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# Steel industry in full swing

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**Defying sanctions, Iran boosts production by 11% as world's top producers cut output due to coronavirus**

© File photo

**By Ebrahim Fallahi**  
Tehran Times journalist

## Indigenizing equipment a priority of Iranian gas industry

Despite the unjust U.S. sanctions, Iran has made considerable advances in science and technology in almost all areas during the past years, and as one of the main pillars of the country's economy, the oil and gas industry have been at the top of the mentioned advancements.

Going hand in hand with the oil industry, the country's gas sector has been enjoying drastic technological advances in recent years, and numerous knowledge-based companies, research centers, and institutes have become active to help the industry reach its goals of self-sufficiency.

The growth in the mentioned sector is so fast-paced that according to the Head of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Hassan Montazer Torbati the country's gas industry will become completely self-sufficient within the next five years.

Speaking in the opening ceremony of the country's first Gas Tech Show back in December 2019, Montazer Torbati said, "In this process, we completely indigenize the technology and equipment required in the gas industry so that we won't need to import any technology or equipment in all the industry chain from refining to distribution."

"Reaching self-sufficiency and domestic production is a long-term process that is not easily achieved, however in recent years we have pursued it seriously and we are achieving positive outcomes," he said.

The indigenization and domestic production of oil and gas industry equipment has been always among the objectives of the Oil Ministry, however, the issue became further highlighted since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions and Washington's determination for cutting off the Islamic Republic's ties with the world advances in knowledge and technology, especially in the oil and gas sector, aiming for choking off the country's main source of revenue.

In the past few years, the ministry has been seriously supporting knowledge-based companies and startups, and several events, exhibitions, and panels have been held in this regard to encourage the mentioned companies' contribution to the country's oil and gas industry. **→4**

## Iran's first museum of psychiatry to open in Tehran

**TEHRAN** — The first museum of psychiatry in the country will be officially inaugurated in Tehran's Roozbeh Hospital next week.

Sources say that the museum will be the first of its kind in the country and the fifth in the world, noting such museums have been already established in Spain, Germany, Belgium, and Denmark.

The museum is projected to showcase the historical course of psychiatry knowledge and mental patients, according to organizers. It is also aimed to turn the spotlight on the history of mental illness during the history as well as prominent Iranian physicians; the dark ages of psychiatry when patients were awfully treated in the course of history; and the advent of a psychiatric hospital during the Qajar era (1789 to 1925).

Other themes include the establishment of the first asylum in the Iranian calendar year

1329 (March 1950-1951) that later turned to the Roozbeh Hospital; the relationship between art and psychiatry, which shows the cinema works associated with psychiatry; psychiatry in Iran and its relationships with the world; the creation of specialized tendencies to poetry, children and adolescents and writers.

### History of psychiatry in Iran

The history of psychiatry in Iran, according to Cambridge University, is as old as the history of medicine. In the middle ages, when in the West people with a mental illness were typically punished and tortured as witches or were looked upon as being possessed, the main approach to their care in the Islamic world, including Iran, generally involved kindness and some form of counseling, combined with herbal, aroma and music therapy and custody in special asylums. **→6**

## Mohammad Panjali lauds Persepolis defensive structure

**TEHRAN** — Former Persepolis defender Mohammad Panjali believes that the defensive structure of Yahya Golmohammadi's side is the main factor in Persepolis's recent success in the 2020 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League.

The Iranian giants qualified to the competitions' knockout stage as the leaders of Group C of the AFC Champions League (ACL).

Then, they defeated Qatar's Al Sadd 1-0 at the round of 16 clash on Sunday when Issa Alekassar

struck in the dying minutes of the match to seal their place in the 2020 ACL quarter-finals.

"We, firstly as Persepolis fans and then as a former player, always hope for the success of our team and pray for the victory of this popular team," Panjali said in an interview with Tehran Times.

He then referred to the quality of the Persepolis side in performing defensive tactics against Al Sadd.

"Today, football is very different from the

## U.S. protests: Hundreds of protesters take to the streets as the first presidential debate takes place

Protesters and activists from both sides of the political spectrum have staged demonstrations in Cleveland in the lead up to the first presidential debate.

Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden will face off on Tuesday night for the first time this election year at Case Western Reserve University.

In the lead up to the highly-anticipated clash, the city of Cleveland has not only been preparing to host the two candidates, but has been bracing for potential unrest and riots outside of the debate venue, Daily Mail reported.

City officials set up barriers and called in the National Guard in anticipation of several planned protests.

Hours before the event, hundreds of demonstrators swarmed the area where police officers were on hand in case things got out of line.

Police also established a 'Prohibited Item

Event Zone' covering an extensive area surrounding the venue, where large backpacks, explosives, firearms, and large metal and lumber materials, among other items deemed 'dangerous' are banned.

The signs held by participants were varied: Black Lives Matter, the more than 200,000 deaths from COVID in the United States, and for the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In nearby Wade Oval park, protesters were seen holding baby Trump balloons and placards with messages taking aim at the president and his administration.

Several protests were planned ahead of the debate, including one in support for 'Black Lives and Climate Justice', according to a Facebook event.

Another, hosted by anti-abortion organization 'Created Equal' planned to stage a demonstration outside the university's Health Education Campus. **→5**

## Doc on pitched battle with ISIS in Syria comes to Iranian art houses

**TEHRAN** — The acclaimed documentary "The Barrage" that is about a fierce battle between Iranian forces and ISIS terrorists in Syria came to the Art and Experience Cinema halls across the country.

Co-directed by Morteza Payeshenas and Hossein Momen, the film was named best documentary in the national competition of the 13th Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major documentary film festival, in December 2019.

Produced at Iran's Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC), the film had a special screening at the Iranian Artists Forum on Tuesday, which was attended by Payeshenas, producer Morteza Sha'bani and DEFC director Mohammad Hamidi-Moqaddam.

In a short speech made before the screening, Payeshenas thanked people for their presence at the screening despite the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, and said that his film would have a profound impact only when it is viewed in movie theaters.

"My film has been screened at the Art and Experience Cinema halls, which are dedicated to screening art films, and for which review sessions are organized, and this interaction is really significant for me," he added.

He said that all the events in the film are set in Syria in a difficult situation, and that he has tried to edit the scenes in a way so that viewers in the audiences feel themselves to be on location.

Sha'bani also described filmmaking in wartime as difficult, and said that he did not suppose that his crew welcomed his proposal for making a documentary in Syria under difficult conditions. **→8**



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## Uraman where roof of a house is yard of another

Photo taken on September 29th shows the bizarre architecture of Uraman rural landscape; each house is built on another's rooftop, most of which having porch-balconies and earthen roofs.

Situated in Kordestan province, western Iran, Uraman rural landscape is a candidate for becoming a World Heritage site in 2021.

Uraman is considered a cradle of Kurdish art and culture from the days of yore. Pirshalyar, which is named after a legendary local figure, is amongst time-honored celebrations and rituals that are practiced annually across the mountainous region.



## Official rejects as ‘baseless’ rumors of arms transfer via Iran’s soil to Armenia

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Presidential chief of staff Mahmoud Vaezi has dismissed as “baseless” the rumors that Iran is dispatching aid to Armenia amid its on-going clashes with neighboring Azerbaijan.

“The Republic of Azerbaijan has an important and special place in Iran’s foreign policy,” Vaezi said in a phone call with Azerbaijan’s Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev.

“We have always used every opportunity to strengthen and develop our relations with this country,” he said, according to Mehr. Vaezi voiced concern over the Azerbaijan-Armenia clashes, saying Iran is monitoring the developments closely.

“We are ready to help in resolving the dispute between the two countries through dialogue and negotiation within the framework of law and regulations of international law,” he stated.

Violence broke out on the front line between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the volatile Nagorno-Karabakh region on Sunday. The region is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but controlled by Armenian forces.

Araz News, website of the Azerbaijan National Resistance Organization (ANRO), an exiled separatist group of Iranian Azeri, on Monday published videos and photos of trucks allegedly carrying arms and equipment to Armenia.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh rebuffed the allegations, saying the transit of conventional non-military items through Iran to neighboring countries has always been underway.

“The mentioned trucks are crossing Iran simply within the same framework,” Khatibzadeh said on Tuesday. “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.”

In this regard, Vaezi also strongly rejected the rumors, saying they are completely baseless and are aimed at disrupting the good relations between Iran and Azerbaijan.

He said the good, strategic and comprehensive relations between Tehran and Baku will not be affected by such rumors.

Shahin Mustafayev, for his part, referred to Iran a good neighbor, saying, “We should not allow these good relations to be damaged by the efforts of the opposition.”

Referring to the commonalities between Iran and Azerbaijan, he said the top officials of the two countries have made great efforts to develop and deepen the Tehran-Baku relations, and today these relations are at a very good level.

Iran’s Ambassador to Baku also reacted to the Araz News report, saying it was part of third-party efforts to harm the friendly, brotherly relations between Iran and Azerbaijan.

Abbas Mousavi highlighted Iran’s strong position in support of the Republic of Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity, and stressed the need for Azerbaijan and Armenia to resolve their disputes peacefully.

## Tehran reaffirms sovereignty over trio Persian Gulf islands

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has rejected the claims raised by the foreign minister of the UAE on three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, saying such “groundless” comments would not change anything about Iran’s sovereignty over the trio islands.

In a statement on Wednesday, Khatibzadeh said Iran’s sovereignty over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb, and the Lesser Tunb is “definite” and “irrefutable”.

“All of Iran’s measures have been taken within the framework of exercising its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and clearly have nothing to do with any foreign government,” he said, the Foreign Ministry website reported.

“Such comments and repetition of groundless claims have had and would have no impact on our country’s sovereignty, as they lack any legal validity,” he added.

It came after the UAE’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan reshaped the same story in a speech to the general debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.

He also claimed that his country has legal right regarding sovereignty over the three Persian Gulf islands, alleging that Iran has occupied the islands in violation of the UN Charter.

## Trump’s Supreme Court pick represented anti-Iran MKO terrorists in delisting case: U.S. media

**TEHRAN (Press TV)** — U.S. President Donald Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court is said to have represented the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) terror group in a case pursuing the removal of the notorious anti-Iran cult from the State Department’s list of designated foreign terrorist organizations.

The Washington Post reported on Wednesday that Judge Amy Coney Barrett disclosed her legal work for the MKO in the Senate questionnaire she submitted during her 2017 confirmation process to join the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit.

In her questionnaire, Barrett wrote that she was one of five lawyers on a team that worked for the terror group and its U.S. representative office from 2000 to 2001 in their petition to review the State Department’s foreign-terrorist-organization designation.

She also explained that she had “assisted with legal research and briefing” for the MKO’s case while she worked for Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin LLP, a law firm in Washington that merged with Baker Botts LLP in 2001 during her employment there.

The MKO has conducted numerous assassinations and bombings against Iranian statesmen and civilians since the 1979 victory of Iran’s Islamic Revolution. Its members fled Iran in 1986 for Iraq, where they enjoyed backing from former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist assaults since the Revolution, about 12,000 have fallen victim to the MKO’s acts of terror.

The anti-Iran cult was on the U.S. government’s list of terrorist organizations until 2012. Major European countries, including France, have also removed it from their blacklists.

A few years ago, MKO elements were relocated from their Camp Ashraf in Iraq’s Diyala Province to Camp Hurriyet (Camp Liberty), a former U.S. military base in Baghdad, and later sent to Albania.

MKO terrorists enjoy freedom of activity in the U.S. and Europe, and even hold meetings with European and American officials, among them Trump’s lawyer Rudy Giuliani and former U.S. national security advisor John Bolton.

# Iran censures Germany over allegations of human rights violation

“Complacency and complicity go hand in hand”



**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s ambassador and permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva has strongly criticized Germany’s statement about the human rights situation in Iran, saying the allegations raised in the statement are not corroborated by hard evidence or facts on the ground.

“It has long been proven that the external interferences are inherently antithetical to, and damaging for, the promotion of each and every one of these rights,” Esmail Baghaei Hamaneh said on Tuesday.

He made the remarks at the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday.

“I deliver this statement in response to the statement launched against Iran on Friday morning by Germany—allegedly on behalf of a number of countries that are tellingly anonymous by far—as repeated further by a few European delegations,” Baghaei Hamaneh said.

The allegations are “mainly based on faulty generalization of twisted or incomplete information about certain individual cases,” the ambassador noted, adding, “Human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural, are all interdependent, indivisible and interrelated.”

The remarks came days after Germany issued a statement to the UN Human Rights Council on behalf of 47 countries expressing concerns about alleged violations of rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly in Iran.

Last week, the United Kingdom, France and Germany summoned Iranian ambassadors to their countries in a coordinated diplomatic protest of Iran’s alleged mistreatment of dual nationality and political prisoners.

On Monday, the last day of the week in which Iran annually marks the sacrifices made during the eight-year war imposed by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein on Iran, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tore into the three European powers.

“You assisted Saddam with \$75bn ... and now you make claims?” he said, adding

that the Iraqi dictator’s backers gave him aircraft and chemical weapons to topple the newly formed nation.

“Chemical weapons from Germany and the Netherlands were given to Saddam to use against the Iranian people,” the chief Iranian diplomat said, asking, “And now you claim to be civilized?”

In his Tuesday statement, Baghaei Hamaneh voiced Iran’s determination for constant improvement of human rights in all its aspects despite all the

odds including systemic stigmatization as well as unlawful vindictive sanctions and belligerent bullying and pressure by the United States against the Islamic Republic.

Pointing to Iran’s fight against the coronavirus outbreak, which has been largely hampered by the U.S. sanctions, the ambassador said Iran’s challenges in addressing the impact of Covid-19 outbreak are twofold due to inhuman unilateral coercive measures that are wickedly levied

**“Those few States that instigated the initiative of making joint statement against Iran consciously chose to ignore this grave injustice and blatant wrongful act, knowing that they as well share responsibility for the consequences of the U.S. lawless and criminal behavior due to their failure to honor their own commitments vis-a-vis Iran and because of their appeasement approach toward the U.S. illegality,” says Iran’s ambassador to the UN office in Geneva.**

## ‘Americans are stuck in difficult situation,’ Rouhani says after U.S. presidential debate

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani has reacted to the Tuesday night presidential debate in the U.S., saying the Americans are stuck in a very difficult situation.

The incumbent president, Donald Trump, who represents the Republican party, faced off the Democratic challenger Joe Biden on Tuesday night, marking the first 2020 presidential debate.

During the debate, the two candidates repeatedly interrupted each other, accused each other of lying and corruption, and insulted one another. The debate was met with online ridicule by people from all around the world.

“If people watched the debate last night or read about it today in newspapers and on the internet, they saw that what a predicament they’re in,” Rouhani said at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, according to Mehr.

“On the one hand, they’ve had the worst management of the coronavirus, and on the other hand, they’ve been hit by unemployment and domestic unrest,” he said.

The president said the U.S. has achieved no victory in its foreign policy “not only toward Iran, but also toward the region, the Pacific, Europe and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).”

He said the most hostile and cruel policies have been adopted by the United States against the Iranian people.

The Tehran-Washington tensions have been high since Trump pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 and re-imposed sanctions on all major industries in Iran, including oil and petrochemicals exports.

The U.S. sanctions were imposed on Iran under the banner of the Trump administration’s “maximum pressure” policy, with the professed goal of bringing Iran to the negotiating



table to negotiate a new deal.

“Our enemies were not successful in three years and, God willing, they will be so in these final months and the situation will not remain like this,” Rouhani remarked.

## Iraq’s resistance against ISIS result of Ayatollah Sistani’s wisdom’: IRGC Quds Force chief

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The commander of the IRGC Quds Force says the Iraqi people’s resistance against the American, Zionist and Saudi-backed Daesh (ISIS) was a fruit of Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani’s “tactfulness and wisdom”.

Iraq’s top clerics played a significant role in organizing the Iraqi people to protect the Arab country’s independence and national security, and this will last forever in the history of the region, Major General Esmail Ghaani said on Tuesday, Mehr reported.

Ghaani said Ayatollah Sistani supported



Iraqi armed forces and Islamic resistance forces and helped significantly to thwart the conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic Ummah.

In remarks on Tuesday, President Hassan Rouhani also highlighted the “unparalleled” role of the top Shia cleric in maintaining stability and security in Iraq.

He made the remarks at a meeting with Iraq’s new Ambassador in Tehran Nasir Abdul Mohsen Abdullah.

President Rouhani said that Ayatollah Sistani has always been respected by the Iranian people and government.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad

Zarif has also appreciated the role of Ayatollah Sistani in establishing stability and security in Iraq.

“The great authority, His Eminence, Ayatollah Sistani is the fortress of Iraq, the security valve for the region, and an asset for the entire Islamic world,” Zarif wrote in an Arabic tweet on Monday.

“Iran appreciates the role of his eminence in establishing security and stability in Iraq, preserving its sovereignty and territorial integrity, getting rid of the occupying forces and building a new Iraq according to the requirements of its brotherly people,” he added.

## Rouhani warns that war over Nagorno-Karabakh will only complicate the situation

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — In a telephone conversation with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Wednesday, President Hassan Rouhani of Iran said war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region is not a proper way and will only complicate the situation.

Rouhani said, “Our region cannot tolerate new instability and war.”

Pointing to the importance of peace, security and stability in the Caucasus, the Iranian president said, “Stability and security can set the bedrock for progress.”

The Iranian president added “ceasing clashes are important to us and we expect the two countries of Armenia and Azerbaijan” to “show restraint and act wisely” in settling the dispute.

The dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh should be resolved within international framework and protecting territorial integrity, Rouhani suggested.

Rouhani also warned if the war is not stopped foreigners will find a pretext to interfere and this will make the “clashes to last longer and complicate the situation.”



The president said Iran is ready to help play “any constructive role” which would be acceptable by the two “friendly and brotherly neighbors” to put an end to the conflict.

“Our wish is an immediate halt of clashes and we should all seek to resolve the regional issues politically and through international regulations.”

For his part, the Armenian prime minister said any tensions or clashes will be detrimental to all regional countries and said his country welcomes any initiative for stopping the violence.

Prime Minister Pashinyan also expressed concern over any “foreign interference” in Armenia’s conflict with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia entered a fourth day on Wednesday in the biggest eruption of the decades-old conflict since a 1994 ceasefire.

According to Al-Jazeera, Armenia said three civilians had been killed in Martakert, a town located in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh, as a result of an Azeri attack, local news agency Armenpress reported.

French President Emmanuel Macron said Turkey’s “warlike” rhetoric was encouraging Azerbaijan to reconquer Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a disputed region inside Azerbaijan and controlled by ethnic Armenians. It broke away from Azerbaijan in a war in the 1990s but is not recognized by any country as an independent republic.



# Rear Admiral Khanzadi: We're moving from subsonic to supersonic missiles

“We are really turning from a traditional navy to a modern one”

1→ so they highlighted its military aspect. There are speculations that the military equations in the region would change as a result of the normalization deal. But you think the deal would have intelligence and security implications.

A: Yes. In fact, the normalization deal was reached according to a security approach in line with the U.S. policy of “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran. They think that a relationship between Israel and the UAE would increase the pressure on Iran. This is while we have passed an irreversible threshold in terms of acquiring economic, technological, and defense capabilities. We have reached a stage that if, one day, we were eagerly after buying equipment such as destroyers from other countries today we are not in need of this equipment at all. Because we know that buying defense weapons from another country significantly makes us dependent on that country in the long-term. During the Sacred Defense years [the Iran-Iraq war], we experienced dependence. When they don't give us even a simple bolt and when the weapons need repairing or maintenance, they refuse to cooperate or repair only after receiving very huge sums of money, then we consider the idea of buying foreign weapons as unfavorable. However, when we use home-grown weapons and native technology, everything goes smoothly without any delay. Today, wherever we need to do maintenance or repair, we immediately dispatch our talented young people to do the job all over the country without strange costs. For example, if our destroyers need to be upgraded, we send these people.

In military exercises, weapons are tested on a real combat ground. When we tested our weapons in the exercises, we understood that we need to take other serious measures. We understood that we need to greatly focus on homegrown torpedoes because they are working very well. Every torpedo we launched so far, has effectively hit the target. Now that we have developed and upgraded the torpedoes to new classes with more destruction power and longer ranges, we should extend this development to all our underwater vehicles, a job we are doing right now.

The point is that the military aspects of the normalization deals will not affect us greatly. Because they live in glass houses. There is a proverb that says “Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones”. This proverb means that the Americans built military bases in the vicinity of our country all of which we see as targets whether be it the Americans or those who gave them bases. They understand that any military action in the region will wreak very heavy damage on them. Once, they were far from our country but now they are closer to us. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has used a nice statement. The Leader said in war, the one who has a long sword will be victorious because he can thwart the strike of the enemy and wreak havoc. At some point, they were in favor of staying away. For example, the Americans moved their aircraft carrier out of the Persian Gulf and then attacked Iraq. This was an effective strategy. But this strategy doesn't work with Iran because whether they stay away or come closer, they will be within our reach. The faraway area for them may be their own country. Wherever they station in the region and the Indian Ocean, they will be within our reach. They will not be away from us. Besides, they established so expensive capacities in our vicinity that they will not be able to take these capacities away soon.

■ Maybe if they take their equipment away quickly, they will be able to protect themselves.

A: At whatever pace they move out of the region, they will be within our reach in the future. The political and economic decline of the U.S. forces it into gradually or abruptly withdraw its forces from the



**“The point is that the military aspects of the normalization deals will not affect us greatly. Because they live in glass houses.”**

region and redeploy them to its own region. This is already happening and we see some signs in this regard. It remains to be seen whom Arab states will rely upon after the U.S. withdrawal from the region. Inside the region, they didn't maintain a friend and outside the region, there will be no allies. The history of navy powers shows that no foreign power will remain in the region. First of all, the Portuguese were the dominant power in the region but where they are now. They have no meaningful presence in the region. The Spanish also lost their influence in the region. The British, who once had numerous aircraft carriers, now have no aircraft carriers in the region.

The U.S. will face a similar fate. When I was studying in Pakistan, we had a session called “Ten Minute Talk”, during which we gave lectures to the students and professors. We were given a piece of sheet. We would study it out of the class and then come back to give a lecture about it in ten minutes. A very strange event took place. When I opened the sheet I picked I saw the phrase “Stretch your hand as long as your sleeve,” on it. We have a similar phrase in Persian. I spoke about this phrase, which means that those who stretch their hand further than their sleeve, they will be obliged to go back to square one whether they like it or not, especially if the region's countries insist on protecting their resources in the face of foreigners.

The center power of global navy power will certainly change. You will see regional powers. The British will not have the opportunity to flex their military muscles. They have left their colonies around the world throughout history. Take a look at the country of the UK. How big is it? How big is it in terms of geography? Geographically, it's not very big to be a great power. Its power has been eroded over time in history and it's getting worse on a daily basis. They have so many conflicts among themselves that Scotland will get separated from them soon. The remaining countries will face a similar scenario. So, the UK is headed for collapse. The U.S. is also headed for collapse. The region's Arab countries should ponder over the future. Kings may only care about themselves, but nations should be careful and see in whose basket they are putting all their eggs. Paying attention to regional capacities, regional convergence, and establishing friendly and brotherly relations on the basis of legitimate national interests will certainly help terminate the insecure atmosphere that the U.S. tries to create in the region. And I think the first stain that will be destroyed in the process will be, God willing, the Zionist regime.

■ Does Iran embrace the regional countries if they choose to create friendly relations with it?

A: We certainly welcome their efforts in this regard but let them know that in emotional relations, which have their own definition in international relations, historical memories cannot be removed. The bitterer the memories are the more enduring they are.

■ You spoke about equipment. Does the Navy plan to unveil new achievements given that the Day of Navy is a few months away?

A: Yes. As the Leader said, this year's name is “Production Leap”, which has different definitions in national and defense spheres. For us, it means producing more security.

■ So you don't increase the number of weapons such as missiles or increase their range?

A: No, because we have so many missiles with various ranges. And we are seeking to make achievements in other sectors. We are moving from subsonic missiles to supersonic missiles, and from traditional decks to modern decks. The traditional deck of a destroyer carries few missiles, but modern ones carry a lot of missiles from surface-to-surface missiles to surface-to-air missiles. We are really turning from a traditional navy to a modern one. We will have a busy November this year (November 27 is the Navy Day in Iran). First of all, we have boosted the combat readiness of our destroyers over the past year. Now they have a better maneuvering capability with more advanced weaponry. They also have better missile defense systems and new precision-guided defense missiles as well as underwater sonar systems. All of our destroyers have been upgraded and now they have all of these capabilities. In November, God willing, we will hold a naval parade with all of our destroyers for the first time on the occasion of Navy Day, which will demonstrate our full combat readiness. The destroyer Dena will join the Navy in November. We made efforts to make this happen during the Sacred Defense Week. But we have done some improvements to it that took a long time. We added some new features to it. Unlike the past, we are in no rush to join destroyers to the Navy, because we want to carefully upgrade our equipment. We have recently paid a visit to Dena. Improvement in working is going fast. This destroyer is an upgraded version of the Jamaran type. And we also have Saba minesweeper, which is designed to be used in demining operations. If the enemy tries to mine our ports or our territories, Saba will help us in demine these territories.

We have a Zereh missile cruiser which is Peykan-class and very fast, powerful, and equipped with new missile systems. We have manufactured four Zereh cruisers in the Caspian Sea and the fifth Zereh cruiser is being manufactured in southern Iran. We have a number of old-version Zereh missile cruisers. But we are making more advanced versions of this cruiser.

Besides, we have designed new-generation towboats. When we say towboat, some may say it's a simple thing that will tow something else. However, towboats are very crucial in accelerating maritime operations. We are manufacturing the strongest of towboats, which is 6,000 horsepower. We didn't possess such powerful towboats. All of our towboats were imported. But this towboat is being manufactured in Iran.

After November 27, God willing, we will also see the joining of other equipment to the Navy. For example, a new upgraded version of the destroyer Damavand will join the Navy. New capabilities have been added to Damavand which I will declare when it joins the Navy. But it has undergone major and nice changes. It was changed in a way that makes it compatible with the Caspian Sea. We have made a lot of technological works.

■ Recently, it was announced that Iran is making an unmanned submarine. Can you give us information about this submarine?

A: Submarines are a very broad issue. Today, we have reached the highest level of submarine technology. Unmanned submarines are a little bit complicated. But we are strongly interested in this type of submarines. In past years, the commander-in-chief has reiterated that we should take the control of the region with submarines. He exactly pointed to the enemies' weak spots. Today, we remain focused on submarines among other things. We are not willing to give more details, but we have a lot of surprises for the enemies and the global arrogance.

■ We would like to discuss the Navy's social services. Does the Navy engage in providing social services? The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has issued orders to make the Persian Gulf islands inhabitable. Does the navy has any role in making these islands inhabitable?

A: Over the past years, we have created a division of labor. Accordingly, the IRGC's navy is responsible for the Persian Gulf region. Most of our islands are located there. Therefore, the efforts that are being done by our dear colleagues in the IRGC in their area of responsibility are very valuable. They take measures to increase the stability in the Persian Gulf. We [the Army's Navy] are mainly focused on eastern territories. Over the past 10 years, we have built a number of big bases there. For example, thanks to the deployment of the Navy in Jask, thousands of employees moved to Jask, which lacked infrastructures in the past, but the Navy created infrastructures such as roads, airports, and ports. A national airport has been built in Jask. The Navy invested there. When we station our forces there, this means that government employees make a living there. If you visit Jask today, you will see the difference. Jask has tremendously changed over the past years. Similarly, Konarak has also changed. Konarak is near Chabahar and we seek to develop it. These are our very important civilization centers. The Leader has said the Sea of Oman is the backyard of the Persian Gulf. The Army also helps people during natural disasters. The first forces that rushed to help the people during the latest floods that hit Sistan-Balouchistan and Hormozgan provinces were the army forces.

The Army also holds industrial training courses in southern Iran, where we also built two big hospitals with advanced capabilities. These hospitals will be inaugurated soon. We built a 128-bed hospital in Bandar Abbas and another 96-bed one in Konarak. Last year, we also started the construction of Jask's hospital.

## SPORTS

### Alireza Beiranvand misses Iran October friendlies

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran national football team goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand will be absent in two friendly matches against Mali and Uzbekistan.

The 28-year-old goalkeeper, who joined Belgian top-flight team Antwerp in July, has suffered a groin injury.

According to gva.be, Beiranvand will be sidelined for several weeks.



Iran are scheduled to meet Uzbekistan on Oct. 8 in Tashkent as part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

Dragan Skocic's men will also play Mali on Oct. 13 in Antalya, Turkey.

The 2022 World Cup qualifiers were postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Iran, who sit third in Group C behind Iraq and Bahrain, have four must-win matches ahead in the competition.

The eight group winners of the World Cup qualification's group stage and four best runners-up will advance to the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Finals and the final round of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The next best 24 teams from the second round of the joint qualifiers will compete in a separate competition for the remaining 12 slots in the 24-team AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

The FIFA World Cup in Qatar will run from November 21 to December 18, 2022.

### Mohammad Panjali lauds Persepolis defensive structure

1→ “Golmohammad's side has an admirable defensive structure. In the modern football, a team that defends well and does not concede easily will succeed. In five games since the AFC Champions League resumed, Persepolis have yet to concede from open play, with Almoez Ali's penalty the only attempt to find the back of the team's net. Therefore, Persepolis team defense leaves nothing to be said,” added Panjali, who played as Persepolis defender for 15 years in two stints.

### Esteghlal fire GM Ahmad Saadatmand

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football club have fired general manager Ahmad Saadatmand on Wednesday.

Saadatmand's firing comes one day after he made a strange revelation about the team's players.

In a video message, Saadatmand had criticized some Esteghlal players for indiscipline 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 had 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.

### Nasr Azadani appointed Belgian taekwondo coach

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Ex-Iran national taekwondo team player Alireza Nasr Azadani has been appointed as new head coach of Belgium.

He was working as Davoud Falahatgar's assistant since August 2018 but has been appointed as head coach by the country's taekwondo federation.

Nasr Azadani, 35, was a member of Iran national taekwondo team from 2006 to 2014. He won his first gold at the Asian Taekwondo Championships in Luoyang, China in 2008 and seized his second Asian Championship gold four years later in Ho Chi Minh City.

Nasr Azadani has also won a bronze and a gold medal in the 2006 and 2010 Asian Games, respectively. He claimed a gold medal at the World Championships in 2011 in Gyeongju as well.

### 2020 ACL: Issa Alekasir chosen Player of the Week

Persepolis forward Issa Alekasir has been voted by the fans as the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16 (WEST) Toyota Player of the Week.

Matchwinner Kasir topped the OPTA rankings for the Round of 16 as the striker scored the tie's only goal as the Islamic Republic of Iran club eliminated home side Al-Sadd SC following a 1-0 win on Sunday.

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

(Source: the-afc)

## Iran, Japan discuss Syria developments

**P O L I T I C A L** **TEHRAN** — In a telephone conversation on Wednesday, two Iranian and Japanese diplomats held talks on the latest developments in Syria, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

“Ali-Asghar Khaji, the Iranian foreign minister's senior assistant in special political affairs, and Japan's Special Coordinator for Syria Akira Endo talked about the latest developments in Syria, including the most recent meeting of the Constitutional Committee, the Astana peace process, the situation in Idlib and east of the Euphrates, as well as the humanitarian conditions,” the statement said.

The statement also said the two diplomats expressed satisfaction with the holding of the third session of the Syrian Constitutional Committee in Geneva, voiced support for the continuation of dialogue and political process, particularly within the framework of the Constitutional Committee, and stressed the need for the international community to dispatch more humanitarian aid to Syria,



given the coronavirus pandemic and the escalation of the humanitarian situation in that country.

Khaji underscored Iran's “principled policy” on the political settlement of the Syrian crisis while also voicing

Iran's support for the intra-Syrian talks within the framework of the Constitutional Committee, which has been established as part of an initiative developed by the Astana process guarantor states and called for non-interference from outside in the activities of the committee.

The Iranian diplomat also denounced the U.S. presence in Syria as “illegal”, saying its measures in the war-torn country were aimed to “plunder Syria's oil and sponsor the terrorist groups.” Khaji underlined the need for the U.S. to withdraw its forces from Syria, stressing the need for the continuation of the fight against terrorism until its eradication in that country.

He also called on Japan to continue the delivery of humanitarian aid to all parts of Syria, voicing Iran's readiness to help in this regard.

For his part, Akira Endo highlighted Iran's prominent role in the resolution of the crisis in Syria, and praised the efforts by the Astana Process guarantor states, according to the statement.



## Expansion of energy co-op discussed between Iran, Belarus

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran and Belarus discussed the ways for the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the field of energy in a meeting between Iranian Ambassador to Belarus Saeed Yari and Energy Minister of Belarus Viktor Karankevich in Minsk on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Iranian ambassador elaborated on the capacities for boosting Iran-Belarus energy cooperation, and emphasized the need for implementing the agreements made between the two sides in the field of energy in the 14th meeting of Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Committee, IRNA reported.

The energy minister of Belarus, for his part, pointed to the history of cooperation between Tehran and Minsk in the field of energy as well as activity of Belarussian Bell Energo Company in Iran and welcomed the expansion of cooperation between the two sides in electricity and gas industries.



The minister also referred to the high capacities of Iranian Company MAPNA, and its noticeable activities in different countries in the world, and said that his country welcomes this company's implementation of electricity projects in Belarus.

In December 2019, Iran, and Belarus signed an agreement for promoting mutual trade, IRIB reported, quoting the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) as saying.

According to Rohollah Latifi, the agreement was signed by the IRICA Head Mehdi Mirashrafi and the Chairman of Belarus State Customs Committee Yuri Senko on the sidelines of a World Customs Organization (WCO) event in South Korea.

The agreement was signed in line with the implementation of the free trade agreement between Iran and Eurasia, Latifi said, adding that it is aimed for improving the level of cooperation between the two countries and protect the economic and social interests of both sides.

In the mentioned agreement, several important factors including identifying the two sides' needs, increasing efficiency, customs control of goods, and vehicles in transit between the two countries, have been emphasized.

Belarus for long has been among Iran's trade partners and the country played a significant role in reaching the trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

The EAEU is comprised of Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. It is an international organization created with the aim of encouraging regional economic integration through the free movement of goods, services, and people within the union.

## Stone products worth over \$1.3b exported in 5 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran has exported stone products worth over \$1.307 billion during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi put the weight of the exported goods at over 2.465 million tons, and said the stone products have been exported to 40 countries during the five-month period, Mehr news agency reported.



The IRICA spokesman mentioned the export destinations of Iranian stone products as Iraq, Armenia, Oman, Qatar, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Pakistan, Kuwait, Indonesia, Georgia, Korea, Russia, Sudan, Ivory Coast, Hong Kong, Germany, Spain, Italy, Vietnam, Taiwan, Greece, Jordan, Malaysia, Thailand, Poland, Albania, Egypt, Georgia, China, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Kenya, South Africa, Kazakhstan, and Tanzania.

He said China, Iraq, and India as Iran's major export destinations for the said products in the first five months of this year.

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

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

Iran's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were China with over \$3 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$2.406 billion, the United Arab Emirates with over \$1.554 billion, and Afghanistan with \$871 million as well as Turkey with \$513 million, so the country's top five export destinations remained the same in comparison to previous months, according to IRICA.

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

The top five sources of imports during this period were China with \$3.552 billion, the UAE with \$3.186 billion, Turkey with \$1.475 billion, India with \$941 million, and Germany with \$548 million worth of imports.

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

# Steel industry in full swing

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's crude steel production reached 18.625 million tons in the first eight months of 2020 to register an 11.3-percent increase year on year, Mehr news agency reported.

The country's steel output stood at 16.739 million in the previous year's same eight months.

The increase in the Iranian steel production comes as the production of most of the world's top steel producers has fallen due to the negative impacts of the coronavirus outbreak.

As reported, among the world's 64 steel producers, only nine, including China (the world's largest steel producer), Iran, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Egypt, Chile, Turkey, Norway, and Australia, saw production growth in the said period, and 55 countries were faced with declining production.

The Iranian steel industry also outshined the world producers in this sector



during the first seven months of 2020, as based on the WSA report Iran produced

16.335 million tons of the mentioned commodity during the January-July period of

2020, 10.8 percent more than the figure in the same seven months of 2019.

The world's 64 top steel producers managed to produce 1.27 billion tons of crude steel in the said period, 5.3 percent less than the output for the last year's same seven months.

Iran's crude steel production had also increased by 30 percent in 2019 while the average global growth in this sector stood at 3.5 percent.

According to the World Steel Association, Iran became the world's tenth-largest steel producer in 2018.

Iran which stood at the 13th place in 2017 could lag behind three major steel producers in the world, namely Italy, Taiwan, and Ukraine to stand at the 10th place in 2018, despite the re-imposition of sanctions by the U.S.

Last month, a board member of the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) told IRNA that Iran has the capacity to export 15 million tons of steel per annum.

## Indigenizing equipment a priority of Iranian gas industry

**1 →** In June 2019, NIGC held a reverse pitch panel to address the industry's technological issues and to benefit from the capabilities and capacities of the knowledge-based companies and academics active in the industry.

In the process of the mentioned panel, practical ideas that offered appropriate and executive solutions to the industry's targeted issues were chosen to go through trials in the form of research projects and finally be implemented after assessment and prioritization.

In his latest comments published by the news portal of the NIGC on Tuesday, Montazer Torbati has pushed the significance of the issue even further and called for the establishment of research centers and institutes to work exclusively on the indigenization of the gas industry equipment and technology.

"Setting up centers and institutes that provide the ground for localization of the necessary equipment and help achieve our self-sufficiency goals by their innovative ideas, is one of the priorities of the country's gas industry."

The NIGC head stated that the general approach of

the institutes is to establish a close relationship between the knowledge centers (university) and the industry, adding: "The majority of the research work of the National Iranian Gas Company is followed by such institutes."

He pointed out that the research projects of the National Iranian Gas Company are pursued in the form of four major categories, including LNG (liquefied natural gas), gas processing, turbines, and smart measurement, saying: "Whenever the industry is faced with a problem such as the need for a new product, or issues related to catalysts or operational requirements, these institutes will be present alongside the industry as scientific support."

The efforts of the Oil Ministry and NIGC have resulted in significant achievements in this industry and so far Iranian experts and engineers have managed to localize the knowledge for manufacturing over 90 percent of the gas industry's required equipment and services.

The technological know-how of repairing high-pressure gas pipelines using composite wrapping, the know-how for producing vibration monitoring and protection systems for gas transmission lines, the knowledge for producing certain catalysts for processing natural gas,



the technology for manufacturing and installing the most modern and up to date measuring instruments and equipment used in the industry can be mentioned as some of the achievements of the NIGC in the past few years.

## Tehran hosting MINEX 2020 exhibition

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The 9th International Investment Opportunities in Iran's Mines and Mining Industries Exhibition and Conference (MINEX 2020) and the 9th International Conference on Materials Engineering and Metallurgy (IMAT 2020) kicked off on Tuesday in Tehran.

The exhibition and conference are being held under special circumstances and in compliance with health protocols due to the outbreak of coronavirus, Shata reported.

As reported, the opening ceremony of the mentioned exhibition was attended by senior officials from the country's industry and mining sectors, including the Deputy Industry Minister Saeed Zarandi.

Sponsors and participants in the mentioned events are the Geological Survey of Iran (GSI), the Organization for Development and Renovation of Mines and Mining Industries of Iran (IMIDRO), the Iranian Mining Engineering Organiza-

tion, the Association of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering of Iran, and the country's Foundry Industry Association.

The exhibition covers three areas of discovery, mining, and processing in which exhibitors from a variety of areas such as mining equipment and machinery, mining industries, various investor companies, financial institutions, credit, and consulting engineers are participating.

Presenting the achievements of producers and introducing investment opportunities as well as the discovery of new export markets are some of the objectives of the conference and exhibition.

The International Conference on Materials Engineering and Metallurgy also covers a variety of areas including engineering materials, physical metallurgy, extractive metallurgy, industrial metallurgy, casting and freezing, simulation, strategic management, and environment.

## Hendijan oil field's 2nd 1000-ton platform successfully installed

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Platform 7 of Iran's Hendijan oil field was successfully installed on its designated offshore spot in the Persian Gulf.

It is the second 1000-ton platform of Hendijan, and due to some specific condition such as shallow water its installation was more complicated compared to the first 1000-ton platform (platform 8), which had been installed last week.

Each of the mentioned platforms is planned to produce 10,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil from the field.

Platforms 7 and 8 of Hendijan oil field had been loaded in early September at Iran Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Complex (ISOIC)'s Bandar-Abbas Yard to be shipped toward their offshore spot.

According to the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), which is in charge of the field's development, the installation of these platforms ensures sustained production in this field while paving the way for increasing the field's production capacity.



"These platforms are designed to produce 10,000 barrels of oil, which means the two of them will produce 20,000 barrels," IOOC Director of Engineering and Construction Ali Ahouchehr said at the time.

The Hendijan field is located in the north-west section of the Persian Gulf, 10km north-east of Bahregansar platform.

The Iranian Offshore Oil Company is a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) that operates in southern Iran. Its activities cover important areas of the Persian Gulf and its main operations are in Bushehr Province and on Kharg Island, Sirri Island, and Lavan Island.

## Car manufacturing up over 23% in H1 on year

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Car manufacturing in Iran rose 23.4 percent during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year, the data released by the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade showed.

As reported by ILNA, 468,699 vehicles have been manufactured during the first half of this year.

During this period, 425,925 passenger cars were produced in the country, registering a growth of 21.9 percent compared to the first six months of the previous year.

The production of trucks reached 39,519 units in the said time span, which has increased by 40.4 percent compared to the last year's same period.

Car manufacturing in Iran had also risen 21 percent during the first five months of the present year (March 20-August 21).



Iranian carmakers manufactured 360,599 vehicles during the five-month period of this year, while the fig-

ure was 268,966 in the same time span of the past year.

Three major Iranian carmakers, namely Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), SAIPA Group, and Pars Khodro, manufactured 863,263 vehicles during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

During the previous year, IKCO manufactured 393,812 vehicles, of which 35,953 were produced in the last month Esfand (February 20-March 19).

Production by SAIPA stood at 363,379, of which 23,696 vehicles were manufactured during the last month.

Pars Khodro manufactured 106,072 cars during the past year. Production in Esfand reached 9,300 vehicles.

Iran has been following a program for supporting domestic manufacturing of auto parts since due to the U.S. sanctions the country's automakers have been facing some problems in supplying their needed parts and equipment.

## Qeshm Island to be connected to national gas network by Mar. 2023

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The managing director of Hormozgan Province Gas Company said Qeshm Island is going to be connected to the national gas network by the end of the Iranian calendar year 1401 (March 20, 2023), Shana reported.

"The 30-inch line for transmitting 40 million cubic meters of gas from the west of Bandar-Abbas (center of Hormozgan) to the Gorzin Village in Qeshm Island will be put into operation by the middle of next year," Foad Hamzavi said.

As of next September until the end of 1401,

all Qeshm villages will benefit from natural gas through the national network, he said.

The official noted that based on the instructions issued by the Oil Ministry, the distribution of LPG cylinders in the areas which have access to the national network is prohibited and after the establishment of the gas supply network in Qeshm, the distribution of such cylinders will be limited.

The project to construct a pipeline to transfer natural gas to Qeshm Island in south Iran is being carried out by the Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), a subsidiary of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

According to Hamid Khedri, director of gas transmission operations in Bushehr Province, the 120-km pipeline branches off from the IGAT7 and provides gas to the tourist island.

Providing gas for two thermal power plants is a priority and later gas will be sold to industries, commercial centers, and households.

Qeshm is an arrow-shaped Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz, separated from the mainland by the Clarence Strait/ Khuran in the Persian Gulf. It is the largest island in Iran.





# Kuwait Emir always had fears of Saudi policies: Lebanese academic

“Kuwait considers itself threatened by Saudi-Emirati expansionist policies and their intervention beyond their borders,” says chief of the Center for Political Studies at the University of Lebanon

➔ It has maintained positive relations with most Arab countries as well as with Iran, and has refused to be a party whether in the Yemen war or other wars.

In Lebanon also it has always played the role of a mediator and provided aid for the Lebanese people. This is what made Kuwait a moderate country among the region's countries, regardless of their different systems and policies. Even regarding the Syrian crisis, it did not follow the policies of Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. Therefore, the absence of the Emir of Kuwait is a big loss for the region.

Kuwait was not hostile to any country, and this policy kept it away from joining Saudi adventures.

Kuwait Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Sabah always had fears of Saudi policies that might push Kuwait and other Arab countries to wars they didn't want.

■ How do you see the political future of Kuwait after the death of the Emir?

A: Regardless of the approaches of Nawwaf Al-Ahmad, who will take power in Kuwait, the country will most likely maintain its usual policies in terms of independence and not entering coalitions because Kuwait is concerned about Saudi Arabia's policies.

Kuwait considers itself threatened by Saudi-Emirati expansionist policies and their intervention beyond their borders. There is a delicate balance inside Kuwait as it consists of different religious components that influence the country, and it prevents any change in Kuwait's usual policy by the new Emir.

■ What are the repercussions of the Emir's death on the Persian Gulf and the Arab world in general?

A: The death of Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Sabah will not change much in the equations of the (Persian) Gulf and the Arab world, especially if the new Emir, Nawaf



**“After a blockade of Qatar by Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, Kuwait and Oman felt worried because what happened with Doha could happen to Kuwait, especially since there was a project to invade Qatar and stage a coup against the Emir of Qatar.”**

Al-Ahmad, maintains the moderate policies of the late Emir.

But if there is a change in policies, whether in Kuwait's relations with Saudi Arabia or co-alescing the Saudi-Emirati policies, of course, this will affect the regional equations, and the situation will be against Kuwait's interests.

In this context, the Kuwaiti parliament plays an important role in rationalizing Kuwait's politics and directing political forces. There is a certain percentage of freedom and democracy in Kuwait. So, it is in Kuwait's interest to maintain its moderate policies, and if the new Emir continues the previous policies, the region will not witness a considerable change.

■ What are the reasons that Kuwait and Oman have so far followed a policy independent from Saudi Arabia?

A: The Kuwait and Oman attempt to be independent and not follow Saudi Arabia and the UAE's policies because these two countries try to intervene in domestic affairs of other countries.

Saudi Arabia previously played the role of a mediator to solve problems between Arab and Islamic countries. Saudi Arabia was presenting itself on the basis that it mediates to resolve conflicts without being a party to these conflicts, and in a certain period, it tried to establish positive relations with Iran.

The Emirates also had its economic and transit role between the countries of the region and the world, and this matter was comfortable for Kuwait and did not pose any threat, but after a blockade of Qatar by Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, Kuwait and Oman felt worried because what happened with Doha could happen to Kuwait, especially since there was a project to invade Qatar and stage a coup against the Emir of Qatar.

Thus, Kuwait still has concerns and is cautious about the policies of Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which explains why Kuwait and Oman want to have independent policies.

Saudi Arabia, especially since Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman became de facto leader, has entered adventures, and no one can predict or anticipate its policies in the region. For example, the war on Yemen, the escalating hostile stance against Iran, or involvement in the war on Syria. Thus, Kuwait is concerned with the new power situation in Saudi Arabia.

■ Don't you think that after the death of the Emir, Kuwait would come under more pressure to join other states to normalize ties with Israel?

A: I do not think that Kuwait would join the (Persian) Gulf normalization group. The positions of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti media till now have been clear in rejecting the normalization of ties with Israel and commitment to supporting the cause of Palestine and Kuwait. They do not find themselves forced into such relations, especially since Kuwait's internal situation does not allow such a matter, and the Kuwaiti leadership is also not enthusiastic about such normalization and does not want to appear as a client state. Kuwait wants to show its independence by refusing the normalization of ties with the Zionist regime.

## Why many political experts believe Biden is the next president

By Amir Miri

In recent weeks some surveys show that Donald Trump, regardless of how much he is hated by some segments of the American society, he will win the November election.

The same happened in 2016. In the previous election, many surveys had shown Hillary Clinton is the next president, but she did not. Maybe many ask how it happened and why surveys made a mistake in their conclusions.

But in this op-ed, I do not intend to speak about the principle of the survey defects or why the results are wrong. I want to say why I am almost sure that Joe Biden will be the next president.

At the first couple of months of Trump's inauguration, I predicted his competitor in the 2020 election, will be the next president. But maybe you ask me how are you sure the next president will be sleepy Joe? Many analysts around the world are unanimously saying Biden is not the best candidate for the president. He is not charismatic as Obama was. He has a problem in social connection and it is a weak point that Trump take advantage of it.

Moreover, he is too old and many who vote for the Democrats are young. But many analysts are sure he will be the next president. This belief comes of Trump's actions. The biggest Trump's ability is how he could use Machiavelli's advice in his work. He is a big liar. He is a populist and has the ability to gather vulnerable people around himself.

He uses the conspiracy theory in his speeches to show that every miserable thing that happens in the world is because of the small groups who rule the world.

He hates China because many laborers in America hate China and this is a good card to play with it. He blames all those who are against him. He knew everything about the coronavirus at the beginning but he intentionally did nothing.

He coined a new name for coronavirus and called it China virus. He uses this term to blame China. He says China made it. Scientists disagree, but he insists on it. He is a showman. He exaggerates in his speeches. He uses bombastic words,



like tremendous, great job or biggest.

Trump always use these words without comparing things to each other. He said except the Lincoln government his government was the best in history that worked for the black people. Nobody asks him how he says such junk words.

He lies without any shame. He does not know the difference between bacteria and virus but he shows himself as a great scientist that knows what is good for people in the coronavirus pandemic. Such behavior is good for millions of Americans. It wrongly shows that he is a determined and reliable leader in crises.

However, Trump is not a good candidate for the people who are logical.

Abraham Lincoln has a very famous quote that says: “You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.” From the first days that he took over as president he started to divide people to different groups. He tried to scare one group from another. He is popular between the poor and religious people.

All people know that he is a billionaire and is not a religious person but he is a good actor and could pretend he is. He has run casinos during his life. He has relations with prostitutes. But he could play his role as a superman for these groups very well.

The Oscar academy should candidate him as the best

leading role actor. He could fool people very easily but from the first day he made a very big mistake. He did not care about the difference between politics and business. As Kissinger mentions on CNN's GPS show, dealing with politics is different from business. From the first day, he ignored women, black people, and minority groups. In the beginning days, all women understood he wants to keep his seat for the next term, and because of that, he will do everything to make white and religious people happy. Abortion rights and many other rights that women have gained over the past 100 years are now under threat.

After his presidency, black people faced the increased rate of racism in the United States. Hate and discrimination have again resurfaced in many neighborhoods. Hispanic groups and Asian have been insulted over the nearly four years of his presidency.

Hispanic people are mentioned in Trump's speeches as a big problem for the U.S. economy, calling them rapist, burglar and smuggler. Asians and now Chinese are the first blamed for the coronavirus pandemic. All these groups have gotten frustrated.

It is absolutely clear most of these groups will participate in the election and will give vote to Biden. One point is important and no analyst should ignore that. The U.S. election is different from other countries. Tiny and small groups could change the result of the election. The electoral vote has the ability by only one vote in bailout to give all of the votes in one state to one candidate. For example, in the 2000 election only a hundred votes in Florida made George W. Bush the president. In this situation the role of the Supreme Court is important and you see most of the Republicans in the Senate want to choose a new judge for the Supreme Court as soon as possible.

However, nobody can manipulate the election if people participate in the election. Now many analysts believe that you can count on the votes of the blacks, Asians, and Hispanics, who are living in all states, for Biden and he will be elected the next president.

## Nasrallah: Operation underway to revive Daesh

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement warns about an operation underway to revive Daesh's presence in the West Asia in order to whip up an excuse for the United States' continued presence in the region under the guise of fighting the Takfiri terrorist group.

“There exists an operation for revival of Daesh (ISIL) in Iraq and Syria and other areas. Daesh's revival is aimed at justifying the American forces' continued presence in the region,” said Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in a televised speech on Tuesday.

Nasrallah, therefore, urged caution and alertness against the plots targeting the region.

Nasrallah said the Takfiri group had managed to rear its head in some regional areas following the U.S.'s assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, former commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), in Baghdad in January.

## Hezbollah takes journos on tour of alleged missile site, proves Israeli PM wrong

The Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has taken journalists from local and international media outlets on a tour of a warehouse in a Beirut neighborhood to expose Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's lies in his UN rant that the group has stored missiles there. Hezbollah's media officer Muhammad Afif escorted dozens of reporters and photojournalists as they visited the site in the Jnah neighborhood on Tuesday evening.

No traces of missiles or their production were seen at the facility. The journalists, including AP and AFP photographers, also confirmed no missiles or weapons of any kind were stored there.

“The tour was organized for members of the press to visit the site and to dismiss the Israeli prime minister's allegations of a missile depot in Beirut,” Afif told reporters.

He added, “The tour reveals that the site has nothing to do with storing weapons. It is an industrial facility belonging to a Lebanese man, and there are no missiles inside it.”

## Israel passes law to limit protests

Israel's parliament Knesset has passed a controversial bill to curtail public protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over his corruption charges and handling of the coronavirus crisis, which has led to soaring unemployment in the occupied territories.

The Netanyahu-backed legislation, which was approved early Wednesday after an all-night debate, will give the administration the power to ban people from holding demonstrations more than one kilometer (0.6 miles) from their homes, and limit outdoor gatherings to a maximum of 20 people.

The bill was ratified on second and third readings by a vote of 46-38. Under the final version of the law, the Israeli cabinet can curtail protests, prayers and religious ceremonies for a week under the so-called “special coronavirus emergency,” with the possibility of extending it another two weeks should the “emergency” remain in place.

The measure also removes a clause that had exempted protests and prayers from rules limiting gatherings.

## Armenia, Azerbaijan reject talks

Armenia and Azerbaijan rejected international calls for negotiations and a halt to fighting as fierce clashes over the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh spilled over into a fourth day on Wednesday.

Armenian and Azerbaijani forces are engaged in the heaviest fighting in years over Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian province that broke away from Azerbaijan in the 1990s during the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The long-simmering conflict erupted on Sunday with the two sides trading heavy fire and blaming each other for the outbreak of violence. According to AFP, nearly 100 people are confirmed to have died in the flare-up and both sides are claiming to have inflicted heavy losses on opposing forces.

## Kuwait swears in new emir after Sheikh Sabah's death

Kuwait has sworn in its new emir, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, to receive the body of his half-brother, the late ruler Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah who died in the United States at the age of 91.

Kuwait's new leader, 83-year-old Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf, was sworn in at about 08:00 GMT during a session of the National Assembly. The Persian Gulf Arab state has already begun a 40-day period of national mourning.

## Resistance News

## Ongoing settlement exposes falsehood of normalizing countries claim

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** TEHRAN— The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said that the persistence of the Israeli settlement policy in the West Bank reveals again the false claims of the parties that signed normalization agreements with Israel regarding the cessation of the annexation scheme.

Hazem Qasem, Hamas's spokesman, stated in a written statement on Wednesday that these allegations were meant to mislead the Arab public opinion and to cover up the crime of normalization.

Abdullah bin Zayed, the UAE Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, claimed that his country was able to freeze the Israeli annexation plan and open new horizons for a comprehensive peace in the region by signing what he called “a historic peace treaty with Israel”.

Qasem underlined that what was revealed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) that the Israeli occupation had demolished 506 buildings in the West Bank in the current year so far, confirms the Israeli occupation's implementation of the ethnic cleansing policy against the Palestinian people, disregarding all international and humanitarian laws and norms.

The OCHA reported on Tuesday that the Israeli occupation authorities had demolished more than 506 Palestinian buildings in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem since the beginning of this year 2020 under the pretext of unauthorized construction.

## Have the Arabs abandoned Palestine? Or is it just the regimes?

By Robert Inlakesh

Betrayal is a word that has been used widely to describe the recent “Abraham Accords” or normalization deal, which saw both the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain formally normalize ties with Israel. But is this betrayal of only the Palestinians, or is this feeling of betrayal also true from the Arab people's perspective?

Normalization with Israel is not a new trend amongst the Arab regimes, with both Jordan (in 1994) and Egypt (in 1979) having signed “peace” treaties with the Israeli regime. In fact, both Jordan and Egypt were actually at conflict with Israel, making the signings all the more treacherous at the time. The people of Egypt and Jordan had sacrificed their lives in the thousands to stop Israel from advancing further into their territories and, of course, to defend the Palestinian people also. That is why when the then Egyptian president Anwar Sadat signed his peace treaty with Israel, the people of Egypt were so outraged that eventually, the signing led to his assassination in 1981.

However, by the time Jordan had signed its peace treaty with Israel in 1994, this sort

of rage, which had in the past led to political assassination, had been largely pacified. But what specifically had this effect of nullifying the large-scale reaction to such a political move? The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) had normalized with Israel already by this point.

When the PLO signed the Oslo Accords in 1993, this is what led to the current situation we see today. The Oslo Accords created the Palestinian Authority (PA), which was supposed to be an interim government, to pave the way for a future Palestinian State. Although the intentions on paper seemed great, the reality on the ground became that the so-called “peace process” never led anywhere and that the newly created PA ended up becoming a collaborator with Israel, which the Zionist entity entrusted to manage “security issues.”

When Yasser Arafat's PLO signed the Oslo Accords, this is when normalization with Israel became something possible for all Arab regimes, because now even the so-called representatives of the Palestinian people had sold out betrayed their own people.

If we then track the brutal ways these dictators rule over their populations, it becomes more obvious why there are little to

no uprisings over further Arab normalization with Israel. For instance, in Egypt's case, under former president Hosni Mubarak it was brutal, and it took all the way until the Arab Spring to remove him. However, his Muslim Brotherhood successor, Mohammed Morsi, was not only removed after only one year in office but just for being an active member of the Muslim Brotherhood, can now carry the price of being imprisoned or killed. Morsi himself died/likely-murdered in prison last year, under the coup leader Sisi, who's regime openly permits the buying of Israeli (Palestinian resources they stole) gas now.

When we now look at both the UAE and Bahrain, in both of these Persian Gulf Arab regimes, we see similar forms of oppression for those who speak out. You can be exiled, imprisoned, or murdered for such political actions in both Bahrain and UAE. Even though Dubai's Emirate is evidently unhappy at normalization with Israel, its royalty has not even made any problems over the move. In Bahrain's case, the people are overwhelmingly opposed to the Al Khalifa regime, which has sparked protests throughout the country, although this has been ignored



## Iran's first museum of psychiatry to open in Tehran

➔ **1** Rhazes (Muhammad ibn Zakariya al-Razi, 865–925) and Avicenna (Abu Ali Ibn Sina, 980–1037), two great Iranian physicians and philosophers, in their writings described such mental disorders as melancholia, mania, and delirious states. They also prescribed psychotherapy for their patients and described the effects of emotions on the cardiovascular system.

Modern psychiatry in Iran begins with the foundation of Tehran University in 1934. In 1937 the department of psychiatry at the medical school began teaching students. The first teachers at the department were mainly French-educated, among them the late Professor



Abdolhossein Mirsepassi and Hossein Rezai were pioneers of psychiatry in Iran. There had been some asylums for the custody of psychiatric patients since the 19th century in Tehran and other major cities of Iran. Roozbeh Hospital was founded in 1946 as the first modern psychiatric teaching hospital in Iran. This hospital has since trained many generations of psychiatrists and still is the leading center in psychiatric education, treatment, and research.

## Tourism ministry introduces new travel credit cards

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – The tourism ministry has introduced new travel credit cards with the aim of facilitating domestic travel, as the outbreak of the coronavirus has brought the tourism sector into a standstill.



Each travel card is charged with 200 million rials (some \$4,700), which needs to be repaid in 18 months with an interest rate of four percent, ISNA quoted Hossein Arbabi, the director of the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran as saying on Wednesday.

The travel card could be used for buying tours, booking hotels, and buying handicrafts products, the official added.

He also noted that the holders of the travel cards could use the facilities of the historical and heritage sites affiliated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts all over the country following the health protocols.

## Travel book featuring Mt Damavand, 'the roof of Iran', unveiled

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – A book featuring Mount Damavand, which is widely known as "the roof of Iran", was unveiled on Wednesday.

Co-authored by Iranian researchers and writers Sepideh Taqibakhshi and Mohammad Ebrahimi, the book puts the spotlight on the natural, cultural, and eco-tourist attractions of the 5600 meters high mountain, which is the highest peak in Iran and the highest volcano in Asia.



It also includes stories about the travel facilities, attractions, the flora and fauna, human settlements and the history of mankind in Damavand and its surroundings.

The peak of Damavand is permanently covered with snow during the entire year. The most important thermal springs are Ask and Larjan. The flora and fauna is very rich and include about 2000 plant species. There are numerous endemic species which are important to flora of the world.

In good weather, the dramatic mountainous vistas around Damavand are attraction enough, and there are pleasant hot springs for a soak in nearby Abgarm village, and skiing in season at Abali, on the way from Tehran. Most people who head out this way, however, will do so to climb the peak. Start by heading to the large, comfortable Polour Mountain Complex (2270m), built by the Iran Mountaineering Federation – the best place to acclimatize before attempting the south and west face routes. The climbing season is from June to September, or May to October for experienced climbers.

# Iran's tourism potential immeasurable: Italian scholar

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – Professor **d e s k** of Iranian studies at the Sapienza University of Rome and former Italian cultural attaché in Tehran Carlo Cereti has said that Iran's tourism potential is immeasurable.

"Although Italians prefer Iran's well-known tourist destinations, which have heard their names a lot before, Iran has countless lesser-known tourist attractions, which could be promoted more properly."

He made the remarks during a webinar organized by the Iranian Culture Center in Rome attended by Iran's deputy tourism minister Vali Teymouri, Iranian cultural attaché Mohammad Taqi Amini, as well as a number of tourism experts from both countries.

Entitled "Tourism in Iran, Covid-19, Opportunities, and Challenges", the webinar aimed at evaluating the possibilities of promoting Iran as a tourist destination for Italian travelers during the pandemic.

Cereti also introduced his proposed plan for ecotourism in the western Iranian province of Kermanshah, in which smaller tourism groups will visit lesser-known tourist destinations in the province by



spending a longer time than the classic trips to Iran, which could lead them to get acquainted with the region's cultural heritage.

Teymouri, for his part, expressed hope that with the control and management of the coronavirus, tourism exchanges

will resume between the two countries as soon as possible.

Iran hosted some 7.8 million foreign tourists in 2018, which shows 52 percent growth compared to 2017, and the country ranked the world's second-fastest growing tourist destination, he said.

## Annual tourism income projected to reach \$25b by 2025: minister

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – Iran's tourism revenue is projected to reach \$25 billion by 2025, tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said on Tuesday.

Attracting 20 million foreign tourists annually by 2025, and designating the tourism sector as one of the important foundations of the country's economy are amongst the government's priorities, Mounesan added.

Noting that the arrival of each foreign tourist is equal to the export of 40 barrels of oil, he said that 8.8 million tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2019).

He also explained that Iran's tourism sector contributes 6.5% to the country's gross domestic product (GDP), which is expected to grow to 10 percent by 2025.

Back in August the minister announced that Iran's inbound tourism came to almost zero and the country had 74 foreign tourists in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), due to the corona outbreak.

He emphasized that the tourism industry of Iran was growing before the outbreak of the coronavirus and the country was ranked as the second fastest-growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization.

The minister reminded that some 2.3 million foreign nationals visited the Islamic Republic during the spring

last year that showed a 40.66 percent increase year on year. The country hosted 1,443,551 million travelers during the same period a year earlier.

"Many tourism projects have been completed, or are being implemented, showing that a very good capacity has been created in the field of tourism in the country and [this trend] should not be stopped," he explained.

According to Mounesan, 2,451 tourism-related projects worth 1,370 trillion rials (around \$32 billion) are currently being implemented across the country that "signals a prosperous future for Iran's tourism sector."

Earlier this month and regarding the coronavirus pandemic, which has been crippled traveling in Iran and many other countries across the globe, Mounesan said: "Tourism [industry of Iran] was growing before the corona [outbreak], its revenues reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, near the average share of tourism in the world GDP."

Mounesan said last month "Corona is a [bitter] reality but it cannot bring traveling to a complete standstill" as he underlined that "people's health is our first priority."

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



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

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

## 16 villages to promote rural tourism in northeastern Iran

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – Sixteen villages have been selected as high potential targets with the aim of boosting rural tourism in the northeastern Khorasan Razavi province.

The villages have been shortlisted from a total of 54, provincial deputy tourism chief Ahmad Dinari announced on Wednesday.

A budget of 100 billion rials (about \$2.4 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to improve the tourism



infrastructure in the selected villages.

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

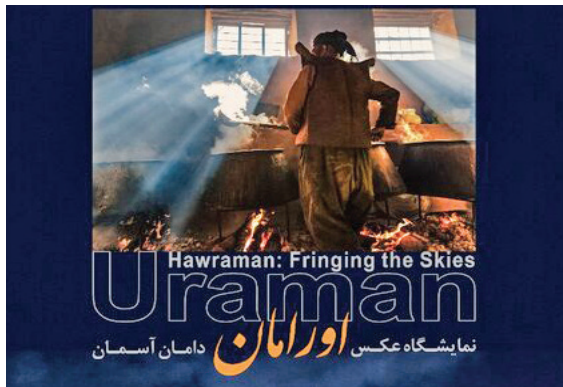
The World Tourism Organization sees rural tourism a type of activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sightseeing. Such tourism also possesses characteristics such as low population density, a landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry, as well as traditional social structure and lifestyle.

## 'Uraman: Fringing the Skies' photo exhibit recalls splendors of rural landscape

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – Today, a photo exhibit **d e s k** opens in Tehran, aiming to resonance the audience with the splendors, architecture, ancient rituals, and everyday life in Uraman rural landscape in western Kordestan province, which is a candidate for becoming a World Heritage site in 2021.

Hojatollah Ayoubi, the secretary-general of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO and a senior assessor of cultural heritage from the UN cultural body, will be attending the opening ceremony at the Iranian Artists Forum.

A total of 70 pictures selected from the works of 35 landscape, nature, portrait, and press photographers will be showcased at the exhibit, titled "Uraman: Fringing the Skies", which will be running through October 7.



The assessor arrived in the Islamic Republic earlier this month to conduct a thorough assessment of the rural landscape in person.

Stretched on a steep slope in Uraman Takht rural district of Sarvabad County, the village is home to dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness.

As the cultural landscape covers 300 villages and in terms of architecture and landscape, it is one of the most beautiful and presentable heritages in the world, the dossier is really important to Iranians, the tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said earlier this month.

Iran submitted the UN body a dossier for the Uraman cultural landscape in 2019.

## Treasures of Iran National Museum: Stone weight linked to Jiroft and Bronze Age culture

**TOURISM TEHRAN** — During the Middle Bronze Age, the Iranian Plateau experienced a short ?uorescence of urbanism. Urban centers on the plateau, including Shahr-e Sokhteh, Hissar, Yahya, Shahdad, and Jiroft, were linked through an exchange network that connected the plateau with Central Asia, the southern coast of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, Elam, and Mesopotamia.

Highly desirable commodities in this network included copper from central and southeastern Iran and Oman, lapis lazuli from Badakhshan in Afghanistan and Quetta in Pakistan, and stone from southwestern Iran and Oman.

These materials reached their ?nal destinations either in the form of raw material or as ?nished goods. Lapis lazuli workshops have been discovered at Shahr-e Sokhteh and Hissar, while Yahya and Jiroft seem to have been centers for carving various objects from steatite and chlorite.

A number of these carved products are on display in the ground floor of the Museum. The object, depicted here, is a



stone weight carved on both sides with figures of mythical heroes who grabs two cheetahs from their tails that are shown between two scorpions. This stone weight is on display at Iran Bastan Museum, at Iran National Museum.

The National Museum of Iran is somewhat chockfull of priceless relics that represent various eras of the country's rich history. Its structure was completed in 1928 based on the design by French architect André Godard who was also an archaeologist and historian of French and Middle Eastern Art.



# Britain’s double standards trap itself in “freedom of speech”

1 → Western countries are destined to drift farther away from the freedom and democracy they claim about.

Capitalism is one big old system of oppression that includes racism and anti-semitism. When the government sets guidelines stating that anti-capitalist works are not allowed, they are essentially saying they don't want people talking about changing the oppressive systems in place.

Although educational system is not the only information system in countries, and people have access to information through the media and other sources, the omission of a particular topic in education reflects the omission of this topic among young people of the next two generations and is a kind of engineering of youth thoughts.

■ **Against the spirit of democracy**  
Mehdi Motaaharna, a political sociologist, told the Tehran Times that although this is not a positive policy move, it is only anti-democratic and not anti-freedom of expression if it goes through the legal process of approval and is criticized and approved by both critics and proponents.

Because information is not obtained only from educational places, so that it might not be total opposition to freedom of speech, he added.

■ **Western society traps itself in “freedom of expression”**

In the examples cited in the guidance as “extreme political stances”, “opposition to the right to freedom of expression” is expressed immediately after the “desire to abolish or overthrow democracy, capitalism” is a self-contradictory because Britain is doing the same with preventing a special educational content to be taught in schools.

Some western countries have always been blackening others with different ideologies for not having “freedom of speech”,



**Although educational system is not the only information source in countries, and people have access to information through the media and other sources, the omission of a particular topic in education reflects the omission of that among young people of the next generations, which can be considered as engineering youth minds.**

however, they step into a path that is even smarter than those countries' censorship which omit special perspectives basically and prevent the next generations from knowing it.

The dual standards of Western society trap itself in “freedom of expression. Among the laws that oppose the abolition or overthrow of democracy and capital-

ism, Western countries must move away from the freedom and democracy they are proud of.

Economist and former Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis said the guidance showed “how easy it is to lose a country, to slip surreptitiously into totalitarianism”.

He added that “Imagine an educa-

tional system that banned schools from enlisting into their curricula teaching resources dedicated to the writings of British writers like William Morris, Iris Murdoch, Thomas Paine even. Well, you don't have to. Boris Johnson's government has just instructed schools to do exactly that.”

Barrister Jessica Simor QC suggested that the government has on occasion not complied with the guidance itself, after it admitted the new Brexit bill would break international law (“endorsement of illegal activity”) and continued selling arms to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen following a court ruling that it was unlawful.

Tariq Ali, the writer and activist, said although the new guidance was a sign of “moral and political bankruptcy”, the advent of the internet meant such measures were futile.

“Leaving aside the stupidity, these things don't work,” he said. “People will read what they want to read. Trying to enhance a version of the prevent strategy, which is already in place, is quite scandalous and shocking.

“If you put things on a banned list, lots of young people can access them via the internet and read them. Banning them from schools will not work at all, aside from the fact it's a sign of moral and political bankruptcy.”

He added that “How could both young and old people not read anti-capitalist analysis after 2008, or now with the virus going on and recessions looming all over the western world.”

It is understood that the DfE is clear that schools should not work with agencies that take extreme positions, including promoting non-democratic political systems, and that teachers should be politically impartial.

## Increased life expectancy leading cause of elderly population growth

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN – In recent years, increased life expectancy has led to a growth in the elderly population of the country, an adviser to the health minister has said.

“This issue shows the provision of appropriate health services and having experienced people in the community,” Mohammad Taghi Joghataei said on Wednesday on the occasion of International Day of the Elderly.

Noting that the national document on older persons has been drafted, he said that empowerment of the elderly, prevention, provision of medical services and rehabilitation are some of the plans.

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.

In 1976, the elderly population constituted 5 percent of the total population, which has now reached about 10 percent.

According to Joghataei, about 9.28 percent of the population are currently elderly, which means that about eight million people in the Iranian population are old, which is expected to increase to about 20 percent by 2041.

According to the latest WHO data published in 2018



life expectancy in Iran is: Male 74.6, female 76.9 and total life expectancy is 75.7 which gives Iran a World Life Expectancy ranking of 64.

In 1976, life expectancy was 57 years, now “life expectancy” raised by 18 years resulting in the elderly population growth.

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

### ■ Aging population in world

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%).

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

### Marine species population increased in protected areas

According to the annual census, the population of marine species in habitats under the Department of Environment (DOE) supervision has increased, Ahmad Lahijanzadeh, head of marine environment affairs at the DOE has said. The annual Census is the authoritative source of data determining the population and distribution of animal or marine species through counting them yearly. Protecting marine habitats and listing them as protected areas are among the most important priorities of the DOE, he said, adding, all of the areas have been identified through environmental assessment and field surveys. The reproduction time is important, and the DOE forces stand guard and constantly supervise the area during this period, he noted.

He went on to say that annual census shows that the number of species in protected areas is increasing, probably due to favorable condition and full-time control.

### افزایش گونه‌های دریایی مناطق تحت حفاظت سازمان محیط زیست

لاهیجان زاده گفت: براساس سرشماری سالانه تعداد گونه‌های موجود در زیستگاه‌های دریایی تحت حفاظت رو به افزایش است. احمد لاهیجان زاده معاون محیط زیست دریایی سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، در رابطه با اهمیت حفاظت از زیستگاه‌های دریایی اظهار کرد: حفاظت از زیستگاه‌های دریایی و شناسایی این مناطق در اولویت سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست قرار دارد و تمام این زیستگاه‌ها در قالب مطالعات جامع و تعقیب میدانی شناسایی شده‌اند. وی با بیان اینکه در بسیاری از این زیستگاه‌ها زادآوری صورت می‌گیرد، افزود: زمان این زادآوری‌ها با شناسایی زیستگاه‌ها مشخص است و سازمان محیط زیست در این بازه زمانی حفاظت فیزیکی را انجام می‌دهد.

لاهیجان زاده گفت: براساس سرشماری‌های سالانه، تعداد گونه‌های موجود در زیستگاه‌های تحت حفاظت رو به افزایش است.

## 40% of world’s plant species at risk of extinction

Two in five of the world's plant species are at risk of extinction as a result of the destruction of the natural world, according to an international report.

Plants and fungi underpin life on Earth, but the scientists said they were now in a race against time to find and identify species before they were lost, the Guardian reported.

These unknown species, and many already recorded, were an untapped “treasure chest” of food, medicines and biofuels that could tackle many of humanity's greatest challenges, they said, potentially including treatments for coronavirus and other pandemic microbes.

More than 4,000 species of plants and fungi were discovered in 2019. These included six species of Allium in Europe and China, the same group as onions and garlic, 10 relatives of spinach in California and two wild relatives of cassava, which could help future-proof the staple crop eaten by 800 million people against the climate crisis.

New medical plants included a sea holly species in Texas, whose relatives can treat inflammation, a species of antimarial Artemisia in Tibet and three varieties of evening primrose.

“We would be able not survive without plants and fungi – all life depends on them – and it is really time to open the treasure chest,” said Prof Alexandre Antonelli, the director of science at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, in the UK. RBG Kew led the report, which involved 210 scientists from 42 countries.

“Every time we lose a species, we lose an opportunity for humankind,” Antonelli said. “We are losing a race against time as we are probably losing species faster than we can find and name them.”

The UN revealed last week that the world's governments failed to meet a single target to stem biodiversity losses in the last decade.

The researchers based their assessment of the proportion of species under threat of extinction on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List. But only a small fraction of the 350,000 known plant species have been assessed, so the scientists used statistical techniques to adjust for biases in the data, such as the lack of fieldwork in some regions.

They also used artificial intelligence to assess little-known areas. “We now have AI approaches that are up to 90% accurate,” said Eimear Nic Lughadha, a senior research leader at RBG Kew. “These are good enough to say, ‘this area has a lot of species that haven't been assessed but are almost certainly threatened’.”

In 2019, Nic Lughadha reported that 571 species had been wiped out since 1750, although the true number was likely to be much higher.

The 2016 State of Plants report found one in five were threatened, but the new analysis reveals the real risk to be much higher. The main cause of plant losses is the destruction of wild habitat to create farmland. Overharvesting of wild plants, building, invasive species, pollution and, increasingly, the climate crisis are also important causes of losses.

Billions of people rely on herbal medicines as their primary source of healthcare, but the report found that 723 species used as treatments are threatened with extinction. These include a type of red angel's trumpet in South America used for circulatory disorders that is now extinct in the wild and an Indian pitcher plant traditionally used for skin diseases.

“Only 7% of [known] plants have documented uses as medicines and therefore the world's plants and fungi remain largely untapped as potential sources of new medicines,” said Melanie-Jayne Howes, a research leader at RBG Kew. “So it is absolutely critical that we better protect biodiversity so we are better prepared for emerging challenges to our planet and our health.”

Prof Monique Simmons, who researches the uses of plants and fungi at RBG Kew, said nature was a key place to look for treatments for coronaviruses and other diseases with pandemic potential: “I am absolutely sure going forward that some of the leads for the next generation of drugs in this area will come from plants and fungi.”

The report also highlighted the very small number of plant species that humanity depends on for food. This makes supplies vulnerable to changes in climate and new diseases, especially with the world's population expected to rise to 10 billion by 2050. Half the world's people depend on rice, maize and wheat and just 15 plants provide 90% of all calories.

“The good news is that we have over 7,000 edible plant species that we could use in the future to really secure our food system,” said Tiziana Ulian, a senior research leader at RBG Kew.

These species are all nutritious, robust, at low risk of extinction, and have a history of being used as local foods, but just 6% are grown at significant scale.

Potential future foods include the morama bean, a drought-tolerant South African legume that tastes like cashew nuts when roasted, and a species of pandan fruit that grows from Hawaii to the Philippines.

## LET’S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 26)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

Structure

ساختر

■ Persian Writing (Nasta'liq نستعلیق):

آب بابا تاب مات نان نون

■ **تو** – As a familiar word for شما, the singular pronoun تو is used for intimate friends, close relatives, children and so on.

تو ایرانی هستی؟ = شما ایرانی هستید؟

■ **ایشان** – The plural pronoun ایشان "they" takes a plural verb but it is usually used as a polite substitute for او. In general, third person plural is used for one person as a sign of respect:

ایشان یک دختر دارند. این خانم یک دختر دارند.

■ **فعل** \* “بودن و داشتن” “to Be and to Have” Verbs

(تو) هست + ی — هستی /hasi/ You are

(تو) دار + ی — داری = کتاب کار You have



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**GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

Kindness elevates human beings, and  
faithfulness is the sign of decency.  
*Imam Hussein (AS)*

## Doc on pitched battle with ISIS in Syria comes to Iranian art houses

→1 “I was worried that I might receive a positive answer if I ask the crew members to carry out a film project in Syria,” he said and added that contrary to this idea, many people lined up for the journey to Syria.



Co-director Morteza Payeshenas signs a poster for “The Barrage” before a special screening of the documentary at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on September 29, 2020. (DEFC)

““The Barrage” portrays a small part of the great efforts made by the film crew to make the documentary so as to remain for future generations,” Sha’bani noted and added, “Such documentaries can illustrate the resistance for future generations.”

Sha’bani was nominated for the Islamic Revolution Artist of the Year award in 2019 for “The Barrage”. However, he failed to receive the honor, which is annually presented by the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

## Foreign diplomats visit war exhibit in Tehran

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A number of foreign diplomats visited “Sovereignty of 40”, an exhibition on Iran’s latest achievements in resistance and the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is known as the Sacred Defense in Iran, underway at the Sacred Defense Museum.

The diplomats were from Portugal, Bangladesh, Italy, Kenya, Yemen, Chile and Mexico.

They praised the latest achievements of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, the Law Enforcement Forces of Iran (NAJA) and several other ministries featured at the exhibit.

The Sacred Defense Museum in Tehran has organized a variety of programs to observe the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

The program began with honoring one million war veterans across the country during an online ceremony, which was attended by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The museum is also hosting an exhibition, which showcases documents on the roles various organizations had in the development of Iran’s strategies in the war.

The exhibition has been organized last week in collaboration with the relevant organizations.

The museum is also hosting an exhibition of war photos organized by the Resistance International Film Festival.

The 40th anniversary of the war has also been observed by performing nine plays, which are staged for eight days in the courtyard of the museum.

“War and One Thousand Years of Solitude” written by Masud Mehrbi, “Fulfillment of the Promise” by Ahmad Samimi, “The Soldier” by Pejman Shahverdi, “The Lost” by Abuzar Chehel-Amirani, “Sales of Love” by Shahab Raheleh, “The Bride” by Masud Ebrahimi, “Frequency” by Meisam Sarabadani and “The Booth” by Ali and Ebrahim Rahimi are some of the plays.

The theatrical performance program has been developed in collaboration with the General Office for Dramatic Arts.

# Cinema manager warns COVID-19 could cause irreparable damage to entertainment market

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The manager of Tehran’s Azadi Cineplex has said that coronavirus has caused the most irreparable damage to the entertainment industry.

Pointing to the screening schedule of films at the movie theaters across the country over the past six months, Sajjad Noruzi said, “The coronavirus pandemic did its first and most destructive damage on entertainment.”

“In the current situation, whatever is related to entertainment has been destroyed including cinema since health protocols need to be strictly observed by the moviegoers. Therefore naturally the number of moviegoers has sharply dropped over these months,” he said.

“If even I was not a cinema manager, I would have been more cautious and would not go to cinema. Therefore, we cannot deny the reality that people are afraid of any unnecessary gatherings, and they decide not to go to cinema, restaurant, or even on a journey for at least a year. This decision has been made by those who used to go to cinema, and as long as the situation remains this way they prefer to omit entertainment from their lifestyle,” he explained.

“We cannot expect everything to return to a normal situation like the days before coronavirus. This is something clear and serious. But what the world has done in this situation is that they have chosen



An individual passes by a movie theater in Tehran on July 8, 2020 after theaters resumed activities in the pandemic. (ISNA/Parisa Behzadi)

to release a box office hit like “Tenet” (a 2020 action-thriller and science fiction film written and directed by Christopher Nolan) and obtained good results although they might not be as good as in previous years,” he added.

“Some other countries have also been able to control this new virus and their lifestyle is somehow back as it was in previous times by observing health protocols. But Iran has not been successful, and we are still facing new cases

of coronavirus and a high death toll. So it is hard to expect movie theaters return to as they were in previous times,” he mentioned.

He next said, “At the current time several series are being produced at the home video network to keep people entertained these days, but this will have a short-term effect because nothing can replace cinema in the world.”

“If this entertainment is omitted, it will have a negative impact that will not be compensated for. We only want that

there should be some kind of regulation to manage coronavirus to help prevent the destruction of cinema,” he noted.

“It has been over seven months that we have been dealing with the new virus and about 4 months since the theater halls reopened, and after the reopening, there has not been any support,” he concluded.

Iran’s Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance canceled all art, cultural and cinematic events across the country in February in an attempt to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

The Association of Iranian Theater Owners asked President Hassan Rouhani to lift the coronavirus restriction on cinemas, calling for reopening of the theaters across the country based on the health protocols during the pandemic on May 20.

Later, the Cinema Organization of Iran announced that the movie theaters in the so-called “white areas” or regions with no coronavirus hospitalizations in the previous two weeks would be allowed to reopen, while the protocols issued by the Coronavirus Control Operations Headquarters for the theaters had to be observed.

The cinemagoers were asked to observe social distancing, while the employees were asked to wear face masks and plastic gloves.

In late June, all movie theaters resumed activities after a four-month-long closure, but were forced to close once again due to a sharp rise in the number of coronavirus infections and deaths.

## Italy premieres 3rd episode of “8 1/2 Theater Clips” in Tehran



A scene from “The Notes of Absence”, the third episode of the video-theater series “8 1/2 Theater Clips: How the Pandemic Changed our Lives”.

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The third episode of the video-theater series “8 1/2 Theater Clips: How the Pandemic Changed our Lives” premiered at the residence of Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Perrone in northern Tehran on Wednesday evening.

Starring Nicola Pianzola and Danial Khairikah, the episode “The Notes of Absence” has been directed by Anna Dora Dorno in collaboration with Iranian director Ali Shams.

This part immerses the viewer in the sense of loneliness and isolation generated by the long months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The restlessness and the sense of loss arising from it are swept away by the music, whose saving power creates an indissoluble bond not only between the artist and the public, but also between ordinary people, so

powerful as to deceive the space-time coordinates and reach beyond completely arbitrary borders, symbolized by an open window on the world.

Riccardo Nanni’s inspired original composition allows the music to become the undisputed protagonist of the episode.

During the evening, the second episode “The Night Shift”. It is a tribute to the health workers who in Italy and Iran have fought and continue to be at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19.

“The Notes of Absence” along with “The Night Shift” are available on the social media channels of the Italian Embassy in Tehran.

The fourth of the eight-episode series will be presented on October 21.

## “Labyrinth” scoops awards at San Francisco Iranian Film Festival

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Family drama “Labyrinth” was the top winner at the 13th Annual Iranian Film Festival – San Francisco by receiving awards in four categories, including best film and best director.

The winners were announced virtually last Friday. Also due to the current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, the festival ran virtually this year.

Directed by Amir-Hossein Torabi, the film is about Negar and Amir-Ali who are going to emigrate, but at the very last moment, they face a critical situation: their son, Bardia, goes missing. Now it is time to unfold all the family secrets.

The film written by Tala Motazedi also won the award for best screenplay and brought Shahab Hosseini the award for best actor.

The best actress award went to Mina Vahid for her role in “One Night in Tehran”

directed by Farhad Najafi.

Farshad Mohammadi was selected as best cinematographer for “We Are All Together” by Kamal Tabrizi.

The award for best documentary went to “The Bridge of Victory” by Yasser Talebi. The film is about the construction of Iran’s North-South Railway in 1938 and the countrywide railway, which not only changed West Asia, but it also changed the whole world as it made Iran the “Bridge of Victory” for the Allies against Nazi Germany.

“Ocean Behind the Window” by Babak Nabizadeh was picked as best children’s film.

In the short film competition, the award for best film went to “Mandatory” by Javad Khorsha who also won the award for best director in this category.

The best screenplay award was presented to writer Panah Khodayari for

“Pendulum”, while the best actor award went to Reza Mirhashemi for “The List”, and Sadaf Asgari was selected as best actress for her role in “Exam”.

Parviz Rostami won the award for best cinematographer for his collaboration in “Fifth Narcissus”, and “The Feast of the Goat” by Saeid Zamanian was picked as best children’s short.

“Gelak” by Sirus Kaffash was named best short documentary. The film tells the story of a group of girls on Hormoz in the Persian Gulf that, despite all the hardships and sufferings, are not willing to sell the soil of the island, which has medicinal and edible properties. Inspired by the mountains and beauty of the island and using plant colors, they create very beautiful shapes and thus make a living.

The award for best animation went to “Noise” by Mehdi Barzadegan, and “The Sixth Unit” by Ali Afshari was named best



Shahab Hosseini acts in a scene from “Labyrinth” directed by Amir-Hossein Torabi.

experimental film.

The Iranian Film Festival (IFF) was launched in 2008 to support the Iranian film and culture in the Iranian-American community of the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

It is the first independent Iranian film festival outside of Iran, with no affiliation to any political or religious organizations.

## Masao Masuto Mysteries series’ books published in Persian

**CULTURE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Three books from the Masao Masuto Mysteries Book series by American novelist Howard Fast have been published in Persian by Flamingo Publications in Tehran.

The books are “The Case of the Kidnapped Angel”, “The Case of the One Penny Orange” and “The Case of the Angry Actress”.

“The Case of the Kidnapped Angel” translated by Abbas Karami is about Angel who is part of Hollywood’s elite.

Her husband, Mike Barton, is one of the silver screen’s most bankable stars, and their marriage has all the hallmarks of a Beverly Hills fairy tale.

But everything about Angel’s past is kept secret, including her real name. When reporters ask why Mike dubbed her Angel, she says that she must have fallen from heaven. No one knows where Angel Barton is from, and now no one knows where she has gone.

When his wife disappears, Barton readily agrees to a



Front cover of the Persian translation of three books from the Masao Masuto Mysteries Book series by American novelist Howard Fast.

million dollar ransom demanded by her kidnappers, but Zen detective Masao Masuto doesn’t buy his performance.

As Masuto pries into the strange kidnapping case, he finds that Barton might be much more likely to pay to get rid of his wife than to keep her.

“The Case of the One Penny Orange” translated by Maziar Fekri narrates how Masao Masuto, a Nisei detective on the Beverly Hills police force, investigates a ransacked house from which nothing is missing, and the murder of a noted stamp dealer while he searches for an 1847 postage stamp from Mauritius.

Detective Masuto investigates a Hollywood mogul’s sudden death in “The Case of the Angry Actress” translated by Bahareh Taqizadeh.

The residents of Beverly Hills tend to underestimate a Buddhist homicide detective, and Masao Masuto is happy to let them make that mistake. A second-generation Japanese-American, he relishes the thrill of a puzzling murder case. And Masuto will need all his powers of deduction to understand the murder of Al Greenberg.

## Book on resistance of women in Khorramshahr published in Lebanon

**CULTURE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Al-Maaref Islamic Cultural Association in Lebanon has recently released an Arabic translation of a book on the resistance of women in Khorramshahr during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Entitled “Saji”, the book contains memories of Nasrin Baqerzadeh, the widow of Iranian martyr commander Bahman Baqeri, written by Behnaz Zarrabizadeh.

Somayyeh Yusef is the translator of the book into Arabic.

The southwestern Iranian city of Khorramshahr was captured by Iraqis on

October 26, 1980 during the early months of the Iran-Iraq war and it was liberated on May 24, 1982.

The original version has been published by Sureh-Mehr, an affiliate publisher of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization (IIDO), and was introduced during a ceremony by the IIDO director Hojjatolleslam Mohammad Qomi in July.

The widow narrates how they spent the very first days of the invasion, but later they were forced to leave the city with the family to Shiraz while the men stayed in Khorramshahr to defend the city.

The Lebanese association also released an Arabic translation of the book “In the Tumult of Silence”, on Iranian martyr Abbas Varamini, the commander of 27th Mohammad Rasulullah Division in Tehran.

The book has been written by Javad Kalateh-Arabi.

The original book was published in Iran in winter 2018 and a few months later its second edition came out.

Varamini was an educated individual different from his companions. He was a coordinator in the process of capturing the American Embassy in Tehran.

After the formation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), there was a necessity to recruit experienced experts and forces, and Varamini entered the IRGC and later participated in several operations during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

He was martyred during an operation on the Panjvein frontline in November 1983.

The book contains four chapters named “Unforgettable District”, “Years of Tension”, “Towards the University of Frontline” and “In the Tumult of Silence”.

The book was selected for Arabic translation in a book fair held in Beirut last year.