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## Iran says U.S. seeking to starve Iranians

**TEHRAN** – Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said on Sunday that the U.S. intends to starve the Iranian people, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) news agency.

In line the Trump administration’s “maximum pressure policy” against the Islamic Republic, the U.S. Treasury Department on Thursday imposed 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,” Mnuchin said in a tweet. **→3**

## Decommissioning program to be carried out for Tehran power plants

**By Mahnaz Abdi**

**TEHRAN**— One of the major programs that Iran’s Energy Ministry is currently following up seriously is increasing the average efficiency of the country’s power plants.

This program is focusing on two major aspects, one of them is upgrading the country’s old power plants and converting several gas power plants into combined cycle plants, and the other

one is preventing the use of old power plants with efficiency rates lower than 20 percent.

The efficiency rate is the percentage of the total energy content of a power plant’s fuel that is converted into electricity.

To materialize the second aspect, Iran’s Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) has started a program for decommissioning worn-out thermal power plants. **→4**

## Resistance festival to review films on Commander Soleimani

**TEHRAN** – The 16th Resistance International Film Festival will review films on Commander Qassem Soleimani’s role in awakening people of the region and the world in a special section, the organizers announced on Sunday.

Interested filmmakers are asked to submit their films on the main characteristic of the martyr as the symbol of resistance,

highlighting the bravery of the commander and the soldiers without borders as the main themes of the section named “Prominent Resistance Martyr Section”.

The oppression of the people in the region, their resistance, and the role of Soleimani in their awareness are also highlighted in the section, which is due to be held internationally. **→8**

**By Salman Parviz**  
Tehran Times Journalist

## Sudan: Next step for Arab-Israel normalization?

When the so-called “Deal of the Century” was announced on January 29, it was rejected by most of the Muslim world. Just a few days after the Arab League’s rejection of the initiative, Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the de facto ruler of Sudan, met publicly for the first time with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Entebbe, Uganda, to begin talks for normalization amid objections from domestic politicians, organizations and the general public in Sudan.

Just as the move towards normalization of Sudan-Israel ties helped boost Netanyahu’s re-election in March, today’s move by Arab countries for normalization of ties with Israel will boost U.S. President Donald Trump’s re-election campaign for the November 3 American elections.

Israeli newspaper Maariv recently disclosed that the Sudan and Oman have postponed normalizing ties with Israel until after the U.S. elections adding that the two Arab countries would not offer their “precious gifts” to Trump and Netanyahu before the U.S. elections.

On October 1, Sudan’s Islamic government authority issued an Islamic Fatwa – a legal opinion based on Islamic law – announcing its opposition to Khartoum normalizing Israel ties.

Normalizing relations with Israel will not leave Sudan exempt from paying off its external debts, a leader in Forces of Freedom and Chance (FFC) told Sudan Tribune. Tijani Hussain said that “the components of the FFC coalition, as well as forces affiliated with the left and right wings, have firmly rejected the normalization file, while other parties, including the Socialist Republic Party, support it.”

Sudanese top opposition leader and former premier Sadiq al-Mahdi has said Israel “is not a normal state, but an aberration. Normalization is a soft name for surrender and has no connection with peace.”

Gen. al-Burhan flew to UAE recently for unofficial talks with American and Emirati officials about a potential economic assistance package for Sudan. A Sudanese official said Sudan had been offered about \$800 million in direct aid and investment, which would be paid by the UAE and the U.S., with about \$10 million coming from Israel, reports the New York Times. **→5**

## China calls for regional dialogue amid efforts to establish strategic partnerships

**TEHRAN** – Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has called for building a new platform in the region to deescalate tensions through dialogue among all stakeholders as China held talks with at least two countries in the Western Asia region to establish comprehensive strategic partnerships with.

“China proposes to build a regional multilateral dialogue platform with equal participation of all stakeholders,” the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement following a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and China on Saturday, according to an AFP report.

The platform would “enhance mutual understanding through dialogue and explore political and diplomatic solutions to security issues in the Middle East [West Asia]”, the statement added.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited the southern Chinese province of Yunnan on Friday. He traveled to China at the invitation

of Wang. On Saturday, Zarif held talks with his Chinese counterpart.

Following the talks, the chief Iranian diplomat said he held “fruitful” talks with Wang.

“Fruitful talks in beautiful Tengchong with my friend Wang Yi on Iran-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership,” Zarif said in a tweet on Saturday, adding that Iran and China “rejected U.S. unilateralism and U.S. attempts to create unipolar world.”

Zarif also said that they agreed on strengthening the bilateral ties including a 25-year partnership plan, preserving a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and moving forward with collaboration on the Covid-19 vaccine and regional cooperation.

Wang and Zarif also reiterated their commitment to the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. **→3**

## U.S. protests: Man shot dead in Denver during rival left and rightwing protests

Police have arrested a security guard after a man was shot dead during rival right- and left-wing protests in the U.S. city of Denver.

Reports said the dead man had been taking part in a so-called “Patriot Rally” of right-wing demonstrators.

Police said the suspect was not linked to the counter-demonstrators.

A Denver TV station said it had hired the suspect to protect its crew. However, police have not confirmed this.

### ■ What happened?

The “Patriot Rally” taking place in Denver was met by counter-protests by several groups who said they were holding a “Black Lives Matter-Antifa Soup Drive”.

The shooting took place in a courtyard of the Denver Art Museum.

Photographs published by the Denver Post newspaper appear to show a confrontation dur-

ing which the demonstrator strikes the security guard and sprays pepper spray at him before the security guard opens fire.

Denver Police Chief of Investigations Joe Montoya said the incident took place shortly after 15:30 local time (21:30 GMT). He said there had been a “verbal altercation” and a firearm was discharged.

Two guns were recovered at the scene and a suspect was taken into custody, he said.

Local TV station KUSA-TV said on its website that the arrested man was a security guard it had hired to protect its crew.

“It has been the practice of (KUSA) for a number of months to hire private security to accompany staff at protests,” the station said.

However, Chief Montoya said he could not confirm that the suspect was working for the station. Neither he nor the victim have yet been identified by the authorities.

## Unmissable museum in northwest Iran

**By Afshin Majlesi**

Holding thousands of works of art – from Persian, Mesopotamian, and Elamite antiquities to masterpieces by the Islamic-era artists, it’s no surprise that Azarbaijan Museum is known as the second major museum of cultural heritage after the National Museum of Iran.

Designed by the French architecture, Andre Godard, and constructed by Iranian fellows, Azarbaijan Museum, located in

the vicinity of the majestic Masjed-e Kabud (“Blue Mosque”).

The entrance boasts a great brick portal with big wooden doors guarded by two stone rams. Inside, a wide variety of administrative and trade seals as well as coins minted by many ruling powers including the mighty Achaemenid Empire (c. 550 – 330 BC) are on display.

It consists of various exhibition halls, some office rooms, a library, a small restaurant. While stepping inside, one may get attracted by several

tall bronze statues in the garden, standing by impressive inscriptions and stone objects mostly belong to Islamic times.

Highlights include relics excavated from Tepe Hasanlu, and Iron Age site situated near the city of Naghadeh, a short distance south of Lake Urmia, a superb millennia-old copper helmet, and a re-weave of the illustrious ‘Ardebil’ carpet, reckoned to be one of the best ever made; the original is beautifully displayed in the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. **→6**



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## Motocross race in Isfahan

On the occasion of Physical Education Week, motocross race was held in Isfahan, central Iran.

The competition was held in two youth and veterans categories.

Motocross is a form of off-road motorcycle racing held on enclosed off-road circuits. A motocross race is actually made up of two races, called motos. Professional motos are 30 minutes plus two laps long. Amateur motos usually last between 12 and 20 minutes.

## New U.S. sanctions on Iran will disrupt import of medicine, food: international business professor

**By Javad Heirannia**

**TEHRAN** – Professor Hossein Askari, who teaches international business at the George Washington University, says the recent U.S. unilateral financial sanctions are cutting off Iranian banks from the international banking system, thereby making import of medicine and food by Iran much more difficult.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Askari says, “U.S. sanctions on Iran are an act of war.”

Hossein Askari, who served as special advisor to Saudi finance minister, tells the Tehran Times.

On Thursday, the Trump administration introduced sweeping new sanctions targeting Iran’s remaining financial sector. Sanctions target eighteen Iranian banks.

Professor Askari says, “Iran will face shortages of food and medicine” due to the new sanction, noting “average Iranians will suffer from this inhumane and cruel policy.”

Following is the text of the interview:

■ How will the recent U.S. sanctions on Iran affect the country and the average Iranians?

A: These are essentially unilateral financial sanctions cutting off Iranian banks from the international banking system. The U.S. is telling U.S. banks that they can have no dealings with Iranian banks. But as with other sanctions the U.S. will impose secondary sanctions, or what is sometimes referred to as the concept of extraterritoriality, on banks from other countries doing business with Iran. The U.S. tells them that they must also cut all relations or they will face fines and be barred access to the U.S. market. **→2**



## China slams U.S. double standards on nuclear non-proliferation

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The deputy permanent representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations says the United States follows double standards on nuclear non-proliferation, especially with regard to the Iranian and Korean nuclear issues

"The U.S. is pushing political maneuvering," Ambassador Geng Shuang said during the First Committee of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 9.



"The U.S. follows double standards on nuclear non-proliferation, abuses unilateral sanctions, and serves its geopolitical agenda by using the hot-spot issues such as the Iranian nuclear issue and the Korean nuclear issue," he said, according to the Global Times.

He pointed out that the U.S. has been upgrading its nuclear arsenals, and lowering the threshold for nuclear weapons use. "It has dodged its special responsibility for nuclear disarmament with the pretext of so-called trilateral negotiations, and even had discussions on resuming nuclear test," the envoy added.

He also criticized Washington's pursuit of unilateralism, saying the U.S. withdrew from the INF Treaty and the JCPOA, unsigned the ATT, and adopted a negative attitude towards the extension of the New START Treaty, exposing its pure pragmatism on bilateral and multilateral arms control treaties and regimes.

## Self-sufficiency 'our main option' against enemies: defense chief

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Defense Minister Amir Hatami has said the main option on Iran's table in the face enemies is becoming self-sufficient.

"Today, the main option on our table with regard to the enemies, who do the most vile and evil acts against the Iranian nation, is doing activities in the fields of jihad and self-sufficiency," Brigadier General Hatami said on Sunday.

"The Iranian nation will not forget such hostilities and these hostile measures will remain in our [memory], because they cruelly pursued economic terrorism against our nation," he added.

## Intl. Islamic Unity Conference to be held virtually

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The 34th edition of the International Islamic Unity Conference is scheduled to be held online due to the spread of the coronavirus, said the chief of the conference.

The conference will be held in a webinar format from October 29 to November 3 concurrent with the Unity Week, said Hamid Shahriari, the head of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought, which organizes the conference.

Shahriari said a special website has been designed for such purpose which offers all the information needed for participants in the online event, Mehr reported.

The International Islamic Unity Conference is held in Iran annually in an effort to lay the ground for unity and solidarity among Muslims and provide solutions for their problems.



It gathers Shia and Sunni scholars from all over the world. Many Iranian Shia and Sunni scholars also attend the event.

"All Muslims of the world are brothers," Saeed Babaki, a Sunni cleric from Gonbad-e Kavus, Golestan province, told the Tehran Times on the sidelines of the conference last year.

"Shias and Sunnis are brothers and they should strive for more unity so that the Islamic world would progress," he said.

He added that the event creates empathy between Sunnis and Shias of all countries and creates more unity among Muslims throughout the world. "As a result, the religion of Islam would thrive."

Asked to respond to certain Western countries' claim that the Islamic Republic creates divisions among Muslims in the region by following sectarian policies, he said, "I totally disagree with this notion. The Islamic Republic promotes unity between Sunnis and Shias and it is not after creating divisions."

"The general policy of the system is to boost the Sunni-Shia unity, and the Islamic Republic does not distinguish between followers of the two branches of Islam," Babaki emphasized.

He also praised the security of the Islamic Republic, saying, "Iran, in terms of its security, is the best country in the region. Alhamdulillah (praise be to God), our country is very secure."

# New U.S. sanctions on Iran will disrupt import of medicine, food: international business professor

“U.S. sanctions on Iran are an act of war”



**A: Let me say that the U.S. sanctions on Iran are an act of war. The impact on Iran is as if America was fighting a war but without bombs and bullets.** Iran's economy is being destroyed. There are shortages. Iranians lack some of the essentials of life. Patients are dying in hospitals because of a shortage of supplies. These are the fallout of war. So yes, war makes reconciliation more difficult. Iranians have always been warm toward the American people, not its government. But ask yourself, how would you feel about the United States if your child had been deprived of medicine and had died?

**■** What is the Trump administration telling the Americans about such sanctions?

**A:** Nonsense. That Iran must change its bad behavior and treat its people better.

Well, just look at the United States. How does it treat its minorities? Do they have

equal rights? Is everyone equal in the eyes of the police and the law? Does America use its military with its bases and illegal covert operations around the world to support dictators who oppress their own people? Is Mohammad bin Salman, the man who ordered the dismemberment of an American journalist, an enlightened ruler deserving of America's support? Does America's great ally, Israel, uphold the human rights of Arabs and uphold international law by annexing Arab land? Look I could list many more damaging facts, so the U.S. is not doing any of this because it is heartbroken for the Iranian people. The United States, and especially Trump who has caused so much hardship on the average Iranian, are in no position to lecture Iran.

**■** Why is the Trump administration doing this?

**A:** Trump is losing badly in the polls

and he needs to change the discussion. He wants to show that he is tough on Iran. As important is the fact that he is doing what Israel and the (P)GCC want, namely, to weaken Iran and to overthrow the regime. This is Netanyahu's and MBS' wish. My guess is that Trump and Kushner will get a bigger payday from MBS if they do more harm onto Iran and Iranians.

**■** How do you think Iran should react now?

**A:** Iran should not do anything over the next 3 to 4 months. Don't retaliate, although this is Trump's war on Iran. If Iran retaliates, it will help Trump in his re-election and it will make eventual reconciliation more difficult.

**■** Do you think if Biden gets elected as president, he will move to restore the agreement?

**A:** Yes, but he will demand that Iran go back to full compliance.

**■** Do you think Iran should accept going back to the nuclear agreement?

**A:** Yes, but Iran should demand damages in a quiet way. The United States has caused humanitarian pain and economic damage to Iran by breaking an agreement that it signed and that was ratified by the United Nations Security Council. America must recognize this and compensate Iran. The compensation should be calculated by a group of qualified experts appointed by the United Nations. The dignity and welfare of Iran must not be humbled by America's lawless actions.

**“The dignity and welfare of Iran must not be humbled by America's lawless actions.”**

## Trump's insults will unify Iranian nation: Kamal Kharrazi

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Kamal Kharrazi, the head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, has said U.S. President Donald Trump's insults against the Iranian nation will unify the people to defend their country.

"When Trump insults a nation, such insult does not cause disunity, but rather people from all factions, beliefs and attitudes will become more united," Kharrazi said in an interview with IRNA published on Sunday.

It came after U.S. President Donald Trump used the F-word to warn Iran against doing what he called "something bad" to 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.

Kharrazi said the U.S. cannot reach its goal by insulting the Iranian people, but rather the insults will cause the people to become more aware and more unified in the face of the United States' bullying.

Trump's recent remarks well illustrate the depth of his ferocity, the former foreign minister remarked.

"Trump's insult is a sign of his anger and dissatisfaction of the inefficiency of sanctions and of not reaching his goal with regarding to Iran," he added.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has also responded to Trump's remarks, saying Iran is not afraid of the U.S.'s "bullying rhetoric."

"The Iranian people aren't intimidated by the bullying

rhetoric of the failing & lawless U.S. regime," Khatibzadeh tweeted on Friday night.

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."

On Saturday night, former Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi reminded the U.S. president of the futility of threatening Iran during the last days of his tenure at the White House.

"If I were Mr. Trump, I DID NOT threaten a peace-loving but warrior NATION, Iran, in my last days in 1600 Penn," tweeted Mousavi, who is currently Iran's ambassador to Azerbaijan.

Elsewhere in the Sunday interview, Kharrazi pointed to Washington's latest sanctions on Tehran, saying the U.S. wishes to bring Iran to its knees through the newly announced sanctions.

Kharrazi, who was foreign minister from 1997-2005, said the White House sought to bring about the collapse of the Islamic Republic by pursuing the "maximum pressure" policy against Iran.

"Fortunately, due to the people's resistance, the White House didn't reach its goal," former chief diplomat 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."

## Iran short of 'significant quantity' of material for nukes: IAEA

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi has said Iran is not in possession of enough enriched uranium to develop nuclear weapons.

"The Iranians continue to enrich uranium, and to a much higher degree than they have committed themselves to. And this amount is growing by the month," Grossi said in an interview with Austrian paper Die Presse published on Saturday, Reuters reported.

Asked about Iran's "breakout" time — the period it would take to produce enough

nuclear material for one weapon — he said, "In the IAEA we do not talk about breakout time. We look at the significant quantity, the minimum amount of enriched uranium or plutonium needed to make an atomic bomb. Iran does not have this significant quantity at the moment."

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly said that it has never sought and will never seek to build nuclear weapons. The decision, Tehran says, is based on a fatwa (religious decree) issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The fatwa bans the

production, possession and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction

Iran has also signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) — whose aim is to prevent the spread of nuclear arms and weapons technology — in July 1968 and ratified it in February 1970.

In order to address the commotion created by the United States and its allies over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, Tehran signed a nuclear deal with six world powers in 2015. Under the deal, Iran agreed to limit

its nuclear activities in exchange for a lifting of sanctions.

However, in May 2018, President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and restored the sanctions on Iran.

In response, Iran gradually reduced its commitments to the JCPOA under a process beginning a year after the U.S. withdrawal.

Iran is currently enriching uranium to up to 4.5% purity, far below the 20% it achieved before the deal and the 90% that is considered weapons-grade.

## Yemen admires Iran's support



For his part, Khajeh reiterated Iran's principled policy of supporting political settlement of the crisis in Yemen.

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — The Foreign Minister of the Yemeni National Salvation Government praised Iran for providing political and humanitarian support for the people of Yemen amid the Saudi-led military aggression.

In a videoconference with senior assistant to the Iranian foreign minister, Ali Asghar Khajeh, Hisham Sharaf Abdullah expressed gratitude to the Islamic Republic for its political support and humanitarian aids for the Yemeni people.

He also gave a report on the latest measures the Yemeni National Salvation Government has taken in the international arena and its contacts with the United Nations to condemn the Saudi-led coalition's crimes in Yemen, including the continued aggression and seizure of ships carrying fuel and foodstuff to Yemen amid the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will use all of its capacities to defend the oppressed people of Yemen through constant regional and international consultations, he added.

Saudi Arabia waged a devastating military aggression against its southern neighbor in March 2015 in collaboration with a number of its allied states, and with arms support from certain Western countries.

The purported aim was to return to power the Riyadh-backed former regime of Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi and defeat the Houthi Ansarullah movement that took control of state matters after the resignation of the then president and his government.

The UN refers to the situation in Yemen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with more than half of hospitals and clinics destroyed or closed.



# China calls for regional dialogue amid efforts to establish strategic partnerships

**1→** U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018, reimposing sweeping economic sanctions on Iran. All remaining parties to the JCPOA, including China, has strongly opposed the U.S. sanction while underlining the need to preserve the Iran nuclear deal.

According to AFP, Wang added that support for the Iranian nuclear deal would be a precondition of entry to the regional forum.

Iran and China are negotiating over the 25-year partnership plan that, if finalized, would raise the cooperation between Tehran and Beijing to an unprecedented level, especially in the oil and gas sector. According to the plan's details that have been leaked to the press so far, 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.

A draft of the plan was approved by the government of Hassan Rouhani in June. Since then, Zarif intensified talks with the Chinese side to finalize the partnership plan as soon as possible.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Friday that Beijing was willing to deepen its strategic partnership with Tehran.

Speaking at a regular press conference on October 9, she said, "During Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif's upcoming visit to China, he will have talks with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. We would like to work with Iran to deepen our bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership."

Responding to a question on the new U.S. sanctions that targeted eighteen Iranian banks, Chunying said the U.S. "arbitrarily imposes unwarranted unilateral actions such as economic blockade and financial sanctions against other countries, severely



**Chinese FM Wang has said support for the Iranian nuclear deal would be a precondition of entry to the regional forum.**

undermining international political and economic order, the global governance system, and the sanctioned countries' capabilities to develop their economy and improve people's lives."

She added, "As COVID-19 is still spreading across the globe, the U.S. unwarranted unilateral actions restrict the transportation of medical supplies and obstruct the sanctioned countries' effort to contain the virus and recover the economy, directly damaging the life and health of people in those countries as well as the rights of these people, especially the vulnerable groups."

The spokesperson also pointed to the call of the UN secretary-general and the high commissioner for human rights who called for the elimination of unwarranted unilateral actions.

On October 5, China spoke on behalf of 26 countries to once again call for immediate, total elimination of unilateral compulsory measures so that the international community can handle the virus in a comprehensive, effective and efficient manner, according to Chunying.

During the October 9 press conference, Chunying urged the U.S. "to respond to the international voice of justice, stop erroneous actions at once, and return to the track of global solidarity and international cooperation as soon as possible."

Despite U.S. sanctions, the coronavirus pandemic has accelerated the cooperation between Iran and China. Prior to Zarif's visit to China, an assistant to the foreign minister said Iran has received medical aid from China and hopes that the two countries further co-

operate on developing the Covid-19 vaccine.

The coronavirus crisis and the situation around the JCPOA were among issues that have been discussed during Zarif's visit to China. But it seems that the main issue was the finalization of the strategic partnership plan. The assistant, Reza Zabib, said Zarif was going to discuss the plan.

On the other hand, China has expressed willingness to strengthen the strategic partnership with not only Iran but also with the United Arab Emirates, a move that highlights China's growing influence in Western Asia.

As Zarif and Wang discussed the comprehensive strategic partnership between Iran and China, a "special representative" of President Xi Jinping delivered a message from the Chinese president to Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan "regarding the strengthening of the close ties of friendship and the comprehensive strategic partnership" between China and the UAE, according to Emirates News Agency (WAM).

The message was delivered by Yang Jiechi, the special representative of President Xi, at a meeting at Al Shati Palace on Saturday. The two officials discussed ways of enhancing friendship and comprehensive and special strategic cooperation between the two countries in addition to a number of regional and international issues of common concern, WAM reported.

China's call for a regional dialogue seems to be in line with its plan to establish comprehensive strategic partnerships with Iran and the UAE. It could be indicative of China's intention of resolving differences while finalizing the partnership plans with countries in the region. A resolution of conflicts in the region, would lay the groundwork for a deeper economic cooperation between China and the region's countries.

## SPORTS

### Siame elected as head of Iran Athletics Federation

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Hashem Siame was elected as new president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Athletics Federation (IRIAF) on Sunday.

In the presidential elections held at the Iran's Academy Olympic, Siame was elected for a four-year term till 2024. The elections went to a second round of voting and Siame was elected as the president with 24 votes out of 43 votes.

Ayoub Behtaj finished in second place with 17 votes. There were two invalid votes.

"Iran's athletic needs help and we all must help the federation solve the problems. We must help each other because I can't really do anything alone. All of us must do more to support the federation," Siame said after being elected as head of the IRIAF.



### Women's volleyball league fixture released

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — The 2020/21 women's volleyball league will kick off on Oct. 22 with the participation of eight teams.

The draw ceremony was held at the Iran's National Olympic and Paralympic Academy in Tehran by the Organizing Committee of Iran Volleyball Federation.

The Iran women's volleyball league will start on Oct. 22 with stringent health protocols due to a coronavirus outbreak.

The league was originally supposed to be held with 14 teams but eight teams have registered for the new season.

Saipa, Zob Ahan, Khojasteh Eslamshahr, Paykan, Sarvghamatabol, Setregan Fars, Exxon and Shahrdari Qazvin will participate in the 19th edition of the competition.

### Esteghlal complete signing of Mehdipour

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football club have completed the signing of midfielder Mehdi Mehdipour.

The 26-year-old player has signed for Esteghlal on a three-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

Mehdipour is Esteghlal's sixth signing for the new Iran Professional Season (IPL) season.

Rashid Mazaheri, Mohammad Moradmam, Babak Moradi, Ahmad Mousavi and Matin Karimzadeh have already joined Esteghlal.

The 20th edition of the IPL will kick off on October 31.

### Azmoun misses friendly match against Mali

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran iconic forward Sardar Azmoun will be absent in the match against Mali.

Dragan Skocic's team will meet Mali on Tuesday in Antalya, Turkey but the forward has returned to Russia to play for his club Zenit.

The 25-yard striker, who scored his 33rd goal against Uzbekistan just before half-time in Tashkent on Thursday, will not play against the African team.

These matches are part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers, where Iran sits third in Group C behind Iraq and Bahrain.

Some media outlet reports suggested that the match would be canceled since two Malian players, namely Kiki Kouyaté and Molla Wagué have tested positive for the novel coronavirus disease.

### Khalilzadeh reaches agreement with Al Rayyan: report

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis defender Shoja Khalilzadeh has reportedly reached an agreement with Qatari club Al Rayyan.

The 31-year-old center back joined Persepolis in 2017 and played a great role in winning three titles in Iran Professional League.

Khalilzadeh was a member of Persepolis team who qualified for the 2020 AFC Champions League final.

He has not reached yet an agreement with Persepolis to extend his contract.

Media reports suggest that Khalilzadeh will sign for Al Rayyan on Wednesday.

Al Rayyan Sports Club are a Qatari multisport club fielding teams in a number of sports such as football, futsal, basketball, volleyball, handball, athletics, table tennis and swimming.

### Esteghlal eye Persepolis defender Naderi

**Tasnim** — Persepolis' archrivals Esteghlal want to drop a bombshell because they have reportedly shown an interest in signing left back Mohammad Naderi.

Naderi has not yet reached an agreement with Persepolis and the media reports suggest that the 24-year-old defender has been linked with a move to Esteghlal.

Naderi joined Persepolis from Belgian team Kortrijk on loan and won two Iran Professional League titles with the Reds but suffered an injury ahead of the 2020 AFC Champions League group stage, where Persepolis booked a place in the final.

Persepolis signed Saied Aghaei as his replacement and the player has reportedly negotiated with Esteghlal.

## Iran's nuclear chief tests positive for Covid-19

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), has tested positive for Covid-19, AEOI spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi announced on Sunday.

Salehi is the latest in a series of Iranian officials contracting the novel coronavirus, including the spokesman for the Iranian government, Ali Rabiei.

"The general condition of Mr. Salehi is good and he is staying home," Kamalvandi told the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) on Sunday, adding that the nuclear chief has been infected with the coronavirus.

The public relations office of the AEOI also said in a statement that Salehi has contracted Covid-19 since at least early October.

"Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy



Organization, tested positive for Covid-19 on October 3, and he is in a home quarantine getting some rest according to medical advice," the AEOI's public relations office told ISNA.

"Fortunately, he is currently feeling well and following up on the organization issues," the statement added.

Salehi's Covid-19 infection comes against a backdrop of a new wave of Covid-19 infections in Iran, with the Health Ministry reporting a record high number of daily coronavirus deaths on Sunday.

Sima-Sadat Lari, Iran's Health Ministry spokeswoman, announced 251 new Covid-19 deaths over the past 24 hours, the highest daily number ever reported by Iran. The spokeswoman also reported 3,822 new Covid-19 cases, raising the total number to 500,075.

### 'U.S. seeks to block Iran exports through sanctions'

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The new U.S. sanctions on Iran, which targeted a number of Iranian banks, are intended to prevent Iran from boosting its exports, Iran's defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami said on Sunday.

"A few days ago, they once again imposed sanctions on our banks, but we did not take them into account, and no one in the Ministry of Defense even mentioned these sanctions, because sanctions have become a natural thing for us. The enemies impose sanctions because they are afraid of our exports," the defense minister said.

Hatami was responding to the re-

cent sanctions that the U.S. Treasury Department imposed on eighteen Iranian banks in an effort to isolate the Iranian economy from the global financial system.

He also underlined that "our evil enemies should know that our nation will never surrender", adding "History has shown us that surrendering to enemies who think only of their own interests will result in nothing other than humiliation."

"We are performing jihad against enmity and economic warfare, and this is the path we have taken for 40 years and we have seen that at the end of this path, the horizon is clear," Hatami noted.

### Iran has good news about Covid-19 vaccine: minister

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian health minister announced on Sunday that he had a "good news" about a Covid-19 vaccine being developed in the country.

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran on Sunday, Saeed Namaki said, "I have good news about the vaccine and I also told the director of international relations (at the ministry) to let the World Health Organization know how far we have gone in the phases of developing the vaccine."

He added that the news of the breakthrough that Iran has made in making the vaccine will be announced to the world as a major national achievement, according to a Tasnim report.

The minister's comments came as Iran is tackling with a new wave of Covid-19

cases that has led to another round of lockdowns in the capital Tehran. On Sunday the Health Ministry reported a record high number of Covid-19 infections.

Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said 251 people have lost their lives due to the novel coronavirus over the past 24 hours, raising the total number of fatalities to 28,544.

The spokeswoman also announced 3,822 new Covid-19 cases, bringing the total number to 500,075.

Also on Sunday, two high-ranking government officials, namely Ali Akbar Salehi and Mohammad Bagher Nobakht, tested positive for Covid-19.

Salehi is nuclear chief and Nobakht is head of Budget and Planning Organization (BPO).

## Iran says U.S. seeking to starve Iranians

**1→** However, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said Iran will do its best to protect national interests and "meet the people's needs".

"The U.S., which has no inhibition about doing its utmost to starve the people of Iran, seeks to impose maximum pressure on the Iranian people but the government and the system are determined to defend national interests and meet the people's needs. All firms and government bodies are doing their best to meet internal needs through producing some needed medicines or importing some medicines," Khatibzadeh stated.

Khatibzadeh called the new sanctions "a crime against humanity."

"What America does is a crime against humanity. They want to intensify maximum pressure in the remaining days but this measure does not affect us," said the spokesman, dismissing the new U.S. sanctions as "psychological campaign."

He also described U.S. President Donald Trump as a "psycho" who govern a country suffering from a litany

of internal and international troubles but keep imposing sanctions on other countries within the framework of a "psychological campaign".

Iran has denounced the sanctions as "inhumane," saying they were intended to cut off Iran's remaining channels to pay for food & medicine" amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Amid Covid19 pandemic, U.S. regime wants to blow up our remaining channels to pay for food & medicine. Iranians WILL survive this latest of cruelties. But conspiring to starve a population is a crime against humanity. Culprits & enablers—who block our money—WILL face justice," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted on Thursday.

Under the new U.S. 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)

the windows [of negotiations]," the lawmaker told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

He was responding to a question on Iran's conditions for a resumption of talks with the U.S.

"First of all, the Americans should unblock our country's assets, return to the JCPOA,

and implement their obligations to lift the sanctions, otherwise there would be no negotiations," Asafari pointed out.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's remarks that the U.S. will continue to put pressure on Iran until it agrees to a comprehensive deal with the U.S., the lawmaker said, "It can be understood that

these anti-Iran remarks are only meant to compensate the decrease in votes during the United States presidential election."

According to Asafari, Iran has proved to the world that it welcomes talks and it also gave a number of concessions to the West in the 2015 nuclear deal but the Americans did nothing to reciprocate Iran's moves.

## MP says U.S. destroyed chances of talks with Iran by reneging on JCPOA

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Mohammad Hossein Asafari, a lawmaker, said on Sunday that the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers has destroyed the windows of talks with the U.S.

"If Iran were to renegotiate, the U.S. non-compliance with the JCPOA destroyed



## Iran eyes promoting its transit status by developing rail infrastructure

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) Saeed Rasouli said by completing rail infrastructures like Khaf-Herat railway, Iran would be able to access transit markets with over 35 million tons of annual capacity, IRIB reported.

Rasouli underlined Iran’s geopolitical and strategic position which has turned the country into a vital gateway for regional and international trade and said: “We must make the most of this position and these capacities.”

We only have the capacity to transit 18 million tons of goods in the region, a large part of which is transported through sea, he said, adding: “With the development of rail infrastructure, including the Khaf-Herat, Chabahar-Zahedan and Shalamcheh-Basra railway projects, we will access a market of 35 million tons in the region and we must step up our efforts to increase the share of rail transportation in transit.”



“The Khaf-Herat line has a transit potential of nearly two million tons; with the expansion of the rail network in Afghanistan, this capacity will definitely increase exponentially and we can reach much larger markets,” Rasouli said.

Khaf-Herat is part of the Iran-Afghanistan rail corridor. The project started in the fiscal year of 2007-2008, connects Iran’s eastern city of Khaf to Afghanistan’s western city of Ghoryan.

Iran has been following new strategies for increasing the share of transit in its foreign trade basket and the country’s railway network has become the center of the government plans for achieving the said goal.

Back in December 2019, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami said the country is capable of boosting its capacity of transit to 50 million tons per year.

“We should make an essential improvement in our logistics power to gain our share of transit”, Eslami emphasized.

Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) and RAI also signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for boosting commodity transit in early December 2019.

Based on the agreement, which was inked by IRISL Managing Director Mohammadreza Modares Khiabani and Rasouli, some scheduled container trains will start operation to boost transit of goods through Iran and the two sides would jointly establish logistic terminals for container commodities.

## Red meat output rises 57% in a month on year

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) announced that production of red meat in Iran stood at 40,000 tons in the sixth month of the current Iranian calendar year (August 22-September 21), showing 57 percent growth compared to the same month in the past year.

The SCI’s report said that beef and veal had the lion’s share in the country’s red meat output during the sixth month with 23,600 tons, followed by lamb and mutton with 12,900 tons, goat meat with 2,800 tons, and red meat from other livestock with 734 tons.

The head of Iran’s Livestock Provision Council called on the government to purchase the red meat at guaranteed prices to support the producers.

Making the remarks in an interview by IRNA on October 2, Mansour Pourian also recommended the exports of livestock to support the producers and also bring foreign revenue for the country.

Saying that the purchase of red meat at guaranteed prices started in the country in the middle of the fourth Iranian calendar month of Tir (early July), Pourian announced that 4,000 tons of red meat have been purchased in this way by the State Livestock Affairs Logistics Company since then.



The purchase of red meat at guaranteed prices is already done in 15 provinces, including Khorasan Razavi, North Khorasan, Gilan, Alborz, Yazd, Isfahan, Fars, Sistan-Baluchestan, Khuzestan, East Azarbaijan, and Semnan, he said, adding that it will be then conducted in the other provinces as well.

Iran’s deputy agriculture minister, Morteza Rezaei, has recently said that the total production of red and chicken meat is expected to reach 3.5 million tons by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

He said red meat production will reach 880,000 tons, while chicken meat output is expected to reach 2.7 million tons.

“Considering the measures taken, the egg production will reach 1,650,000 tons, the honey output will reach 113,000 tons, and the production of fresh silk cocoons will reach 1,650,000 tons”, the official added.

Pointing to the per capita consumption of protein products in the country, Rezaei said: “Currently the per capita consumption of red meat is 12.5 kilograms, chicken meat 31.25 kilograms, raw milk 124 kilograms, eggs 11.72 kilograms and honey 1.35 kilograms.”

Iran is among the leading consumers of red meat in the West Asia region with lamb being the most sought after.

However, the consumption per person is around a third of what is normally seen in countries like the U.S. and Australia, mainly due to the prohibition of pork in Islamic law.

The major part of Iran’s red meat imports comes from countries like Brazil, where Iranian supervisors directly control culling methods to ensure they comply with religious rules.

# Decommissioning program to be carried out for Tehran power plants

**1 →** Back in October 2018, TPPH Managing Director Mohsen Tarztalab unveiled a program for increasing the efficiency of the country’s power plants up to 40 percent.

According to Tarztalab, the efficiency improvement program was provisioned following a development initiative foreseen in the country’s Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), based on which the average efficiency of the country’s power plants was to increase 2.1 percent.

Based on the sixth development plan, new power plants in Iran should operate with an efficiency of at least 55 percent.

In this regard, the preliminary measures for decommissioning three worn-out power plants of Tehran, namely Tarasht, Rey, and Be’sat, and replacing them with the new power plants have been taken, as the TPPH managing director announced last week.

Tarztalab said, “Despite the low efficiency of three old power plants of Tehran, they should operate in the summer due to the high electricity consumption, and to prevent the possible blackouts during the peak period, but now we plan to replace these power plants.”

He also announced that at the first step, the replacement operation of Tarasht power plant will be conducted soon.

As Tarasht and Be’sat power plants are very old, they have high water consumption and also create high pollution; therefore, the replacement program is seriously followed up for these two power plants, which will



reduce their water consumption, and also pollution.

The replacement process is carried out in three steps; in the first step, the required equipment and installation are supplied, then they are installed and operated, and in the last step the old power plant is decommissioned.

According to Tarztalab, decommissioning of the old power plants before the completion of the new ones is not possible, as the new power plants starting operation takes

a long time, and also because of Tehran’s high need for electricity. Therefore, the new units are constructed next to the old ones and when the new power plants are put into operation completely the old ones will be decommissioned.

Saying that the contractor for implementing Tarasht power plant project has been selected, the official announced that the operation will be started soon.

The project will take two years and 60

megawatts (MW) of new capacity will be gradually replaced, he added.

“For Rey power plant, the operation will be started in this autumn (ends on December 20), and for Be’sat power plant we are cooperating with the Department of Environment (DOE) for receiving the required permit to establish the new power plant”, the official stated.

Decommissioning the mentioned three power plants is hoped to be a big step in improving the efficiency of Iran’s power plants.

Deputy Energy Minister Homayoun Haeri has said that the efficiency of the country’s power plants is going to improve to 39 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

According to Haeri, the average efficiency of the power plants was improved by about 0.5 percent at the end of the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (August 21), compared to the same date last year.

There are nearly 3,000 megawatt capacity of old power plants with low efficiency (about 20 percent) in Iran which are only used during the summer peak consumption periods, and by implementing consumption management programs by the Energy Ministry the mentioned power plants won’t be used and consequently, the average efficiency will increase, according to Haeri.

The nominal electricity generation capacity of Iranian power plants currently stands at 85,500 megawatts [85.5 gigawatts (GW)].

## Energy Ministry, ISIPO ink MOU to empower SMEs

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) signed a memorandum of undersetting (MOU) with the country’s Energy Ministry on Sunday for cooperation in training, research and technology areas.

Signed by the Deputy Energy Minister Mohammad Saleh Olia and the ISIPO Head Mohsen Salehnia, the MOU is mainly aimed at development and empowerment of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) active in the field of

water and electricity, the Energy Ministry portal (Paven) reported.

The MOU covers a variety of areas including implementation of joint study and research projects to strengthen and develop SMEs active in the water and electricity industry, financing of industrial projects with economic justification, commercialization of research projects, empowerment of contractors and industrial consultants as well as evaluation and promotion and startup innovations.

## Reproduction from Sarajeh gas storage to exceed 1bcm by next March

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Reproduction capacity of Iran’s Sarajeh underground gas storages (UGS) will exceed one billion cubic meters (bcm) by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021), the managing director of Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) said.

According to Ramin Hatami, over 902 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas was reproduced from Sarajeh storage in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) while 869 million cubic meters of gas was injected into this storage, Shana reported.

The reproduction capacity of the storage is expected to reach more than one billion cubic meters this year with the addition of at least 150 mcm to the injected gas, he said.

Referring to the company’s complete readiness for supplying natural gas in winter, the official added: “With the increase of gas storage in the Sarajeh storage, we are fully prepared to supply and support the national gas line in the cold season.”

Reproduction from Sarajeh and Shourijeh storages, which are the country’s major gas storage facilities, increased by 33 percent in the past Iranian calendar year compared to the preceding year, accord-

ing to Ahmad Rajabi, director of technical affairs at the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC).

The mentioned storages supply gas to six northern and northeastern provinces that are far from the southern gas-rich regions, eliminating the need for importing gas from Turkmenistan.

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

Back in November 2019, the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) announced that the company had awarded the development project of Shourijeh gas storage facility to an Iranian company based on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract.

In this regard, NIGC Head Hassan Montazer Torbati noted that following the development of the South Pars gas field and the increase in the country’s gas production capacity, construction, and development of the country’s natural gas storage facilities has become a top priority.

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

## Commodities valued at over \$221m traded at IME in a week

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — More than 543,582 tons of commodities worth over \$221 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), IME International Affairs and Public Relations Department reported.

As reported, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 195,262 tons of various products worth close to \$99 million were traded in the past week.

On this trading floor, 187,340 tons of steel, 5,520 tons of aluminum, 70 tons of copper, tons MT of molybdenum concentrates, tons MT of precious metal concentrates, 660 tons of zinc ingot as well as 40 tons of lead ingot were traded by customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 346,891 tons of different commodities with the total value of \$125 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 87,100 tons of VB feed stock, 114,258 tons of bitumen, 73,083 tons of polymer products, 37,322 tons of chemical products, 23,000 tons

of lube cut oil, 2,712 tons of insulation, 2,226 tons of base oil, 1,500 tons of coke, 150 tons of argon as well as 7,200 tons of sulfur were traded.

Moreover, the agricultural trading floor of the IME played host to trading of 100 kg of saffron threads.

Furthermore, 1,429 tons of commodities were traded on the side market of the IME.

As previously reported, more than 3.585 million tons of commodities worth over \$1.56 billion were traded at IME in September.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran’s over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

In late April, IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad unveiled the market’s new outlook plan, which depicts IME’s development roadmap until the Iranian calendar year of 1404 (March 20205-March 2026). Materializing the slogan of this Iranian year, which is “Surge in Production” is seriously considered in the mentioned plan and it is, in fact, the strategic approach of the outlook plan.

## Iran-Afghanistan 6th Joint Economic Committee meeting due in late Oct.

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian held talks with Afghan Acting Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar through video conference on Saturday in which the two sides discussed the two countries’ Joint Economic Committee meeting which is due to be held on October 25.

The officials discussed the development of cooperation in various energy sectors while considering issues that could be raised in the joint committee meeting, the portal of the Iranian Energy Ministry Paven reported.

In this online meeting, the ministers also agreed to prepare their proposals on a range of important issues in bilateral relations, including the application of preferential tariffs on commodity items desired by the Afghan side and the

issues pertaining to the border markets as well as customs cooperation.

The proposals will be handed to the two sides in a week to make final decisions on the mentioned issues and prepare the necessary documents to be signed on the sidelines of the sixth Joint Economic Committee meeting which will be held during October 25-27 in Kabul.

Back in September, Ardakanian, who is the chairman of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee, met with Afghanistan’s Ambassador to Tehran Abdolghafour Lival, and the two sides stressed the expansion of economic ties in all areas.

In the meeting, Ardakanian referred to the agreements reached between the two sides during his visit to Afghani-

stan last year and said: “During that visit, President Ghani issued the necessary orders to implement electricity projects, including renewables, solving banking problems, etc., but unfortunately so far no definite measure has been taken to realize those agreements.”

The two sides also discussed preparations for the upcoming Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee meeting. Ardakanian visited Kabul in late July 2019, to hold talks with senior Afghan officials in order to discuss the expansion of economic ties especially in water and energy areas.

During his one-day visit, he met with the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, the country’s Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, and the Afghan minister of water and energy as well as the country’s finance minister.

## Steel exports exceed 2.3m tons in 6 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian steel producers exported 2.358 million tons of steel ingots and products during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), IRNA reported.

The country’s steel exports in the mentioned six months fell 33 percent compared to the previous year’s same period.

As reported, the fall in the exports of the mentioned commodities is mainly because of the decrease of the country’s foreign trade due to the outbreak of the coronavirus and also the

increase in the demand for the said products inside the country.

Of the country’s total exports in H1, 19.5 percent was related to the sixth month of this year, which indicates the exports are following an upward trend.

Iran exported 1.786 million tons of steel during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by the outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the

coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world’s top producers.

Production of crude steel in Iran increased 14.4 percent in July from the figure for the same month in the past year, while the average global production for this commodity has fallen 2.5 percent in the mentioned month, a report released by the World Steel Association (WSA) said.

Iran’s crude steel production had also increased by 30 percent in 2019 while the average global growth in this sector stood at 3.5 percent. The country managed to produce 31.9 mil-



lion tons of crude steel during 2019, while the figure was 24 million tons in 2018.

Iran’s steel production is expected to reach 30 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), of which over 10 million tons will be exported.



# Sudan: Next step for Arab-Israel normalization?

## Normalization to help Trump's re-election campaign

➔ But the talks failed to yield results as Sudanese officials countered that they need at least \$3-4 billion to make a dent in the country's deepening economic crisis.

Israeli media outlets reported that Netanyahu is scheduled to meet with Gen. al-Burhan in Uganda in the near future.

Trump administration and the Israeli government have seen an opportunity in the collapsing Sudanese economy, hyperinflation, and a nationwide food crisis. When South Sudan seceded in 2011, it took away the third quarter of oil production. Sudanese pound against the dollar fell from 145 to 252 over the past month. Inflation stood at 166 percent in August.

It is believed that the U.S. is trying to push Sudan to normalize with Tel Aviv in order to remove it from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, making Sudan eligible for aid and investment.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo flew in the first-ever direct flight from Israel to Sudan in August and urged al-Burhan to normalize ties with Israel.

However, news agencies quoted a spokesperson for Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok as saying that the transitional government "does not have the mandate" to normalize relations with Israel, indicating a possible rift between Hamdok and Gen. al-Burhan's stand on the matter.

The power-sharing arrangement between the military and civilian parties in Sudan began last August, following a military coup that overthrew the 30-year regime of Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. The power was handed over from the Transitional Military Council to the Sovereign Council, composed of military



Protest against normalization deal with Israel in Khartoum, Sudan, on September 25, 2020. (Photo M. Idris/Anadolu Agency)

and civilian leaders.

Under the deal, Sudan would be run by an 11-member sovereign council made up of military and civilian appointees until elections are held. For the first 21 months, the council will be headed by Gen. al-Burhan before the leadership rotates to a civilian.

Last September Sudanese cabinet was formed, and Hamdok was declared prime minister.

Meanwhile, al-Bashir has been in jail in Khartoum since his overthrow. The ICC

wants him for alleged war crimes, genocide, and a crime against humanity in Darfur in a conflict that killed an estimated 300,000 people beginning in 2003.

Circling back to the present, Sudan's surging inflation and plummeting currency have been the biggest challenge for the transitional government. The worsening economic situation and opposition to normalization of ties with Israel have further weakened the fragile transitional government.

No government of Muslim-majority Sudan has recognized Israel since independence in 1956. Sudanese soldiers have fought in Arab wars against Israel, while Khartoum's capital was the scene of a 1967 Arab League summit that called for "Three No's": no peace, no recognition, and no negotiations. The two countries are still technically at war.

American efforts to persuade more Arab countries to normalize relations with Israel before the November U.S. elections are focused on Sudan, where negotiations have stalled over the amount of financial incentive promised to Sudan.

Trump has said that "at least five or six countries" are poised to follow UAE and Bahrain in the normalization of ties with Israel on August 13, which Saudi Arabia secretly helped lobby other countries in the region to support the moves.

But the recognition of Israel is a highly contentious issue that could destabilize the fragile Sudanese transitional government.

In the late 1970s and early '80s, tens of thousands of Ethiopian Jews fled to Sudan, hoping to immigrate to Israel. Despite Sudanese opposition, Israeli forces carried out secret operations to retrieve them.

Efforts to normalize Arab ties with Israel have one end goal, i.e., the formation of an anti-Iran coalition, which is meant to isolate the Islamic Republic and cause more economic and political uncertainty in the country by waging soft war. The U.S. has been working to resolve the dispute between Qatar and other Persian Gulf states in an effort to strengthen the coalition against Iran.

## AIPAC and U.S. elections

By Richard Anderson Falk

AIPAC is a strong lobbying group that is perceived by the political parties to exert great influence on large Jewish donors and Jewish voters generally. The leadership of both parties compete for AIPAC approval, although as an organization it refrains from political endorsements at national levels. It does have a record of opposing Congressional candidates deemed critical of Israel, making inflammatory accusations that candidates critical of Israel are by that fact alone anti-Semitic. Such a campaign has been launched with at least implicit AIPAC support to defeat the candidacy of Ilhan Omer who is running for reelection in urban Minneapolis.

Part of the effectiveness of AIPAC is due to money and tight organizational discipline, and part of its influence is due to the absence of countervailing

Jewish organizations that speak for liberal Zionism and progressive Jews. J-Street has attempted to provide a voice for liberal Zionism in Washington, and has limited success at legislative levels, but not in relation to party platforms or the selection of national candidates. Jewish Voice for Peace is an admirably balanced NGO, but its influence is mainly felt in civil society, where it has created growing support for a just outcome of this struggle that has gone on for a century, which includes supported the realization of the Palestinian right of self-determination whether in the form of a viable separate sovereign state or a single state whose foundational principle is ethnic equality.

Throughout its existence AIPAC has been and remains subservient to the priorities of Israeli leadership and consistently supportive of maximal Zionist goals, and hence an adherent of antagonistic

attitudes on international law, the UN, and international morality. In my judgment, AIPAC has harmed the role of the U.S. in West Asia and at the UN by pushing American foreign policy in belligerent and regime-changing directions, focusing on heightening the confrontation with Iran, and secondarily, with Turkey, which has intensified regional tensions and dangers of war. The recent sanctions debate in the UN Security Council manifested both U.S. belligerence and its defiance of the views of even its normally close European allies.

Richard Anderson Falk is an American professor emeritus of international law at Princeton University. In 2008, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) appointed Falk to a six-year term as a United Nations Special Rapporteur on "the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967".

## American academic predicts demonstrations, violent unrest after Nov. 3 presidential polls

By Hamid Bayati

**TEHRAN** — An American academic says that there may be some peaceful demonstrations and violent unrest after the November 3 presidential elections in the U.S but there will not be a civil war.

"There won't be a civil war, but there may be some peaceful demonstrations and violent unrest," Daniel Serwer, a professor of the practice of conflict management, tells the Tehran Times.

On October 3, U.S. President Donald Trump, who is facing Joe Biden in November 3 elections, was flown to a military hospital for treatment after testing positive for coronavirus. The news sparked many debates about Trump's policies in containing the COVID-19, especially after the first presidential debate.

Serwer says Trump is trailing badly in the polls and his handling of COVID-19, citing his hospital stay and return to the White House as the main reasons.

Commenting on a tweet by Richard Hass in which he has said, "We finally have the word that defines @realDonaldTrump's presidency: Denialism. Denial of Covid-19, of climate change, of N.K.'s growing nuclear inventory, of Russian interference in American politics. In short, denial of facts," Serwer says that is "largely correct."

On remarks by U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman who has said that a Joe Biden win in next month's U.S. elections would result in a shift in American policy on Iran in a way that would be damaging to Israel and the Persian Gulf states, the American academic says, "Washington will remain committed to the security of Israel and the (Persian) Gulf states, but Biden will also seek renewal of the JCPOA obligations (both American and Iranian) as well as a wider agreement on security in the region."

In his remarks, Friedman also claimed that Iran was the "most consequential issue of the election."

Serwer, director of the Conflict Management and American Foreign Policy Programs at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, says through such remarks Friedman "wants to motivate Arabs and Israel against Biden."

The professor also says, "Friedman's main intention is to motivate American Evangelical Christians against Biden."

Regarding Biden's pledge to "reassess" the U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia, Serwer argues "it is hard to know the result, but re-assessment is definitely in order."

The academic adds, "He (Biden) will be tougher on both Saudi Arabia and Iran when it comes to human rights abuses; I hasten to add he'll be tougher on abuses in the U.S. as well."

N.I.O.C 1399.3736		National Iranian Drilling Company	
<b>Call for public tender (First/Second publish)</b>			
<b>One Stages tender</b>			
<b>Subject of Tender:</b>			
Tender No.	Description		
FP/20-99/035	P/F WEIGHT INDICATOR TYPE D&E		
FP/020-99/049	P/F: VARCO TOP DRIVE		
FP/020-99/065	P/F: VARCO TOP DRIVE		
FP/020-99/067	P/F PIONEER HYDRAULIC SINGLE ACTING FISHING JAR		
<b>Tender descriptions:</b>			
The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	21,466,535	Tender No. :FP/20-99/035 Indent No.:08-22-9745068	6,500,000,000 (Rial)
	21,466,532	Tender No.: FP/20-99/049 Indent No.:08-22-9945011	8,820,000,000 (Rial)
	21,464,333	Tender No.: FP/20-99/065 Indent No.:08-22-9845034	56,780,000,000 (Rial)
	21,465,295	Tender No.: FP/20-99/067 Indent No.:08-22-9845031	11,932,000,000 (Rial)
<b>Qualitative evaluation of tenderers</b>			
Method	Qualification process will be done in plain mode in offers opening session according to presentation of valid practice certificate / legal documents (certificate of corporation/ supply announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject.		
<b>Purchasing &amp; Submitting</b>			
Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof		
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN 061-34148707 -06134148615	
Documents Receiving Method	Submitting Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 190,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 ( Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Income Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank.</li> <li>Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.</li> </ul>	
	Closing date	35Days after the last time of Purchasing.	
Tender Guarantee	Address		
	Hall No. 107, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569		
Value of guarantee	325,000,000Rial / 2,256 Euro Regarding Tender No. FP/20-99/035		
	441,000,000 Rial / 2,454 Euro Regarding Tender No. FP/20-99/049		
	2,840,000,000 Rial / 19,714 Euro Regarding Tender No. FP/20-99/065		
	597,000,000 Rial / 4,618 Euro Regarding Tender No. FP/20-99/067		
Type of guarantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> <li>Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 ( Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> </ul>		
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.		

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: [www.nidc.ir](http://www.nidc.ir) [http://sapp.ir/nidc\\_pr](http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr)

تهران تایمز نوبت دوم ۹۹/۷/۲۱

## Israel must withdraw from Syria's Golan Heights: Non-Aligned Movement

The 120 member nations of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) say the Israeli regime needs to abide by UN resolutions and end its decades-long occupation of Syria's Golan Heights.

In a statement issued following its ministerial meeting on Friday, the organization censured the Tel Aviv regime for making demographic changes to the Syrian territory that it occupied some half a century ago, Syria's official news agency SANA reported.

NAM said its members "condemn all measures taken by Israel to change the legal, physical and demographic status of the Occupied Syrian Golan, and demand once again that Israel should abide by the United Nations Security Council resolution 497 (1981), and ... withdraw fully from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of June 4, 1967, in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973)."

The movement underlined the need to "respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty ..., political independence and inviolability of international borders of other states," and to refrain from interfering in other countries' internal affairs.

## Another U.S. convoy smuggles Syrian oil to Iraq

A convoy of 20 American tankers has reportedly transported crude oil stolen from Syrian fields to neighboring Iraq.

Syria's official SANA news agency reported on Saturday that the U.S. convoy had left Syria's northwestern Hasakah Province heading for the Iraqi territories through the illegal al-Walid crossing in al-Yaroubia area.

The U.S., in collusion with the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a U.S.-backed alliance of Kurdish militants operating against Damascus, controls most of the oil fields in al-Jazira.

Over the past months, thousands of trucks carrying weapons and military and logistical equipment have entered the region.

In October 2019, U.S. President Donald Trump said Washington would be willing to fight for Syria's oil.

## Kim Jong-un makes rare emotional speech at military parade

In a noteworthy moment from North Korea's massive military parade on Saturday, where the country showcased a new intercontinental ballistic missile, national leader Kim Jong-un got emotional and teared up while recalling the adversity the country's people had experienced.

Kim stood on the podium to address the nation in kicking off the military parade, which marked the 75th anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party, in a speech that emphasized "thanking" the people and "apologizing" to them for the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as recent typhoons and flooding. During the speech, which lasted around 25 minutes, Kim used the word "thank" around 12 times., News Info reported.

## 'Israel would oppose any U.S. F-35 sale to Qatar'

Israel would oppose any U.S. sale of advanced F-35 warplanes to Qatar, Israel's intelligence minister said on Sunday, citing a need to maintain Israeli military superiority in the region.

Intelligence Minister Eli Cohen made the comments in response to a Reuters report that Qatar - whose Iran links trouble Israel - had submitted a formal request to Washington to buy the Lockheed Martin Corp. LMT.N stealth jet, Reuters reported.

The United States consults with Israel on proposed sales of advanced arms to other countries in the region, under a principle of preserving Israel's "qualitative military edge". Some such sales have gone ahead over Israeli objections.

## Resistance News

## Sheikh Sabri warns of Israeli attempts to seize areas of Aqsa Mosque

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN**— Sheikh Ekrima Sabri, head of the **d e s k** Higher Islamic Council in Occupied Jerusalem, has warned of Israeli attempts to control and seize specific areas of the Aqsa Mosque.

In a press release on Saturday, Sheikh Sabri accused the Israeli occupation regime of "working on severing the Muslims' ties with the Aqsa Mosque and deluding the settlers into believing that Palestine is the land the Jews deserve and that the temple will be built on the ruins of Aqsa in order to entice more Jewish migrants to live in Palestine."

"The Aqsa Mosque has been living for three weeks in grief because of the occupation's decision to prevent [Muslim] worshippers from entering it for prayers under the pretext of coronavirus, which the occupation (Israel) is using to cover up its intents to Judaize Jerusalem," the Jerusalemite official said.

"The fire of the Aqsa Mosque has not been quenched and the massacres against it are committed repeatedly and in multiple forms, through banishment, detention, identity checks and other measures that are pursued by the occupation against the Jerusalemite to empty the Aqsa Mosque of its people," he added.

## QB warns Israeli gov't over hunger striker Akhras

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN**— Al-Quds Brigades (QB), the **d e s k** armed wing of Islamic Jihad, has held the Israeli government responsible for any harm that may happen to hunger-striking prisoner Maher al-Akhras.

This came in a video released last Friday by al-Quds Brigades. Its secretary-general Ziyad Nakhalah warned in that video of consequences if anything bad happened to hunger striker Akhras.

The video showed a number of rockets set for launch and pictures of the fires which such rockets had caused in the last round of skirmishes with Israel. The Brigades concluded the video by saying "Our patience will not be long" in Arabic and Hebrew.

Prisoner Akhras has been on hunger strike for 76 days in protest at his administrative detention.



## Russian museum considers lending arts for another Tehran show after four decades

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Pavel Borisovich Lurje, the director of the Oriental Department of Russia's State Hermitage Museum, has said that the museum considers holding joint exhibitions of the works related to Iranian and Central Asian culture and history after almost 40 years at the National Museum of Iran.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Iran's National Museum director Jebrael Nokandeh while visiting the museum on Saturday.



Lurje also expressed hope that the Russian museum will host exhibitions of works and relics being kept in Iran's National Museum in the near future.

Referring to the long history of collaboration between the two museums and joint exhibitions held in the 1970s, Nokandeh expressed his happiness that the two museums intend to deepen ties after a long time.

Last week, Lurje toured the north-central Iranian province of Semnan during a three-day trip, calling it one of the most important provinces of Iran in terms of history and archeology.

## Silk spinning, socks weaving, food making in Gilan added to National Heritage list

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Traditional skills of silk spinning and keeping silk cocoons, socks weaving, and making a variety of local dishes, which have long been practiced in northern Gilan province, have recently been inscribed on the National Heritage list.

For more than three millennia, silk thread produced in Iran has been used to make clothing fabric and for weaving Persian rugs and there are silk makers in Gilan, who still practice the trade their ancestors did some 3,000 years ago.



Kal Kebab, fried cheese, stuffed eggplant, black rice, a traditional dessert of Tian Halva, and stews of Baglavavich and Torsh Vash are among the local foods registered on the list.

Three more items in the region including the rainmaking ritual with Ketra Gisha doll, the game of Morghaneh Jang (war of eggs), and Elkaveh Bazeh were also added to the National Heritage list.

Bounded by the Caspian Sea and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the north, Gilan, in the far past, was within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE.

Sophisticated Rasht, capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action — it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

## Travel spots: Shokat Abad Garden

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — Shokat Abad Garden, an example of the celebrated Persian gardens, was built by the order of Ismail Khan Shokat ol-Molk from Alam family, near Birjand, the center of South Khorasan province.

Persian Gardens are one of the specifications of Iranian desert cities. A garden in the heart of the desert is a wonder that demonstrates the glory and genius of Iranian science and historical technologies.

Shokat Abad is a widespread garden that actually has fruit trees! Following the archetype structure of Persian gardens, there is a Kushk or pavilion in the central point which traces back to Qajar dynasty.

The pavilion has a white facade and a large terrace with two pillars and arches on their top. Decorative Goldani motifs can be seen in some parts. Multiple rooms have been built around and in the back of this terrace.

Shokat Abad is quite spectacular in terms of structure and architecture, even though the landscaping and building were conducted based on the plan that was meticulously prepared from before. The Howz Khaneh, a summer room usually with an octagonal plan, contains most decorations and details. There is a large vault over the Howz Khaneh which is roofed by Kolah Farangi, a type of dome that looks like a foreign headwear.

The holes devised in the structure provide the light of Howz Khaneh.

Shokat Abad garden has been built using vaults. Barrel vaults located in some of the rooms match the hot and dry weather of South Khorasan. It is notable that there are some parts that seem newer than the rest. They have been added to the building to fulfill the necessities of the people residing there.

# Unmissable museum in northwest Iran

→ 1 The museum is also choke-full with rare paper documents, pottery pieces, metalwork, glasswork, handwoven textiles, woodwork, carpets, manuscripts, candlesticks, and archaeological remains, amongst others. There is also a solo exhibit dedicated to sculptural allegories of life and war created by Iranian sculptor Ahad Hosseini.

There is also a hall featuring some remnants and personal belongings, and photographs related to the Persian Constitutional Revolution ("Enghelab-e Mashruteh"), which took place between 1905 and 1911, leading to the establishment of a parliament in Persia (Iran) during the Qajar era.

Visitors can find noteworthy works of art from European countries, such as bronze statues and hand-made pieces made of ivory and bone, as well as oil-on-canvas paintings.

The capital of East Azarbaijan province, Tabriz, which is well-soaked in history and culture for millennia, embraces several historical and religious sites, including Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few.

Tabriz became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and the Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

The ancient city was declared a world craft city of carpet weaving by the World Craft in 2016. It also bore the title of the Islamic Tourism Capital in 2018.

Here is a select of comments that visitors to the museum have posted to TripAdvisor, one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

■ **"Fascinating. A must for Tabriz"**  
Went there as a family with kids ranging from ages 8-17. It was really spectacular and a lot of artifacts are well over 2000 years old! Kids of all ages will find it fascinating and the guide said it's the most important museum in Tabriz. A must for anyone who loves history and would like to learn more



about Iran. Overall great experience. The staff is very friendly and helpful too. (Mohadeseh from Kuwait City, Kuwait)

■ **"Very good place to visit"**  
Interesting artifacts from everywhere in Iran... also very interesting coins from early Iranian kingdom(s) till now. (Faridfa from Elounda, Greece)

■ **"Interesting"**  
It mostly contains objects discovered from excavations in Iranian Azarbaijan, also some artworks and sculptures of artists. Apart from the National Museum of Iran in Tehran, Azarbaijan Museum has the largest collection belonging to different periods of Iran's history. You will have lots of useful information about Iran's history. (Banafsheh Tehrani from Tehran, Iran)

■ **"Small but very well done"**  
Good exhibits from the Urartic period, some Luristan bronzes, and a number of

others. Good signage. Excellent bookshop especially for books in Farsi, but I also found books in English that were nice to have. (KrisfromSF from San Francisco, the U.S.)

■ **"Amazing"**  
I was too excited during my visit to the Museum. It was not only about Iran. Don't lose it if you were in Tabriz. (Fredy\_Amst from Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

■ **"Azarbaijan Museum is Awesome !!!"**  
The Azarbaijan Museum in Tabriz, situated next to the famous Blue Mosque, maybe the nicest museum in Tabriz. It consists of three parts. When you enter, you will find the archaeological department, which tells the story of Azarbaijan from the fifth century until the Sassanian Age. On the first floor are displays of coins, from the Achaemenid period to the nineteenth century, and seals (from prehistory to the Sassanian age). In

**Highlights include relics excavated from Tepe Hasanlu, and Iron Age site situated near the city of Naghadeh, a short distance south of Lake Urmia, a superb millennia-old copper helmet, and a re-weave of the illustrious 'Ardebil' carpet, reckoned to be one of the best ever made; the original is beautifully displayed in the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.**

## Iranian tour operators in talks to find new markets in Russia

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ebrahim Pourfaraj on Sunday said that new rounds of negotiations have been commenced between Iranian tour operators, travel marketers, and their Russian counterparts.

"We've been commenced talks with some Russian travel agents to put Iranian destinations on their itineraries.... And the Iranian Tour Operators Association has also entered negotiations with Russian unions for outbound tours with the aim of attracting more travelers from Russia," CHTN quoted Pourfaraj as saying.

He also referred to a visa waiver program, which is being finalized for certain travel groups of the two countries, adding about 100 private persons from the field of handicrafts, tour operators, trade unions, etc. had announced their readiness to accompany the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ali-Asghar Mounesan during his upcoming visit to Moscow to ink the agreement.

"But in the current situation, limited numbers of the heads of [travel] organizations will be accompanying the minister for negotiations and reviewing the latest developments.... Or we might postpone it to a better time."

"In previous years, the number of Iranians who visited Russia was [much] higher than those who traveled to Iran from Russia and we are trying to reverse this trend with this positive development and the abolition of visas for travel

groups."

Pourfaraj had previously said that a majority of potential Russian travelers are unaware of vast tourist attractions that exist in every corner of Iran. "The fact is that Iran's political and economic relations with Russia are considered as good, but this has nothing to do with attracting tourists because it is directly connected with the Russian people. It is the Russian people who must choose Iran as their destination," he explained.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, the minister underlined that for visa waiver with Russia, Iran preferred its implication to be paused by delay to have time to conduct special assessments on kinds of potential Russian travelers, its demographic characteristics amongst others.

The main reason behind this is that we intend to improve the travel balance between Tehran and Moscow, he underlined. "As for the cancellation of visas for certain travel groups from Iran and Russia, this issue has been raised for more than two years. But we preferred to postpone that visa waiver program because to have time to meet the needs of typical Russian travelers who are interested in culture, nature, and sightseeing travels," Mounesan explained.

"Over the past two years, with learning from our previous experience of visa waivers for Oman and China, we have monitored the Russian market, and God willing, this visa cancellation will happen soon and we hope to have a good



share of [inbound] travelers from Russia."

"By monitoring the Russian tourism market, we came to the conclusion that the share of tourists interested in cultural and historical sites as well as the number of Muslims living in Russia, is significant."

In 2017, President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin inked a visa-free agreement for tourist groups. The agreement, however, seems to be implemented in the near future as a joint technical committee on Wednesday reached an initial agreement in this regard.

Iran has set a target to attract 20 million foreign tourists annually by 2025.

## Over \$70,000 allocated to restore historical Jundi Shapur

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — A budget of three billion rials (some \$71,000) has been allocated to implement a restoration and protection project on the ancient Jundi Shapur University in the southwestern city of Dezful.

The project includes repairing the various parts of the historical site, including water structures, historical bridges and the tomb of Yaqub Layth Saffari, the director of the historical site, Yaqub Zaleqi, said on Sunday.

Clearing the surrounding area of the excavation trench, protection, and restoration of the excavated architectural spaces, control and disposal of surface water, and remodeling



and repairing the collapsed walls are also in progress, the official added.

Back in August, the official announced that a documentation project is being car-

ried out on the ancient site with the aim of demarcating the historical area to prevent possible damage from agricultural activities as well as providing necessary infrastructures for the future projects in the site.

Jundi Shapur, also spelled as Gundi Shapur, was one of the world's birthplaces of knowledge and wisdom, which is a source of national pride and enthusiasm for Iranians.

The city was the intellectual center of the Sassanid Empire (224–651) and the home of the Academy of Jundi Shapur University, which offered education and training in medicine, philosophy, theology, and science.

The university was home to a teaching

the basement is a small restaurant, but here you will also find several tall bronze statues by Ahad Hosseini, an artist born in Tabriz. (Tarana B from Baku, Azerbaijan)

■ **"The strange 'stone purses' tell a fascinating story"**

During our trip through Western Iran, we saw very few museums; but this was unmissable.

It isn't very large, but the items on display are outstanding. Due to the number, the quality, and the variety of the archaeological finds, the museum seems to be inferior in Iran only to the archaeological museum of Tehran.

The museum - which is accessed by a door flanked by two stone rams of Urartu age (about 800 BC) consists of three large rooms superimposed, on the ground floor, on the first floor, and in the basement. We focused especially on the ground floor room. It is home to archaeological finds from various "tepe" (raised fortresses) of the region, and in particular, from the Hasanlu site, south-west of Lake Urmia, inhabited from the remote fifth millennium to the first millennium BC.

Among the finds that struck me most are two strange "purses" of gray-green stone, skillfully sculpted and decorated; according to the captions of the museum having the ceremonial function of a symbol of wealth; while other sources, much more prosaically, give it a weight function.

Upon returning from the trip, I tried to document myself on these strange "purses" and I learned that both the stone and the workmanship are attributed to the early Bronze Age civilization (late 3rd millennium BC) called "Jiroft", from the name of a site in south-eastern Iran (therefore very far from Tabriz, in the Baluchistan region), where many finds of this kind are present. But documents of this civilization are overall scattered in a belt that goes from Mesopotamia to the Indus Valley.

Many other items are belonging to all periods of Persian history up to the Qajar dynasty: statuettes, ceramics, cups, silverware, jewels, weapons, stuccos, stones with precious inscriptions, of both Achaemenid and medieval age.

There's also the impressive reconstruction of an Iron Age tomb with two skeletons, excavated at the nearby Blue Mosque.

Overall, even if you aren't fond of archeology, you should not miss this museum. (Brun066 from Florence, Italy)

## Permanent handicrafts market makes debut in Yasuj

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — The first permanent market for handicrafts has been established in Yasuj, southwestern Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province.

Some 25 crafters offer their handmade products in this market, which aims at developing sustainable employment, provincial tourism chief Majid Safai announced on Sunday.

A budget of 2.5 billion rials (about \$60,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to launch the market, the official added.

Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province is known for its nomads and nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Iran exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19). Of the figure, some \$273 million worth of handicrafts were export-

ed officially through customs, and about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces, according to data provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Traditional ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones were exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.



# COVID-19 taking high toll globally

By Faranak Bakhtiari

**TEHRAN** — COVID-19 is surging globally with 37.2 million infections and over 1 million mortalities, haunting countries that had apparent success in suppressing initial outbreaks.

Although the number of daily new cases had slowed in recent weeks, it is now rising again.

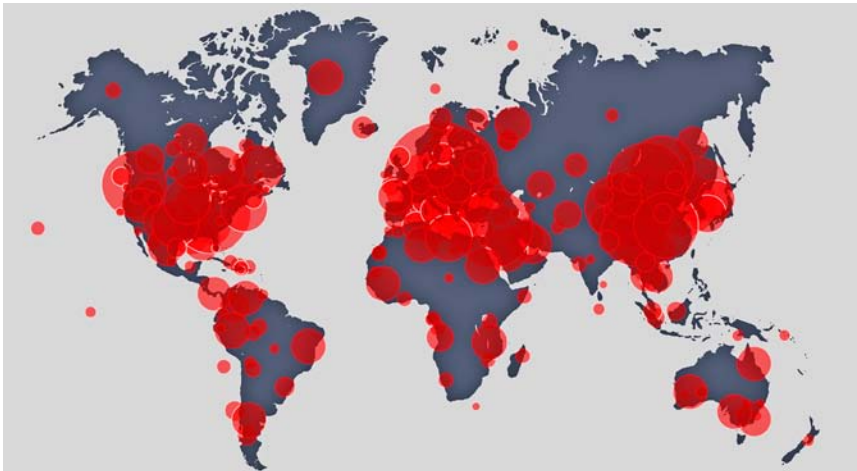
With over 214,000 fatalities, the U.S. has recorded the world's highest official death toll. It is also fast reaching eight million confirmed cases.

The second-highest official death toll in the world is related to India with over seven million confirmed cases.

In Iraq, the cases have been rising steadily since June, with the country having recorded more than 400,000 cases in total.

A number of European countries have re-imposed lockdowns and other restrictions in their worst-affected regions, and there have been fresh appeals for people to wear face coverings and follow social distancing rules.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that the global death toll from COVID-19 could more than double to two million before a successful vaccine is widely used — and could be even higher without



concerted action to curb the pandemic.

It says roughly one-in-ten people worldwide may have already been infected but that "the vast majority of the world remains at risk".

The infection rates are also soaring in Europe as a second wave surges across the continent since France and the Netherlands have reported record highs in daily coronavirus case numbers on Saturday, Spain has declared an emergency in its capital and

Germany is focusing efforts on hotspot cities.

A new record in daily cases has been reported in the Netherlands, hitting nearly 6,500 in 24 hours, prompting the government to warn of new restrictions across the country.

In Poland also new daily cases have jumped to 5,000 - a high for the fifth day in a row - while the government resisted closing the schools.

A new all-time record of daily coronavirus cases for Russia has been reported

too, with cases having risen by 12,846 on Saturday, pushing the overall number of infections to 1.3 million.

Iran also registered its highest daily death toll with 251 confirmed dead on Sunday.

Health Ministry spokesperson Sima Sadat Lari said this pushes the total confirmed death toll to 28,544, making it the hardest-hit country in the region.

A further 3,822 new cases were confirmed over the past 24 hours, raising the total nationwide recorded cases to 500,075. While 406,389 have recovered.

Some 4,482 other COVID-19 patients are in critical condition, she said, adding, 4,312,514 coronavirus tests have so far been carried out in Iran.

With all its smallness, COVID-19 challenged global governance to such an extent that even the most important global gathering was inevitably held virtually. So that, it once again reminds all of us members of human society that tackling common global issues is only possible through global participation.

As a global crisis needs global cooperation to be tackled, the coronavirus pandemic showed that in today's world many dangers can cross all boundaries and affect the whole world so that it magnifies the importance of international cooperation.

## Men with obese wives at higher risk of cardiovascular disease: study

SOCIETY

**TEHRAN** — The results of a 16-year study at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Tehran showed that men whose wives were obese or overweight had a higher risk of cardiovascular disease.

The research entitled "Spousal metabolic risk factors and future cardiovascular events: A prospective cohort study" was conducted by Iranian researchers and published in the *Atherosclerosis Journal*.

Farzad Hadaegh, the lead researcher of the study, said that couples share socioeconomic status, dietary patterns, and other environmental and lifestyle factors, but are genetically unrelated.

The results of this study emphasize the role of environmental factors, especially lifestyle behaviors of family members in the incidence of cardiovascular disease, and this may help to identify early at-risk individuals in the community and family to implement prevention programs, he explained.

The study assesses whether the individuals' risk of developing CVD was affected by the major metabolic risk factors in their spouses.

The results of this large prospective cohort provide evidence that having an overweight or obese spouse elevates men's risk of developing CVD even beyond the effect of the men's own risk factors. Spousal risk factors might be incorporated into the clinical guidelines and risk assessment tools to improve their utility for identifying individuals at increased risk for CVD.

A series of studies through the Golestan Cohort Study was conducted in the eastern portion of the Caspian Sea littoral 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.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of mortality and morbidity worldwide, and impose a major economic burden upon societies. More than 70 percent of CVD deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

In 2015, Iran was among the countries with the highest prevalence of CVD. CVDs are considered to be caused by both genetic and environmental factors. Many studies have reported the association of lifestyle behaviors such as smoking, unhealthy diet, low physical activity, and obesity with CVD events.



### ■ 300,000 Iranians die of NCDs annually

In February 2019, the health ministry announced that some 300,000 Iranians die of NCDs annually in Iran, which means that one-fourth of the country's population (standing at 80 million) are overweight or obese which also results in developing NCDs.

Diabetes, non-communicable diseases, is a serious threat to people's health and is the fifth leading cause of death in the country. Diabetes prevalence is 10 percent in Iran and is high among people aging 50 or more.

Cardiovascular diseases (mainly heart disease and stroke), which were the leading cause of death in 2012, diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders (especially osteoarthritis — a highly disabling degenerative disease of the joints), and some cancers (including endometrial, breast, ovarian, prostate, liver, gallbladder, kidney, and colon) are common health consequences of overweight and obesity, WHO warns.

Having too much sugar in the blood for long periods of time can contribute to serious health problems if it's not treated. Hyperglycemia can damage the vessels that supply blood to vital organs, which can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke, kidney disease, vision problems, and nerve problems.

Moreover, 30 percent of men and 36 percent of women aged 25 to 64 years also have high cholesterol due to overweight and obesity, consuming fast food, and insufficient physical activity.

**■ NCDs, a global health threat**  
NCDs kill 41 million people each year, equivalent to 71% of all deaths globally. Each year, 15 million people die from an NCD between the ages of 30 and 69 years; over 85% of these "premature" deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths, or 17.9 million people annually, followed by cancers (9.0 million), respiratory diseases (3.9 million), and diabetes (1.6 million). These 4 groups of diseases account for over 80% of all premature NCD deaths.

## Over 8,500 plasma units donated during pandemic

SOCIETY

**TEHRAN** — Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, 8,550 units of plasma have been donated, Bashir Haji Beigi, spokesman for the Blood Transfusion Organization has announced.

Following the outbreak of coronavirus, doctors, pharmacists, scientists, and others are looking for a way to control the virus, and so far many studies and researches have been done in this regard.

One of the studies showed that the plasma driven from recovered patients can be used in the treatment of COVID-19 with the help of the patient's immune system. Convalescent plasma therapy allows someone who has recovered from a coronavirus infection to donate their blood plasma to someone who is critically ill.

The best time for plasma donation is at least 14 and preferably 28 days after recovery, and donors should age 18 to 60 years.

Plasma therapy has so far reduced coronavirus deaths in Iran by 40 percent as proved to be a life-saving method for those recovering from COVID-19.

The highest number of plasma donors were from the provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, Khuzestan, Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran, and West Azarbaijan, he noted.

**■ National blood donation campaign**  
Some 4,012 people referred to the blood transfusion centers and donated blood on the day of Arbāeen, which is marked to commemorate 40 days after the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) in the month of Muharram.

A national blood donation campaign has been launched during the month of Muharram for forty days since Tasua (the ninth day of the month), he said.

The number of blood donors on Arbāeen has increased by 5.5 percent compared to last year, and the largest number of blood donors belonged to the provinces of Tehran, East Azarbaijan, Fars, West Azarbaijan, and Khorasan Razavi.

During the first six months of this year (March 21-September 22), 1,193,668 people referred to blood transfusion centers across the country to donate blood. During this period, 940,739 blood units were donated, he explained.

**■ Blood donation in Iran**  
While blood donation in 70 countries still depends on replacement or paid donors, Iran is the first country in the region that has enjoyed voluntary blood donation by 100 percent since 2007.

More than 85 percent of all donated blood worldwide is used to produce blood products, while the rate is 65 percent in Eastern Mediterranean countries. Iran ranks



among the highest-income countries in terms of converting more than 97 percent of the blood donated by people to plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMP).

Only 55 of 171 countries produce PDMP through the fractionation of plasma collected in the reporting country. A total of 90 countries reported that all PDMP are imported, 16 countries reported that no PDMP was used during the reporting period, and 10 countries did not respond to the question, according to WHO.

Iran currently has the highest blood donation rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region so that out of 9.9 million blood donation units in this region, more than two million belongs to Iran.

Also, the index of blood donation is 25 per 1,000 populations, while in the member states of the Eastern Mediterranean region, this number is 14.9 per 1000.

### ■ Blood donation saves millions of lives

According to the World Health Organization, blood transfusion saves millions of lives and improves health, but many patients requiring transfusion do not have timely access to safe blood. Providing safe and adequate blood should be an integral part of every country's national health care policy and infrastructure.

About 117.4 million blood donations are collected worldwide. 42 percent of these are collected in high-income countries, home to 16 percent of the world's population.

About 12,700 blood centers in 170 countries report collecting a total of 100 million donations. Collections at blood centers vary according to income group. The median annual donation per blood center is 1,300 in the low-income countries, 4,100 in lower-middle-income countries, and 8,500 in upper-middle-income countries, as compared to 23,000 in the high-income countries.

Data about the gender profile of blood donors show that globally 32 percent of blood donations are given by women, although this ranges widely. In 14 of the 119 reporting countries, less than 10 percent of donations are given by female donors.

## Northwestern wetlands hosting myriads of migratory birds

ENVIRONMENT

**TEHRAN** — With the onset of the cold season, wetlands in the northwestern province of Ardebil are hosting tens of thousands of migratory birds, Saeed Shahand, head of the provincial department of environment, has said.

Migratory birds such as swans, geese, ducks, coots, cormorants, cranes, herons, sandpipers, and a number of birds of prey have entered the country from the northern regions, especially the Siberia, he said, adding, some of them will stay in Ardebil province until spring and some others migrate to warmer regions, like the Caspian Sea.

He pointed out that there are more than 52,000 hectares of wetlands in the province, and called on wildlife lovers to prevent hunting and trapping of birds or the destruction of wetland habitats.

Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They store water and ensure its quality, providing resilience against drought. They play a central role in sustainable development by supplying all our freshwater.

Wetlands play a major role in protecting the land against floods and the impacts of storms. They provide food and diverse habitats which support genetic, species, and ecosystem biodiversity. Wetlands play a key role in the life cycles of many species and in annual migration patterns.

Unfortunately, wetlands are being degraded and lost due to pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and human population growth. In recognition of these challenges, the RAMSAR Convention, an international treaty, was adopted in 1971.

There are 80 big and small wetlands in the country, 24 sites designated as wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites) out of 2,290 worldwide. About one-third of Iran's 24 sites are under pressure or in a critical condition.

Chief of the DOE Issa Kalantari has said in order to restore wetlands in the country a budget of 600 trillion rials (nearly \$14 billion) is required.



## Cold winter with heavy snowfalls awaiting: IMO

SOCIETY

**TEHRAN** — According to meteorological maps, Iran will be facing a cold winter with heavy snowfalls this year, Sahar Tajbakhsh, head of the Meteorological Organization (IMO), has said.

Almost all the country will experience heavy snow, but the provinces on high altitudes will receive heavier snowfall, she stated.

This is what the maps currently show and if any changes occur, it will be announced, she concluded.

Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management said that precipitation in Iran is expected to meet normal or lower than normal averages over autumn.

Some experts claim that Iran has entered a period of a wet spell after experiencing dry spells over the past few decades, some others highly reject the claim implying that the country faced a lack of rain by 50mm over the past 5 decades.

Rainfall extremes over the past three years slowly questioned the conception that Iran is experiencing a long-term drought and some of the experts announced that a wet spell will embrace the country.

Although statistics show that Iran's weather patterns are changing toward entering a period of consecutive rainy days, given the country's climate characteristic constantly experiencing intense wet and dry spells, it cannot be accurate to claim that drought is over.

Experiencing two or three consecutive years of rainy days cannot ensure that drought no longer hits the country, but then it may enter a multi-year drought.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 34)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

■ Indefinite	نَکَرِه = کتابِ کار
۱. یک دوست	یک دوست ← دوست
۲. دوست	دوست + ی ← دوستی /dusti/
۳. یک دوست	یک دوست + ی ← دوستی

The first and the second are both formal and informal; the third one is usually used as an informal structure in speech.

● Exercise 3. Make indefinite with یک and ی :

- تمرین
- دکتر
- درس
- مادر
- دختر
- غلط

■ Object Marker رَا، یشانه‌ی مَفْعُول = کتابِ کار

را follows a noun or a phrase which is used as the object of a verb, and the object is definite and specific:

من تو را دوست دارم. او مرا دوست دارد. (تو = من را، تو را)

● Exercise 4. Rewrite sentences requiring را :

- ما این کتاب دوست داریم.
- بچه‌ها آن کتاب می‌خوانند.
- آنها این پتیر نمی‌خورند.
- مهسا مهدیس دوست دارد.
- او هر روز این درس می‌خواند.
- صبح‌ها جای می‌خورد یا قهوه؟

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → چ

## Iran to implement food safety program

A food safety document will be approved and implemented in the future in the country, Vahid Mofid, an official with the Food and Drug Administration has stated.

The document is consisting of standards through which food safety is best ensured; the whole food production process from cultivation to markets will be under control, it also identifies and controls hazards in the production, manufacturing and handling of food rather than relying on end product standards alone, he explained.

## اجرای سند ایمنی غذا در حال پیگیری است

مدیرکل فرآورده‌های غذایی و آشامیدنی سازمان غذا و دارو درباره وضعیت فعلی سند ایمنی غذا گفت: سند ایمنی غذا در حال تکمیل شدن است و تا پس از طی مراحل اداری اجرا شود.

وحید مفید روز جمعه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: با این سند، نظارت بر کل حلقه‌های تولید در زنجیره غذا از مزرعه تا سفره تحت کنترل بخش‌های مختلف درمی‌آید و میزان سموم مصرفی، انواع کودهای مصرف شده و چگونگی حمل مواد غذایی و توزیع آن، نوع آب و آبیاری زمین‌ها در سند ایمنی غذا تعریف شده است چراکه این عوامل در کیفیت محصول غذایی تأثیرگذار هستند.



INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
www.tehrantimes.com

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» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com

» Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79

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

Only trust those who believe in Allah and are afraid of His questioning on the Day of Judgment.

Imam Hussein (AS)

## “Yalda” director Masud Bakhshi named best at Antalya Golden Orange festival

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Masud Bakhshi was crowned best at the 57th Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival in Turkey on Saturday for his “Yalda: A Night for Forgiveness”.



Sadaf Asgari acts in a scene from “Yalda: A Night for Forgiveness”.

As a co-production between Iran and Norway, the movie is about Maryam, a young woman who has been sentenced to death for murdering her husband, Nasser. Iranian law allows the victim's family to forgive her and spare her life, so Maryam's fate will be decided by Nasser's daughter, Mona, on the country's most popular televised reality show. In front of millions of viewers during Yalda, the winter solstice celebration, Maryam and Mona discover that forgiveness can be difficult as they relive the past.

The film, which won the Grand Jury Prize of the World Cinema Dramatic section of the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah in February, has a chance of being selected as Iran's submission to the 93rd Academy Awards in the best foreign-language film category.

Bosnian filmmaker Jasmila Zbanic's multinational drama “Quo Vadis, Aida?” was picked as best film at the Antalya festival by the jury composed of Iranian actress and director Niki Karimi, Romanian producer Ada Solomon, Turkish filmmaker Emin Alper, Tribeca Film Festival artistic director Frederic Boyer and American filmmaker Sandra Kogut.

The award for best actor was shared by Ali Suliman for his role in Palestinian director Ameen Nayfeh's “200 Meters” and Salim Daw for his role in “Gaza Mon Amour” directed by Tarzan Nasser from Palestine.

Natasa Stork was named best actress for her role in “Preparations to Be Together for an Unknown Period of Time” by Hungarian director Lili Horvát.

In the national competition, “Ghosts” directed by Azra Deniz Okyaya and produced by Dilek Aydin won the award for best film, while “Phases of Matter” by Deniz Tortum received the best documentary award.



## “This Side, Other Side” wins UNICEF Award at Bratislava animation biennial

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Lida Fazli's movie “This Side, Other Side” has won the UNICEF Award at the 15th Biennial of Animation Bratislava, an international festival of animated films for children that took place in the Slovakian capital from October 5 to 9.



This Side, Other Side” by Iranian director Lida Fazli.

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

The animated movie is a production from Iran's Documentary and Experimental Film Center.

“Daughter” by Daria Kashcheeva from Czech received the Sv. Vojtech Award.

The Children's Spectator Award went to “The Peculiar Crime of Oddball Mr. Jay” by Bruno Caetano from Portugal, and “The Kite” by Martin Smatana from Slovakia won the Viktor Kubal Award.

Iranian animators are frequent visitors to the Bratislava festival.

In 2018, “Icky” by Iranian director Parastu Kardgar won the UNICEF Award. The film uses original means to tackle the issue of difference and integration, and lifts up the unique nature of an individual, echoing UNICEF's work ethos.

# Resistance festival to review films on Commander Soleimani

**→1** The organizers have so far received over 700 submissions, including videos, short films, screenplays and mostly documentaries in this section.

The festival has been organized in two stages, the first of which took place during the Sacred Defense Week from September 21 to 28.

The second part of the festival will be held from November 21 to 27 to celebrate the anniversary of Basij Day, which falls on November 25.

Following the assassination of Commander Soleimani during a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad on January 3, several other cultural events in Iran established awards in memory of the chief of the Quds Force, the overseas arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

First of them was the Fajr Film Festival, which announced it would honor films on resistance and jihad with an award named after Soleimani.

The award went to “Abadan 11, 60” directed



A poster for “Resistance of Prominent Martyr Section”.

by Mehrdad Khoshbakht about the people's fight against Iraqi forces in the southwestern

Iranian city of Abadan during the early months of the Iran-Iraq war.

## Designs by Iranian architects win at WA Awards



“Home” by Iranian architect Mohammad-Hossein Mohammadpur Parchebafi won a WA Award in the architecture design category.

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Several Iranian architects and interior designers have been honored at the 35th edition of the WA Awards, which is organized by the World Architecture Community.

The awards are presented in the two categories of architecture and interior design.

“Home”, a project by Mohammad-Hossein Mohammadpur Parchebafi won the honor in the student architecture projects.

The project based on the childlike imagination of home form is an attempt to provide shelters and temporary housing for vulnerable groups, especially children, during floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

Two designs by Iranian architects were also honored in the student interior design projects.

A design by Sajjad Navidi for the Shانه-Ghazan Metro Station in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz

is one of the winners.

The station is located in the historic district of Shانه-Ghazan. Due to the historic site, the design of the station is of great importance.

Seyyed Mohammad-Hossein Rahmati's design of the lobby of Tehran's Dafineh Museum, a showcase for coins and banknotes, was also honored.

The WA Awards highlights and recognizes remarkable projects that have the potential to inspire exciting questions about contemporary architectural discourse, the organizers have said.

Participants from around the globe, and in particular from regions less covered by general or specialized media, get a chance to share and promote their projects.

The designs are selected by the votes of honorary members and winners in earlier editions, and winners are picked through the ratings of the community members.

## “The Eleventh Step”, “The Kites” competing in Cinekid festival

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian movies “The Kites” and “The Eleventh Step” have been selected to compete in the 34th edition of Cinekid, the world's largest film festival for children, which is currently underway in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

“The Kites” directed by Seyyed Payam Hosseini is competing in the short section of the festival.

The film tells the story of a girl whose kite flies away along the Iraqi-Iranian border of Kurdistan. She calls three boys for help. However, the children are not



This combination photo shows posters for the Iranian short films “The Kites” by Seyyed Payam Hosseini and “The Eleventh Step” by Maryam Kashkulinia.

only separated by a river, but also by the explosive legacies of past wars.

It was screened in the Generation section of the 70th edition of the Berlin International Film Festival in February and March.

Directed by Maryam Kashkulinia, “The Eleventh Step” has been selected to be screened in the short animation competition.

The animated film has been produced based on children's writer Susan Taqdis's acclaimed story “The Eleventh Step” that is about a lion cub that never dared to take

one more step toward its freedom when the zookeeper forgot to lock its cage's door.

Taqdis was honored at Iran's Book of the Year Awards for “The Eleventh Step” in 2008.

“The Eleventh Step” has been screened in several international events, including the Supertoon International Animation Festival in Croatia and the Annecy International Animated Film Festival in France.

The Cinekid festival opened at the Eye Film Museum on October 7 and will run until October 24.

## IIDCYA publishes “Bride of the Sea” on Lake Urmia

**CULTURE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A selection of short stories written by 14 Iranian authors about Lake Urmia has been published in a collection named “The Bride of the Sea”.

The two-volume collection suitable for young adults above 15 has been published by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA).

The book carries stories by Mohammad-Kazem Akhavan, Mohammadreza Yusefi, Azam Mahdavi, Abbas Jahangirian, Zahra Abdi, Mostafa Kharaman, Ezzatollah Alvandi and several other writers.

The stories have been illustrated Shima Zarei, Maral Dehqani, Reza Maktabi, Maryam Tabatabai and Samaneh Salavati.

Lake Urmia, located in the northwest of Iran, was once the most extensive permanent hypersaline lake in the world. Unsustainable water management in response to increasing demand together with climatic extremes has given rise to the lake's depletion during the last two decades. The lake's restoration program



Front covers of the collection “The Bride of the Sea” published by the IIDCYA.

was established in 2013 and aims to restore the lake within a 10-year period.

## Robert Irwin’s “Dangerous Knowledge” comes to Persian bookstores

**CULTURE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — “Dangerous Knowledge: Orientalism and Its Discontents”, the 2006 non-fiction book by British historian Robert Irwin, has recently been published by Mahi Publications in Tehran.

The book has been rendered into Persian by Mohammad Dehqani.

An alternate history of the disparaged intellectual tradition of Orientalism explores how Western scholars of Islamic culture came to be vilified as agents of European imperialism, in an account that profiles

the intellectual and eccentric figures who introduced the Islamic world to America.

The publication of Edward Said's hugely influential Orientalism in 1981 called into question the entire history of the Western study of Islamic culture, condemning this scholarly tradition as one that presented inaccurate and deliberately demeaning representations of Islamic peoples and institutions so much so that the words “Oriental” and “Orientalist” have come to take on the most negative connotations.

But what is Orientalism, and who were the

Orientalists, and how did Western scholars of Islamic culture come to be vilified as insidious agents of European imperialism?

In Irwin's groundbreaking new history, he answers this question with a detailed and colorful story of the motley crew of intellectuals and eccentrics who brought an understanding of the Islamic world to the West. In a narrative that ranges from an analysis of Ancient Greek perceptions of the Persians to a portrait of the first Western European translators of Arabic to the contemporary Muslim world's perceptions

of the Western study of Islam, Irwin affirms the value of the Orientalists' legacy, not only for the contemporary scholars who have disowned it, but also for anyone committed to fostering the cross-cultural understanding.

“Dangerous Knowledge” is a both riveting and entertaining history, a bold argument and an urgent redress of conceptions about Western culture's relationship with its nearest neighbor.

Irwin is also the author of “The Arabian Nightmare”, “Exquisite Corpse” and “The Limits of Vision”.

## Richelle Mead’s “The Emerald Sea” published in Persian

**CULTURE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of American fantasy author Richelle Mead's book “The Emerald Sea” has recently been published by Tandis Publishing House in Tehran.

The book is the final installment in Mead's sweeping, enthralling Glittering Court series and has been translated into Persian by Rojan Boluri.

Tamsin Wright is unstoppable. She must become the Glittering Court's diamond: the girl with the highest test scores, the most glamorous wardrobe, and the greatest opportunities to match with an elite suitor in the New World.

Training alongside other girls in the Glittering Court, Tamsin immerses herself completely in lessons about etiquette, history and music, everything a high-society wife would need to know. Once she's married, she'll be able to afford

a better life for her family, so the sacrifice is worth it if she can be the best.

When her friendship with Mira and Adelaide, her roommates at the Glittering Court, threatens her status as the top-ranked prospect, she does the only thing she knows will keep her on track: she cuts them out of her life. But when her voyage across the sea goes off course, Tamsin must use her unrelenting grit and determination to survive the harsh winter far north of her intended destination in hopes of making it back to the Glittering Court in time to secure a proposal, and a comfortable future for her family.

Experiencing new cultures and beliefs for the first time, Tamsin realizes that her careful studies haven't prepared her for everything, and with new alliances formed with roguish

tradesman Jago Robinson and good-natured minister Gideon Stewart, Tamsin's heart begins to be pulled in different directions. But she can't let her brewing attraction get in the way of her ultimate goal: protecting the secret she holds closest to her heart, the one that would unravel everything she's worked for if it's uncovered.

Mead is the author of the international bestselling Vampire Academy series, the Bloodlines series, the Glittering Court series, and the Age of X series. Her love of fantasy and science fiction began at an early age when her father read her Greek mythology and her brothers made her watch Flash Gordon.

She went on to study folklore and religion in college, and when not writing, Richelle spends her time drinking lots of coffee, watching reality TV and shopping for dresses.