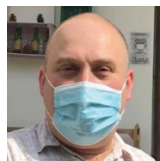




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Envoy calls U.S. sanctions on Iran ‘crime against humanity’

TEHRAN — Kazem Gharibabadi, the Iranian ambassador to the Vienna-based international organizations, has described the new sanctions that the U.S. imposed on Iran as a “crime against humanity”, saying all capacities should be used to confront “these crimes”.

“It should be said that the unilateral and illegal sanctions of the U.S., of any kind and at any stage, are considered

as a crime against humanity, although it may be said that these sanctions are not a new phenomenon, will not help America in imposing further pressures on Iran, and are mostly designed to serve political and propaganda goals,” Gharibabadi said in an Instagram post on Friday night, adding that Iran should use all of its capacities to confront “these crimes.” **→3**

Aluminum ingot production up 71% in 6 months yr/yr

TEHRAN — Production of the aluminum ingot in Iran rose 71 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, according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

The IMIDRO’s data put the country’s aluminum ingot output at 211,779 tons

during the six-month period of this year, while the figure was 123,576 in the same time span of the previous year.

The monthly aluminum ingot output has also risen 84 percent in the sixth month of the present year, from that of the past year.

As reported, 36,866 tons of the product has been produced in the sixth month of this year, while the figure was 19,983 tons in the sixth month of the previous year. **→4**

Trump gives MBS a pass for murder of Khashoggi: Brennan

Former CIA Director, John Brennan, said “we have to hold the Saudis as well as others to account for any type of human rights atrocities... [But] Donald Trump and Jared Kushner and the White House have given MBS... a pass for that horrific murder and dismemberment of Jamal Khashoggi.”

“Trump is acting just the way autocrats & dictators around the world have... The track record has demonstrated that he will do whatever he can to advance his personal interests, as well as to exact revenge on those that he considers his enemies,” Brennan added in an interview with CNN.

By Ebrahim Fallahi
Tehran Times Journalist

Offering electricity at IRENEX beneficial for both buyers, suppliers

Operating over 60 percent of Iran’s power plants, the private sector has been playing a significant role in the country’s electricity industry and the government has been taking serious measures for encouraging an even stronger presence by the mentioned sector in this industry.

Most of the electricity generated by the private companies is purchased by the Energy Ministry on a guaranteed price base, and a part of it is directly sold to industrial units or commercial sectors through the country’s energy exchange market known as IRENEX.

The offering of electricity at IRENEX has been following an upward trend so that over the past two years the offerings have more than tripled to over 500 million kilowatt-hours (kWh); Many of the country’s big industrial units have been directly purchasing their required electricity from the energy exchange with more efficient prices.

The government has also been providing incentives for private power companies to encourage them to offer their generated electricity at the energy exchange while announcing directives to high-consuming sectors to oblige them to purchase their required electricity from the energy exchange market.

Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said on Saturday that all the industrial electricity subscribers with a consumption of more than five megawatts (MW) are obliged to supply their electricity from IRENEX as of the mentioned date.

According to Ardakanian, the offering of electricity in the energy exchange market is a great help to both producers who receive their dues sooner and the consumers that would get their electricity with better prices in this market.

■ Benefits of offering electricity at IRENEX

Iranian economy which was already wrestling with the negative impacts of the U.S. sanctions was faced with new challenges following the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country. The government had to implement new strategies to compensate the decline in the oil revenues and also in the non-oil trade due to the closure of the country’s borders with the neighbors. **→4**

Here’s how S.Arabia and UAE helped appoint Sheikh Mishaal as Kuwait’s crown prince

TEHRAN — In a carefully devised plan, the Saudis and Emiratis handled the transition of power in Kuwait following the passing of its emir on September 29, successfully appointing their favorite man as Kuwait’s new crown prince.

On October 6, the Tehran Times reported that the Saudis and Emiratis might change the line of succession in Kuwait by paving the way for a previously unknown security official to become the crown prince of the country. The official, Sheikh Mishaal al-Ahmed al-Jaber, was appointed as the Kuwait crown prince after he received remarkable support from his backers in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

On October 7, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, the new emir of Kuwait, announced that he nominated Sheikh Mishaal as the crown prince of the country, putting an end to a fierce behind-the-scene competition

among several powerful men within the ruling family who all were aspiring to become crown prince. The Kuwaiti emir has issued an emiri decree stipulating that Sheikh Mishaal has been appointed as Kuwait’s crown prince.

The ruling family of Al Sabah has endorsed the new crown prince. The Parliament of Kuwait also unanimously pledged allegiance to Sheikh Mishaal, who was sworn in before the lawmakers.

In the days and months leading to his appointment, Sheikh Mishaal received support from Saudi Arabia and to some extent from the United Arab Emirates. The two countries threw their weight behind Sheikh Mishaal months before the former emir passed away. It seems that they have devised a very complicated plan since at least July when Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah, 91, was admitted to a hospital in the U.S. **→3**

U.S. protests: Family of Black teen killed by police arrested at protest

The mother and sisters of a Black teenager who was killed by a suburban Milwaukee, Wisconsin, police officer were arrested this week during a curfew-defying protest against a decision not to charge the officer with Alvin Cole’s death.

Cole’s mother, Tracy Cole, was arrested around 8:30pm local time (00:30 GMT) on Thursday “for peacefully protesting”, their lawyer Kimberley Motley tweeted, and taken to hospital with injuries to her arm and forehead.

Cole’s sisters Tracy and Tristiana were also arrested, and Tristiana was taken to hospital for unspecified reasons, al Jazeera reported.

“I’m Mrs Cole, Alvin’s mother,” Tracy Cole can be heard shouting repeatedly as officers pulled her out of her car, according to a Facebook livestream that captured part of her arrest. “I can’t believe y’all did this to me. Y’all killed my son,” she shouted at the officers. “I can’t breathe,” she said, multiple times. “I can’t breathe.”

The arrests come amid two straight nights of protests in the town of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, which were sparked after prosecutors decided not to charge police officer Joseph Mensah with Cole’s death in February.

The 17-year-old’s death sparked protests all summer in Wauwatosa, a city of 48,000 just west of Milwaukee.

The demonstrations played out against a backdrop of protests worldwide over the death in May of George Floyd, a Black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck for nearly eight minutes.

Floyd could be heard on cell phone video saying, “I can’t breathe”, which became a rallying cry for protesters. In Cole’s case, the Wauwatosa police commission is under increasing pressure to discipline Mensah, after an independent investigator recommended that Mensah be fired for the fatal shooting.

West Asia’s a perfect storm

By Anthony Tucker-Jones

Who could have predicted that Saddam Hussein’s attack on Iran back in 1980 would create a perfect storm that was to last for almost four decades?

The militarisation of West Asia as a consequence of the Cold War could ultimately only have one outcome. After eight years of bitter conflict, Saddam thwarted in his ambition to conquer southern Iran occupied neighboring oil-rich Kuwait instead. Fatefully Washington’s decision to defend Saudi Arabia from attack put

America on a fatal collision course with al-Qaeda, which culminated in 9/11.

Ironically America’s quest to kill or capture Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan was derailed by unfinished business with Iraq. Deposing Saddam Hussein in 2003 will undoubtedly come to be seen as one of the greatest political and military blunders of this century. Al-Qaeda flooded into Iraq to fight American and other Coalition forces igniting a brutal insurgency that that fractured Iraq on sectarian lines. Although Iraq was eventually

stabilized, the price of democracy was that the Iraqi Shia majority took power from the Sunni minority. The backlash to this was the rise of Sunni Daesh or Islamic State from the ashes of al-Qaeda. Daesh swiftly filled a power vacuum left in Iraq and Syria that led to the emergence of the Islamic State caliphate in 2014.

Crucially with the Syria civil war, there was never the appetite for full-scale international intervention as there had been in Iraq. Behind the scenes, though America, **→5**



© Tehran Times / Amin Bevanikar

Happy Hafez Day

Iran’s Hafez Day is celebrated on October 11 this year.

Hafez, in full Shams ad-Din Muhammad Hafez (ca. 1325-1389), is the most popular of Persian poets.

If a book of poetry is to be found in a Persian home, it is likely to be the Divan of Hafez.

Many of his verses have become proverbial sayings, and there are few who cannot recite some of his lyrics, partially or totally, by heart.

Among the many partial English translations of the Divan of Hafez are those by Gertrude Bell and H. Wilberforce Clarke.

Iran sets fines for violating COVID-19 measures

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani announced on Saturday that individuals and business owners who do not wear masks leaving home or at their place of work will be fined from 500,000 rials (some \$12 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) up to 10 million rials (around \$240).

As soon as a person is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must immediately notify their place of work and family, so they must not hide their sickness, Rouhani said while headlining a live televised weekly national headquarters for coronavirus control in Tehran.

Another group being eyed for penalties are people who do not wear face masks and engage in potentially high-risk activities that spread the disease, according to Rouhani.

He emphasized that when the new restrictions are implemented, all state-run organizations and private businesses that offer services to clients who do not wear face masks will also face penalties.

On Saturday, a one-week closure of numerous businesses was imposed in Tehran to slow the spread of the virus.

Alireza Zali, head of the national headquarters for coronavirus control said that universities, schools, cinemas, beauty salons, events, sports clubs, cafes, indoor pools, and gyms are among places that should be shut down for one week in the capital.

■ \$100m allocated to purchase COVID-19 test kits

Rouhani also noted that \$100 million has been earmarked to provide COVID-19 test kits.

When there is not yet a drug or vaccine for the virus, good hygiene is the best and only way to fight the disease, he stated. **→7**

China: U.S. sanctions on Iran threatens people's life

POLITICAL **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying says the United States' sanctions on Iran and other countries pose a direct threat to ordinary people's life and health due to the continued spread of the coronavirus.

"The #US arbitrary unilateral economic blockade & financial sanctions on #Iran & other countries undermine their capability to develop economy & improve livelihood and affect the basic human rights of innocent civilians, including women, children, the elderly & the disabled," Hua said on Friday, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Twitter account.

"With #COVID19 still spreading, the #US restrictions on transportation of medical supplies pose a direct threat to people's life & health. #China once again calls for the elimination of unilateral compulsory measures on #Iran," she added.



On Thursday, the Trump administration announced it had imposed new sanctions on Iran's financial sector in defiance of Washington's European allies who warned of the humanitarian consequences of the sanctions on Iran's fight against the coronavirus.

The new sanctions target the few remaining Iranian banks which were not subject to secondary sanctions.

In a tweet, U.S. State Secretary Mike Pompeo announced that the United States is sanctioning 18 major Iranian banks and identifying Iran's financial sector.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the designation of 18 Iranian banks "reflects our commitment to stop illicit access to U.S. dollars."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the United States is seeking to blow up Iran's remaining channels to pay for food and medicine.

"Amid Covid19 pandemic, U.S. regime wants to blow up our remaining channels to pay for food & medicine," Zarif tweeted on Thursday. "Iranians WILL survive this latest of cruelties."

He described conspiring to starve the Iranian population as a "crime against humanity", adding, "Culprits & enablers—who block our money—WILL face justice."

The new U.S. move is part of the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran, which Trump adopted after he unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear agreement in May 2018.

Trump is also hoping to clinch a foreign policy victory before the U.S. presidential election, which is scheduled for November 3. In recent weeks his chances of defeating Democratic rival Joe Biden have gone down significantly.

Iranian, Russian diplomats discuss nuclear agreement

POLITICAL **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iranian ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov have met to discuss the latest developments surrounding the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"(The two sides) exchanged views on the situation around the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear program. They highlighted the importance of further coordination of efforts of all its parties for the sustainable implementation of the agreement in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2231," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Friday, Tass reported.



The two sides also discussed some other issues of mutual interest, the statement said.

In 2015, Iran signed the JCPOA with China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and the European Union. It required Iran to scale back its nuclear program and severely downgrade its uranium reserves in exchange for termination of sanctions, including lifting the arms embargo five years after the deal's adoption. In 2018, the United States abandoned its conciliatory stance on Iran, withdrawing from the JCPOA and implementing headline policies against Tehran.

Following the U.S. withdrawal, Russia and China strongly opposed the U.S. unilateral measures against Iran and supported efforts to preserve the JCPOA.

Last month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow and Beijing reject American attempts to dismantle the most important international agreement for the world, which was approved by UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

The Russian foreign minister stressed that both countries do not tolerate the illegitimate unilateral actions of the United States in connection with the situation around Iran's nuclear program.

At the end of a two-day visit to Russia a few weeks ago, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Iran and Russia need to constantly hold talks, calling Moscow one of Iran's "strategic friends".

"We need to have constant and continued talks with the Russian friends given the regional and international circumstances as well as our bilateral relations," Zarif remarked.

The visit came amid soaring tensions between Iran and the U.S. over the White House's unilateral move in announcing the return of all previously terminated UN sanctions on Tehran. All current JCPOA participants, particularly Russia and China, and almost all non-permanent members of the UN Security Council strongly rejected the U.S. measure.

Rouhani, Putin hold talks on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

POLITICAL **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday talked on the phone with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to discuss the latest developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other subjects.

During the phone conversation, Putin informed Rouhani about the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the region, IRNA reported.

Rouhani expressed concern over the presence of some terrorist groups in the conflict, stressing that the presence of the terrorists could be dangerous both for Iran and Russia as well as for the entire region.

Clashes erupted between Azerbaijan and Armenia on September 27, which led to the killing and injury of dozens on both sides. The two countries are fighting over a breakaway that is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but controlled by local ethnic Armenians who are backed by Yerevan.

The breakaway of Nagorno-Karabakh has long been a source of conflict between Baku and Yerevan since the early years of the 1990s when the two sides fought a years-long war over the disputed region that led to the Armenian forces declaring independence from Azerbaijan and also occupying parts of Azerbaijani territories surrounding the mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh.

The two sides have agreed to a ceasefire starting on Saturday to exchange prisoners



and bodies of those killed in the conflict, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced.

However, each side has since accused the other of breaking the agreement. Armenia and Azerbaijan also accused each other of bombarding civilian areas ahead

of the ceasefire.

The talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia were held in Moscow and were the first diplomatic contact between them since September 27.

More than 300 people have died and thousands been displaced since the latest

Rouhani says the presence of terrorists in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict could prove dangerous both for Iran and Russia as well as the entire region.

Iran welcomes ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh

POLITICAL **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says Iran welcomes cessation of hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh as a step toward peace.

"We urge our neighbors Azerbaijan and Armenia to engage in substantive dialogue based on respect for international law and territorial integrity," Zarif tweeted on Saturday.

He added, "We appreciate constructive efforts of our Russian neighbors."

Earlier, a ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan went into effect to end nearly two weeks of heavy fighting over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Officials in the disputed region and Azerbaijani forces accused each other of firing missiles and rockets on civilian areas on Saturday morning, shortly before the ceasefire was due to start.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said earlier on Saturday that the ceasefire was agreed upon after nearly 10 hours of "substantive" talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Moscow, Al Jazeera reported.

Lavrov said the Red Cross would act as an intermediary in the humanitarian operation once the ceasefire comes into effect.

Under international law, Nagorno-Karabakh is recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

But ethnic Armenians, who make up the vast majority of the population, reject the Azerbaijani rule and have been running their own affairs with Armenia's support since a devastating war in the 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

At least 30,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands were forced from their homes before an internationally-brokered ceasefire was agreed in 1994.



Women can register as presidential candidates: Guardian Council

POLITICAL **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Guardian Council spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei said on Saturday that women can also register to run for the president in Iran.

In response to a question of whether the council's faqih (experts in Islamic law) have made changes to their definition of the legal term "statesman" to include women as well, Kadkhodaei told reporters that no changes have been made with this regard.

"In this regard, there are a series of cultural discussions going on in our country and it is not an issue that we resolve with merely a law," he said, according to Mehr.

"First, this cultural issue must be resolved, and no changes have been made in this regard," he remarked, adding, "Nevertheless, the registration of women in the presidential elections is permitted."

Iran's next presidential elections will be held on June 18, 2021.

In remarks in August, Jamal Orf, the deputy interior minister in charge of elections, said with the Guardian Council's approval,



June 18 was set for holding presidential, council and midterm parliamentary and Assembly of Experts elections.

Candidates hoping to run in the next elections are to apply in early April for approval. The final list is to be announced by the Guardian Council in early June.

Under Iran's law, an incumbent president cannot run for a third term if he has already served for two consecutive terms in office. Rouhani was first elected in 2013 and reelected four years later.

So far, no woman has been approved by the Guardian Council to run for president.

Navy to unveil Dena destroyer, Saba minesweeper within two months

POLITICAL **d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The Iranian Navy will unveil some of its homegrown products including Dena destroyer and Saba minesweeper within the next two months, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi has said.

Speaking with Tasnim on Saturday, Khanzadi also said Iran's first homegrown auxiliary ship, named "Persian Gulf", will be unveiled within the next two months.

The auxiliary ship is capable of sailing around the globe three times without being refueled, he said.

The Navy chief said that once fueled up, the vessel can circumnavigate the globe three times.

The non-stop navigation capability would greatly contribute to "defense and security stability" in the region, the commander added.

Khanzadi said the homegrown auxiliary ship can carry several military choppers and drones, and is equipped with a combination of missile systems and weapons

fit for long journeys in ocean.

The commander underlined that the Iranian Navy's power serves maritime security in the region and the world.

In remarks last month, Khanzadi said his forces are ready to respond to any kind of threat, but "we fully respect the territorial integrity of neighboring, friendly countries."

He made the remarks after a three-day joint military exercise held in Iran's southern waters.

The message of the war game was "power, peace, and security", the rear admiral pointed out.

The enemies know that if they act mischievously, they will receive a decisive reaction, Khanzadi said, adding, "They are concerned and they are trying to convey their concern, through the media outlets they own, to the nations of the region to make it a collective concern."

The Navy chief also warned the enemies of the consequences of trying to invade Iran's territory through water, saying, "We are capable of thwarting the conspiracies."

General: Numerous unidentified popular groups stand in alliance with Iran worldwide

TEHRAN (FNA) – Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Deputy Commander for Coordination Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi said that Iran has many popular military allies around the world who come into operation in case of war and when the country's interests are endangered.

"If war breaks out, we do not have a few military allies. The force which has been formed and the same people who are in different corners of the world, are considered as our military allies," General Naqdi said in an interview with the state TV.

He explained that Iran's military allies are more dangerous to the enemies than an official army as they are unknown and unidentified and come to Iran's assistance when in need and in case of war.

"Hence, if the enemy errs, it will come under strikes from all sides without knowing who has dealt the blow and it will receive reports from different parts of the world every moment," General Naqdi said.

In relevant remarks last month, General Naqdi said that the IRGC's missile attack against the U.S. base in Iraq was just a tip of the iceberg of Iran's harsh revenge for the assassination of former commander of the IRGC Quds Force Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

"The response (revenge) is that the U.S. should leave the region and this will happen. The attack on Ein Al-Assad was merely declaration of the Islamic Republic's determination



to respond," General Naqdi said.

He underlined that the U.S. has not yet received Iran's response, and said, "The blow hit at Ein Al-Assad was important and all the world powers sent messages to Iran that they did not dare to do it. The world understood how much the Islamic Republic is mighty and how much the U.S. has grown weak."

"The attack had very big consequences but it was not the harsh revenge (vowed by Iran)," General Naqdi said.

Lieutenant General Soleimani was assassinated in a U.S. drone strike on Baghdad International Airport in Iraq on January 3.

The airstrike also martyred Deputy Commander of Iraq's

Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. The two were martyred in an American airstrike that targeted their vehicle on the road to the airport.

Five Iranian and five Iraqi military men were martyred by the missiles fired by the U.S. drone at Baghdad International Airport.

On January 8, the IRGC Aerospace Force started heavy ballistic missile attacks on U.S. Ein Al-Assad airbase in Southwestern Iraq near the border with Syria and a U.S. operated airbase in Erbil in retaliation for the U.S. assassination of General Soleimani.

Ein Al-Assad is an airbase with a 4km runway at 188m altitude from sea levels, which is the main and the largest U.S. airbase in Iraq. Early reports said the radar systems and missile defense shields in Ein Al-Assad failed to operate and intercept the Iranian missiles. Unofficial reports said the U.S. army's central radar systems at Ein Al-Assad had been jammed by electronic warfare.

The second IRGC reprisal attack targeted a U.S. military base near Erbil airport in Iraqi Kurdistan Region in the second leg of "Martyr Soleimani" reprisal operation.

Iraq said the attacks had not taken any toll from its army men stationed at these two bases. The U.S. army had blocked entrance into Ein Al-Assad to everyone, including the Iraqi army.

It was the first direct attack on the U.S. army ever since world war two.

Here's how S.Arabia and UAE helped appoint Sheikh Mishaal as Kuwait's crown prince

1→ A closer examination of Saudi and Emirati media outlets show that the plan had many stages and was implemented step by step.

■ Step one: raise the issue

As Kuwait announced that its emir was admitted to hospital, the Saudis and Emiratis gradually shed light on the issue of succession in Kuwait in July, with a London-based UAE-affiliated newspaper running a story under the headline "Admission of Kuwait's emir to hospital revives the issue of succession."

The newspaper, al-Arab, said at the time that the power struggle in Kuwait was centered around the position of crown prince, not the emir. Because the former crown prince, Sheikh Nawaf, who later ascended to the throne after the demise of Sheikh Sabah, is suffering from "a rare disease in the blood," and most importantly the position of crown prince will soon fall vacant.

Citing Kuwaiti sources, al-Arab said, "The issue of who will succeed Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad is settled in favor of his brother Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad, who is currently the crown prince, but the question is who will be the crown prince of Nawaf Al-Ahmad, who in turn suffers from a rare disease in the blood. This disease forced the Kuwaiti crown prince to receive treatment in the United States over the past years."

The al-Arab story came at a time when Kuwaiti news media outlets had largely avoided discussing the issue of succession to the throne in the country; rather they focused on creating consensus among ruling elites with regard to the transition of power.

■ Step two: discredit other contenders

The newspaper also discussed potential contenders for the positions of crown prince only to tarnish their image through associating them with groups that are considered to be a source of division in Kuwait and beyond.

It named many figures such as Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad, Sheikh Mohammad al-Sabah, and Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammad. But all these individuals were discredited by al-Arab. It said Sheikh Ahmad is supported by the Muslim Brotherhood group and Qatar, the



two archrivals of Saudi Arabia and the UAE. According to the newspaper, while the sages of the ruling family were pushing for the nomination of Sheikh Mohammad al-Sabah, businessmen and some power circles in the ruling family favor former Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammad.

■ Step three: promote your favorite choice

No one was able to create consensus among the ruling family and balance Kuwait's foreign relations. Therefore, there was a need for a new figure.

Enter Sheikh Mishaal.

A little bit more than a week later, al-Arab ran another story on the issue of succession in Kuwait, turning the spotlight on a new figure who was being touted as the next crown prince. It added Sheikh Mishaal al-Ahmed al-Jaber to the list of contenders.

"Sheikh Mishaal, who has a strong personality, accompanied the emir to the United States, where he was treated at the 'Mayo Clinic' hospital, while Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah and Nasser Al-Mohammad remained in Kuwait," al-Arab said on July 27, long before the demise of Sheikh Sabah, adding that the Muslim Brotherhood group hates Sheikh Mishaal and it has even launched a

campaign to prevent him from becoming crown prince.

■ Step four: reveal your choice

In the run-up to the nomination of Sheikh Mishaal, Saudi- and UAE-affiliated media outlets intensified their efforts to promote Sheikh Mishaal.

The Arab Weekly, another pro-UAE outlet, touted Sheikh Mishaal, saying that he leads the race for crown prince.

Citing political sources, the outlet said, "The sources confirmed to The Arab Weekly that Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mishaal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, who had accompanied the late emir during his stay in the United States for medical treatment, is considered to have the best chances of becoming the new crown prince."

It also said that the issue of who will become crown prince is expected to "be solved soon."

"They [diplomatic sources] explain that Sheikh Mishaal is a strong-willed figure and carries a lot of influence inside the al-Sabah family, which makes him very likely to win the race for crown prince. They point out that on his arrival from the United States with the body of the late emir, many members of the family greeted him at the airport in a sign of loyalty," wrote The Arab Weekly, adding,

"Sheikh Mishaal is now pushing for a speedy settlement of the issue, as he knows that time is not necessarily on his side, particularly with the activity of the Muslim Brotherhood movement seeking to stop him from becoming the next crown prince."

One day later, the emir of Kuwait appointed Sheikh Mishaal as crown prince, a move that was widely welcomed by the Saudis and Emiratis. In fact, Saudi Arabia began contacting Sheikh Mishaal even before he was nominated for crown prince.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman held a telephone conversation with Sheikh Mishaal to offer condolences over the passing of Sheikh Sabah. This was an unusual act. Because foreign leaders usually held such calls with the leaders of a country that has just lost one of its high-ranking officials, not with low-ranking officials such as Sheikh Mishaal, who was the deputy chief of the National Guard at the time of the call. This was also the reason why a lot of analysts interpreted the call as a sign that Saudi Arabia supports Sheikh Mishaal in his quest to become crown prince.

Sheikh Mishaal's animosity toward the Muslim Brotherhood, and his security experience, along with his tepid attitude toward Iran, made him a perfect choice for the Saudis and Emiratis, who rushed to congratulate him after his appointment as crown prince.

The Mishaal appointment is also important to Emiratis and Saudis because he will likely be the last emir of the older generation. He is 80 years old while the current emir is 83 years old. Assuming that Sheikh Mishaal will ascend to the throne, the next emir after him will likely be of the younger generation, which means that the power will be passed to the younger generation of the ruling family under the supervision of a pro-Saudi emir. Of course, this does not mean that the crown prince is going to publicly embrace the Saudi policies in the region. First of all, he needs to become emir and consolidate his power. Then he may align himself more assertively with those who helped him take over as crown prince in the first place.

Zarif holds 'fruitful talks' with Chinese counterpart

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Saturday he held 'fruitful talks' with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

"Fruitful talks in beautiful Tengchong with my friend Wang Yi on Iran-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Tweeted Zarif on Saturday evening.

The foreign minister arrived in the southern Chinese province of Yunnan at the head of a high-ranking delegation on Friday.

Earlier on Thursday, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Saeed Khatibzadeh said Zarif's two-day visit was "in line with close consultations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and China."

Zarif also said that they "rejected U.S. unilateralism and U.S. attempts to create unipolar world," adding that Iran and China "agreed on strengthening our ties including 25-year plan, regional cooperation, preserving JCPOA &



vaccine collaboration."

Zarif was referring to a 25-year strategic partnership plan between Iran and China that was approved by Iran in June but still awaits the Chinese approval.

Neither Iran nor China did formally give many details about the plan. However, some details of the 25-year partnership have been leaked to the press. According to the leaks, China will invest a whopping \$400 billion in various

Iranian sectors including oil and gas. In exchange, Iran will ensure steady energy supplies to China for a period of 25 years at a discounted rate.

As Zarif left Iran for China, an assistant to him, said the foreign minister was going to discuss the partnership plan, expressing hope that the plan would play a major role in facilitating the trade between Tehran and Beijing.

"We hope that Mr. Zarif's visit to China will be a major step toward institutionalizing the 25-year cooperation document between the two countries, which will be a good basis for boosting economic relations," said the assistant, adding, "Concerning the 25-year cooperation plan between Iran and China, there have been continuous contacts between the experts of the two countries since last year."

The assistant, Reza Zabib, also said Zarif will discuss the efforts to produce the Covid-19 vaccine.

Envoy calls U.S. sanctions on Iran 'crime against humanity'

Ambassador Gharibabadi says the U.S. has launched a "dirty game" to block Iran's channels for humanitarian trade

1→ The ambassador's remarks came in response to U.S. fresh sanctions on Iran. On Friday, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed new sanctions on Iran, targeting "eighteen major Iranian banks".

U.S. Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin said in a tweet that these sanctions were designed to cut Iran's ties with the global financial system.

"Today, U.S. Treasury took further action to isolate the Iranian economy from the global financial system as the regime uses the financial sector to advance its malign agenda," Mnuchin tweeted.

The U.S. Treasury Department issued a statement on Thursday explaining the scope and the implications of the new sanctions.

Under these sanctions, "all property and interests in property of designated targets that are in the United States or in the possession

or control of U.S. persons must be blocked and reported to OFAC. OFAC's regulations generally prohibit all dealings by U.S. persons or within the United States (including transactions transiting the United States) that involve any property or interests in property of blocked or designated persons," according to the Treasury statement.

Iran strongly rejected the U.S. sanctions as "cruel, terrorist and inhumane," saying the Americans cannot break the resistance of the Iranian people through imposing economic sanctions.

The U.S. claimed that the new sanctions do not "affect existing authorizations and exceptions for humanitarian trade, which remain in full force and effect" for the newly-designated Iranian banks.

But Gharibabadi said the U.S. has launched as "dirty game" to block Iran's

channels for humanitarian trade.

"The U.S. regime's criminal measures to threaten the lives of ordinary people through economic terrorism know no end. This regime, in another measure, has designated eighteen Iranian banks. On one hand, it claims that sanctions do not affect the imports of medicines and foods, but on the other hand, it fully blocks the existing channels for paying the costs of importing these items. By now, this dirty and aberrational American game must have been known to everyone," Gharibabadi said.

According to the ambassador, the Americans, who have a "dark record" in terms of violating human rights, have directly endangered the lives of ordinary people and their right to life, which is an indisputable human right.

He also called on Europe not to stop at regretting the U.S. "destructive measures." Instead, Gharibabadi said, the Europeans

have a "heavy obligation" of both countering U.S. "anti-human rights measures" and implementing their obligations under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Gharibabadi said the U.S., through imposing maximum pressure on Iran, seeks to bring Iran back to the negotiating table and impose its conditions on it.

"By now, the U.S. must have understood that their strategy is not accepted by anyone in Iran," pointed out the ambassador, accusing the U.S. of targeting the dignity and credibility of Iran and the Iranian people.

He noted, "Iran and the Iranians will do their utmost to counter U.S. measures and decrease the effects of the sanctions so that the U.S. fails to achieve their goals of exploiting [the sanctions on Iran] before and after the election."

On the other hand, the U.S. doubled down on its sanctions against Iran, with the latest series of sanctions being imposed this past Thursday.

The U.S. Treasury Department slapped new sanctions on Iran, targeting "eighteen major Iranian banks." U.S. Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin said the restrictions were intended to sever Iran's ties with the global financial system.

"Today, U.S. Treasury took further action to isolate the Iranian economy from the global financial system as the regime uses the financial sector to advance its malign agenda," he said in a tweet.

Iran denounced the new sanctions as "inhumane" that could complicate Iran's efforts to combat the novel coronavirus. President Hassan Rouhani described these sanctions as "cruel, terrorist and inhumane," saying the Americans cannot break the resistance of the Iranian people.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also condemned the sanctions, saying they are designed to "to blow up our remaining channels to pay for food & medicine" amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

SPORTS

Parviz Mazloumi steps down as Iran U19 coach

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Parviz Mazloumi has stepped away from his post as head coach of Iran U19 football team.

The 65-year-old coach has retired from his post to work as Iranian football club Esteghlal's sporting director.

Mazloumi had been named as U19 coach in late July.

Former Naft Masjed Soleyman coach Mehdi Tartar is a candidate to replace Mazloumi in U19 football team but he has yet to reach an agreement with the Iran football federation.



Vahid Fazeli appointed Nassaji coach

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Vahid Fazeli has been appointed as new head coach of Iran top-flight team Nassaji Mazandaran.

According to the Ghaemshahr-based club, the 39-year-old coach replaced Mahmoud Fekri.

Fekri has been recently named Esteghlal coach.

Fazeli worked as Fekri's assistant in Iran Professional League (IPL) last season, where Nassaji finished in ninth place.

He has also worked as coach in First Division teams Aluminium Arak and Kheybar Khorramabad.

The new edition of the IPL, also known as Persian Gulf Premier League, will begin on Oct. 31.

2020-21 IPL schedule to be released on Monday

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran League Football Organization will release Iran Professional League (IPL) 2020-21 schedule on Monday.

The 20th edition of the IPL will be played with the participation of 16 teams.

Persepolis will be bidding for a fifth successive IPL title in the upcoming season.

The new edition of the IPL, also known as Persian Gulf Premier League, will begin on Oct. 31.

Iran League Football Organization has also announced that Iran's Super Cup between IPL champions Persepolis and Hazfi Cup winners Tractor will be held on Oct. 26.

Iran's Azadegan League (First Division) will also kick off on Nov. 2.

Iran Volleyball League postponed for two weeks

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran Volleyball Super League has been postponed due to third wave of COVID-19.

The competition has been canceled in order to cut chain of coronavirus' spread, Iranvolleyball.com reported.

The new season started on September 9 and Foolad Sirjan sits top of the table at the end of Matchday 7.

The date of the resumption of the competition will be announced by the organizers.

The daily death toll from coronavirus infection in Iran has exceeded 200 in recent days, while the total number of cases since the outbreak of the disease in the country has surpassed 490,000.

More than 28,000 COVID-19 patients have died in Iran since February.

Jahanbakhsh lauds Brighton coach Potter

Iran international winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh says that Brighton Coach Graham Potter has helped him become a better player.

The 27-year-old has been pleased with the relationship he has built since Potter's arrival as head coach in May 2019. "Our coach-player relationship is really good. I believe I have improved a lot under guidance of him and I hope that I have shown that with my performances recently," Jahanbakhsh told brightonandhovealbion.com.

"I have got a really good relationship with everyone at the club. There are always ups and downs because players want to play every game, but there is situations like that in every job. He talks to us and helps us, which is nice as a player.

"I am trying to show the manager every day in training that I am ready to go. Obviously it is up to the gaffer whether or not he puts me in the team but it's my responsibility to train well so that when he calls on me I am ready to perform. I want to be important to us in every game," he added.

(Source: brightonandhovealbion.com)

Head of Serbian wrestling federations to visit Iran

Tasnim — Head of Serbian Wrestling Federation Zeljko Trajkovic will travel to Tehran, capital of Iran on Tuesday.

Trajkovic will meet his Iranian counterpart Alireza Dabir as part of his visit.

Iran and Serbia wrestling federations will also sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the bilateral cooperation.

In February, Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Masoud Soltanifar and Serbian Ambassador to Iran Dragan Todorovic signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on sports cooperation.

The United World Wrestling (UWW) President Nenad Lalovic also is Serbian.

Iran responds to Trump's bad language, says not afraid of 'bullying rhetoric'

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — In response to U.S. President Donald Trump using swear words to threaten Iran, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry said Iran is not afraid of U.S. "bullying rhetoric".

"The Iranian people aren't intimidated by the bullying rhetoric of the failing & lawless U.S. regime," tweeted spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on Friday night, moments after U.S. President Donald Trump used swear words to warn Iran against doing what he called "something bad" to the U.S.

Khatibzadeh was responding to a Trump's profanity-laden tirade against Iran on Friday. The U.S. president said that he has put Iran on notice not to "f**k around" with the U.S.

"Iran knows that, and they've been put on notice: if you f**k around with us, if you do something bad to us, we are going to do things to you that have never been done before," Trump told conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh.

Trump also repeated his claim that if he wins the November 3rd election, he will reach a new deal with Iran within a few weeks.

"If I win, we'll have a great deal with Iran within one month," he said.

Khatibzadeh seems to be regarding Trump's comments as an affront to the Iranians' dignity, saying the Iranian people do whatever they can to defend their dignity.

"Our people leave no stone unturned in defending Iran's dignity," he asserted.

The spokesman also pointed to U.S. sanctions and the assassination of a top Iranian general earlier this year, saying Iran will respond to these "U.S. crimes".

Khatibzadeh added, "WE will choose response to US crimes— including sadistic sanctions & criminal assassination of ISIS #1 enemy Gen. Soleimani."

General Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps' Quds Force, was assassinated by an American drone strike near Baghdad's international airport on January 3. His assassination sent shock waves across the region and prompted Iran to shower a U.S. military base in western Iraq with missiles. The missile response caused brain injury among dozens of American troops stationed in Iraq. However, Iran said the final revenge for the assassination of General Soleimani would be the expulsion of U.S. forces from the Western Asia region.

TEDPIX gains 1,143 points on Saturday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 1,143 points to 1.541 million on Saturday, which is the first day of Iranian calendar week.

As reported by IRNA, over 6.752 billion securities worth 78.014 trillion rials (about \$1.857 billion) were traded at the TSE on Saturday, while the first market's index increased 1,108 points and the second market's index gained 1,229 points.



TEDPIX rose 2.5 percent during the past Iranian week, while it had dropped seven percent in the week ended on October 2.

Since the week ended on August 14, the TSE, which is Iran's major stock exchange, witnessed drop of its main index every week, except for the week ended on September 18.

The index dropped 5.7 percent in the week ended on September 25, and four percent in the week ended on September 11, while it had also experienced a five-percent decrease in the week ended on September 4, a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 28, an 11.3-percent drop in the week ended on August 21, and a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 14.

TEDPIX had hit the record high of two million points on August 2, and while it had been experiencing an unprecedented trend of rising over the recent months, it witnessed several weekly drops since mid-August.

Iran exports 550 tons of non-oil goods to Oman via southern port

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran exported the fifth non-oil cargo to Oman via Sirik Port in southern Hormozgan Province, the governor of Sirik County announced. Ahmad Jamaledini put the weight of the mentioned cargo at 550 tons valued at 64 billion rials (about \$1.523 million), including fruits and vegetables, mineral water, paving stones, nuts, canned food, beans, and straw, which have been exported by three vessels, Mehr news agency reported.

The first non-oil cargo with a capacity of 120 tons, including mineral water and nuts, was dispatched to Oman on June 2, according to Jamaledini.

In early January, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held the first meeting of its Commodity-Country Desk on trade with Oman presided by Farzad Piltan, the director-general of TPO's Office of Arabian and African Countries.

The meeting was aimed at investigating the ways for increasing exports of constructional materials to Oman and removing the barriers related to transporting these materials to the Arab country, and was participated by the related state-run and private sector officials including representatives of some exporting and marine transport companies.

Despite the U.S. reimposition of sanctions against the Islamic Republic, Oman is getting closer to Iran both politically and economically. There is also the same approach adopted by Iran, as Iranian companies now prefer to conduct trade with Oman rather than the United Arab Emirates (UAE), given that the UAE is highly complying with the sanctions.



Iran is somehow replacing some of its previous strategic trade partners such as UAE with Oman, considering the Sultanate as an economic-trade hub.

Over the past year, there have been many meetings and negotiations between trade and economic officials from the state-run and private sectors of the two sides with the aim of strengthening and expanding bilateral trade ties.

During the 18th meeting of Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee in Tehran in last December, Omani minister of commerce and industry said his country is trying to boost its trade and economic ties with Iran, stressing that this goal can be achieved through more cooperation between the two sides' private sectors.

Ali bin Masoud al Sunaidy also said, "We will make the most efforts to provide incentives for joint investment and also promote bilateral trade cooperation between the two countries."

Stressing that a very proper condition is available for invigorating the bilateral trade, the Omani official said the two sides can also take the advantage of bartering to expand their trade ties.

Addressing the same meeting, Iran's Former Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani said while there are potential and capabilities for boosting the trade turnover between Iran and Oman to \$5 billion, the figure is currently \$1 billion.

The International North South Transit Corridor (INSTC) can help the two countries elevate their bilateral trade to this level, the minister noted.

Meanwhile, Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce and Iran Mine House (IMH) signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for the expansion of the Iranian private sector's presence in Oman in early August.

Aluminum ingot production up 71% in 6 months yr/yr

1 → Production of the aluminum ingot in the country is planned to increase 63 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

Iran's major aluminum producers produced 275,716 tons of aluminum ingots in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), according to the data released by the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The country's aluminum ingot production in the past year fell eight percent in comparison to the figure for its preceding year.

The data show that among the country's top producers, Iranian Aluminum Company

(IRALCO) had the best performance registering a four-percent rise during the mentioned period.

On April 23, during the inauguration ceremony of Iran's biggest aluminum production complex (in the central Fars province), the former industry minister said the country's aluminum production is expected to be doubled with that unit going operational.

The official put the value of the Iranian mining industry's production at about \$22 billion, saying that the country is relatively self-sufficient in minerals and a great deal is also exported every year.



He went on underlying, "The country's capacities in the sector, saying that Iran is ranked 18th among the world's top aluminum producers, and with this new plant going operational the country will climb four places

to stand at 14th place."

Iran plans to reach the annual production of 1.5 million tons of aluminum ingot by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

Offering electricity at IRENEX beneficial for both buyers, suppliers

1 → The capital market was one of the major strategic platforms that filled the budget gap in a variety of sectors including the electricity.

Since the energy ministry, like many other areas, was facing monetary issues due to the budget problems, it was not able to pay the dues to the private companies that had sold their electricity to the ministry, so offering the electricity at the IRENEX was a major help to the energy ministry in solving this problem.

On the other hand, offering electricity, like other commodities, would create a healthy and competitive market in which the industrial units would be able to purchase their electricity at a better price and consequently will result in more balanced prices.

Back in March, IRENEX's Managing Director Seyed Ali Hosseini, said offering electricity at the energy exchange would centralize the country's electricity trades



and consequently balance the prices.

According to Hosseini, balancing the electricity prices

Annual housing rental inflation exceeds 24%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) announced that the inflation rate of housing rentals in the 12 months ended on September 21 reached 24.3 percent, IRNA reported.

As reported, point-to-point inflation rate for house rent rose 28.9 percent in summer (June 21-September 21) compared to the same period past year.

The rental price index of residential units in urban areas reached 195.8 in the summer of this year, registering an increase of 2.7 percent compared to the previous season.

In the mentioned season, the highest seasonal inflation rate was related to Hamedan province with an increase of 16.4 percent, and the lowest was related to Sistan-Baluchestan province with an increase of 3.8 percent.

Back in August, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) released a report which showed that rent price in Tehran city increased 27 percent in the first month of the summer (June 21-July 21) from its previous month.

The CBI report also indicated that the rent price in the capital city experienced a



31-percent rise in the said month compared to the same month in the past year.

The housing market in Iran has been experiencing inflation and rise in prices, both in terms of rentals and sales in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20).

According to Hesam Oqbaei, the deputy head of Tehran Real Estate Association, 37 percent of the country's urban population are tenants, who are from the low and middle classes of the society and their salary increase has been up to 22 percent, so if the rent prices were supposed to grow along with the house prices people won't be able to afford it.

Iran, Australia confer on expansion of mining co-op

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Khodadad Gharibpour and the Australian Ambassador to Iran Lyndall Sachs met on Saturday to discuss the expansion of mining cooperation between the two countries.

In the meeting, Gharibpour called for cooperation with the Australian side in various areas including training, exploration, extraction, and new technologies, IRIB reported.

Noting that the mentioned areas were a priority for cooperation between the two sides, the official added: "In-depth exploration and extraction is one of our main needs for the development of the mining sector and we intend to benefit from research and development as well as the technical knowledge of Australian companies in this regard."

He further noted that Australia is one of the world's leading countries in the mining industry and said: "Small [Iranian]

mining companies are also looking for cooperation in the fields of education, technology, exploration, and extraction."

"The officials of the two countries should support and promote cooperation between the two sides' private sectors," Gharibpour stated.

The IMIDRO head also emphasized Iran's position in steel production and added: "In the first half of this year, despite the fact that the world's largest producers reduced production, Iran was able to increase output by 10 percent."

"Iran is expected to produce more than 30 million tons of steel ingots this year, of which about half will be exported," Gharibpour added.

He also mentioned the plan for increasing the country's steel production capacity in the southern coasts and said: "Currently, we have two projects with 10 million tons of steel production capacity in southern Iran, and importing iron ore from Australia will be among the suitable options for the feedstock of these projects."

Daily gas consumption rises 28%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's daily natural gas consumption increased 28 percent in the week ended on Friday compared to the figure for its previous week due to the sudden decline in the temperature across the country, the spokesman of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) announced.

The daily natural gas consumption by households and the commercial sector reached 253 million cubic meters (mcm) over the past few days, while the figure stood at about 197 mcm last week, Mohammad Asgari told IRNA.

According to the official, gas consumption in the country exceed 600 million cubic meters last winter.

He further noted that despite the cold weather and the great surge in the consumption, gas supply to all areas across the country was uninterrupted and even Iran managed to fulfill all its export commitments and also supply an over 80 mcm of natural gas to the power plants on a daily basis.



In mid-February, Iran's daily natural gas consumption had hit a record high of 600 mcm a day due to heavy snowfall across the country.

Iran is currently producing over 810 mcm of

natural gas on a daily basis which is mostly used inside the country for the domestic sector and also as fuel for the power plants and a small portion is also exported to the neighboring countries like Iraq.

According to NIGC Managing Director Hasan Montazer Torbati, of the total produced gas, some 25 percent goes to household consumption, 37 percent is supplied to the power plants, 30 percent is used in the industry sector, four percent used as CNG and four percent is for other consumptions.

Currently, about 30,000 villages with 4.6 million households as well as 1,148 cities with over 18 million households are connected to the national gas network in Iran.

Back in January 2019, the NIGC's managing director had announced that 93.6 percent of Iran's population enjoys natural gas.

Gas is supplied to 97 percent of people in the urban areas and 82 percent of people in the rural regions, according to Hassan Montazer Torbati.

Imports of basic goods accelerating

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said the imports of the basic commodities into the country have been accelerating in the past few months, IRIB reported on Saturday.

Iran's non-oil trade was declined in the first few months of the current year due to the outbreak of coronavirus but the government implemented several programs for boosting the level of trade.

According to the official, currently, over 3.402 million tons of basic goods are stored in the country's ports, among which corn, with 1.623 million tons, is the top imported item.

As reported, some 2.376 million tons

of the mentioned goods have been stored in Imam Khomeini port.

Also, 15 vessels containing 586 thousand tons of basic goods are being unloaded, while 10 vessels containing 584 thousand tons of commodities are waiting to dock at the ports.

Jamal Orounaqi put the total number of containers in the country's ports at 102 thousand TEUs and noted that the number of full imported containers is over 30,000 that contain basic goods such as rice as well as non-essential items.

Earlier this month, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced that \$5.267 billion was supplied for importing basic commodities in the first six months of

the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20).

Iran imported 25 million tons of basic goods during the previous Iranian calendar year, based on IRICA data.

According to IRICA Head Mehdi Mirashrafi, 35 million tons of commodities were imported into the country in the mentioned year, of which 25 million tons were basic goods.

"This year, the trend [of trade] has slowed down, and we hope that with the measures taken by the Central Bank [of Iran (CBI)], the Industry Ministry, and IRICA, we will be able to minimize the deposition of goods in the customs before and after clearance. In this regard, we are going to make a new proposal to



the government through the Economy Ministry," Mirashrafi said in June.

News

Armenia, Azerbaijan accuse each other of violating ceasefire

Azerbaijan and Armenia have accused each other of swiftly violating the terms of a ceasefire in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, raising questions about how meaningful the truce, brokered by Russia, would turn out to be.

The ceasefire, clinched after marathon talks in Moscow advocated by President Vladimir Putin, was meant to halt fighting to allow ethnic Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh and Azeri forces to swap prisoners and war dead.

But within minutes of the truce taking effect from midday on Saturday (08:00 GMT), both sides accused each other of breaking it.

The Armenian defense ministry accused Azerbaijan of shelling a settlement inside Armenia, while ethnic Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh alleged that Azeri forces had launched a new offensive five minutes after the truce took hold.

Azerbaijan said enemy forces in the disputed region were shelling Azeri territory. Both sides have consistently denied each others' assertions about military activity.

N. Korea celebrates party anniversary amid economic woes

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un took center stage at a massive military parade and public rally in Pyongyang early Saturday marking the 75th anniversary of the country's ruling party.

Outside observers were expecting the North to possibly unveil the latest weapons in its growing nuclear arsenal that threatens U.S. allies in Asia and the American mainland.

According to AP, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said early in the day that there were signs that the North had mobilized "large crowds and equipment" for a military parade at Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square during the early morning hours. In the evening, North Korean state television began airing a taped broadcast of the event, which began late Friday.

29 million girls, women victims of modern slavery

A new report estimates that 29 million women and girls are victims of modern slavery, exploited by practices including forced labor, forced marriage, debt-bondage and domestic servitude.

According to AP, Grace Forrest, co-founder of the Walk Free anti-slavery organization, said Friday that means one in every 130 women and girls is living in modern slavery today, more than the population of Australia.

"The reality is that there are more people living in slavery today than any other time in human history," she told a UN news conference.

Walk Free defines modern slavery "as the systematic removal of a person's freedom, where one person is exploited by another for personal or financial gain," she said.

Next Trump-Biden debates uncertain, though Oct. 22 is likely

The campaign's final debates between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden were thrown into uncertainty Thursday as the rival camps offered dueling proposals for the remaining face-offs that have been upended by the president's coronavirus infection.

The chair of the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates told The Associated Press that the final debate, scheduled for Oct. 22, was still slated to go on with both candidates present as planned. But next Thursday's debate seemed to be gone, after the Trump team objected to the commission's format change.

The whipsaw day began with an announcement from the commission that the town hall-style affair set for Oct. 15 in Miami would be held virtually. The commission cited health concerns following Trump's infection as the reason for the change < AP reported.

Trump, who is eager to return to the campaign trail despite uncertainty about his health, said he wouldn't participate if the debate wasn't in person. Biden's campaign then suggested the event be delayed a week until Oct. 22, which is when the third and final debate was already scheduled.

Resistance News

Akhras continues hunger strike for 76th day

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN** — Prisoner Maher Al-Akhras entered the 76th day on Saturday of his open hunger strike protesting his administrative detention amid warnings of his martyrdom at any moment.

The prisoner is held in the Israeli Kaplan Hospital in a very dangerous health condition. He refused an offer by the Israeli occupation authorities to complete his current period of administrative detention and insisted on his immediate release.

The Islamic Jihad Movement called on the Palestinian people to launch a large-scale campaign to support Akhras in his fight in which he represents all the administrative detainees.

Top Hamas delegation meets Bogdanov in Moscow

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN** — A high-level delegation from the Hamas Movement on Friday met in Moscow with Mikhail Bogdanov, Russia's deputy minister of foreign affairs and presidential envoy to the Middle East and North Africa.

According to a reporter for the Palestinian Information Center (PIC), the delegation led by senior Hamas officials Mousa Abu Marzouk and Husam Badran met with Bogdanov and top Russian diplomats at the guesthouse of the Russian foreign ministry. The meeting was also attended by Former Palestinian ambassador to Moscow Rami al-Shaar.

The two sides discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena, Israel's violations and prominent files related to the inter-Palestinian reconciliation efforts.

Trump's pressure policy has not achieved its objective: academic

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — An American professor is of the view that Trump's pressure policy against Tehran has failed to get Iran to stop its support for groups in Yemen and Lebanon or force Tehran to stop enriching uranium.

Wyn Rees, a professor in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham, says such a policy has also caused friction between Washington and its European allies.

"It (pressure policy) has not achieved its goal of forcing Iran from the enrichment of nuclear materials. It has also been a U.S. policy that has caused considerable tensions with European allies – France, Germany, and the UK," Rees tells the Tehran Times.

The following is the text of the interview:

■ Does it matter to Americans who win the election?

A: Yes, this is an important election. The U.S. is a deeply divided society, and the disagreements are very strong. In foreign policy (where my expertise lies), Trump has been less radical in office than some feared at the start of his Presidency. He has speeded up policies that pre-existed his Presidency. He has added an abrasiveness to relations to allies on trade and accusations that they had exploited American generosity. Having said that, many Americans pay little attention to



foreign policy and instead measure a president in terms of economic success.

■ Is fraud possible in U.S. election? Do you expect the loser not to accept the results?

A: Trump is behind in the polls and has expressed concern about postal voting. If he loses, he may claim that postal voting was the key to Biden's victory. But the U.S. system is experienced in resolving such disputes. George W Bush narrowly beat Al Gore after doubts about the election

were resolved by a Supreme Court ruling.

■ Do you think Trump will launch a military attack on Iran to increase his chances of reelection?

A: It is not impossible that Trump could increase tensions with Iran during the election, but it is very late to do so. It would be a transparent thing to do, and Democrats would likely paint it as evidence of Trump's electoral weakness rather than strength.

■ What is your comment on Trump's

rush to broker peace deals between Israel and Arab countries before the November election?

A: I think such deals have been in gestation for a long time. Many Arab countries have grown weary of being hostile to Israel and have been eager to follow Egypt and others' footsteps. The Palestinian administration's position in the West Bank has been seen as inflexible, and Arab governments have grown frustrated with the paralysis it has imposed on their policies.

■ How do you assess U.S. pressure policy against Iran? Was it successful?

A: Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA has put significant pressure on Iran and damaged its economy. It has not achieved its objective of getting Iran to cease its support for Yemen or Lebanon groups. It has not achieved its goal of forcing Iran from the enrichment of nuclear materials. It has also been a U.S. policy that has caused considerable tensions with European allies – France, Germany, and the UK.

■ Could the U.S. administration expand its soft power under Trump's presidency?

A: Trump moved away from Secretary of State Clinton's focus on Soft Power. By his abrasive style and confrontational policies, Trump has diminished U.S. Soft Power. I am not convinced that the President regards Soft Power as being very important.

West Asia's a perfect storm

1 → Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Britain armed and trained the anti-government factions to a lesser extent. Russia, in contrast, very publicly backed President Assad from the start. Iran, with its longstanding interests in Lebanon, also chose to back the Syrian government. The insurgency was soon dominated by Daesh affiliates.

Moscow, from the outbreak of the Syrian conflict, honored its existing weapons contracts in order to help prop up Assad's military. Four years later, that support turned into direct intervention. This included the deployment of a Russian aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean. Thanks to its muscle-flexing, Moscow re-established itself as a military power in West Asia for the first time since the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991. Likewise, Iran moved to support the Syrian government against what it saw as a largely Saudi backed insurgency. As well as supporting allied militias, Iran deployed units from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps to aid Syrian government operations. It also provided training and intelligence support to the Syrian armed forces. In the meantime, Daesh discovered that it was easier to conquer territory than to administer it. Under attack from all directions, the so-called Islamic State caliphate slowly collapsed thanks to its own ineptitude. Tragically the legacy of the caliphate was one of barbarism. It oversaw the breakdown of the rule of law, human rights abuses, and the destruction of priceless works of art.

The turning point in the war against Daesh came in

2016. By that stage, the Iraqi armed forces had recovered from their collapse two years earlier. They successfully wrestled control of the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah from Daesh. A ceasefire between the Syrian government and the moderate Free Syrian Army notably did not include the pro-Daesh groups. Thanks to intensive Russian airstrikes against Syrian opposition forces and support on the ground by Hezbollah, the Syrian Army was able to push toward both the Turkish and Jordanian borders. Crucially help from Russia and Hezbollah helped Assad retake Aleppo. To complicate matters on Syria's northern border, Turkey also pursued its own security agenda and continues to do so.

The following year over 100,000 Iraqi and Kurdish troops freed Mosul from Daesh control. At the same time, the Syrian Army drove it from Raqqa, the caliphate capital since 2014. This was the last major Syrian city under Daesh's control. Shortly Iranian President Hassan Rouhani declared victory over Daesh in Iraq and Syria. Despite its defeat on the battlefield, Daesh avoided total destruction just as al-Qaeda did before it. Furthermore, key players all continued to pursue different regional agendas that do little to alleviate regional tensions.

Where does that leave the war-torn region? Both Afghanistan and Iraq's unity as always remains brittle. While Saudi Arabia struggles with its international image, it continues to be vilified for its role in the Yemeni Civil War. West Asia is unlikely to find peace until such time



Anthony Tucker-Jones, a former intelligence officer, is an author, commentator, and writer who specializes in military history, with well over 50 books to his name. His work has also been published in an array of magazines and online. He regularly appears on television and radio, commenting on current and historical military matters.

as the sectarian rivalry ends. Meanwhile, although Daesh has been scattered, historic mistrust coupled with hatred in some quarters for Western foreign policy makes the region a fertile recruiting ground for the disenfranchised and disenchanting region.

U.S. on edge of a civil war

As Trump spent the year warning about voter fraud, the Oath Keepers and other Trump's supporters were listening.

"What would happen, I wondered, if Trump lost, said the election had been stolen, and refused to concede? Or the flip side: What if he won and his opponents poured into the streets in protest?" Defense One writer Mike Giglio wrote on October 4.

The U.S. was already seeing a surge in political violence. In August, the FBI put out a bulletin that warned of a possible escalation heading into the election.

"How much worse would things get if trained professionals took up arms?" Giglio asked, according to Defense One.

The American Civil War began because slaveholding Southern nationalists refused to recognize the lawful election of Abraham Lincoln. The underlying cause may have been fear that a Republican president would ban the expansion of slavery into the West, but the triggering incident was losing a presidential election.

Aaron Sheehan-Dean, the Fred C. Frey professor of Southern studies at Louisiana State University, said, "We are confronted with a similar crisis today. According to the reporting of Barton Gellman in the Atlantic, a group of loyalists is laying the groundwork to disregard the results of the November presidential election if they send Democrat Joe Biden to the White House. These new fire-eaters, taking a cue from President Trump himself, advance what scientists call a 'non-falsifiable hypothesis'. If Trump wins the election, the system works; if he loses, the system is corrupt. Any critique of this logic is only more proof that hidden forces are conspiring against him. The danger this posture poses to the United States is as great as the one manifested by Southern secession in 1861."

Sheehan-Dean added, "While states are



not threatening to leave the Union today, Lincoln faced a similar situation to the one confronting us."

■ **America is already split, Trump Nation has seceded**

Robert Reich wrote in the Guardian that "before Trump, most Americans weren't especially passionate about politics. But Trump's MO has been to force people to become passionate about him – to take fierce sides for or against. And he considers himself president only of the former, whom he calls 'my people'."

Trump came to office with no agenda except to feed his monstrous ego. He has never fueled his base. His base has fueled him. Its adoration sustains him.

So does the antipathy of his detractors. Presidents usually try to appease their critics. Trump has gone out of his way to offend them. 'I do bring rage out,' he unapologetically told Bob Woodward in 2016."

Robert Reich went on to say, "in this way, he has turned America into a gargantuan projection of his own pathological narcissism. His entire re-election platform is found in his use of the pronouns 'we' and 'them'. 'We' are people who love him, Trump Nation. 'They' hate him."

In late August, near the end of a somnolent address on the South Lawn of the White House, accepting the Republican nomination, Trump extemporized: "The

fact is, we're here – and they're not." It drew a standing ovation.

At a recent White House news conference, a CNN correspondent asked if Trump condemned the behavior of his supporters in Portland, Oregon. In response, he charged: "Your supporters, and they are your supporters indeed, shot a young gentleman."

In Trump's eyes, CNN exists in a different country: Anti-Trump Nation.

■ **Polls warning of civil war, violence** Meanwhile, a new poll shows a large swath of Americans harbor deep reservations about the election results weeks before Election Day and are concerned about what actions people might resort to as a consequence.

The YouGov poll of 1,999 registered voters found that nearly half – 47% – disagree with the idea that the election "is likely to be fair and honest."

And that slightly more than half – 51% – won't "generally agree on who is the legitimately elected president of the United States." The online poll was conducted Oct.1-2 and has a margin of error of +/- 2.56 percentage points.

In addition, a YouGov poll of 1,505 voters found that 56% said they expect to see "an increase in violence as a result of the election." That question had a margin of error of 4.2 percentage points.

For Fry and many other Trump supporters, the concern over the election's legitimacy is tied to the largely unproven claims Trump has raised about potential fraud involving millions of mail-in ballots that already have begun to pour in to election office across the nation.

■ **Leaked FBI report warns of violence in advance of election**

A leaked September 29 FBI intelligence report prepared by the Dallas, Texas, field office warns that leading up to the November election, "Boogaloo adherents"

Kermanshah seeking national registration for art of Tanbur

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Kermanshah's department for tourism and cultural heritage is being prepared for possible registration of its indigenous art of Tanbur, which has been passed down from generation to generation in the western Iranian province.



One of the latest measures is the construction of sidewalks and pavements along Tanbur Street in Dalahu county, provincial tourism chief Omid Qaderi said on Friday.

Tanbur, a long-necked fretted lute, is an inseparable part of the lives of the Kurds in Iran, so much so that the children learn how to play it before they learn how to read and write.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites with Bisotun and Taq-e Bostan amongst the most famous. The UNESCO-registered Bisotun is a patchwork of immense yet impressive life-size carvings depicting the king Darius I and several other figures, bearing outstanding testimony to the important interchange of human values on the development of monumental art and writing. Inscribed into the base of a towering cliff, Taq-e Bostan comprises extraordinary Sassanian bas-reliefs of ancient victorious kings divide opinions.

Tehran museums extend closures due to COVID-19

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Museums and historical sites in Tehran province will remain closed for at least one more week as the province is on the high-risk "red" zone due to the coronavirus pandemic.



According to the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, the situation in Tehran is extremely severe, and there is a possibility of extending the closure of museums once again, Mohammadreza Kargar, the director of museums and historical properties at the tourism ministry announced on Saturday.

The cultural heritage museums and historical sites across the province have gone on lockdown in a preventive measure amid fears of coronavirus outbreak as the transmission of the disease in Tehran is seriously worrisome.

Restrictions have been also imposed on educational classes, recreational places, sports halls, gardens, cultural centers, and gatherings that increase the chain of transmission, as well as Friday prayers since last week.

Illegal excavators, antique dealers arrested

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A gang of illegal excavators and antique dealers have been arrested by the Iranian police in Torbat-e Heydariyeh county, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province.



A three-member gang of diggers and destroyers of historical monuments were arrested in a surprise operation by the security and law enforcement forces of Torbat-e Heydariyeh. Over 100 pieces of objects including advanced metal detectors and specialized drilling equipment were also confiscated from them, ILNA reported on Saturday.

The culprits were handed over to the judiciary for further investigations, the report added.

Semnan province is noteworthy for history and archeology: Russian expert

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Pavel Borisovich Lurje, a faculty member of the Oriental Department of Russia's State Hermitage Museum, has paid a visit to the north-central province of Semnan, calling it one of the most important provinces of Iran in terms of history and archeology.

Semnan is one of the major points for the studies in the fields of history and archeology as well as the history of art and cultural heritage, he said on the sidelines of his three-day visit to the historical sites of the province, including an Iron Age cemetery in Mersin and Tarikhaneh Mosque in Damghan.

The cemetery was discovered during a rescue archaeological survey in the Fenisk Dam basin area. Based on surface materials, the cemetery was dated to the late Iron Age III and early Iron Age IV (c. 600–400 BC).



Tarikhaneh Mosque, which was once a Sassanid-era (224–651) temple, located near the modern city of Damghan, is considered the oldest existing mosque in the country.

During the visit, Lurje expressed hope that the planned visa-free agreement between the two countries for tourist groups will increase the number of tourists after the end of the coronavirus pandemic.

Based on an agreement reached in 2017, tour groups of 5 to 50 people heading to [easternmost parts of] Russia from Iran or vice versa will be granted a visa-free stay of up to 15 days.

Well-preserved caravanserais in Dehnamak and Ahowan, and cisterns in Garmsar are among the province's historical sites. The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud all have numerous tourist attractions.

Millennia-old Great Wall of Gorgan on verge of destruction

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Remnants of the Sassanid-era (224 CE–651) Great Wall of Gorgan, a national heritage which is regarded as the longest brick wall in the world, are at the risk of destruction, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Situated in the city of Gorgan, the capital of northern Golestan province, the defensive wall is about 200 km in length and it was built to prevent the invasion of the northern tribes. It is said to be the longest architectural work of ancient Iran, which was built in 90 years.

While the city's cultural heritage officials are making efforts to register the historic structure on the World Heritage List, the slow but continuous destruction of the wall by farmers and owners of agricultural lands in the region has put the wall in serious danger, the report added.

Also known as Red Wall, which in some ancient texts is referred to as the Red Snake, this wall is the longest brick wall in the world and the third-largest wall in the world after the walls of China and Germany.

Archaeological excavations have so far identified ditches, brick kilns, earthen dams, water canals, 38 castles, and watchtowers attached to the wall and more than 25 castles in the southern margin of the wall as well as several ancient sites from prehistoric, historic, and Islamic eras.

Due to the outbreak of coronavirus and the reduction in the number of the domestic and foreign tourists, the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department has launched online visits and virtual tours of the province's historical sites, and in this regard, a documentation project has commenced on the Great Wall of Gorgan, provincial tourism chief Ahmad Tajari said.

However, in recent years, as a result of poor monitoring and control, hundreds of thousands of bricks of this historic wall, which has been buried for thousands of years, were looted for the construction of residential buildings in the surrounding areas.

The Great Wall of Gorgan was added to the National



Heritage list in 1999.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus — a one-millennium-old brick tower — amongst its most famous.

Iranian envoy meets Russian deputy transport minister, proposes flights resumption

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — On Saturday, Tehran's ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, met with Russian deputy transport minister, Aleksandr Neradko, putting forward a proposal to resume flights between the two countries.

Jalali proposed the resumption of Tehran-Moscow flights in a bid to facilitate traveling of Iranian businessmen and students to Russia, IRNA reported on Saturday.



For his part, Neradko underscored the importance of relations with Iran and added that his government has always paid special attention to this issue.

The Russia official referred to the damage caused by the coronavirus outbreak to the aviation industry, saying, "Due to the current situation, out of 78 airports in Russia, only seven airports are operational for international flights."

Iranian tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan is scheduled to visit Moscow

within the next coming days to follow up on the issue of visa-free travel for mutual tourist groups with the Russian Federation.

In 2017, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin inked a preliminary visa-free agreement for certain tourist groups during their meeting in Moscow. Based on the agreement four groups of 5 to 50 people heading to [easternmost parts of] Russia from Iran or vice versa are granted a visa-free stay of up to 15 days.

NLAI keeps about 900,000 paper documents on Tehran's history

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — About 900,000 paper documents and records on the history of Tehran are being kept at the National Library and Archives of Iran.

The documents include the oldest maps of the city from the Qajar era (1789–1925) to the reports of the daily affairs of Tehran's neighborhoods and government correspondence, all of which show the historical background of the city, the NLAI director general of archival services Hamed Iranshahi announced on Saturday.

One of the oldest maps of Tehran drawn by prominent Russian Orientalist Ilya Nikolayevich Berezin in 1848 is also among the documents, the official added.

The other valuable document being kept in the NLAI is an old map drawn by August Karl Krziz, a Czech officer and cartographer in the service of the Austrian Empire, who was invited to Iran in the early 1850s by Mirza Taqi Khan Farahani 'Amir Kabir' (1807–1852), Iran's chancellor under Naser al-Din Shah Qajar, to teach in Dar ul-Funun, Iran's first modern university,



he explained.

The map displays Tehran's mosques, shrines,

churches, and synagogues, government and law enforcement agencies, inns, baths, schools, cemeteries, and neighborhoods. The map also contains Tehran's six historical gates, namely Dowlat, Shemiran, Dolab, Shah Abdolazim, Mohammadiyeh, and Qazvin.

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

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

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

Kashan carpets amongst most fabulous fine arts of Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Long a center for fine carpets, Kashan has almost one-in-three residents employed in carpet-making, with more than two-thirds of the carpet-makers being women.

The traditional skills of Kashan carpet weaving are passed down to people through apprenticeship under instruction from their ancestors. Apprenticeship is also the means by which men learn their skills of designing, dyeing, shearing, loom-building and tool-making.

"Traditional skills of carpet weaving in Kashan" was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010.

The carpet-weaving process starts with a design, elaborated from among a series of established styles, including motifs such as flowers, leaves, branches, animals and scenes taken from history.

Woven on a loom known as a "dar", the warp and woof are of cotton or silk. The pile is made by knotting wool or silk yarns to the warp with the distinctive Farsi knot, then held in place by a row of the woven woof, and beaten with a comb. The Farsi weaving style (also known as asymmetrical knotting) is applied with exemplary delicacy in Kashan,

so that the back side of the carpet is finely and evenly knotted. The colors of Kashan carpets come from a variety of natural dyes including madder root, walnut skin, pomegranate skin and vine leaves.

■ Sialk historical mound, the origin of traditional skills of carpet weaving in Kashan

The historical monuments of this region have revealed that Sialk mounds date back to Hammurabi era. First, people living in the region were known as Kaso or Kasho, which were later changed to Kasyan and Kashan. Some historians believe that Harun al-Rashid's wife, Zubaidah bint Ja'afar ibn-e Mansur ordered to build Kashan which is now famous for its traditional skills of carpet weaving.

■ Kashan, from the viewpoint of the tourists

The great world travelers of all time who have traveled to this region have noticed that Kashan had been the center for the production of precious fabrics and cloth. Sir John Chardin and Anthony Shirley stated the inhabitant of Kashan weave some specific fabrics and cloth including plain silk fabrics, damask silk fabrics, or silk mixed with gold and silver.

In 1600, Cartwright praised carpet and rug weaving in Kashan and called this region the trading place for such goods. Writings and books in the 17th and 18th centuries showed that the traditional skills of carpet weaving in Kashan had been specialized for royal carpet initially ordered by Shah Abbas. The oldest Kashan carpets remained till today date back to the 17th century. It's kept in Carpet Museum of Iran.

■ Persian carpets in museums all over the world

In fact, one can say this intangible cultural heritage of Iran is the related to the arts and skills of producing textiles, braid, taffeta, velvet making and atlas fabric making that have gained the reputation as "Hormozi materials" all over the world for many years.

Today, some examples of "hunting-design carpet" are available at the Carpet Museum of Iran and the Metropolitan Museum of America. Nevertheless, there is no exact information whether these carpets were woven in Kashan, Isfahan or Tabriz.

Some researchers have reached the conclusion that a number of old Polish carpets are also woven in this region. The well-known carpet of Sheikh Safi Mausoleum has been a

master of Kashan carpet weaving. This carpet known as Ardebil Carpet is now kept at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Also "Shah Abbasi carpet" embellished by coarse Shah Abbasi flowers is produced in this period.

■ The skill of interweaving warp and weft for "Persian weaving"

Carpet weavers generally make the warp and weft of Kashan carpet out of cotton, and silk is only used in very fine and delicate carpets. They use particular Kashan yarns called "urban" and "Esfahani" cotton threads for under-weft which is thicker than on-weft. At the first sight, one can notice the delicate and short wool and the velvety texture of Merino wool in the design of the carpet. In addition to Australian Merino wool, Kashan carpet weavers also use Khorasan, Kerman-shah, Azerbaijan and Tehran wool threads.

Before weaving starts, the designers prepare some patterns comprising branches, flowers, leaves, animal hunting grounds and historical battle scenes. Then, the weavers start creating the Persian carpets using dyed yarn and silk. Persian weaving style, also known as the "asymmetric knot", is a knot which has a distinct twist. One can see its equal knots on the back of the carpet.

First internet TV launched to promote rural lifestyle

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The first streaming television in the country with the aim of promoting rural traditions and lifestyle was inaugurated in Golestan province on Saturday.

The TV tries to portray the beauties, customs and lifestyle of villagers with a focus on culture, tourism, society, and economy, Mehr news agency reported.

The television network will broadcast attractive programs and content focusing on rural culture, education, economy, and lifestyle.

Development of new technologies in the field of rural businesses and sustainable economy, demonstration of economic and social capacities in rural areas, the lack of a special and suitable video platform for the villages in social media are other goals of this TV network.

Rural development

Many efforts have been made over the



past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural development while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining).

In Iran, October 6 is celebrated each year as the National Day of Villagers and Nomads.

Currently, 26 percent of the country's population lives in villages, Mohammad Omid, the vice president for rural development, has said. He added that around 39,000 villages have more than 20 households and 23,000 villages have less than 20 households.

Thus, more than 97 percent of the country's rural population lives in villages with over 20,000 households.

Iran sets fines for violating COVID-19 measures

1 → "Yesterday, in a conversation with the Minister of Health, I announced that we are ready to increase the daily test by 10,000 tests."

"We also discussed the purchase of tests that show the result in a quarter to twenty minutes.

So, a total of \$100 million have been provided to purchase diagnostic kits; of course, we will soon use domestic products."

Tehran in extremely severe condition

The situation in Tehran is extremely severe, Masoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said, adding, "If the upcoming holiday trips start, we will probably have to set up field hospitals."

The transmission of the disease in Tehran is beyond acute and worrisome, and the process of dealing with the virus is very bad, he lamented.

The number of hospitalized patients in the capital has increased dramatically, and hospitals are overcrowded with no room for new patients - ICU beds are also overcrowded,



and the number of deaths is rising, he said.

COVID-19 toll hits 28,000

In the press briefing on Friday, Health Ministry

spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 3,875 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 496,293. She added that 403,950 patients have so far recovered, but 4,239 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 195 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 28,293, she added.

Lari noted that so far 4,284,413 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

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

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

Dena biosphere reserve displays natural uniqueness

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Dena biosphere reserve, located in the Central Zagros Mountains of Iran, is home to a vast range of plant species and several endangered and endemic mammal species that displays nature's inspirations.

Dena Biosphere Reserve with a general slope of more than 60 percent, where changes of temperature are most common, a fall of temperature by -25 C in winter is not far from reality. Snow is common throughout the ranges in that season and some higher peaks remain snow-covered throughout the year.

Mount Dena, with 80 km length and 15 km average width, is situated on the boundary of the Isfahan, Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari provinces of Iran.

Mount Dena has more than 40 peaks higher than 4,000 meters. With an elevation of 4,409 meters above sea level,

Qash-Mastan is the highest peak in the Dena Range and in the Zagros Mountains in general. Another known peak in this range is Hose-Daal close to the city of Sisakht, 30 km to the north of Yasuj.

The region contains a globally significant ecosystem, species, and genetic biodiversity. The area is characterized by extreme topographical and climatic conditions, which have led to an eye-catching diversity of ecosystems and habitats over a small geographical area, according to the UNESCO website.

Dena is home to a vast range of plant species and several endangered and endemic mammal species. Oak species dominate the highlands, while pistachio and almond are common at lower elevations. Also, hackberry, walnut, and pear trees are scattered throughout this eco-region.

A variety of animal life, such as brown bears, eagles, wolves, various wild cats including caracals, lynxes, and leopards,



wild goat have long made their homes in the region. On the other hand, many large rivers, including the Karun, Dez, and Karkheh originate from the area, flowing into the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea. Scenic waterfalls, pools, and lakes add beauty to the mountainous landscape.

Dena is situated on the boundary of three different provinces in the west of Iran and in 2006 the number of residents was estimated as 27,197 individuals, among

which 4,070 individuals live in the northern part and 23,127 in the southern part of the reserve. Dena is under the supervision of Kohkeloyeh-Boyerahmad province.

Three different zones (Core, Buffer, Transition zone) are situated at the periphery of Sisakht (Pataveh portion), Boyer-Ahmad (Central portion), and Semirum (Padena portion) townships. Notably, the Dena Biosphere Reserve also served as one of the world's earliest cultural habitats for both plant and livestock domestication as of 10,000 years ago. Till now the vast majority of people practice a nomadic lifestyle.

The cultural diversity of the local communities, including the nomad communities are manifested by their languages, traditional production activities, including herding and hunting, food products, dresses, festivals, dances and weaving, and other crafts including their knowledge about seasonal and long routes of migration for their livestock.

'Real and imminent' extinction risk to whales

More than 350 scientists and conservationists from 40 countries have signed a letter calling for global action to protect whales, dolphins and porpoises from extinction.

They say more than half of all species are of conservation concern, with two on the "knife-edge" of extinction.

Lack of action over polluted and over-exploited seas means that many will be declared extinct within our lifetimes, the letter says.

Even large iconic whales are not safe.

"Let this be a historic moment when realising that whales are in danger sparks a powerful wave of action from everyone: regulators, scientists, politicians and

the public to save our oceans," said Mark Simmonds.

The visiting research fellow at the University of Bristol, UK, and senior marine scientist with Humane Society International, has coordinated the letter, which has been signed by experts across the world.

Growing threats

"Save the whales" was a familiar green slogan in the 1970s and 1980s, part of a movement that helped bring an end to commercial whaling.

While stricken populations in most parts of the world have had a chance to recover from organised hunting, they are now facing myriad threats from human actions, including plastic pollution, loss of habitat and prey, climate change and collisions with ships.

By far the biggest threat is becoming accidentally captured in fishing equipment and nets, which kills an estimated 300,000 whales, dolphins and porpoises a year.

Hundreds of scientists have expressed the same concern - that we are moving closer to a number of preventable extinctions. And unless we act now, future generations will be denied the chance to experience these intelligent social and inspiring creatures.

They point to the decline of the North Atlantic right whale, of which only a few hundred individuals remain, and the vaquita, a porpoise found in the Gulf of California, which may be down to the last 10 of its kind.

WHO confirms Iranian research on opium carcinogenicity

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the research conducted by Iranian researchers on "carcinogenicity of opium use".

The research which is the most important achievement of more than two decades of research efforts by Iranian scientists was approved by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC/WHO).

"Opium carcinogenicity" was discussed and approved in the "Monograph 126" meeting of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), held virtually on September 11-20, with 16 prominent cancer researchers and specialists from 10 countries.

Opium, an addictive narcotic drug, is produced from the poppy plant, *Papaver somniferum*, and can be consumed as a variety of preparations, either by smoking or by ingestion.

The Working Group evaluated opium consumption as carcinogenic to humans on the basis of sufficient evidence in humans. Opium causes cancers of the larynx, lung, and urinary bladder.

The result of these evaluations was published in The Lancet Oncology, October 8.

A population-based cancer registry was established in 1969 as a joint effort between Tehran University and the IARC. This registry confirmed the high incidence of OC in the eastern portion of the Caspian Sea littoral, in the area that is now known as Golestan Province.

A series of studies through the Golestan Cohort Study was conducted in the region in the 1970s, but they were not conclusive in explaining the very high rates. However, they pointed to several factors, including, a diet deficient in fruits and vegetables; low socioeconomic status; thermal injury from consumption of very hot tea; and carcinogen exposure from lifestyle factors including opium consumption.

The article on the thermal injury from consumption of very hot tea has also been listed by Altmetric website among the world's top 100 articles that most captured the public's imagination in 2019.

The Altmetric Top 100 is an annual list of the research that has most captured the public's imagination each year, which is released since 2013.

The article presented, for the first time in the world, very precise and unprecedented evidence of the association between drinking tea at temperatures hotter than 60 degrees with a 90 percent increased risk of squamous cell carcinoma (the most prevalent esophageal cancer worldwide).

Drug use is a complex health and social problem worldwide, with half a million people dying each year as a result of drug abuse.

Campaign seeks 1bn people to save climate – one small step at a time

If a billion people around the world were to take a few small steps and make them into permanent lifestyle changes, global greenhouse gas emissions could be significantly reduced, a new campaign argues.

These actions can be as simple as eating local food, forgoing meat at some meals, and wearing clothes to last instead of throwing them away after a few outings.

The campaign is urging people to sign up to take at least one simple step that would reduce emissions, the Guardian reported.

Count Us In invites people to sign up online for the steps they want to take and a level of commitment, such as moving permanently to a different diet or promising not to fly over a specified period.

There are 16 steps on offer, of varying levels of difficulty. These range from having your house insulated, buying an electric car or solar panels and opting to fly less, to writing to political representatives and reusing and repairing belongings rather than buying new ones.

Some of the measures – such as turning down the thermostat and buying fewer new clothes – are ones that many people do routinely out of necessity rather than choice. However, the campaign aims to raise awareness among consumers that patterns of high consumption are unsustainable.

Emissions dropped by about 17% on average globally in April, as many countries imposed coronavirus lockdowns that left roads deserted, grounded flights and stopped much industrial activity. Experts said at the time that the fact the majority of emissions remained intact showed the need for systemic change to counter the climate crisis.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 33)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

■ **Joined Forms of "to Be"** ■ **یشکل پیوسته‌ی "بودن"**

Joined forms of بودن are formed by adding the "to be" endings

nouns, adjectives or pronouns. They occur frequently in both

formal and informal language, especially in speech:

حاضر هستم = حاضریم حاضر هستم = حاضریم
حاضر هستی = حاضری حاضر هستی = حاضرید
حاضر هست (است) = حاضرست حاضر هستند = حاضرزند

To be endings take ی or ا after vowels:

دانشجو هستم = دانشجویم بچه هستم = بچه‌آم
کجا هستم = کجام ایرانی هستم = ایرانی‌آم

● Exercise 2. Write the joined form: ➡ workbook

۱. خوب هستم دوست هستند
۲. حاضر هستم بزرگ هستید
۳. کوچک هستم استاد هستیم
۴. پسر هستند چطور هستی؟
۵. دکتر هستی؟ خوب هستی؟

Iran well rid of 153 swarms of desert locusts

Some 153 swarms of desert locusts from Saudi Arabia which penetrated into the southeastern provinces have been controlled, Esmail Najjar, head of Iran's Crisis Management Organization has said.

Since the [Iranian calendar] month of Bahman (starting on January 21) we fought swarms of desert locust in approximately 532,000 hectares of farming lands, IRNA news agency quoted Najjar as saying on Saturday.

Provinces of Bushehr, Fars, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, Hormozgan, Kerman, Khuzestan, and Sistan-Baluchestan have been affected by the locusts which incurred major losses on farming lands and gardens. Farm lands in the aforementioned provinces have undergone aerial spraying of chemical insecticides and ground pest control operations, he stated.

۱۵۳ دسته از ملخ های صحرایی نابود شدند

رئیس سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور گفت: ۱۵۳ دسته از ملخ های صحرایی که به استان های جنوب شرقی کشور حمله ور شده بودند، نابود شده است.

اسماعیل نجار روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا درباره آخرین اقدامات برای مبارزه با ملخ های صحرایی در کشور، گفت: از بهمن ۹۷ تاکنون در ۵۳۱ هزار و ۸۸۸ هکتار مبارزه با ملخ های صحرایی انجام شده است.

تاکنون در استان های خوزستان، بوشهر، فارس، هرمزگان، کرمان، سیستان و بلوچستان، جنوب کرمان، و کهگیلویه و بویراحمد اراضی و باغات مورد هجوم ملخ های صحرایی و خسارات جبران ناپذیری قرار گرفته اند.

این مناطق با استفاده از هواپیما سمپاشی هوایی و از طریق نیروی انسانی سمپاشی زمینی شده است.

ENGLISH IN USE

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Kindness elevates human beings, and faithfulness is the sign of decency.

Imam Hussein (AS)

WHAT'S IN TEHRAN ART GALLERIES

Painting



■ Homa Gallery is playing host to an exhibition displaying painter Masud Aslani's series "Teapot and Iris". The exhibit runs until October 20 at the gallery located at No. 8, Forth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



■ Nilufar Mohammadifar is showcasing her latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery. The exhibit named "The Painter Is Not Present in Heaven" will continue until October 26 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.

Painting/drawing



■ The Hamras Art Space is displaying drawings and paintings by Termeh Alavi in an exhibition named "Potato". The exhibit will run until October 23 at the gallery located at 2996 near Tajrish Square, Valie Asr Ave.

Photo



■ The Silk Road Gallery is hanging photos by a group of photographers, including Maryam Takhtkeshian, Jasem Ghazbanpur, Sara Sassani, Golnaz Taheri, Ebrahim Noruzi and Babak Haqqi. The exhibit named "Quarantine" runs until October 16 at the gallery located at No. 210, Vesal St., Keshavarz Blvd.



■ A collection of photos of Tehran taken from 1846 to 1941 is currently on view in an exhibition at Akhaneh Shahr, Iran's photo museum in Tehran. The photos, which belong to the museum's archives, will be on show until October 21 at the museum located in Bahare Shiraz Park near Bahare Shiraz Square.

Multimedia



■ A large collection of artworks in various media by Husahn Hafei, Bahareh Ruhbakhsh, Mohsen Jamali-Nik Kowsar Palangi, Majid Saeidi and Navid Mirzai and several others are on display in an exhibition at Neger Gallery.

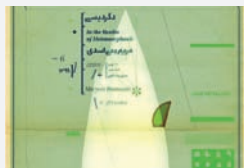


The exhibition named "The 2nd Effacement" will run until October 20 at the gallery located at 154 near Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Blvd.



■ A group of artists, including Sam Nikmaram, Maryam Farhang, Mohsen Fuladpur, Amin Moazzami, Donya Fard, and Ziba Rajabi, is showcasing their artworks in various media in an exhibition titled "Resemblance" at Soo Gallery. The exhibition will run until October 20 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St.

Drawing



■ Drawings by Maryam Bani-Asadi are on view in an exhibition entitled "In the Realm of Metamorphosis" at Tarrahan-e Azad Gallery. The exhibition will be running until October 6 at the gallery that can be found at No. 41 Salmas Square off Fatemi St.

Painting/sculpture



■ Hosna Karnama is displaying her latest paintings and sculptures in an exhibition at Saleh Gallery. The exhibition entitled "Marche" will be running until October 20 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

Print

■ Prints by Faraz Fallahi, Elham Ashuri, Tara Sefidi, Yalda Jahanpanah and several other artists are on display in an exhibit at Haft Samar Gallery. The exhibition named "The Ninth" will run until October 14 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fifth Alley, Kuh-e Nur St., Motahhari Ave.

Teahouse painting raises funds for building school in Khuzestan

A R T TEHRAN — A teahouse painting has been sold at Tehran's Resaneh (Media) Cultural Center to raise funds for building a school in Khuzestan.

Artist Mohammadreza Mohammad-Hosseini created the painting named "That My Peace of Soul Is Going" before the people in the courtyard of the center over the past 40 days.

The huge teahouse painting depicting the tragedy of Ashura has been purchased by a donor at 10,000,000,000 rials (about \$33,300 - \$1=300,430 rials). The money will be allocated to construction of a small school in the town of Gotvand, Khuzestan Province, the center announced on Saturday.

Mohammad-Hosseini began drawing the artwork on Muharram 2. Shia Muslims commemorate the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions with rituals that begin every year from the first day of Muharram.

The rituals reach their climax on Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram, the day upon which Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions were martyred in Karbala as a result of their valiant stand against the injustices of the oppressive Umayyad dynasty in 680 CE.

The painting was sent to the northwestern



"That My Peace of Soul Is Going" by Mohammadreza Mohammad-Hosseini.

Iranian town of Maku in West Azerbaijan Province to display in a Husseinieh, a place for seasonal Islamic rituals.

Mohammad-Hosseini has said that he created the artwork to show his respect to

his teacher Abbas Bolukifar, a pioneer of Iranian teahouse painting.

He has portrayed stories about Ashura in over 20 huge teahouse paintings, which are on display at various religious centers

across Tehran.

"As a painter, it is my duty to preserve this heritage," he stated and added, "People like Hazrat Zeinab (SA) [sister of Imam Hussein (AS)] have made us aware and we also should be active in this way to preserve the tragedy of Ashura and transfer this legacy to other generations."

The teahouse has had various functions in different eras during its 400-year history in Iran. Teahouses used to be places where people gathered to spend their leisure time listening to a naqqal, an Iranian traditional storyteller, narrating stories from Ferdowsi's Shahnameh. People talked and exchanged views, and along with luti, wise and generous people, helped poor people.

Teahouse painters emerged in such an atmosphere. They listened to the discussions and tales, using them as subjects for the paintings they drew on the walls, tiles, stones and canvases. Sometimes, teahouse owners commissioned the painters to draw the stories.

With their own unique perspective not used in other styles, teahouse painters drew motifs entirely based on their imagination. The themes of such paintings are epics, traditions and religion.

"Castle of Dreams" star Hamed Behdad honored at Imagineindia festival



Hamed Behdad shared the award for best second actor of the 19th Imagineindia International Film Festival in Spain for his role in "Castle of Dreams".

A R T TEHRAN — Hamed Behdad has shared the award for best second actor of the 19th Imagineindia International Film Festival in Spain for his role in the Iranian drama "Castle of Dreams".

Co-written by Mohsen Qarai and Mohammad Davudi,

the film is about two young children whose mother has just died, and their father, Jalal, after long years of absence, returns to sort things out, but he does not want to take the children with him.

Directed by Reza Mirkarimi, the award-winning movie had also received nominations in the categories of best script and best music. However, it failed to win.

Ranvir Shorey was other winner of the award for best second actor for his role in "Kadakh" directed by Rajat Kapoor from India.

The Imagineindia festival was first scheduled to take place in the Spanish capital of Madrid during May, but, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was postponed and held from September 24 to October 8.

The award for best actor was also shared by Aleksas Kazanavicius and Dainius Gavenonis for their roles in "Isaac" by Jurgis Matulevicius from Lithuania.

"Isaac" was also named second best film and Matulevicius was selected best second best director.

The award for best film went to "Summer Survivors" by Lithuanian director Marija Kavtaradze, who also won the award for best director.

The award for best actress was given to Tillotama Shome

for her role in "Sir" by Rohena Gera from India, while the award for best second actress was presented to Kani Kusru for her role in "Biriyaani" by Sajin Babu from India.

The award for best script went to "Kadakh" written by Rajat Kapoor. The second best script award was given to "Isaac" co-written by Jurgis Matulevicius, Saule Blivaitė and Nerijus Milerius.

Iranian actress Mahtab Keramati, the star of the acclaimed movie "Mazar-i-Sharif", has been selected as the jury president. The jury also has Iranian filmmaker Mehdi Rahmani.

Keramati won the award for best actress at the 2015 Imagineindia for her performance in "Ghosts" by acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Dariush Mehrjui.

The Iranian films "Old Men Never Die" by Reza Jamali, "A Man without Shadow" by Alireza Raisian, "The Warden" by Nima Javidi, "Driving Lessons" by Marzieh Riahi, "Dog" by Hesam Salehbeig and "Still" by Anis Naseri were also screened in the various sections of the festival.

The Festival Imagineindia is mainly devoted to promote friendship and cooperation among the Indian Subcontinent, the rest of Asia and Spain, and along with it the European Union.

Munich library picks four Iranian children's books for publication

CULTURE TEHRAN — Four children's books are seen among the titles representing Iran in the annual White Ravens Catalogue which is published by the International Youth Library (Internationale Jugendbibliothek, IJB) in Munich.

The books are "The Grand Wizard and the Queen of Color Island" written by Jamshid Khanian and "Simorgh, a Story from Attar Neyshaburi's Mantiq at-Tayr (Conference of the Birds)" rewritten by Marjan Fuladvand and illustrated by Mohammad Barangi.

"I'll Sow My Hands in the Garden" written by Forugh Farrokhzad and illustrated by Hoda Haddadi and "What a Brilliant Idea" written and illustrated by Narjes Mohammadi are also included.

Each year the language specialists (Lektoren) at the International Youth Library in Munich select newly published books from around the world that they consider to be especially noteworthy.

This list of books is compiled into the



Front cover of the book "The Grand Wizard and the Queen of Color Island" written by Jamshid Khanian.

annual White Ravens Catalogue, which is published by the International Youth Library in Munich.

Rahi's mother informs him one day that he must go and work for their neighbor, the artist Ms. Parsa, to sit for his portrait in "The Grand Wizard and the Queen of Color Island".

In return, Ms. Parsa will buy him his dream bicycle. The atmosphere of her house feels odd to him. Step by step, Rahi figures out that there once was a boy living in this house, whose room is still intact, including his clothes. Gradually, the readers put the pieces of the puzzle together and find out that Ms. Parsa's son, Amir Taha, drowned in the sea and that the resemblance between Amir Taha and Rahi is uncanny.

Simorgh, a bird in Iranian mythology and literature, plays a significant role in some Persian classics, such as Ferdowsi's Shahnameh and the story of Mantiq at-Tayr.

In Attar's parable-like poem, the birds of the world gather to decide who is to be their

sovereign. The hoopoe, wisest of them all, suggests that they should find the legendary Simorgh. At the end of the long journey, only thirty birds remain. They realize that they themselves are the ruler they seek.

Farrokhzad was a controversial modernist poet. The book "I'll Sow My Hands in the Garden" anthologizes and illustrates those parts of her poetry that are more intelligible and linguistically less intricate and thus well-suited for young adult readership. This is a first step in making her poetry known to a new generation of adolescent readers.

"What a Brilliant Idea" is about Turnip who is unhappy with his big ears. He decides to wear a mask over his head to hide them. Everyone is amazed by his brilliant idea and decides to do the same. They're all hiding something they dislike about themselves, yet now no one is distinguishable from anyone else. This outcome makes Turnip wonder: Was this really a good idea? He is not so sure anymore.

Cinema Vérité receives over 130 submissions on COVID19

CULTURE TEHRAN — The 14th edition of the Cinema Vérité, Iran's major international festival for documentary films, has received over 130 submissions in the pandemic and COVID-19 category.

The organizers have dedicated a special section to screening documentaries on the pandemic and COVID-19 this year.

A lineup of foreign documentaries with the central theme of COVID19 has also been received by the organizers.

The four top selected works in this category will be honored at the closing ceremony, while the international section of the festival is non-competitive this year.

This year the festival will be organized entirely online during December due to a spike in coronavirus cases in the country over the past month.

The decision to hold the event online was made in a meeting with executives in August.

They also discussed a plan to organize a review of movies



A poster for the Cinema Vérité festival.

acclaimed in previous editions of the festival.

In addition, the organizers plan to design platforms to guarantee the festival entries against piracy.

The DEFC director Mohammad Hamidi-Moqaddam has also announced the center's plan to pay tribute to celebrated filmmaker Khosro Sinai who died of coronavirus on August 1.

Cinema Organization of Iran director Hossein Entezami has previously announced that the organization is searching for a safe platform to organize the 39th edition of the Fajr Film Festival online if the pandemic continues until February 2021.

He also said that there is no platform in Iran to guarantee the festival entries against piracy.

"If we cannot have a platform that ensures the safety of films during the festival, it will be impossible for us to organize the event online," he noted.

Cambridge introduction to poet Emily Dickinson published in Persian

CULTURE TEHRAN — "The Cambridge Introduction to Emily Dickinson" by Wendy Martin has been published in Persian in Tehran.

Translated by Maryam Sarbandi, the book has been released by Elmi Farhangi Publications.

The original book was published by the Cambridge University Press in 2007.

Dickinson is best known as an intensely private, even reclusive writer. Yet the way she has been mythologized has meant her

work is often misunderstood.

This introduction delves behind the myth to present a poet who was deeply engaged with the issues of her day.

In a lucid and elegant style, the book places her life and work in the historical context of the Civil War, the suffrage movement, and the rapid industrialization of the United States.

Martin explores the ways in which Dickinson's personal struggles with romantic love, religious faith, friendship

and community shape her poetry.

The complex publication history of her works, as well as their reception, is teased out, and a guide to further reading is included.

Dickinson emerges not only as one of America's finest poets, but also as a fiercely independent intellect and an original talent writing poetry far ahead of her time.

Martin is a professor of American literature and American studies in Claremont Graduate University's English Department.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Wendy Martin's book "The Cambridge Introduction to Emily Dickinson".