh clashes continue, prompting emergency UN talks

Armenia and Azerbaijan have reported further bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh as the worst spate of fighting since the 1990s raged for a third day in the region, and as heavy weaponry was moved to the front lines.

"International monitors are saying this is the worst fighting since 1994, which is an indication of the modern weaponry that is being deployed.

On Tuesday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged an immediate ceasefire and de-escalation of the conflict in phone calls with the countries' leaders.

Separately, the UN Security Council is expected held emergency talks behind closed doors, after France and Germany led a push for the issue to be placed on the agenda.

## Resistance News

## Hamas: Joint action, national dialog best way to confront Israel

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has praised as a strategic choice taking the path of joint action and comprehensive national dialog among various Palestinian groups to resist the Israeli regime and confront its sinister schemes.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of al-Aqsa Uprising (al-Aqsa Intifada) on Monday, Hamas rejected any agreement on normalizing ties with Israel, in the wake of deals brokered by Washington and signed between Tel Aviv on one hand and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain on the other.

The Palestinian resistance movement once again censured the Arab League for failing to reject the much-condemned normalization, lambasting the organization for shirking its responsibility and refusing to denounce normalization with Israel.

"The Palestinian people's uprising that erupted on 28/9/2000 represented conclusive evidence that cannot be questioned. Our Palestinian people will never stop claiming and fighting for their rights and fighting their occupiers regardless of difficulties or conspiracies," further said Hamas in its statement, carried by the Palestinian Information Center.

**Rentals for embassy personnel and foreign workers**

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# Biden will definitely revisit the JCPOA if elected president, scholar says

“America has no soft power anywhere any longer,” says American Professor William Beeman

By Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** — An American scholar, William Beeman, is quite sure that Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden will join the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) if he wins the November presidential elections. “Biden will definitely revisit the JCPOA,” Beeman tells the Tehran Times.

Beeman also believes that Washington would counter adventures by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MBS) if the Senate shifts power to Democrats.

“If the Senate shifts power to Democrats, there will be attempts to curtail MBS's actions in Saudi Arabia,” says Beeman, an internationally known expert on the Middle East (West Asia) and the Islamic world, particularly Iran, the Persian Gulf region and Central Asia.

Here is the text of the interview with William Beeman:

■ Is there a court or an international body that could restrict Trump's illegal actions?

A: Unfortunately, no. The United States has withdrawn from the World Court, the International Criminal Court, and all other international judicial bodies to prevent this and prevent being judged for war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan. It isn't just Iran. Almost nobody on earth can restrict Trump's actions.

■ What is Trump's vision toward international deals and bodies? Is Trump anti-globalist.

A: Obama was a globalist. Trump is essentially an isolationist. He does not want multinational agreements. He wants the United States to be dealing with one-on-one individually with other nations. This is a result of his background as a real-estate executive. He sees everything in very small

**“He (Trump) sees everything in very small transactional terms and doesn't understand macroeconomics at all.”**



**“Trump has no interest in values such as democracy and freedom.”**

transactional terms and doesn't understand macroeconomics at all. He especially does not understand international trade. Everything is a point-to-point zero-sum game.

■ Why is the U.S. pushing hard to normalize Arab countries' ties with Israel?

A: This is part of Trump's "deal-making." The UAE has been trading with Israel for years through third parties. In fact, Jared Kushner and Trump have commercial interests in the UAE, and so they have encouraged this arrangement, and UAE leaders are primarily concerned with commerce.

Trump thinks that this arrangement will hurt Iran. He is wrong. One of the unintended consequences of this action will be increased trade between Iranians of Dubai and Israel. Surely all Iranians can see this. Iranians having UAE passports can now travel to Israel, and Iranian goods can be transhipped through Dubai or Abu Dhabi and vice-versa.

■ How do you evaluate U.S. relationship with Arab dictators? Doesn't it contradict American values for democracy and freedom?

A: Yes, but Trump has no interest in values such as democracy and freedom. He is purely

transactional, and the only things he cares about are economic arrangements, personal power, and enriching himself. He will profit tremendously from these arrangements, as will his family.

■ Do you expect the U.S. to change its policies in the region if Biden wins the November elections? I mean especially its support for the Saudi war against Yemen.

A: The United States will once again be interested in regional stability and global dynamics. Biden will definitely revisit the JCPOA. If the Senate shifts power to Democrats, there will be attempts to curtail MBS's actions in Saudi Arabia.

■ Some critics say that warmongers have surrounded Biden, and his policies will be more aggressive than Trump. What is your comment?

A: I don't know who you get this idea from, but it is false. Trump has surrounded himself with neoconservatives who have been trying to overthrow the Iranian government for more than two decades. Trump himself has threatened violence and he loves throwing bombs and killing people, because he thinks it makes him look strong.

Biden has no one in his foreign policy community that advocates war-mongering or the kind of extreme hostility we see in the Trump administration. Biden will go back to favoring diplomacy. There is one matter that will be different. Trump is protecting Russian interests, perhaps because he is personally involved with Putin and Russian oligarchs. Biden will not do this. This could result in a shift in power regarding Iran. Russia is defending Iranian interests (for their own purposes), but this may change under a Biden presidency.

■ How do you assess America's soft power under Trump's presidency? I mean U.S. reputation and cultural and economic ties with other countries around the world?

A: America has no soft power anywhere any longer. Trump has made the entire world angry at him, and has created disrespect for the United States. No one can travel to the United States. No international conferences are being held here, no cultural exchanges are taking place, and diplomats are all Trump supporters who "bought" their posts, or they are career diplomats who are afraid of saying anything for fear of being fired if they do something Trump doesn't like. In addition, under Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, hundreds and hundreds of diplomatic posts are empty. Pompeo hasn't made the appointments, and when State Department personnel are attacked by Trump, Pompeo doesn't defend them. So our foreign policy is in shambles. Some people like Putin and Kim Jong Il have seen that by flattering Trump he can manipulate him. So that is what soft power consists of these days--either people hating Trump, distrusting the United States, or trying to manipulate Trump in a cynical manner.

**“Neoconservatives have been trying to overthrow the Iranian government for more than two decades.”**

## Whoever wins U.S. election, JCPOA must be restored: Finaud

**TEHRAN** — Commenting on the fate of the JCPOA and lawfulness of Trump moves against Iran at UNSC head of arms proliferation at GCSP says, “whoever wins the U.S. 2020 Presidential Election, JCPOA must be restored.”

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

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

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

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

To shed more light on President Trump's unilateralism and anti-Iran moves and the reasons behind them, we reached out to Marc Finaud, head of arms proliferation at Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP).

Here is the full text of our interview with



him:

■ How lawful do you assess the U.S. move?

A: As this was confirmed by the U.N. Secretary-General and most other members of the U.N. Security Council, this decision cannot have any legal effects because the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA and has no legal ground to activate a mechanism provided for in that agreement.

■ After opposition from other UNSC members to the U.S. unilateral action, the White House has imposed some other unilateral sanctions on Iran and has threatened other states to obey the U.S. sanctions. Will the U.S. be able to get what it wants with respect to Iran through bullying others?

A: Unfortunately, the U.S. has been accompanying its unilateral sanctions with

extra-territorial jurisdiction, meaning that it can impose secondary sanctions on states or entities that continue to trade with Iran. This is a powerful deterrent that has already discouraged major companies from trading with or investing in Iran, especially if they fear losing the American market. Even the E.U. mechanism to shield E.U. companies is not sufficient to assure them that they will not be affected by U.S. secondary sanctions.

■ Why does Trump focus on Iran in the UNSC despite failures? Do you see any relation between his moves and the U.S. 2020 Presidential Election?

A: Of course, appearing tough on Iran is popular among Trumps' electoral base and is encouraged by anti-Iranian lobbies. And because this electorate is unmoved by facts, it does not realize that this policy is ineffective if not counter-productive.

■ How do you assess the U.S. unilateralism's effect on the efficiency of the UNSC?

A: This unilateralist policy has led to complete isolation of the U.S. not only within the Security Council but globally. It contributed to further deterioration of the ability of the UNSC to fulfill its role in preserving international peace and security.

■ Some say the world orders and the U.N. structure does not meet the U.S. interest anymore, and some circles in the U.S. believe in changes to the U.N. structures and

## The last U.S. election?

By Charles Dunaway

When Trump first began making equivocal statements about accepting the upcoming election results, I took it to be the P.R. musings of an undisciplined and irresponsible con man. As we inch closer to Election Day, I am taking them very seriously.

Trump's former campaign manager, Steve Bannon, has outlined a strategy that Trump appears to be ready to follow. In this scenario, Trump would be ahead on Election Day when the votes of those who appear in person at polling sites are counted. The mail-in ballots, which Trump continually and incorrectly calls fraudulent, will not be fully counted until many days, or even weeks later. A recent CNN poll shows 66% of Republicans will vote in person, and 53% of Democrats will vote by mail.

Bannon says Trump should declare himself the winner on Election Night and call on the courts to stop the vote count. The Supreme Court will have a 6-3 conservative Republican majority by November, and a more balanced court stopped the recounting of votes in Florida in 2000, resulting in George W. Bush becoming the president, although he would have lost to Al Gore had the court not intervened.

Following Election Day, the U.S. will be engaged in a battle of the lawyers, with Trump's attorneys arguing in key states that the vote-counting should end, and Biden's attorneys arguing that it should continue. Given that Republicans have packed

the Federal court at all levels over the last several years, the outcome of such a legal battle is not in doubt.

There is no doubt that protests will erupt after the election protesting the coup. Attorney General Barr is already calling protesters "insurrectionists" and "treasonous" who should be forcibly repressed and jailed. There can be little doubt that if protests break out, and especially if they involve property damage, the government will act decisively to stop them. The history of protest in the U.S. is weak even without violent repression, so I am not optimistic that the protests will continue long or be successful.

If Trump is allowed to continue in office, the only possible Constitutional curb on Trump's power will be impeachment. The House of Representatives will impeach, but they will not convict him unless Democrats win control of the Senate. The same legal maneuvering used to secure a Trump win will also hurt Democratic Senate candidates, so a change of majority in the Senate is unlikely.

One can only recoil in horror at the prospect of a second Trump term both for the United States and for the world at large. It's likely he will allow neoliberal Republicans to destroy the U.S. economy and continue to listen to Zionist neocons for foreign policy advice. It's not as though he has fixed principles or ethics, or even a political ideology of his own. If the weak and uninspiring Biden were to eke out a win and successfully defend it in court, we might escape, but the best we could



hope for is a return to the Obama years, which set the stage for Trump's victory in the first place. Do not envy America.

Charles Dunaway is an American political commentator in Oregon. He is a retired computer systems consultant who has been producing and hosting a radio program called Wider View for the last four years. The program is distributed nationally by the Pacifica Network and is available as a podcast at widerviewradio.podbean.com. The program focuses on the United States' imperialist role in the world and the nation's political stagnation that helps maintain that role.

(Source: Press TV)



## Package tours start in Rey under strict health protocols

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — On Monday, one-day package tours started in Rey under strict health protocols to mark the national tourism week, September 28 to October 3. “On the occasion of [national] tourism week, package tours of Ray are being held in full compliance with health protocols amid the coronavirus pandemic,” provincial tourism chief Amir-Mosayeb Rahimzadeh announced on Monday.

“The Rey tours are being held on foot for ten visitors observing social distancing..... No vehicles are used during the excursions which only comprise open-air sites such as Toghrol Tower, and Cheshmeh-Ali,” the official explained.



Standing tall in the city of Rey, the 12th-century Toghrol Tower is in fact the tomb of Seljuk ruler Toghrol Beg, who died in Rey in 1063. Originally, like other monuments of its time, it was capped by a conical dome that would have added to its height. Cheshmeh-Ali, literally meaning Spring of Ali, is an underground mineral stream that pours into an open-air pool which has long been a traditional destination for sightseers and a recreational center for the locals.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE).

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the city was briefly a capital under the rule of the Seljuqs, but in the 12th century. In 1220 the city was almost entirely destroyed by the Mongols, and its inhabitants were massacred. Most of the survivors of the massacre moved to nearby Tehran, and the deserted remnants of Rey soon fell into complete ruin.

## Motorcycle rally to commemorate National Tourism Week

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Thirty Iranian motorcyclists will take part in a rally today to commemorate National Tourism Week.

Organized by the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI) in close collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the two-day rally will be held between Tehran and the northern village of Namak Abrud, Mazandaran province.



The rally also aims at promoting responsible tourism for safe traveling during the coronavirus pandemic, as well as creating more excitement and fun in the society.

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

Earlier this month, the tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan announced that responsible tourism is a workable solution for holidaymakers to get assured of safe traveling during the coronavirus pandemic.

“Definitely, people’s health is our top priority and we are in full coordination with the Ministry of Health, which is now at the forefront of the fight against coronavirus and we should be treated in such a way that the disease does not spread [more].”

The health ministry also approved the tourism ministry’s proposed plan on responsible tourism and emphasized that the trips should be done under the supervision of the two ministries.

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

## Handmade ceramics, pottery on show in Tehran

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A wide-ranging collection of handmade ceramics and pottery are being displayed during a solo exhibition at the headquarters of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in Tehran.

The five-day exhibit, featuring skills of crafters from the west-central province of Hamedan, will come to an end today.



Handicrafts exports from Hamedan reached some \$35 million during the previous Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended March 19), of which ceramics and pottery constituted the lion’s share of the exports.

Lalejin, a world pottery capital in Hamedan province, is one of the most essential centers for the production of the earthenware and ceramics in the country, which held an 80 percent share of the province’s exports.

Lalejin celebrated its registration as the world pottery capital in 2016, a privilege given by jurors of the UNESCO-affiliated World Crafts Council.

# Shahr-e Belqeys prosperous in late Sassanid, early Islamic eras: expert

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Shahr-e Belqeys (“City of Belqeys”), situated in northeastern Iran, was prosperous during a span of time from the late Sassanid era to early Islamic times, a cultural heritage expert has said.

“Though [previous] archaeological excavations at nearby mounts and hill-tops put the antiquity of Belqeys at some 6,000 years, it enjoyed prosperity from the late Sassanid to the early Islamic eras,” ILNA quoted Hossein Rahmani, director of the Belqeys national heritage, as saying on Tuesday.

Historical evidence, including a book on the history of Neyshabour, suggests that Shahr-e Belqeys won special attention by Sassanid monarchs of the time, which brought the land a special fortune before the advent of Islam (in the region), he explained.

“It can be said that Shahr-e Belqeys was hectic from the late Sassanid era to a time when Nader Shah Afshar (one of the most powerful rulers in Iranian history) assumed power (in early 18th century).”

“Belqeys citadel is one of the largest mudbrick fortresses in Iran after the



UNESCO-registered Bam citadel,” the official said.

The ruined citadel, which is sometimes referred to as Shahr-e Belqeys is located

in northeastern North Khorasan province. It lies at a short distance from the city of Esfarayen. Remnants of the citadel, family lodgings, irrigation channels, a

cistern, and a hypostyle hall are amongst objects so far been unearthed in Belqeys during rounds of excavation.

The Sassanid era (224 CE–651) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan that are amongst highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Islamic arts, the literary, performing, architecture, and visual arts of the vast populations overwhelmed Iran, West Asia and elsewhere that adopted the Islamic faith from the 7th century onward.

These adherents of the faith have created such an immense variety of literatures, performing arts, visual arts, and music that it virtually defies any comprehensive definition. In the narrowest sense, the arts of the Islamic peoples might be said to include only those arising directly from the practice of Islam.

## Walking for peace: Female Iranian tourist embarks on round-the-globe journey

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Female Iranian globe-trotter Pupeh Mahdavi- Nader has started a journey on foot from the UNESCO-registered Burnt City, southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, with the motto of “Love, Friendship and Global Peace”.

As the ancient city, based on the available documents, is one of the civilizations whose people were peaceful and there are no signs of war and conflict in that area, it has been selected as the starting point of this walk, Mahdavi-Nader announced on Tuesday.

The project also aims at introducing Iran as a safe place to the world as well as promoting the region’s natural and historical attractions.

She also plans to sell her footsteps, investing the revenue in the development of villages and deprived areas of the province.

Last week, on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week, which marks the beginning of the 1980-88 Iran–Iraq war, she symbolically started a walk from Azadi Square, western Tehran.

The Iraqi army invaded Iran on September 22,

1980, nearly 19 months after the Islamic Revolution, setting the stage for eight years of war.

She said her goal is to give the message of peace and friendship to the people of the world.

She has already biked around the world in the name of peace.

Founded around 3200 BC, the Burnt City, known as Shahr-e Sukhteh in Persian, was populated during four main periods up to 1800 BC. Previous rounds of excavations showed that its residents had great skills in weaving, creating fine arts such as decorative objects, stone carving, and pottery painting. Shahr-e Sukhteh is associated with four rounds of civilization, all burnt down by catastrophic sets of fire.

Sistan-Baluchestan is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including the historical Seb castle, dating back to the time of the Safavids (1501–1736).; Darak beach, where sand dunes, palm trees and blue sea in a frame together create picturesque sceneries; Darren Negaran (literally meaning illustration of the valley) which is home to tens of carved pictures of different animals such as



wild cows, camels, and antelopes; Chabahar beach, which is the only oceanic port of Iran; and Martian mountains with colors varying from gray to white during the day due to intensity of the daylight.

## Handicraft parcels get 30% discount on postage

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Based on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between Iran Post Company and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, all parcels containing handicraft products will get a 30- percent discount on postage.

The MOU was inked on Monday by the deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian and the post company’s managing director Ramezan-Ali Sobhanifar.

The valuable work of the post company at a time when crafters are facing several problems and difficulties due to the outbreak of the coronavirus shows the company’s support for Iranian art and handicrafts, Mahmoudian said.

She also expressed hope that this co-



operation could lead to good results and boost the sales of handicrafts as well as promoting them more properly.

Sobhanifar, for his part, said that such cooperation is in the national interest, which could help to develop the handicraft sector.

Cooperation in holding general and specialized training workshops, cooperation to attend international exhibitions and events, and designing personal stamps are also among the provisions of this memorandum.

Back in August, Mahmoudian said that the handicraft industry and related businesses across the country have suffered a loss of 19,000 billion rials (some \$452 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

“The outbreak of coronavirus was one of the events that caused a lot of damage to the art of handicrafts in the country so that since the [Iranian] month of Esfand, last year, all handicraft markets have been closed and no exhibitions have been held

in this area.”

According to Mahmoudian, Iran globally ranks first in terms of having the topmost number of world cities [and villages] of handicrafts. “Some 295 fields of handicrafts are currently practiced across Iran with more than two million people engaging, majority of whom are women... Handicrafts also play an important role in the economy in our rural villages.”

The Islamic Republic exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19), of the figure, some \$273 million worth of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade through various provinces, according to data compiled by the ministry of tourism.

## Travel to space: explore the cosmos with Tehran planetarium

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — You don’t need to be an astronaut to see what space looks like! While in Tehran, just sit back, relax, and travel to space from Gonbad-e Mina Planetarium.

The modern planetarium, literary meaning “Dome of Mina” is one of the tops in West Asia, offering visitors 3D views of stars, planets, and other celestial bodies. It also provides the opportunity for observing the solar system both for entertainment and educational purposes.

Located at the Abbasabad neighborhood, northern Tehran, the planetarium also offers visitors views of the sky projected on the ceiling. There is a projector at the center of the planetarium and separate projectors for the sun, the moon, and other planets and stars.

A visitor from Istanbul, Turkey describes Gonbad-e Mina as “Impressive!” in a comment written for



Tripadvisor saying: “We watched a 3D movie on the galaxies and planets, they had English translation for us and we were really impressed by the technology and architecture of this building. While visiting the Tabiyat Bridge, it’s well worthwhile to also visit this place. Especially if traveling with children.”

Another vacationer who came from Islamabad, Pakistan, describes his visit as “very enjoyable and educative”. “Visiting the 3D Planetarium was indeed very enjoyable as well as educative. To start with, the building is very impressive as well as unique. The 3D cinema is worth some time and a must-see for kids and elders alike. The rest of the area explains various aspects related to the solar system and universe quite comprehensively I assume. However, since most things are given in Persian only, it’s hard for the foreigners to fully comprehend all write-ups.”

## Beauties of Iranian desert in limelight at photography exhibit

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Scenes of the magnificent Lut Desert, a UNESCO World Heritage in the Iranian heartland, are on show at a specialized photography exhibition in Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchestan province.

The exhibit runs between September 28 to October 3 to mark the national tourism week, and it puts on show a selection of works by landscape and nature photographers, provincial tourism chief Khadijeh Barahoui announced on Tuesday.

“The exhibit is aimed to highlight national

attractions of the Lut desert as well as its tourism potentials,” she noted.

The Lut Desert, widely referred to as Dasht-e Lut (“Emptiness Plain”), is a large salt desert encircled by the provinces of Kerman and Sistan-Baluchestan, and South Khorasan. It is the world’s 27th-largest desert and was inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List on July 17, 2016. It is teemed with giant dunes, shifting sands, salt plains, and wind-hewn kaluts, offering visitors epic journeys of breathtaking beauty and wilderness. It is a destination for people who are in search of



new adventures; outstanding scenery and unparalleled serenity.

The scorching desert is also being considered as one of the top areas in the world for finding meteorites, thanks to its unique parameters. In recent years, significant finds have been made, with the efforts of national and international teams of researchers. Seven years of satellite temperature data analyzed by NASA show that the Lut Desert is the hottest spot on Earth. Based on the research, it was hottest during 5 of the 7 years and had the highest temperature overall: 70.7°C in 2005.



# Semnan Habitat where endangered species depend on to survive

By Faranak Bakhtiari

**TEHRAN** — Semnan province, hosting 16 percent of the country's protected areas and 30 percent of the plant and animal diversity, is considered a refuge for endangered species, such as Asiatic cheetahs and Persian zebras.

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have been designated for preservation and protection, including, national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas, and natural national monuments. In 1997, the Department of the Environment (DOE) held supervision over 7,563,983 hectares of such areas. By the year 2003, the size of the DOE supervised areas reached 11,791,788.225 hectares.

Protected areas in Semnan province stretch to 2.3 million hectares and in total between 15 to 20 thousand hectares of natural areas are under the DOE's supervision.

Garmsar Desert National Park and Turan Wildlife Refuge are the two most important protected wildlife reserves in the world which are both located in Semnan province.

Three National Parks including Kavir National Park, Turan National Park, and Sidova National Park, two wildlife sanctuaries in Khosh Yeilagh and Turan and two protected areas in Parvar, and Turan, five no-hunting areas are located in the province.

These areas are in fact a natural exhibition of rare wildlife species such as Asiatic cheetah, Persian leopard, Persian ground jaya, Persian onager, Asiatic mouflon, sand cat, chinkara, and various plant species.

Among the wildlife species, the Asiatic cheetah and the Persian onager are among the valuable and endangered species, and Semnan province is known as one of the best habitats of these two rare species in the world.

## Unique wildlife sanctuaries

Khar Turan National Park or Touran Wildlife Refuge, situated in the southeast of Shahrud city, stretches to 1,400,000 hectares while being the second largest reserve in the country after Naybandan Wildlife Refuge.

Defined a protected area in 1972, the region also received the title of biosphere reserve by UNESCO and ranked the second biosphere in the world after the Serengeti ecosystem (a geographical region in Africa).

A wide range of flora and fauna, valuable genetic resources are seen in the area, more importantly, the precious species of Asiatic cheetah inhabit in the area.

Some 41 species of mammals, 167 bird species, 42 reptile species, and 2 amphibian species have been identified in Touran.

Kavir National Park with an area of 4,000 square kilometers is a protected ecological zone stretched over the provinces of Semnan, Tehran, Qom, and Isfahan.



Lying on the western edge of Iran's major desert (Dasht-e Kavir), the region reveals the natural beauty of the mysterious desert and displays a great share of wildlife species. The region's astonishing biological characteristics have made it be known as Little Africa or Iran's Serengeti.

Kavir National Park is home to native goats (Capra aegagrus), sheep (Ovis Orientalis), striped hyenas, Indian wolves, gazelles, the rare Asiatic cheetahs, and the Persian leopards.

## Valuable species come first

The world's fastest mammal, capable of reaching speeds of 120 kilometers per hour, Asiatic cheetah once stalked habitats from the eastern reaches of India to the Atlantic coast of Senegal, once their numbers have stabilized in parts of southern Africa, but they have practically disappeared from northern Africa and Asia, and is critically endangered, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with fewer than 50 believed to remain in Iran.

Also, small populations of Onagers are found in Touran National Park. Bahram-e Goor Protected Area in Fars province and Sarakhs in North Khorasan province are two famous habitats of the subspecies in Iran. Sadly, onager populations have shrunk dramatically because of hunting as well as overgrazing by domestic animals such as sheep, goats, and camels. Onagers are hardy animals and can survive in bleak desert areas.

Onagers disappeared from western Iran in the 1930s but were still widespread in central and eastern arid and semi-arid plains until the 1950s. By the 1980s only four subpopulations were left. However, no reports of the animals have been heard of in Kavir National Park since 1986 and none in recent years from the once trans-boundary Sarakhs subpopulation along the border to Turkmenistan.

**Environmental-friendly province** Fatemeh Saeed Mohammadi, an environmentalist, said that "Semnan is a unique province in terms of geographical, and climatic diversity, which is enough to introduce the province as an environmental-friendly province not only to Iran but also to the world.

The existence of forests, deserts, and mountains together in the province created such extraordinary geographical conditions that are less seen in the country and the world."

"The transfer of three cheetahs including Koushki, Delbar, and Iran to their birthplace in Turan National Park provided the initial conditions for the reproduction of this valuable endangered species.

The successful transfer of the Persian zebras to Garmsar Desert National Park and their reproduction is another evidence of the uniqueness of Semnan province," she explained.

Two female Asiatic cheetahs, Delbar and Iran, and the male one, Koushki, have lived in the capital city of Tehran for the past few years, and now are living in a fenced area in Semnan.

In 2015, Delbar once became pregnant naturally but sadly lost her cub.

Last year (March 2018-March 2019), she was physically prepared for mating with Koushki, however, possibly due to Koushki's old age, the two didn't breed.

Delbar underwent artificial insemination in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), which turned out unsuccessful.

The younger female cheetah named "Iran" which is three years old and her pregnancy possibility is high, is also transferred to the fenced area.

Also, after transferring five Persian zebras from Turan and four from Yazd province to Kavir National Park in 2018, with the aim of re-introducing this species to the

region, with three successful reproductions, now the population of this valuable species has reached 12.

## Asiatic cheetahs' population increasing

Amir Abdous, head of the provincial DOE, has announced that twenty-one Asiatic cheetahs have been observed in the province of Semnan since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

Emphasizing that the plan to preserve the cheetahs in Iran is to protect it in its natural habitat, he said that the success achieved in the reproduction of the endangered species in their habitat is greater than that of the captive breeding projects.

Noting that the most important threat to cheetah habitats is the presence of livestock and herding dogs, he highlighted that currently, about 500,000 hectares of the 1.5 million-hectare area of Turan - including the entire 100,000-hectare area of Turan National Park - have been cleared of livestock, and a safe haven has been created at the Turan Biosphere Reserve for cheetahs.

According to the agreement between the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization and the DOE, only one-fifth of the protected area and wildlife sanctuaries can be evacuated from livestock as a safe area for cheetahs.

Fencing and reducing speed on Tehran-Mashhad road last year, with the aim of preventing road accidents, is another measure taken to help improve the quality of natural habitat in Turan National Park, Abdous said.

Animal species that number less than 50 in the wild are considered extinct, and now the number of Asiatic cheetahs in the country is less than 50, but all efforts are being made to prevent the extinction and reach the number to over 50, he stated.

"Preservation and reproduction of the remaining genes of endangered species are one of the priorities of the DOE, and for this purpose, while prioritizing the preservation of the species in their natural habitat, serious attention should be paid to the protection of genes."

He went on to note that the center for research, reproduction, and release of Persian zebras in Kavir National Park, is unique in the country and even in the region, which is designed and built based on the local knowledge of experts, with a credit of 2 billion rials (around \$48,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

In addition to research, ecological functions, and reconstruction of genetic resources, the research center has the potential of being a tourist attraction and can increase the number of visitors as one of the natural attractions of this national park, he concluded.

## Let's care more for our elderly during coronavirus

**1→** The International Day of Older Persons 2020 will highlight the role of the health care workforce in contributing to the health of older persons, with special recognition of the nursing profession, and a primary focus on the role of women - who are relatively undervalued and in most cases inadequately compensated.

"Acting on the strategy, is a means for countries to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensure that every human being regardless of age will have an opportunity to fulfill their potential in dignity and equality," World Health Organization Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has said.

The composition of the world population has changed dramatically in recent decades. Between 1950 and 2010, life expectancy worldwide rose from 46 to 68 years.

Globally, there were 703 million persons aged 65 or over in 2019. The region of Eastern and South-Eastern Asia was home to the largest number of older persons (261 million), followed by Europe and Northern America (over 200 million).



Over the next three decades, the number of older persons worldwide is projected to more than double, reaching more than 1.5 billion persons in 2050. All regions will see an increase in the size of the older population between 2019 and 2050.

The largest increase (312 million) is projected to occur in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, growing from 261 million in 2019 to 573 million in 2050. The fastest increase in the number of older persons is expected in Northern Africa and Western Asia, rising from 29 million in 2019 to 96 million in 2050 (an increase of 226 percent).

The second-fastest increase is projected for sub-Saharan Africa, where the population aged 65 or over could grow from 32 million in 2019 to 101 million in 2050 (218 percent). By contrast, the increase is expected to be relatively small in Australia and New Zealand (84 percent) and in Europe and Northern America (48%), regions where the population is already significantly older than in other parts of the world.

Among development groups, less developed countries excluding the least developed countries will be home to more than two-thirds of the world's older population (1.1 billion) in 2050. Yet the fastest increase is projected to take place in the least developed countries, where the number of persons aged 65 or over could rise from 37 million in 2019 to 120 million in 2050 (225%).

## Iran to have oldest population in region by 2050

Iran will have the highest rate of elderly citizens by the next thirty years, deputy health minister Alireza Raeesi, has said.

The country is fast moving towards an aging population with a shrinking birth rate each year.

Nicholas Eberstadt, the Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), wrote in an article earlier in July that the fertility rate in Iran has dropped by 70 percent over the past 30 years, which has been the highest decline in human history. "Over the past four decades, life expectancy has increased from 50 years to more than 70 years, 21.4 years for men, and 23.4 years for women."

According to the statistics, the elderly constitute 9.26 percent of the country's population which will reach up to 30 percent over the next three decades.

Elderly women outnumber elderly men by a ratio of 100 to 97.6, he said, adding, while the economic participation rate of the elderly is about 12.2 percent.

According to the Iranian Welfare Organization, out of 720 people studied, about 285 were elderly with depression, and between 8 and 10 were diagnosed with dementia.

The national document on older persons, the roadmap showing the way for better planning for the elderly, unveiled on October 1st, 2019. Non-medical service delivery, designing health care centers based on the elderly needs, updating service packages, active participation in osteoporosis control, monitoring mental health and nutrition of the elderly, designing tool to screen bone density and fractures, providing them treatment services at home, and elderly-friendly pharmacy was among the Ministry's programs for this part of the society.

With the onset of COVID-19, isolation is intensified, so that elderly should remain active and continue social communication, and we must increase care for them more than before. Therefore, the responsible bodies are committed to raise awareness, promote culture, and implement more care programs in this regard.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 25)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

خانم کیم یانگ جو دانشجوی زبان فارسی است. اسم کوچک او یانگ جو و اسم فامیل او کیم است.

یانگ جو اهل کشور کره است و در تهران درس می خواند. پدر، مادر و برادر او در شهر پوسان زندگی می کنند. او خواهر ندارد.

یانگ جو به دانشگاه تهران می رود. او در ایران چند دوست خوب دارد.

## How our warmer oceans are contributing to climate breakdown?

Humans have made the oceans more stable, and the result will be more extreme weather and the acceleration of climate change.

You may have heard the phrase "hot air rises". And it is true: when you heat up air, the warmed air wants to rise, like a hot-air balloon. The rising motion is caused by the changing density of the air; a process scientists refer to as buoyancy.

The same thing is true in the oceans. Warm water is less dense than cold waters. In oceans, water tends to stratify, with warmer, less dense water sitting atop colder, denser water. We refer to this as a "stable" configuration.

Sometimes the waters are not stable. For example, the upper waters of the ocean can suddenly become heavier. This causes the water to fall from the surface towards the ocean floor. Waters near the ocean floor are then brought up to the surface where mixing occurs.

Not only does water move up and down in the ocean, but currents flow around the world horizontally as well, the Guardian reported.

The upward and downward motions are common in the

North Atlantic, the north Pacific, and in the Indian and Southern oceans. It turns out these water currents have major effects on the entire ocean, as well as the weather.

How would ocean water near the surface suddenly become more heavy? It is to do with the saltiness of the water. The saltier the water is, the denser it is. Fresher waters are less dense. When warm water forms the top level of the ocean, evaporation of liquid water into the air removes water molecules and increases the saltiness of the water, which then causes the water to fall and mixing to occur. So mixing is affected by both temperature and saltiness.

A new study published in the journal Nature Climate Change, of which I was one of the authors, used new techniques to analyse ocean waters using a large collection of data from around the world.

The paper shows that the stratification of the oceans – less dense waters sitting above denser water – is increasing. In other words, the oceans are become more stable, with less "up-and-down" motion.

The team has shown that the ocean stability has increased by 5.36% in the upper 6,310 metres (20,700ft) of the oceans over the past 50 to 60 years. Our paper shows some of the increased stability of the oceans is due to a warmer ocean surface because of greenhouse gases and human-caused global heating.

But why should we care? This is the big question. Does a more stable ocean matter for humans?

It does, and we will feel the effects. First, when warm waters sit at the ocean surface, they affect weather, particularly typhoons and hurricanes. In fact, warm ocean surface water provides the fuel for these large storms.

A warmer ocean, then, is less able to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Consequently, more of the carbon dioxide we emit will remain in the atmosphere, which will lead to more warming.

In addition, a more stable ocean is less efficient at moving nutrients through its waters. This means animals that require the flow of nutrient-rich waters could be at risk.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## 8-year-old boy battling cancer achieves dream of becoming a fireman

Arian, an eight-year-old boy suffering from cancer, got to fulfill his wish of becoming a firefighter.

Arian celebrated his eighth birthday on Friday with Ahvaz city's officials, citizens and firefighters in attendance. He was appointed as a commander of operations for one day, IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

At a symbolic ceremony, a fire alarm was sounded and the young commander while dressed in full firefighters' uniform, was dispatched to the scene along with firefighters and eight fire engines.

Arian's firefighting operations were well done and the little boy's wish of becoming a fireman finally came true thanks to Ahvaz fire department.

## آرزوی آتش نشان شدن پسر ۸ ساله مبتلا به سرطان بر آورده شد

آرین، پسر هشت ساله مبتلا به بیماری سرطان، که آرزوی آتش نشان شدن داشت، برای یک روز فرمانده عملیات آتش نشانی شد و به آرزویش رسید.

به گزارش ایرنا، آرین روز جمعه سالروز هشت سالگی خود را با حضور جمعی از مسئولان، شهروندان و نیروهای آتش نشان شهر اهواز جشن گرفت، و از سوی رئیس سازمان آتش نشانی و خدمات ایمنی اهواز برای یک روز به فرماندهی عملیات منصوب شد.

در مراسمی نمادین، آژیر خطر عملیات اطفای حریق به صدا درآمد و این فرمانده خردسال به همراه نیروهای آتش نشان و هشت دستگاه خودروی اطفای حریق به محل حادثه اعزام شدند. و عملیات اطفای حریق به فرماندهی آرین به خوبی انجام شد.



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O' people! Listen to my words and don't hasten to start a war, so that I clarify the reason behind my revolution.

Imam Hussein (AS)

## Three Iranian films to compete in Tokyo International Film Festival

By Manijeh Rezapoor

**TEHRAN** — Iranian films “No Choice”, “TiTi” and “The Wasteland” will be competing in the Tokyo International Film Festival, which will be running from October 31 to November 9.

“No Choice” by Reza Dormishian is an entry to the Tokyo Premiere section.

The film centers on a 16-year-old homeless girl who repeatedly works as a surrogate mother for money. A human rights attorney tries to rescue her, but inevitably faces difficulties.



A scene from “TiTi” by Ida Panahandeh.

Also in the Tokyo Premiere section, there is “TiTi” by Ida Panahandeh, which focuses on a hospitalized elite physicist who reaches out to a Roma janitor woman.

“The Wasteland” by Ahmad Bahrami will be competing in the World Focus category. The film won the Orizzonti award for best film at the 77th Venice Film Festival mid-September

“The Wasteland” is about an old brick manufacturing factory that is going to be shut down, and all that matters to the factory supervisor is to keep his lover unharmed.

The 33rd edition of the festival will open with the premiere of Masaharu Take’s boxing drama “Underdog” and close with “Hokusai” directed by Hajime Hashimoto.

Focusing on world and Asian premieres, the Tokyo Premiere 2020 will showcase 32 films from across the globe, by both veterans and emerging directors.

The World Focus section presents notable works from various international film festivals, films that have yet to be released in Japan, and Japanese films that have won much acclaim in international festivals.

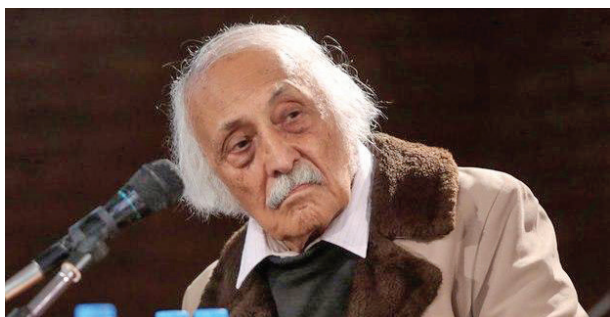
The World Focus showcases internationally acclaimed films, many of which later secure a theatrical release in Japan.

## Manuchehr Ashtiani, Iranian translator of Western philosophy books, dies at 90

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — Iranian sociologist d e s k Manuchehr Ashtiani who was also a translator of Western philosophy books died of old age at his home in Tehran on Tuesday at the age of 90.

He was a former member of the Tudeh Party of Iran, an Iranian communist party, and had also carried out studies on philosophy.

He was a nephew of Nima Yushij, the father of Iranian blank verse poetry, and a grandchild of Mirza Hassan Ashtiani, a top Muslim cleric of the Qajar period during the 19th century.



Iranian translator Manuchehr Ashtiani in an undated photo.

He received a Ph.D. degree in philosophy from Heidelberg University and was a student of German philosophers Hans-Georg Gadamer and Karl Lowith.

Most of Ashtiani’s translations reflect the views of sociologists such as Max Weber, Karl Mannheim and Max Scheler on the sociology of knowledge.

# Play to portray lowlife Shahrokh Zargham who was metamorphosed by Islamic Revolution

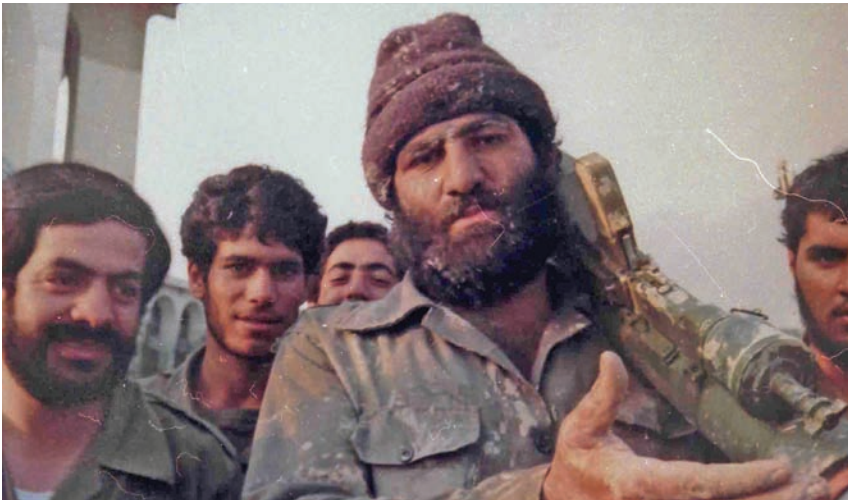
→1 Consequently, he became an ardent follower of Imam Khomeini and joined the revolutionaries.

After the Iran-Iraq broke out, he created a group of his friends to fight against the Iraqi forces in the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan.

However, in a battle with an Iraqi armored company, he was shot dead by heavy machinegun fire. He was beheaded by Iraqi forces and Iraqi television announced the news of his killing by showing his beheaded body.

No information was published by Iraq about the fate of Zargham’s remains, as he was called in his homeland “Hurr of the Revolution” that compares Zargham with Hurr ibn Riahi, one of Yazid’s commanders who joined the troops of Imam Hussein (AS) on the eve of Ashura.

“Paying attention to people like Martyr Shahrokh Zargham who was transformed by



Martyr Shahrokh Zargham (C) and his comrades in an undated photo.

an event in his life and sacrificed his life for his motherland and the revolution is really amazing,” Bahrami said.

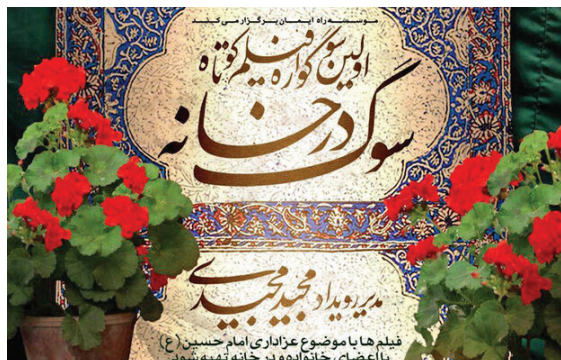
“It also gives an opportunity to the audience to become familiar with the key roles such people played during the war,” he added.

He asked the cultural centers to help troupes put their spotlight on unique, new topics that rid the resistance theater of the boring issues facing the genre.

Parisa Moqtadi, Tinu Salehi, Mohammadreza Imanian, Labkhand Badiei, Mahtab Shokrian and Amir Adlparvar are among the members of the cast for the play, which is also scheduled to go on stage at Sarve Theater in Tehran after the end of the Resistance Theater Festival.

In 2019, a book named “Shahrokh, Hurr of the Islamic Revolution” containing articles by a number of writers about Zargham was published.

## Iraqis ready to attend Iran’s Mourning at Home Short Film Festival



A poster for the 1st edition of the Mourning at Home Short Film Festival.

**A R T TEHRAN** — The executive secretary of d e s k the Mourning at Home Short Film Festival, Mohammad Rahbar, has said that the Iraqis have expressed willingness to attend the event as the organizers are planning to hold the festival internationally next year.

The festival puts its spotlight on short films covering the rituals Iranian families practice in their homes to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) this year.

“Several days ago, an Iraqi TV channel in Karbala announced its readiness to cover the closing ceremony of the festival live on their channel while it said the Iraqis are interested in taking part in the festival,” Rahbar said.

“The Iraqi people said that since the borders are closed this year due to the spike in coronavirus, and the Arbreen ritual will be held only with Iraqi nationals, they can find good topics for the festival. And that is why the Iraqis can attend the festival this year,” he said.

Iranians and Shia Muslims from other countries embark on a journey to the Iraqi city of Karbala to observe the day of Arbreen at the holy shrines of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of the Shia, and his brother, Hazrat Abbas (AS).

Arbaeen, which will be commemorated on October 8 this year, marks the end of the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of the Imam and his loyal companions on Ashura.

“The deadline for submission was September 21, but it

was extended until October 8 by popular demand,” Rahbar said, adding that 170 films so far have been submitted to the festival.

“We have also received messages from several friends who are busy making their films. The submitted works will be judged by a jury panel headed by filmmaker Majid Majidi, and the top works will be announced on November 2,” he added.

“This is the first edition of the festival and the number of submissions seems to be satisfactory, however, we are planning to release information on the second edition sooner and give the interested applicants more time to produce their films,” he explained.

The Mourning at Home Short Film Festival has been launched by the Rahe Iman Charity Organization this year to encourage people to stay at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic and organize the rituals for their family members.

Only one-minute-long films and movies under three minutes are allowed to participate in the festival.

“Due to the unknown situation of the country because of the spread of coronavirus, there has been no final decision for the closing ceremony. We will wait to see if we can hold it physically or virtually,” Rahbar concluded.

## Iranian movies to compete in 38th Milano Intl. FICTS Festival

**A R T TEHRAN** — Several d e s k Iranian movies will be competing in the 38th Milano International FICTS Festival, which is dedicated to sports movies, the public relations office of the Tehran International FICTS Festival announced on Tuesday.

The films will go on screen in different sections of the festival running in the Italian city of Milan from November 7 to 11.

The lineup includes “Tsunami” by Milad Sadr-Ameli, “My Dear Bahman” by Mostafa Purmohammadi, “Serik” by Bahareh Afshari, “Shahsavar” by Ali Shahmohamamdi, and “Blue like

the Color of the Sky” by Amir Rafiei.

“Tsunami” is about Iranian taekwondo competitor Morteza Nejadi who agrees to be defeated in the 2002 Olympics due to some political reasons, and then he loses everything in his personal and professional life. After eight years, he is called back for another attempt on the national team, but he must face a stubborn, young world champion named Behdad Moqimi who is also known as Tsunami. But there is turmoil in his personal life, too.

“I Am a Bird” by Abedin Mohammadi, “Beyond the Fence” by Arman Qolipur, “Saad’s Olive Tree” by Ahmad Zayeri, “All

Together” by Mehdi Yusefali and “Damooun Jungle” co-directed by Hadi Amiri and Raha Faraji are also included.

“Damooun Jungle” is an animation about Filoo, a little elephant who lives in the jungle with other animals. He is super kind to his friends; just too kind. His biggest problem is that he is unable to say “no” to the others. Being asked to take on too many unreasonable chores, Filoo always ends up exhausted, but not for long! His encounter with a special mentor changes his mindset completely.

The Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs (FICTS) is the organizer



A scene from “Tsunami” by Milad Sadr-Ameli.

of the event, which was the final phase of the World FICTS Challenge that runs in 16 countries around the world including Iran.

## Italian festival puts spotlight on Iranian cinema

**A R T TEHRAN** — A lineup of thirteen Iranian d e s k movies has been selected to go on screen in the Focus on Iran section of the 2020 Middle East Now, a film festival in the Italian city of Florence running online from October 6 to 11.

At its 11th edition, the festival shows the reality of life in West Asia.

Focus on Iran is one of the initiatives in memory of Felicitto Ferraro, the former Italian cultural attaché to Iran who died on June 2, 2019 in Florence.

She was a collaborator in and an enthusiast of the festival, and curator since the first editions of the program relating to this area of the world.

The festival will open with “Sunless Shadows” by Mehrdad Oskoui.

“Sunless Shadows” builds a remarkable relationship with a group of adolescent girls who are serving their sentences for the grave crime of murdering their father, their husband



A scene from “Sunless Shadows” by Mehrdad Oskoui.

or another male family member in an Iranian juvenile detention center.

## Stage director Abbas Javanmard dies at 92

**A R T TEHRAN** — Toronto- d e s k based Iranian stage director Abbas Javanmard, the pioneer of teleplay in Iran, died of heart failure at his home in the Canadian city on Monday. He was 92.

Javanmard’s death news was announced by director Nilufar Beizai, daughter of the celebrated Iranian director Bahram Beizai, in an Instagram post.

He was a graduate of dramatic arts from the University of Tehran and established Hanare Melli Group (National Art Group)



Iranian staged director Abbas Javanmard in an undated photo.

in 1955, which gave numerous outstanding performances in the country.

He organized courses at the Iranian television organization, training many students that were employed in the teleplays he directed.

He also set up the Teleplay Organization, which was composed of six troupes working under the leadership of great actors and writers such as Ezzatollah Entezami, Ali Nasirian, Jafar Vaali, Movahed Dilmaqani, Rokneddin Khosravi and himself.

He directed Iran’s first teleplay by staging French dramatist Armand Salacrou’s 1941 work “La Marguerite”.

Among his acclaimed works are “The Golden Viper” and “Bewildered Nightingale”, both written by Nasirian, and “Akbar, the Champion Dies”, “The Story of the Hidden Moon” and “Sunset in a Strange Land”, all three by Bahram Beizai.

He was also the writer of several fascinating books, including “An Introduction to Tazieh and National Play”.

## Eve Rodsky’s “Fair Play” comes to Iranian bookstores

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of d e s k American organizational management specialist Eve Rodsky’s book “Fair Play: A Game-Changing Solution for When You Have Too Much to Do” has been published in Tehran.

Artimis Masudi is the translator of the book published by the Amut publishing house.

It is a revolutionary, real-world solution to the problem of unpaid, invisible work that women have shouldered for too long.

Tired of being the “shefault” parent responsible for

all aspects of her busy household, Rodsky counted up all the unpaid, invisible work she was doing for her family – and then sent that list to her husband, asking for things to change. His response was... underwhelming. Rodsky realized that simply identifying the issue of unequal labor on the home front wasn’t enough: She needed a solution to this universal problem. Her sanity, identity, career, and marriage depended on it.

The result is “Fair Play”: a time – and anxiety-saving system that offers couples a completely new way to divvy up domestic responsibilities. Rodsky interviewed more than five

hundred men and women from all walks of life to figure out what the invisible work in a family actually entails and how to get it all done efficiently. With four easy-to-follow rules, 100 household tasks, and a figurative card game you play with your partner, “Fair Play” helps you prioritize what’s important to your family and who should take the lead on every chore from laundry to homework to dinner.

“Winning” this game means rebalancing your home life, reigniting your relationship with your significant other, and reclaiming your Unicorn Space – as in, the time to develop the skills and passions that keep you interested and interesting.