



**Iran, Iraq reach agreement to unblock Iranian assets** **3**



**Iran Professional League 2020/21 fixtures released** **3**

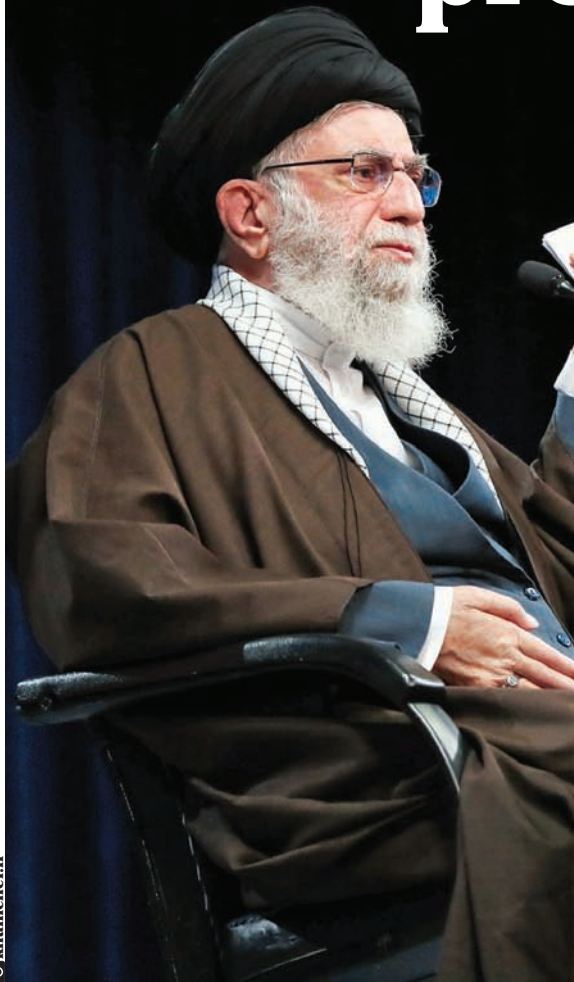


**Iranian biotechnology ranks 12th in world, first in West Asia** **7**



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## We turn maximum pressure to maximum disgrace for U.S.



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## Iran expected to attract \$6b of foreign investment by Mar. 2021

**TEHRAN** — Iran is expected to attract \$6 billion of foreign investment by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021), Director-General of Foreign Investment Office of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran (OIETAI) Abolfazl Koudeie said.

"In the first half of the previous year, the amount of foreign investment attracted

was \$1.463 billion, which has currently reached \$3.8 billion and by the end of this year, the amount of foreign investment is expected to reach \$6 billion," Koudeie said.

The official noted that according to the goals set for the country's economic development, including eight percent economic growth, the government plans to boost attracting foreign investment. **→4**

## UN arms embargo will be lifted by October 18: Foreign Ministry

**TEHRAN** — Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, said on Monday that a UN arms embargo on Iran will come to an end by mid-October.

Speaking at a weekly press conference, Khatibzadeh said, "Next week at 03:30 on October 18, arms restrictions stipulated in [UN Security Council] Resolution 2231 will be terminated."

He added, "This is happening five years

after the ratification of the JCPOA. The next week is the fifth anniversary of the ratification of the JCPOA. On October 18, both licensing for arms exports and imports and travel restrictions on 23 individuals will be terminated."

Khatibzadeh said October 18 will mark the "defeat of America," which, despite "bullying and deception" failed to extend the UN arms embargo on Iran. **→3**

## Doc depicts charisma of Imam Khomeini among Iraqi army under Saddam Hussein

**TEHRAN** — A documentary newly made at the Islamic Revolution Documentary House illustrates the charisma of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, among Iraqi soldiers and officers during the 1980s when the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein launched a war against Iran.

The five-episode documentary entitled "Aboo Taaha" directed by Hassan Qahramani has been made over three years.

"This documentary studies the impacts of the Islamic Revolution and Imam Khomeini's influence on the enemy's front-line over the eight-year war," Qahramani said in a press release on Monday. **→8**

By Ebrahim Fallahi  
Tehran Times journalist

## Iran on the way toward developing general aviation

**TEHRAN** — Having the oldest airline in West Asia and second oldest in Asia, Iran started developing its aviation industry nearly 80 years ago and this industry is still improving in the country, however despite its long history general aviation (GA) in Iran has been almost completely neglected.

General aviation represents all civil aviation aircraft operations other than a commercial air transport or an aerial work operation. This field is in fact the most important sector in many countries' civil aviation operations and services since it comprises a wide range of areas which would bring millions of dollars into the countries' economies.

Realizing the significance of this sector, over the past few years the Iranian government has also started several programs for developing the country's general aviation industry to compensate for years of neglect.

Launching "Air Taxi" services across the country has been chosen as the first step to this end, and the plan is being seriously followed to launch several air taxi lines in various provinces by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2021).

In this regard, the Tehran Times interviewed aviation industry expert Arman Bayat, who is also a consultant to Iran Airports Company (IAC) in its Air Taxi Program, to have a more detailed look into the measures taken and the achievements in this regard.

### Air Taxi and necessary infrastructure

Asked about the reasons for choosing air taxi as the first project in the country's plans for developing the general aviation industry, Bayat explained: "An air taxi is a small commercial aircraft which makes short flights on demand and many of the country's airports already have the necessary infrastructure to support such operations and no drastic changes would be needed for launching this service, that's why this project was chosen as the first step in this journey."

According to Bayat, nearly 80 percent of the country's airports are currently inactive because they do not comply with international standards for receiving large-scale aircrafts and commercial flights so by launching air taxi all these idle airports would become operational and productive once again. **→4**

## Unilateral coercive measures may hamper global efforts to combat pandemic: Iran's health minister

**TEHRAN** — Unilateral coercive measures may not only hamper effective interventions in combating the pandemic but in general terms, will hinder our global goals and regional commitment to achieve Universal Health Coverage, Health Minister Saeed Namaki said.

He made the remarks during the 67th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean held virtually on October 12 – 15 hosted by Cairo, Egypt.

COVID Pandemic which strikes our Region very strongly had offered several lessons to be learned at national, regional, and global levels. Leadership, solidarity, "Whole of Government, Whole of Society approach", community engagement, intersectoral collaborations, evidence-based interventions, and inter-country coordination are necessary instruments for COVID pandemic management, he stated.

In addition, we have to strengthen IT in-

frastructure to provide more reliable data, as well as Tele-medicine and Tele-education in the new era, he added.

Meanwhile, unilateral coercive measures may not only hamper effective interventions in combating the pandemic but in general, terms, will hinder our global goals and regional commitment to achieve Universal Health Coverage, he highlighted.

He went on to say that WHO has the central role in global coordination of activities to fight and manage the disease, therefore I would like to call upon all Member States and international organizations for strong support to WHO leadership.

Together we can overcome this pandemic and in this sustained fight, our brave and dedicated health professionals and community health workers have offered a critical role, he said. **→7**

## Army would refuse order to crack down on possible peaceful protests after Nov. 3 elections: professor

By Mohamad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** — An American professor is of the opinion that the U.S. Army would not obey a possible order to suppress peaceful protesters who may not accept the result of the November 3 presidential elections.

Richard Anderson, professor of political science at the University of California (UCLA), tells the Tehran Times that armed forces would "refuse an order to intervene unless the protesters were armed and used their weapons."

Possible intervention of the army has been raised since Donald Trump, who is seeking reelection, has made claims of vote rigging, creating a concern that his loyalists may resort to violence if he loses the election in the competition with Joe Biden.

Just carrying weapons is not an insurrection, according to Anderson

"U.S. military law prohibits obeying illegal orders, and the military, which does not want to intervene, would use that prohibition to refuse

an order under the Insurrection Act," he notes.

The following is the text of the interview:

■ How do you assess Trump's performance as the president of the U.S.?

A: In a word, appalling.

■ What is the international position of America? Is foreign policy important for the voters?

A: International position is hard to change. Foreign states' economies remain dependent on the U.S. market, and the U.S. military remains dominant worldwide. **→5**



## National plan for Kashan as capital of Nahj-ul-Balaghah launched

**TEHRAN** — National plan for Kashan as the capital of the Nahj-ul-Balaghah of Imam Ali (AS) was launched during a special meeting on Monday.

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance selected the central Iranian city, famous for its rosewater and historical monuments, as the capital of the Nahj-ul-Balaghah in August.

The choice was officially announced by Deputy Culture Minister Abdolhadi Feqhizadeh. **→8**

## The legend of Alexander's Prison in central Iran

**TEHRAN** — Passed down through generations, myths and legends are the traditional stories that hold distinct significance to a society or culture, particularly those which are deeply rooted in time.

Alexander's Prison (locally called "Zendaan-e Eskandar"), is a legendary place named after Alexander the Great, also known as Alexander of Macedonia, who overthrew the Persian Empire in about 330 BC.

The mysterious place is located in one of the old neighborhoods of Yazd, in central Iran. However, as a modern visitor, what you see is like a centuries-old domed building made of bricks, clay, and mortar; it does not match a prison or so at all.

The complex, however, contains a deep, circular, brick-lined pit almost 10 meters in diameter resembling an ancient dungeon found at the heart of the old. There is also a well and some nooks in the courtyard.

The most vigorous account arises from a reference to a poem of Hafez, the industrious 14th-century Persian poet Khwaja Shams al-Din Mu'ammad 'afe?-e Shirazi, known by his pen name Hafez.

According to the legend, a deep well in the middle of the courtyard of the structure was in fact built by Alexander the Great and used as a dungeon.

Some locals say that Alexander's Prison, or the Zia'ia school in the Fahadan neighborhood of Yazd, was built on the request of Alexander the Great, during his invasion of Iran, centuries before the complex being modified and reconstructed as a school.

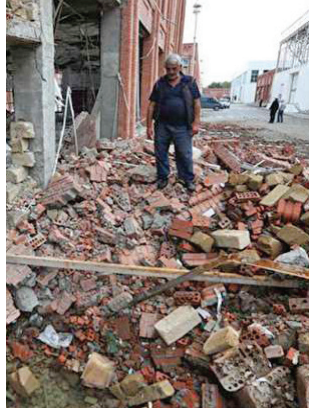
There are recounts saying the religious school has no connection to Alexander. Another alternative suggests the name comes from the claim that it was built by Alexander the Great as a prison for some Persian protesters... **→6**



## Tehran condemns killing of civilians in Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has condemned the killing of civilians in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict, urging the two sides to exercise restraint.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed regret over the violation of the announced ceasefire in the recent clashes between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia and invites the sides to further exercise restraint,” Khatibzadeh said, Mehr reported on Monday.



“Iran condemns missile attacks on infrastructures, civilian areas and killing of civilians and expresses sympathy with the bereaved families of the victims,” he added.

The spokesman further emphasized that Iran invites the two sides to be committed to the ceasefire and continue talks within the international framework and respect each other's territorial integrity and evacuate the occupied cities.

Tehran announces its readiness to facilitate such talks in order to reach a resolution that would lead to regional peace, Foreign Ministry official added.

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

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

The two sides agreed to a ceasefire starting on Saturday to exchange prisoners and bodies of those killed in the conflict. However, each side has since accused the other of breaking the agreement. Armenia and Azerbaijan also accused each other of bombarding civilian areas ahead of the ceasefire.

The talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia were held in Moscow and were the first diplomatic contact between them since September 27. Hundreds of people have died and thousands been displaced since the latest violence broke out.

## Three terrorists killed in IRGC operations in Kurdistan province

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced on Monday that its forces have launched two operations against terrorist groups in the Kamyaran and Marivan regions of Kurdistan province this week.

According to the statement, which was issued by the IRGC's Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohada unit, three terrorist elements were killed during the operations and three others were injured, one of whom was captured.

The IRGC added that large quantities of weapons, ammunition, and communication equipment have also been seized by its forces, Mehr reported.

## Iran condemns U.S. sanctions on medical, humanitarian supplies

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** – The Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights condemned the recent U.S. sanctions on Iranian banks, saying the restrictions are harming the health of people by limiting the country's access to medicine and other humanitarian supplies.



“Enforcement and intensification of unjust, illegal and inhuman sanctions by the U.S. regime and their implementation by certain European countries... have not only caused problems for Iran's normal economic, financial and banking relations, but also made purchase of drugs, diagnostic kits, and laboratory equipment practically impossible amid difficult conditions caused by the coronavirus pandemic,” the Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights said in a statement on Sunday.

“The U.S. regime had already embarked on committing 'crime against humanity' through its unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA and imposing toughest sanctions against the Iranian nation,” it added.

“Most recently, through imposition of illegal sanctions on Iran's semi-public and private banks with the goal of creating obstacles on the way of access to food and medicine and humanitarian equipment, (the U.S.) has opened a new chapter in its records of crimes against humanity while demonstrating the acme of its vile nature and hostility toward the Iranian nation,” the statement noted, Press TV reported.

“Imposing sanctions on these banks, which provided remarkable services for obtaining humanitarian aid as well as procurement of food and medicine, has clearly encroached on people's right to medicine and food, which is another instance of violation of human rights and international law,” it added.

Iran's High Council for Human Rights further said despite the U.S. claims that humanitarian affairs are not covered by sanctions, blocking financial transactions between Iran and the world has practically obstructed importation of humanitarian articles and drugs used to treat people with serious diseases.

“These are only a few examples of how the U.S. regime's brutal and criminal sanctions have affected the Iranian nation's basic and inviolable rights. As attested to by the American officials' remarks, measures taken by the law-breaking regime of America have clearly taken aim at the health and lives of people and are considered 'crime against humanity,’” the statement added.

It urged all freedom-seeking countries and nations across the world, particularly Western countries and human rights bodies, to condemn the latest “criminal act” by the U.S. administration in imposing sanctions on 18 Iranian banks.

# Ayatollah Khamenei: We turn maximum pressure to maximum disgrace for U.S.

Leader shrugs off anti-Iran ‘noise’ by ‘thuggish’ White House dwellers

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has shrugged off the anti-Iran “noise” made by the “thugs” ruling the United States, noting the Islamic Republic will turn the Trump administration's maximum pressure on Iran to “maximum disgrace” for the White House.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said Iran's economic problems mostly resulting from sanctions are solvable.

“The economic and livelihood problems of the people can be resolved, therefore, the noise made by the thugs ruling the American nation should not occupy anyone's mind,” Ayatollah Khamenei said in remarks on Monday.

The Leader added that the thugs in the White House make nonsensical remarks about Iran's missile and regional capabilities due to the precise and wise calculations of the Islamic Republic to reach such capabilities.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a videoconference with the military commanders and certain military units attending the joint graduation ceremony for the cadets studying in the academies of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces.

“Of course, we do not ignore the malicious role of the Americans and their sanctions, which truly are crimes, and we continue to



resist until, with God's grace, we turn the U.S.'s maximum pressure to maximum disgrace and a cause of regret for them,” he pointed out.

Tensions started to build up between the U.S. and Iran after U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the 2015 deal, officially known as the Joint Com-

prehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018, and imposed sanctions against Tehran in a bid to put “maximum pressure” on the Islamic Republic.

The Trump administration has also made empty calls for talks, but the Islamic Republic maintains that as long as the sanctions are in place and the U.S. refuses to return to the JCPOA, negotiations will be meaningless.

The commander-in-chief of the Iranian Armed Forces also described security as a major value, lauding the young cadets for ensuring the country's security by enrolling in military universities.

**“Although many of our problems are related to outside of the country, but their cure is in the country,” Ayatollah Khamenei notes.**

## Envoy criticizes IAEA chief over remarks on Iran nuclear program

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations has criticized the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for using irrelevant terms in his remarks on Iran's nuclear program, saying such terms have no place in the IAEA's documents.

“Drawing self-made criteria such as ‘breakout’ and ‘significant quantity’ for countries which are enriching uranium under the IAEA's surveillance is non-relevant and has no status in the IAEA legal documents,” Kazem Gharibabadi stated on Sunday.

The remarks came after 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 — Grossi 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.”

Gharibabadi said that there are “more than 1300 tons of HEU and 300 tons of Plutonium in the world and according to the SIR 2019, total SQ also amounts to 216448 (8 pct more since 2015). What a dangerous world we are living in?!”

“Can Rafael Grossi tell us that what is the number of SQ for N5 and NNWS such as the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Brazil and Argentina. Better not to measure the activities under Safeguards in this way! Weapon/civilian grade material may be a better definition,” he added.

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 termination 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 and added new harsh ones.

## Britain's debt to Iran growing day by day, Iran says

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has rejected any link between the British government's debt to Iran and the release of dual British-Iranian national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, saying Britain's debt is growing day by day.

“England has a definite debt to Iran and the debt is growing day by day due to the delay in its repayment,” Khatibzadeh said during a press conference on Monday. “These delays are unacceptable.”

He said the case of Zaghari-Ratcliffe was decided by the court, highlighting the independence of the Iranian court in making decisions on legal issues.

“She is serving her sentence based on the [court's] ruling,” he added.

The UK is thought to owe as much as £400m to the Iranian government arising from the non-delivery of Chieftain tanks ordered by the Iranian Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Last month, British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace acknowledged for the first time that he is actively seeking to pay the debt to Iran to secure the release of Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

According to The Guardian, Wallace said the government was exploring every legal avenue to pay the debt, which for the first time he formally acknowledged the

British government owes to Iran.

Tehran was quick to deny any connection between the two cases. Khatibzadeh said at the time that “the British government has a definite 40-year long debt to Iran and it doesn't matter whether a British official acknowledges this debt or not.”

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has also said the British government is a “thief” if it links the payment of Iran's debt to the release of Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

“If they continue this path, it would mean before the world's public opinion and even Britain's that England is a thief,” Zarif told Kar-va-Kargar newspaper in an interview published on October 4. “It doesn't mean

that Iran is a hostage taker,” he added.

Zarif said for forty years the British haven't paid the money, which belongs to the Iranian people. “Therefore, they do not have the right to set terms and conditions for its repayment.”

Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 41, has been detained in Iran for more than four years on charges of trying to orchestrate a soft overthrow of the Islamic Republic.

The prosecutor general of Tehran had stated in October 2017 that she was being held for running “a BBC Persian online journalism course which was aimed at recruiting and training people to spread propaganda against Iran.”

## Attempt to return UN sanctions ‘a diplomatic defeat for Trump’: Harvard Kennedy School fellow

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – A Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow on Managing the Atom of the Harvard Kennedy School has described Washington's attempt to return UN sanctions on Iran as a “diplomatic defeat” for President Donald Trump.

The international community has shown they will not accept the U.S. move which will only contribute to the further decline of Trump's credibility as a negotiating partner Stephen Herzog told ILNA in an interview published on Sunday.

“I think this unilateral decision by the Trump administration is a sign of desperation and a clear indication of how badly the policy of ‘maximum pressure’ has failed,” Herzog stated.

“Iran's oil exports increased in September, and Tehran has improved its ties with China and Venezuela while building up its stockpile of enriched uranium,” he remarked, adding, “These activities are the direct result of the Trump administration's refusal to participate in the JCPOA and attempt to deny Iran access to the global economy.”

The Harvard Kennedy School fellow said the JCPOA, which is commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, remains a polarizing issue in the United States, with Republicans



from President Trump's party opposing it and Democrats from former Vice President Joe Biden's party supporting it.

Citing a poll he conducted last year for the U.S. magazine The National Interest with his co-author David M. Allison, Herzog said the poll showed that when tensions between

Washington and Tehran are high, the American public seeks to avoid war.

“My understanding is that the Iranian public strongly prefers peace as well. For this and other reasons, my view is that Trump would eventually like to achieve a deal with Iran he can claim did more for stability and nuclear non-proliferation than the administration of Barack Obama,” the expert added.

■ **‘U.S. election to have significant ramifications for Tehran-Washington relations’**

Elsewhere in his remarks, Herzog said the U.S. presidential election in November will have significant ramifications for U.S.–Iranian relations, as will Iran's presidential election next year.

“Biden and Trump have very different visions for the relationship with Iran. The Democratic National Committee of Biden's party has listed returning to the JCPOA in its electoral platform,” he maintained.

“Biden was, of course, Obama's vice president when it was negotiated and will surely seek this as a policy, but it isn't guaranteed,” he added.

The expert concluded his remarks by saying that peace between the U.S. and Iran is possible, regardless of whether the next U.S. president is Joe Biden or Donald Trump. “But the terms to negotiate that peace will be different in each case and much more difficult under a second Trump administration.”

**Stephen Herzog says when tensions between Washington and Tehran are high, the American public seeks to avoid war.**



# UN arms embargo will be lifted by October 18: Foreign Ministry

**1→** The arms embargo is slated to expire on October 18 in accordance with the provisions of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). However, the U.S. has taken controversial measures to extend the arms embargo despite the fact that the White House unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018.

The U.S. has submitted a draft resolution to the UN Security Council calling for the indefinite extension of the arms embargo but the Council firmly rejected the resolution, prompting the White House to take the highly controversial step of resorting to a contested mechanism within UNSC Resolution 2231, which stipulates that a "JCPOA participant state" can trigger a return of all UN sanctions on Iran in case it didn't uphold its obligations under the JCPOA.

In an attempt to trigger the mechanism, the U.S. submitted a "notification" to the UN Security Council calling for the restoration of all international sanctions on Iran. The U.S. complaint against Iran was roundly rejected by all remaining parties to the JCPOA and almost all members of the Security Council. But this did not prevent the U.S. from announcing the return of all UN sanctions on Iran in September.

"Today, the United States welcomes the return of virtually all previously terminated



**Foreign Ministry spokesman Khatibzadeh says October 18 will mark the "defeat of America," which, despite "bullying and deception" failed to extend the UN arms embargo on Iran.**

UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran... Sanctions are being re-imposed on Iran pursuant to the snapback process under

UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 2231. On August 20, the United States notified the President of the Security Council

of Iran's significant non-performance of its JCPOA commitments," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement on September 19.

He added, "This notification triggered the 30-day process leading to the snapback of previously terminated UN sanctions, which became effective at 8 pm Eastern Daylight Time on September 19. This means that starting today, all of the provisions of UNSCRs 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835, and 1929 that were terminated by UNSCR 2231 are back in effect."

Despite the U.S. announcement, all remaining parties to the JCPOA said the U.S. measure was null and void and incapable of having legal effect. A few days after the U.S. announcement, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said there were no limitations on arms deals with Iran right from the start and after mid-October, there would be no limitations whatsoever on arms supplies to and from Iran.

"The Security Council in that resolution (2231) said that the supply of arms to Iran and from Iran would be subject to consideration by the Security Council and that on the 18th of October, 2020 this regime of sales to Iran would stop. There is no embargo and there would be no limitations whatsoever after the expiration of this timeframe established by the Security Council," the chief Russian diplomat said in an interview with Alarabiya.

## Ayatollah Khamenei outlines strategy that could outlast Trump presidency

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei outlined the main aspects of Iran's strategy to counter U.S. pressure on Iran, saying the country will move forward with what U.S. officials constantly "rant" about.

In a commencement speech given to military graduates via videoconference on Monday morning, Ayatollah Khamenei, who is also the commander-in-chief of the Iranian armed forces, addressed several issues concerning domestic and foreign policies, including the ways that are regarded as effective in the current showdown between Tehran and Washington.

The graduation ceremony was held in Imam Ali (PBUH) Officer's Academy, where only a number of the exemplary units from Iran's conventional army, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, and Police were present due to the special conditions caused by the outbreak of Covid-19.

The Leader put a special emphasis on the importance of ensuring security, saying security is a vital necessity without which all other important values will be disrupted.

"Studying in the academies of our Armed Forces is one of the most noble and valuable acts. Why? Because the Armed Forces ensure the country's security. Security is a vital element. Without it, all other important values such as education, justice, welfare, and the like are disrupted," the Leader stated.

He also moved on to the issue of U.S. sanctions on Iran and the three pillars of Iran's national strength, saying that nations lacking strong defense are in danger of being targeted by other countries such as the U.S.

"If we consider there to be three main pillars for a country's national strength, they are: 'economic strength and stability,' 'cultural capability and harmony,' and 'a strong defense'. A strong defense is vital to the strength of every nation. If nations do not have a strong defense, then those who are in pursuit of transgressing against and taking advantage of other nations and wish to interfere in their affairs — countries such as the U.S. and other such countries — will not leave them alone. They will attack everything these nations have. You can see today what transgressions are being committed against countries throughout the world," Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out.

He called the U.S. officials "prattling thugs" that "keep ranting and raving about" Iran's defensive, regional, and missile capabilities. According to the Leader, the reason why they do so is the Islamic Republic's precise, wise calculations in achieving such capabilities.

The Leader added, "Their prattling is the result of their fear and their backwardness in this area. Without taking heed of the impression that they are trying to create, we

should preserve our system of reasonable calculations, and with God's grace, the Islamic Republic will continue to move forward in all these areas."

Ayatollah Khamenei's strong emphasis on the Islamic Republic's willingness to press ahead with its regional and missile capabilities sent a powerful message that Iran is not going to abandon what it considers as a pillar of national strength. This stands in stark contrast to what the U.S. has been seeking to achieve through sweeping economic sanctions: a negotiated deal on Iran's missile and nuclear programs and its regional influence.

These three objectives were the main reason why U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew his country from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on May 8, 2018. Over the past two years, Trump has been increasingly intensifying sanctions on Iran in a bid to force it into entering a new round of talks over Iran's nuclear and missile programs and its regional influence. Iran strongly rejected Trump's repetitive offers for new talks, underlining that it will not hold talks with a president who reneged on all U.S. commitments under the JCPOA.

However, Trump's presidency is nearing its end while he is trailing his Democratic rival Joe Biden, who famously pledged to rejoin the JCPOA if he wins the November 3rd presidential election, a move that is understood by some analysts in the West as a reason why Iran keeps exercising restraint in the face of Trump's provocative measures such as imposing sanctions on almost each and every sector in the Iranian economy.

Biden himself has knowingly or unknowingly given rise to this perception by publicly criticizing Trump's Iran policy and calling for "smarter way to be tough on Iran."

In an opinion piece published by CNN on September 13, Biden said he will return to the JCPOA if he wins the November election but his return would be conditional.

"I will offer Tehran a credible path back to diplomacy. If Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal, the United States would rejoin the agreement as a starting point for follow-on negotiations. With our allies, we will work to strengthen and extend the nuclear deal's provisions, while also addressing other issues of concern," Biden promised.

There is a perception in Iran that "other issues of concerns" will almost certainly include U.S. requests for negotiating on Iran's missile and nuclear programs alongside talks over how to revisit the JCPOA.

Such requests will run counter to what Iran considers as "pillars of national strength". Therefore, a Biden win in the

November election will do little to significantly settle the differences between Tehran and Washington. This may be the reason why Ayatollah Khamenei sought to shed light on the necessity of strengthening economic resilience.

The Leader said the U.S. sanctions on Iran are a crime in the true sense of the word. However, he underlined that the remedy to Iran's economic challenges is boosting the production capacity of the country.

Taking a jab at U.S. officials, the Leader said, "Only scoundrels like you take pride in committing such crimes."

Referring to economic strength and stability as the third pillar of national strength, the Supreme Leader said, "It has frequently been said that the remedy to our economic problems is concentrating on production, preventing the continuous devaluation of the national currency and blocking the way for smuggling, unnecessary imports, and financial corruption."

The Leader added, "Today the U.S. is in a dire situation due to billions of dollars of its budget deficit and also due to the existence of tens of millions of hungry people below the poverty line. However, with God's grace, the Iranian nation will overcome the problems it is facing with the power of its faith, its national determination, and despite the foolish desires of the vicious, treacherous, criminal politicians in the U.S. And they will use the sanctions as a means for strengthening the economy of the country."

He pointed out, "Although many of our problems are related to international issues, their remedy exists inside the country. The remedy consists of relying on correct calculations, adopting the right outlook concerning the affairs of the country and the region, and benefiting from wisdom, diligence, and firm determination. The remedy should not be sought outside the country because we will not gain anything from foreigners. Moreover, the commotion created by the thugs dominating the U.S. nation should not occupy anyone's thoughts."

The Leader's emphasis on the missile program and regional influence of Iran as pillars of national strength as well as his efforts to highlight the need to wear Iran's economy from the influence of foreigners could be indicative of a long-lasting strategy to move forward with policies that the U.S. wants to change. With Iran moving forward with its current policies, the Trump policy of "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran will face a major defeat because the White House has made tremendous efforts to pressure Iran into abandoning these policies.

The Leader expressed willingness to bring about this defeat, saying the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to turn the U.S. "maximum pressure into a maximum disgrace."

## Rouhani felicitates Spain on National Day

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani has sent congratulatory messages to the leaders of Spain, congratulating them on the National Day of their country.

In these messages, Rouhani expressed hope that with joint efforts, Iran and Spain would deepen their friendly ties, remove the barriers of boosting ties in all fields, and expand their international cooperation.

October 12 is Spain's National Day during which the country commemorates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's first arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492.

In the congratulatory message to King Felipe VI of Spain, President Rouhani said Tehran and Madrid have a close and historical relationship that will support the friendship

of the two nations and strengthen common ties in the future, according to a statement published by the presidential website.

Rouhani also sent another message to the President of the Government of Spain, Pedro Sánchez, underlining the constructive ties between Tehran and Madrid.

"Constructive interaction and development of relations with the friendly country of Spain, as one of the important countries in the European Union, based on mutual respect and interests have been one of the Islamic Republic of Iran's priorities over the years," Rouhani stated.

Rouhani has also wished the king and president of the government of Spain health and success, and the people of the country prosperity and felicity. PA

## German FM reiterates support for JCPOA

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas once again underlined the need to preserve a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, calling on Iran to implement its commitments under the deal.

In an interview with the Asharq Al-Awsat, the German foreign minister pointed out that the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is the only mechanism to keep Iran's nuclear program under watch.

"The Vienna Nuclear Agreement is the only mechanism available to us to contain the Iranian nuclear program and keep it under watch. As the control and rules of transparency set by the International Atomic

Energy Agency are the most comprehensive in the world. Preserving this is in our common European and international security interest, as well as in the interests of stability and security in the Middle East [West Asia]," Maas asserted.

He added, "However, this will only be possible if Iran fulfills its responsibilities and finally continues to implement its commitments under the JCPOA without restrictions. We strongly advocate that."

The chief German diplomat was responding to a question on the latest developments concerning the Iran nuclear deal. He also touched on Germany's position on Iran's activities in the Persian Gulf region, saying that Germany keeps a watchful eye on these activities.

Iran's financial and monetary demands will be settled," Ghaheb was quoted as saying by IRNA.

The governor of Iraq's central bank proposed that the two countries set up a joint committee to explore ways to resolve financial differences between the two countries.

In the meeting, Hemmati called Iran-Iraq relations "very important" and said Tehran attaches great importance to the expansion of ties with Iraq.

Hemmati also held talks with Iraqi Finance Minister Ali Allawi and Salem Jawad al-Chalabi, the head of the Trade Bank of Iraq.

## SPORTS

### Iran Professional League 2020/21 fixtures released

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Iran Football League Organization released fixtures for the 2020/2021 Iran Professional League (IPL) season on Monday with defending champions Persepolis will start the campaign with an away match against Saipa.



The Tehran derby between Persepolis and Esteghlal will be held on Matchweek 8.

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

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

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

#### Matchweek 1

- \* Gol Gohar Sirjan – Sepahan Isfahan
- \* Tractor Tabriz – Naft Masjed Soleyman
- \* Zob Ahan Isfahan – Foolad Khuzestan
- \* Saipa Tehran – Persepolis
- \* Shahr Khodro Mashhad – Machine Sazi Tabriz
- \* Esteghlal – Mes Rafsanjan
- \* Sanat Naft Abadan – Paykan Tehran
- \* Aluminium Arak – Nassaji Mazandaran

## Mali match a big test for Iran: Dragan Skocic

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran national football team coach Dragan Skocic believes that the friendly match against Mali can be a big test for his team.

Iran will meet the African team on Tuesday in Antalya, Turkey. The Persians defeated Uzbekistan 2-1 on Thursday in Tashkent thanks to goals from Sardar Azmoun and Mehdi Taremi.

Iran prepare for the 2022 World Cup qualification, when they sit third in Group C behind Iraq and Bahrain.

"The match against Mali will be a big test for our team. Mali are an African strong team like Nigeria and Senegal. Almost all of their players are members of the European teams," Skocic said.

"We must challenge ourselves in the match against Malian players who have good physical strength. Our players are highly motivated for this match," the Croat added.

## Khalilzadeh's goal voted ACL 2020 Goal of the West

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis defender Shoja Khalilzadeh's goal against Shahrjah was voted as ACL 2020 Goal of the West by the fans.

Needing a win in their final group stage game to guarantee progression into the knockout rounds, Persepolis got off to a flying start against the Emirati side as Khalilzadeh set the team on its way.

Ehsan Pahlavan jinks his way past a couple of defenders before standing the ball up at the back post to allow the ever-dependable Khalilzadeh to nod home the first in a 4-0 win.

Khalilzadeh's goal was chosen as the best goal with 51 percent of votes in a fan poll conducted by the AFC, the-afc.com reported.

Esteghlal forward Cheick Diabate finished in second place with 37 percent of votes.

Reza Mirzaei, Sepahan winger, came fourth with three percent after Pakhtakor's Jaloliddin Masharipov who finished third with four percent.

## Shafiei hopes next coach would fit Iran's volleyball style

**MNA** — Iranian middle blocker Ali Shafiei hoped the national volleyball team's next coach would be a match for the team's style.

"The sooner a head coach is appointed the better for Team Melli because he would have more time to get acquainted with players," Shafiei told Mehr News Agency on Sunday as the national team has been without a coach since the federation parted ways with Igor Kolakovic in late March.

"I hope any appointed coach would be at least familiar with the style and system of Iran's volleyball," he said, adding, "Iranian players do not have a very strong physical might but enjoy a combination of physical and technical capabilities individually and in the team."

The 29-year-old player said it would be better for the Volleyball Federation to appoint the coach till at least March 2021 so that he can closely watch the Iranian volleyball league's play-off stage.

In one of the latest comments regarding the next coach, Head of Iran's Volleyball Federation Mohammad Reza Davarzani said in mid-September that three coaches would be shortlisted from the already list of five coaches for the next stages of appointing the National Volleyball Team coach.

"The technical committee of the Federation concluded that a world-class coach should lead the national team and negotiations have been carried out in this regard," he said. "We have chosen five coaches from among nearly 15 ones and have conducted negotiations with them." The names of the shortlisted coaches have not been revealed due to legal issues.

Experts believe that the Tokyo Olympics is the last opportunity for the golden generation of Iranian volleyball to stand on an international podium hence the Federation is seeking to hire a world-class coach to help the team in the process.

Iran are in Pool A of the Olympics along with Japan, Poland, Italy, Canada, and Venezuela.

## Iran, Iraq reach agreement to unblock Iranian assets

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — During his visit to Baghdad on Monday, Abdolnasser Hemmati, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), announced that he reached an agreement with the Iraqi authorities to unblock Iranian assets in Iraq.

Hemmati said the assets will be used to buy basic goods, according to IRNA.

Hemmati said Iran has significant assets in frozen bank accounts in Iraq.

Iran is exporting gas and electricity to Iraq.

Writing on his Instagram page, Hemmati said in his meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhi-

mi, the prime minister expressed satisfaction at the agreement and insisted that he would follow the issue on a weekly basis.

Hemmati was accompanied by a banking and commercial delegation to Iraq.

Upon his arrival in Baghdad, Hemmati held talks with his Iraqi counterpart Mustafa Ghaheb, making headway in resolving the banking issues with neighboring Iraq. Ghaheb said the Iraqi authorities are determined to resolve banking issues between the two countries.

"We do our utmost to continue the cooperation between the two countries. The existing problems related to



## Steel ingot production rises 7% in H1

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Production of steel ingot in Iran increased seven percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Over 11.242 million tons of steel ingot was produced during the six-month period of the present year.

The output was 2.004 million tons in the sixth month of this year, rising 11 percent from the figure of the same month in the previous year.

Production of steel ingot in Iran is expected to surpass 30 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Darioush Esmaili has announced.

Saying that Iran is currently the world's 10th biggest steel producer, the official underscored that the country is planning to rise to 8th place by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts in March 2025).



He said the Industry Ministry has it on the agenda to increase the country's steel ingot production to 55 million tons by 2025, for which 160 million tons of iron ore is required annually.

"Given the country's 2.8-billion-ton iron ore reserves, we need new explorations in this field, because when the annual steel ingot production capacity reaches 55 million tons, the current production levels of iron ore can only supply the industry for 12 to 13 years," the official stated.

He further noted that over 90 million tons of iron ore were produced in the country during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) of which only seven percent was exported.

The reduction in the exports of iron ore came as the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has urged the government to prevent the exports of raw minerals in order to be processed in the country for making products with more added value.

Following the leader's remarks, the government levied a 25-percent duty on the exports of raw minerals (especially iron ore) since late September 2019.

The ministry believes that the duty is going to encourage the production of more processed minerals such as pellets and concentrate instead of selling the raw minerals.

Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has announced that production of iron ore concentrate in Iran reached 47.306 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, registering a four-percent rise compared to the preceding year.

Iran's export of steel products in the past Iranian calendar year rose 27 percent compared to its preceding year.

As reported, the country's major steel producers managed to export about 7.33 million tons of the products in the previous year.

According to Esmaili, 10 years ago Iran exported more than 20 million tons of unprocessed iron ore and the figure fell to a maximum of six million tons last year.

## TEDPIX drops 17,560 points on Monday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 17,560 points to 1.579 million on Monday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 19.31 billion securities worth 164.47 trillion rials (about \$3.915 billion) were traded in TSE on Monday.

The first market's index lost 12,590 points and the second market's index dropped 36,496 points.

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

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



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

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

While Iran's stock market has not received any external shocks such as those form the foreign currency exchange rate, inflation, parallel markets, and international issues, some internal factors have caused the recent drops in this market.

Last week, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejjasand said that the government is going to continue implementing development programs to help flourishing the capital market.

"The stock market situation is not measured only by the fluctuations of its index. The Iranian stock exchange is in the process of becoming a modern stock market," Dejjasand said.

The Tehran Stock Exchange's main index has dropped nearly 600,000 points in less than two months and the shares of some companies have faced a loss of up to 70 percent.

Factors like the increase in the number of members, the growth of the value of transactions, and the expansion of instruments are also indicators of a deepening and growing trend in the market and the index should not be the only factor for evaluating a market, the minister said.

# Iran on the way toward developing general aviation

**1 →** Bayat noted that the Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) and IAC are currently collaborating for implementing the air taxi project.

"Civil Aviation Organization is in charge of preparing the necessary regulations and bylaws or amending the already existing rules to make them compatible with small-scale services as well, while the Airports Company is tasked with preparing the necessary infrastructure for the project."

### First air taxi companies

The expert noted that based on the programs, the first air taxi service suppliers would be owned by the government because this is a new area and not many private companies have enough experience or the necessary infrastructure or human resources to launch such a service.

"However, the government has various programs for supporting and encouraging the private sector to enter this industry and invest in this sector," Bayat said.

According to the official, currently, airplanes



with less than 19 seats or with a weight of nine tons or less are aimed to be included in

this program and on-demand flights or even scheduled short distance flights are the priority.

### Benefits of developing GA

Underlining the significance of the general aviation in any country's economy, the expert noted that developing GA must have become a priority decades ago, however unfortunately it has been neglected so far.

"Developing this industry would have major positive outcomes for the country's economy; in addition to creating new job opportunities for thousands of people it will increase the air traffic while creating a capillary network across the country which would impact all other economic areas like industry, agriculture, tourism, trade and etc."

Also, on-demand flights could help many of the industry owners to manage their time and assets which would subsequently have a positive impact on their companies' performance, he added.

The official finally expressed hope that with the measures taken the first air taxi would be launched by the end of the current Iranian calendar year and this industry would be expanded significantly afterward.

## Tehran, Baghdad discuss banking issues, expansion of financial relation

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) met with Iraq's Finance Minister Ali Abdul Amir Allawi on Monday to discuss the expansion of bilateral relations and issues related to the banking and financial sectors, IRNA reported.

Abdolnaser Hemmati, who arrived in Baghdad on top of a high-ranking delegation, visited the Arab neighbor to meet with the country's high-ranking officials, including the Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, the Minister of Finance, and the Governor of the Central Bank of Iraq Mustafa Ghalib Mukheef.

This is Hemmati's second visit to Iraq in the last four months. The CBI governor had previously visited Baghdad on June 17.

During his previous visit, he met with the Prime Minister, Governor of the Central Bank, and Minister of Finance of Iraq to discuss financial and economic relations and the development of relations between the two countries.

Almost a year ago, Iran and Iraq inked a banking agreement and the CBI governor made a trip to Iraq in mid-June.

Following Hemmati's visit, heading a high-ranking delegation, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi visited Tehran in early July.

During Al-Kadhimi's visit, the two sides had finalized a foreign currency agreement, based on which several billions of dollars would be injected into Iran's market.

Iran and Iraq had previously agreed to eliminate the U.S. dollar from their trade and to carry out trade exchanges with national currencies.

The two countries are planning to increase their mutual trade to \$20 billion in the near future.

## South Pars platforms annual overhaul completed

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Annual overhaul operations for the platforms of Iran's South Pars gas field (the country shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf) have been completed, according to a deputy in South Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC).

Mehdi Tayebi, the deputy director for repair operations at POGC (which is in charge of implementing development phases of the gas field), said overhaul operation of 22 platforms was completed during a five-month period, POGC public relations department reported on Monday.

"The offshore section of the South Pars gas field is completely ready for maximum gas supply in winter," Tayebi said.

This year's operations included inspection of containers, calibration of safety valves, periodic repairs of control and F&G systems (which was not possible at the time of production), inspection and periodic repairs of UPS systems, replacement of process lines, repair of MOV, and ESDV valves and other valves that couldn't be repaired or replaced during the production due to their location in the processing paths.

The overhaul of South Pars gas platforms is carried out in the first half of the year due to the reduction in natural gas demand across the country.

These repairs are aimed at monitoring, troubleshooting, and preparing platforms



for safe and stable gas production in the second half of the year.

Pars Oil and Gas Company has taken preventive health measures to deal with the outbreak of coronavirus among its employees working on the platforms, and fortunately, there has been no case of this disease so far, according to the company's office of public relations.

South Pars Gas field is currently divided into 24 standard phases in the Iranian side and is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

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

## Some 70% of Iran's non-oil exports destined for neighbors

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's 15 neighboring countries have been the destinations for 70 percent of Iranian non-oil exports during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced on Monday.

Hamid Zadboum also said, "It is worth mentioning that the figure was 60 percent and 55 percent in the two previous years, respectively".

According to the official, Iran is capable of doubling non-oil exports to its neighbors in two years.

In late May, Zadboum said that considering the future capacities, the TPO has planned increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries to about \$100 billion in a two-year time span, in a way that Iran's share of the regional markets will significantly go up.

He has previously said: "Pakistan and Turkey have the highest capacity to import Iranian goods, which is good news for Iranian businessmen and exporters."

Pointing to the Persian Gulf states as good markets for some Iranian-made commodities, the official said that large markets such as Russia and China should also be considered by exporters.

Iran shares borders with fifteen countries, namely the United Arab Emirates,

Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Oman, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia whose total value of annual imports exceed \$1000 billion.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government is pursuing in the current Iranian calendar year.

In early May, First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri called for developing non-oil exports as the only way for realizing the motto of the surge in production.

"The Foreign Affairs Ministry should provide the necessary bases for the development of [non-oil] exports by expanding and strengthening economic diplomacy," he said in a meeting on reviewing ways of boosting economic relations with the neighboring countries and supporting non-oil exporters.

Emphasizing that 15 neighboring countries and countries such as China and India and Eurasian members should be targeted as the most important export destinations of the country, Jahangiri called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant agencies to strengthen economic diplomacy and focus on these export destination countries to provide the necessary infrastructure for the development of exports to these nations.

## Iran expected to attract \$6b of foreign investment by Mar. 2021

**1 →** "In order to achieve that, in addition to external problems such as sanctions and money transfer issues, we must remove domestic barriers and problems. In this critical situation, we can make the most of the opportunity for foreign investment," he added.

Underlining the great capacities of the country for attracting foreign investment, he said: "Attracting foreign capital has a preliminary process that must be completed, first, the financing is defined in Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, then it goes to the Foreign Investment Board for approval, and finally it will lead to the issuance of a license. So, the process is not simple."

As the situation in the country improves, the pace of encouraging and attraction of foreign investment will defi-



nately increase, however, even if the situation remains the same, there are still methods and strategies to be utilized

## 'Continuing exploration activities to ensure increased oil production'

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Exploration Department Saleh Hendi has said that exploration operation in the country should continue in order to ensure the increase in oil production.

"Exploration should not be stopped in the face of sanctions or oil price fluctuations, as continued exploration activities will be a major driver of increased oil production in the future," Hendi told IRNA on Monday.

Ongoing exploration activities will be the mainstay of future oil production growth, he stressed.

The director of the exploration of the National Iranian Oil Company noted that increasing the country's oil reserves is in itself a lever of power that can be used in trade bargaining and obtaining OPEC quotas.

Emphasizing that the share of exploration in the budget of the National Iranian Oil Company is small, he said: "The exploration budget is only about five percent of the total budget of the National Oil Company."

He noted that exploration programs in NIOC do not change when oil prices fluctuate since the company's view on

national resources is long-term.

"About half of the world's untapped oil and gas reserves are located in West Asia, and it is estimated that about one-fifth of the world's undiscovered oil and gas reserves are concentrated in this region," he said.

Exploration of oil outside West Asia faces major technical challenges and is therefore associated with high costs due to the nature and origin of these resources, the official added.

Hindi further said that the studies on the trend of proven oil reserves indicate a continuous increase in proven oil reserves



of Iran, Saudi Arabia and Iraq in the 20-year period ending in 2018.



## News

## Netanyahu, Abu Dhabi crown prince agree to meet soon

Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he and Abu Dhabi's crown prince have agreed to meet soon after a phone conversation in which they discussed enhancing relations.

On Monday, Israel's cabinet approved the September 15 normalization agreement with the United Arab Emirates.

Netanyahu said later in a statement that he and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan would meet "soon", and that they had extended invitations to pay reciprocal visits.

Abu Dhabi's crown prince also confirmed in a tweet that he and Netanyahu had discussed boosting bilateral relations in a phone call.

Netanyahu signed normalization agreements with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdulatif Al Zayani during an official ceremony hosted by U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on September 15.

The Palestinians, who seek an independent state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza with East Jerusalem as its capital, view the deals as a betrayal of their cause.

Earlier this month, a survey revealed that Arab populations continue to overwhelmingly oppose the recognition of Israel and the establishment of ties with it, despite the recent deals.

An Israeli report, which is based on a survey commissioned by Israel's strategic affairs ministry, also found on Sunday that an overwhelming majority of Arab social media users are critical of normalization with Israel.

## Greece calls new Turkish survey mission a threat to region

Greece accused neighbor Turkey of undermining efforts to ease a crisis over drilling rights in the eastern Mediterranean Monday, after Turkey announced its survey vessel would be dispatched for a new research mission in disputed waters.

The move threatened to reignite a spat over sea boundaries in an area between Greek islands, Cyprus and Turkey's southern coast which had flared up over the summer, prompting a military build-up and fears of a confrontation between the two NATO members, AP reported.

The state-run Anadolu Agency said the Turkish search vessel, Oruc Reis, left the port of Antalya Monday, to resume its survey of hydrocarbon resources in the eastern Mediterranean. An international maritime safety advisory, or Navtex, issued late Sunday said the exploration would last until Oct. 22.

Greece's Foreign Ministry Monday called the decision a "major escalation and a direct threat to peace and security in the region."

## Afghan forces kill over 70 Taliban militants, detain local leader in Helmand

Afghan military forces have carried out an attack on a group of Taliban militants in Helmand, killing scores of them and arresting the group's local governor days after an escalation of fighting in the southern province.

In an operation, involving air force commandos, "71 Taliban" militants were killed in Nawa and Nahr-e-Saraj districts on Monday, a spokesman for the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Tariq Arian told TOLO News.

Arian did not provide information on possible Afghan casualties. Security forces also managed to detain the Taliban's deputy governor for Helmand, Mawlawi Ghafoor, according to Helmand governor's office.

The fighting also resulted in the destruction of a power substation, leaving Kandahar and Helmand with power cuts.

Heavy clashes erupted between Afghan security forces and the Taliban over the weekend on the outskirts of Lashkargah, prompting local residents of the Nad-e-Ali District to seek refuge in the provincial capital Lashkargah.

The fighting resulted in the fall of city police district to the militants.

## Resistance News

## Majority of Arabs deem normalization with Israel 'a treason'

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** TEHRAN — An Israeli report says an overwhelming majority of Arab social media users are critical of normalization with Israel.

The report published on Sunday found that 81 percent of Arab social media users had "negative" comments about the recent normalization deals signed between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, and 8% had "very negative" views, while only 5% viewed them in a positive light.

The report, which is based on a survey commissioned by Israel's strategic affairs ministry, also showed that almost half of comments about the Israel-UAE accord posted in the Arab social media (45%) deemed it as "treason."

The survey, conducted between mid-August and mid-September, found that 27% lamented the UAE's "interacting with Zionists," 10% its "hypocrisy" and 5% saw the deal as Abu Dhabi surrendering to American interests, Press TV reported.

According to the ministry, the hashtags "Normalization is treason" and "Bahrainis against normalization" together had a "potential exposure of over 100 million accounts".

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain signed the controversial agreements to normalize ties with Israel at the White House on September 15, amid outrage across Palestine and the Muslim world.

The U.S.-brokered deals make the UAE and Bahrain the third and fourth Arab states to move to normalize ties since Israel signed treaties with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.

## Rentals for embassy personnel and foreign workers

**Darus 4 bedroom 350 meter**  
**Grand view 24 h security**  
**09124750969**

## The ins and outs of American elections

By Myles Hoenig

The first words to come out of most mouths regarding the first debate were 'shocking,' 'disturbing,' 'demoralizing,' 'frightening' and so many other hyperboles. But if it wasn't for the fact that this was one of the traditional ways to elect a president with the most powerful military in the world, one could almost see the humor in the debate. Two septuagenarians acting like kindergarten children fighting over a snack, especially when one is the U.S. president, just has to make one laugh at the absurdity of it all.

Although Biden had his zingers in and interrupted Trump on many occasions, the Oscars for the most pathetic performance has to go to Donald Trump. We knew this would be a brawl. We knew that the president is crude, a bully, and unwilling to follow the rules. But he made up for any doubt that night.

There are always memorable lines in a debate, and usually well-rehearsed. President Reagan won with 'There you go again.' President George HW Bush had 'Read my lips. No new taxes.' President Ford emphasized how Poland was not under the control of the Soviet Union. Both Biden and Trump had theirs, too. Biden said what everyone in President Trump's presence would like to say, but usually too frightened to say so. "Will you shut up, man?" For that to be said to the president on national TV is unprecedented. However, Trump's most frightening line was when he spoke directly to the white supremacist terrorist group The Proud Boys and said, 'stand back and stand by.' That was as loud a call for Nazi-like intimidation of voters, especially urban and people of color, that has ever been seen or heard of from a president. Nearly 24 hours later, he has not walked back on what he said, and the Proud Boys now have Trump's words on their logo.

It now costs hundreds of millions of dollars to run a successful federal campaign or state-wide campaigns. And in all these winning cases, similar amounts of money are spent by the losers. The only way to garner that much money is to be reaching out to large corporations or single billionaires, which obviously is their way of buying influence to promote their own legislation that serves their own interests.

A Princeton/Northwestern University study has concluded that we are not a democracy but an oligarchy; the rich and

**Trump's most frightening line was when he spoke directly to the white supremacist terrorist group The Proud Boys and said, 'stand back and stand by.' That was as loud a call for Nazi-like intimidation of voters, especially urban and people of color, that has ever been seen or heard of from a president.**



Myles Hoenig is an American political analyst. He was a 2016 Green Party candidate who sought election to the U.S. House to represent the 7th Congressional District of Maryland.

powerful elite sets the agenda for Congress and the White House. They claim that 30% of all ideas that become law are not based on public opinion. An issue with 100% approval has as much a chance as one with 0%. Their argument is that those that contribute to Congress members have a far greater role in seeing that legislation happens. To quote the study, 'The preferences of the average American appear to have only a minuscule, near-zero, statistically non-significant impact upon public policy.' There will be times that the people's voice may equal that of the wealthy on some issue, but it's the elite that pushes the legislation.

The case of Citizens United opened the floodgates of money having such an enormous control over Congress when the Supreme Court ruled that corporate money is equal to freedom of speech, thus very minimal limits on how money and moneyed interests can buy elections.

The powerful and wealthy elite do not just buy Congress and the White House. They own our media as well. Now only six conglomerates control most of the broadcast media in the U.S. CBS Corporation, Comcast, Time Warner, 21st Century Fox, Viacom, and The Walt Disney Company.

These conglomerates rely on advertising as a major source of income and in elections networks like CNN, owned by Time Warner, or Fox, owned by its namesake, only promote the candidates that serve their financial interests and will pillory anyone countering their interests, as they targeted Bernie Sanders both in 2016 and 2020. The fact that we do not have viable third parties is because the Green Party, in particular, is eco-socialist and directly opposes the economic interests of the giants for their reliance on fossil fuels, nuclear power, and military hardware. You rarely ever heard of NBC, once owned by General Electric, the maker of nuclear power plants, regularly report on nuclear power's dangers, for example.

For someone to run for president, they need to be mindful of who controls the media, for it is the media that controls the campaign message. Of course, there are anomalies as we see how far Sanders got both times before the Democratic Party, a servant of the

large corporations, pulled the plug on his campaigns.

Minor parties have limited success in U.S. elections because of voter suppression, voter shaming, and the two parties control all the mechanisms of elections in the country. One method of giving such parties more of a say is through the process of Ranked Choice Voting, as it is being carried out in the state of Maine for this national election and in a number of other cities and municipalities. A voter can vote for their preferred candidate or party but also have a second or even at times, a third choice. If their primary choice candidate, or party, does not reach a certain threshold, their number two choice moves up and is counted. But this is strongly opposed by both parties, especially the Democrats, as it would show a very large percent of the population not supporting them, just not enough to beat them in a one-on-one election. And when a large percent is supported, that mass of voters can grow and show others that the two-party system is not monolithic.

Another reason is obviously the media's role, which has a vested interest in only promoting the two parties and ignoring challengers. Bernie Sanders would not have been a blip on their radar if it wasn't for the fact that he ran as a Democrat. If he ran as a Democratic Socialist, he would have been pretty much ignored, until a groundswell of support for him materialized. Then they would likely have found a way to sabotage the campaign and re-direct his voters to either the Democratic Party or to stay at home.

The Republicans also have their political opponents on their side, and that would be the Libertarians. They are economically very conservative, as they believe in a laissez-faire economy but are strong on progressive social issues and oppose military adventurism and American imperialism, a bit of a hybrid party. There are also Libertarians in Congress, namely Sen. Ron Paul, but he is registered as a Republican like Sanders is as a Democrat. They both are not alone with their respective positions, but only represented by the two behemoths.

Turnout in U.S. elections is low because almost a majority of eligible voters don't see a reason to vote. It's actually quite that

simple, and many who are eligible don't for the same reason. Millions of people were out in the streets opposing the War in Iraq, but Congress authorized it, and it was promoted by both parties. More than half of all Americans, close to 80+% of Democrats, support Medicare for All, especially now during a pandemic, but it will never happen, as both Joe Biden and previously Hillary Clinton, both Democratic nominees for president, had vowed. The tax laws are written for the very wealthy and the corporations, as half of all Congress members are millionaires. Our city schools are suffering because, by law, funding is based on the community's income, not on equality. And the police continue to have bi-partisan support, even though they are, as an institution, the greatest threat to our civil society, especially if one is a person of color. Voting gets us nowhere, and as Emma Goldman, the illustrious anarchist of the early 20th century, said, "If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal." Others have been quoted as saying that as well.

There are also practical reasons why voting is not so widespread. Federal elections are held on Tuesdays, and not as a federal holiday. With tactics targeting voter suppression, long lines at the polls, or many polling places closed, people are discouraged from voting. Such elections are held in November when the weather can be a major factor regarding turnout, including getting dark early. Rules for voter registration are not standardized nationally, and there is often a lot of confusion as to who can vote and in which polling place. As to registration, federal and state laws are written so that many felons cannot vote. This particularly targets black voters as blacks are often the target in legislation that encourages incarceration, a very profitable industry.

Campaigns for president usually start two years out, and often 4. The Primary system lasts from January to the conventions in the summer. The American people are inundated with campaign rhetoric to the point of nausea and systems overload. And so often, the winner is pre-selected by the party machinery, and in places that are one-party controlled, those in the opposite party have no incentive to vote, even for their own candidates. And as mentioned previously, third party voices are routinely and effectively suppressed.

**Turnout in U.S. elections is low because almost a majority of eligible voters don't see a reason to vote. It's actually quite that simple, and many who are eligible don't for the same reason. Millions of people were out in the streets opposing the War in Iraq, but Congress authorized it, and it was promoted by both parties.a**

## Army would refuse an order to crack down on possible peaceful protests after Nov. 3 elections: professor

**1 →** What matters to voters is the message communicated by a president, and foreign policy is a device for communicating that message.

■ What is your assessment of Trump's COVID infection? How may it change the course of the elections?

A: It is unclear how sick the president is. The fact that he has tested positive and suffered symptoms reduces voter confidence in the part of his message that denies how threatening COVID is, although his apparently quick recovery if it is one, limits the damage his infection has done. He may be showing some signs of the neurological side-effects of the steroid he is taking, which can affect thirty percent of recipients, but he is ordinarily so belligerent that it is hard to tell whether the steroid is making him any angrier. Overall, his infection hurts his chances, which were already not promising.

■ Can Trump resort to the Insurrection Act to send active-duty troops onto streets to quell possible protests over the results of the presidential elections on November 3?

A: The armed forces would refuse an order to intervene unless the protesters were armed and used their weapons. Just carrying weapons is not an insurrection. U.S. military law prohibits obeying illegal orders, and the military, which does not want to intervene, would use that prohibition to refuse an order under the Insurrection

Act unless there was actually an armed insurrection. It is Trump's supporters, not his opponents, who are armed. The troops are more likely to defend protesters than to suppress them.

■ Does it matter to Americans who will win the election?

A: To probably around 150 million American voters, it matters a lot who wins, and to many others ineligible to vote.

■ What will be the Supreme Court's role if the nominees refuse to accept the results of elections? What are the implications of nominating Amy Coney Barrett to the court by Trump?

A: The Democrats will accept the result. The Supreme Court can only act if the Republicans dispute the results in one or more states and file lawsuits in federal court to challenge the election result. For the lawsuit to be heard by a lower-court judge, they have to prove that enough votes have been miscounted to change the state's result. That means the election needs to be close in the state, and it probably means that enough other states need to have supported Trump to make the outcome depend on the state or states where the Republicans challenge the vote, as the 2000 election depended on Florida.

Most likely, the election will not be close, and the



Supreme Court will not get involved. The Democrats may need to file lawsuits if Republican state legislatures try to reverse an election result favoring the Democrats in their state by having the legislature claim a constitutional prerogative to name its own electors. That probably wouldn't survive even in a Republican Supreme Court.

Right now, enough Republican Senators have COVID infections to preclude hearings on Trump's very conservative nominee and an 8-member Supreme Court would refuse to rule on Republican lawsuits challenging results. Even an 8-member court would rule against legislatures' claims to overrule the popular vote, and I can't see legislatures trying it unless the election is very close.

**"It is Trump's supporters, not his opponents, who are armed. The troops are more likely to defend protesters than to suppress them."**



## Celebrated Iranian archaeologist Malek-Shahmirzadi dies at 80

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Sadeqh Malek-Shahmirzadi, a top Iranian archaeologist who supervised several excavations across the Iranian plateau, died on Monday morning in Tehran. He was 80.

Born in 1940, in Shahmirzad, Semnan province, Shahmirzadi graduated from the Sialk Reconsideration Project in 1969 with a master's degree and received his Ph.D. in 1977 from the University of Pennsylvania.



He was employed by the Department of Archeology of the University of Tehran in July 1970 and served there until 2000. In addition to his educational activities, he supervised several excavations in the Sagzabad, Zagheh, Poenak, Aq-Tepe, and he also launched the Sialk Reconsideration Project in 1999 that continued until the mid-2000s. The silk project carried out under his guidance is considered as one of the successful archeological programs in Iran.

In October 2015, an official celebration was held by the National Museum of Iran and Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism (RICHT) for his efforts in education and research in the field of archeology.

He has left dozens of books and articles on the late prehistoric archaeology of Iran. Among his successful books is "Prehistoric Iran: Archeology of Iran from the Beginning to the Dawn of Urbanism" and "Glossary of Archeology", which are the main textbooks in the archaeology departments in Iranian universities.

His latest book on the Caspian Iron Age culture was recently published by the National Museum, and the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

## Eighth archaeological season begins at Tepe Rivi without German experts

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The eighth round of archaeological seasons at the ancient Tepe Rivi site in north-eastern North Khorasan province has begun in the absence of German experts who did not join due to the coronavirus restrictions.



Experts of archeology, geography, geophysics, geomorphology, and ecology had taken part in the previous rounds of the project from [Ludwig Maximilian] University of Munich, the [Free] University of Berlin, the University of Tehran, and Shahid Beheshti University of Tehran.

Archaeologists plan to unearth parts of a previously-discovered structure during the current season, which commenced on Thursday.

Last October, a number of historical clay stamps, estimated to date from the Achaemenid and Parthian eras, were discovered in the ancient site. Evidence suggests that residents of this area sealed the urns that were loaded with particular goods then tied them with ropes.

Archaeological research started in 2012 in the ancient site. Since then archaeologists accessed remains of settlements from the Bronze and Iron Age, the Achaemenid, the Parthian, the Sassanid dynasties, and the early Islamic period.

## Smuggled ancient weapons, ornamentalations confiscated

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian authorities have recently seized 30 ancient relics from the home of an illegal smuggler in Eslamabad-e Gharb, western Kermanshah province, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage has said.



Police recovered some daggers, spearheads and personal ornamentalations, which are estimated to date back to the early Islamic era, Abolqasem Imanpoor announced on Monday.

The official, however, did not refer to the exact age of the relics and added that the objects were handed over to cultural heritage authorities for further examination and to verify their authenticity.

He also noted that the culprit was surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites including Bisotun and Taq-e Bostan, both on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

# The legend of Alexander's Prison in central Iran

**→ 1** No tile works have been used in the construction of this building and perhaps this is the secret of the survival of this monument until today. The beautiful dome of this building is made of brick and is decorated with azure and golden plaster that nowadays only a part of it leftover. It has an old courtyard with three balconies around it. It is also possible to mention the presence of a well in the middle of the courtyard, which ends with the cellar.

The noteworthy architectural features of the dome are traceable in other domes dating to the Mongolian period in Iran. Each side of the domed tower is almost 9 meters long and it rises almost 18 meters tall. There is little left of the inscriptions inside the dome but from what remains it appears to be Kufic writings.

Although the original purpose of the building is unknown, nevertheless, it now serves as an Ethnographic Museum. Inside there is a detailed scaled model of the old city and a collection of labeled archaeological artifacts that were dug up around the city. What really brings the museum to life however is the staff of traditionally trained artisans who are on hand to show off their skills by working the old wood-framed looms and throwing



**Alexander's Prison (locally called "Zendaan-e Eskandar"), is a legendary place named after Alexander the Great, also known as Alexander of Macedonia, who overthrew the Persian Empire in about 330 BC.**

## Another survey on subterranean ducts ends in Persepolis, what were the highlights?

**By Samaneh Aboutalebi**

The fourth season of an archaeological survey, probing into a sophisticated water management system of the time has come to an end beneath the ruins of the UNESCO-registered Persepolis in southern Iran. Digging into labyrinthine subterranean ducts has yielded significant discoveries some of which noted below:

The survey also sought ways to rescue the fate of the magnificent site from possible damages from surface waters, making sure of its disposal in the same way Achaemenid Persians did some 2,500 years ago.

For many years, during rainy days the tourists and travelers faced several problems due to the flooding and mudslides. On the other hand, this issue tarnished the image of this historical place in public.

While according to historical researches, the Achaemenids had advanced engineering, it seems that the original builders of the place had devised a solution to this issue.

For this reason, several excavations and exploration seasons were carried out to find Persepolis' ancient water ducts and study how they worked.

Hamid Fadaei, the director of the UNESCO-registered site at the beginning of this season of the exploration announced that the ancient water ducts of the site are considered as unique and flawless engineering of its time.

The royal city of Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

While this season of exploration was carried out for another purpose, interesting archaeological finds were

also made during it.

The remains of 13 ancient skeletons, 11 of which human remains, were discovered at olden water ducts of Persepolis, shedding new light on the way of life in the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (c. 550 -330 BC).

The skeletons are now being studied by the archeologists to estimate the historical era they belong to.

The survey also yielded a bas-relief carving, depicting the face of a human being, which was discovered beneath a ruined palace complex in Persepolis. It is widely believed that the piece of art was carved during the Achaemenid epoch.

Archaeologists discovered a prehistorical hatch to the eastern part of Apadana Palace, a majestic ruined royal complex within the site as well.

The hatch was created during the Achaemenid period to repel the surface water of the courtyard, and after this period, it was hidden due to the destruction of the complex.

This vent, like its other counterparts across the Palace, measures 40 cm by 40 cm, connecting the yard surface to underground ducts.

This finding could solve the problem of overflowing at the eastern courtyard of Apadana Palace that is one of the busiest areas of the historical site due to its valuable bas reliefs, and through this, a better situation could be created to protect this section of Persepolis.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars Province.

The city was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC

## Ancient settlement attributed to Urartu kingdom identified in northwest Iran

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A team of Iranian archaeologists has recently spotted an ancient settlement in northwestern part of the country with evidence suggesting it was once home to people from the Urartu kingdom.

Believed to be prosperous during the New Bronze Age in the first millennium BC, the settlement is situated near Beygush Tepe, an archaeological site in Chaldoran county, West Azarbaijan province.

"Pottery pieces and other cultural material have recently been found in Beygush Tepe, parts of which have are still intact due to the lack of [illegal] diggings by smugglers and antique chasers," ILNA quoted senior



archaeologist Abbas Bavarsaei as saying on Saturday.

"Potteries excavated from the site date back

to the New Bronze Age in the first millennium BC," said Bavarsaei who led the survey.

The archaeological site is deemed to be once a residence for people of the Urartu kingdom, he said, adding "Beygush means owl in the local language."

The Urartu kingdom rose to power in the mid-9th century BC, but it went into a gradual decline and was eventually conquered by the Iranian Medes in the early 6th century BC. The Urartians were succeeded in the area in the 6th century BC by the Armenians.

Urartu, an ancient country of southwest Asia centered in the mountainous region southeast of the Black Sea and southwest of the Caspian Sea. Today the region is di-

vided among Armenia, eastern Turkey, and northwestern Iran. Mentioned in Assyrian sources from the early 13th century BC, Urartu enjoyed considerable political power in the Middle East in the 9th and 8th centuries BC.

According to Encyclopedia Iranica, the territory of the ancient kingdom of Urartu extended over the modern frontiers of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and the Republic of Armenia. Its center was the Armenian highland between Lake Van, Lake Urmia, and Lake Sevan. Urartian archeological finds in modern Iran including castles, settlements, water channels and other water constructions, rock chambers, rock graves, stelae, rock inscriptions, and building inscriptions.



A typical cistern (Ab-Anbar) equipped with mudbrick wind towers is seen in the oasis city of Yazd, central Iran.

## Centuries-old cistern in Yazd renovated

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Safavid-era (1501-1736) Bagh Gandom Ab-Anbar (cistern) in the central province of Yazd has been renovated.

The renovation project involved repairing the exterior decorations of the monument including the tilework of the entrance gate of the cistern as well as its plasterworks, Mohammadreza Falahati, the city's tourism chief, said on Monday.

Made of stones, bricks, plaster, and mortar and with a circular plan, the cistern is combined by four badgirs (wind catchers), which are used as air conditioners and make the cistern cool.

The cistern, which is located next to a historical mosque, bathhouse, and another cistern in the old neighborhood of Bagh Gandom in Yazd, has been inscribed on the National Heritage list.

The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or on seasonal rainwater.

Such underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains.

Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

With its winding lanes, a forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways, and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, being referred to as a 'don't miss' destination by almost all travel associates in the region. The oasis city is wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain ringed by mountains.

The province has an interesting mix of people as well, some 10 percent of whom follow the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism.

Yazd Jameh Mosque, Dowlatabad Garden, the Yazd Atash Behram, also known as Atashkadeh-e Yazd, Towers of Silence, and adjacent desert landscape are among its tourist sites.

## Travel spots: Qadikola Lagoon in Mazandaran

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — The beautiful lagoon of Qadikola is an important wetland in Mazandaran province, northern Iran. Qadikola Lagoon is located in the south

of Qadikola-bozorg, centre of Alidari rural district, in the vicinity of a forest where the farms and citrus gardens end.

In the lagoon you see stout, tall trees

whose roots and part of their trunk are under water. The length of lagoon is 200 meters and its width, about 150 meters. To reach the wetland, you can go through

a stunning three-kilometer paved road which leads to the village centre. There are also five dirt roads that link Qadikola's surrounding heights to the village.



# Iranian biotechnology ranks 12th in world, first in West Asia

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran is ranked 12th in the world and first in West Asia in terms of biotechnology, as 9.5 percent of the income of knowledge-based companies and more than 60 percent of their exports are related to biotechnology.

Foreign exchange savings of \$1 billion per year by producing 22 biopharmaceuticals, gaining the first rank in biotechnology products and vaccines in West Asia, and the presence among the top five biotechnology producers in Asia are among the country's achievements, Mostafa Ghanei, secretary of the biotechnology development office of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, said on Monday.

"However, we are still far from achieving a targeted global market share of 23.25 billion dollars, and given the current needs of the country, we need to be more active and pursue this goal more seriously."

So far, 27 biotechnology medicines, 12 vaccine projects, 90 pharmaceutical raw materials, and 55 projects in agriculture and food security have been implemented in order to gain a 3 percent market share and biotechnology assistance to the development of the economy, he explained.

Some 8 major companies are responsible for managing the country's 117 priority products in the fields of biopharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical raw materials,



vaccines, probiotics, equipment, and chemical drugs, he emphasized.

"To take steps towards the knowledge-based economy, we directed the researches topics in this regard, in addition to the national division of labor, and identifying 41 key priority issues in the field of research, while supporting 48 gene banks," he concluded.

## ■ Pharmaceutical capabilities

Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of the

Food and Drug Administration, said in January that the Iranian pharmaceutical industry and scientists are capable of producing any kind of medicine over a two-year period.

Iran also produced drugs confirmed to be effective in the coronavirus treatment, including, Remdesivir, Tocilizumab.

Health Minister Saeed Namaki said that some 97 percent of the whole medicine consumed in the country is produced domestically and only 3 percent is imported.

Sourena Sattari Vice President for Science and Technology, also said that "Iran plays a leading role in the field of biotechnology in the region, with the production of 24 biotech medicine."

Ismail Ghaderifar, head of the center for strategic technologies development of the vice presidency of science and technology added that under sanctions in the most difficult conditions, Iran combatted the pandemic and knowledge-based companies could make the country independent. Moreover, they managed to produce pharmaceutical items required by the country's health system.

"Also, the production of medical equipment such as ventilators is one of the honors of knowledge-based companies, which is a vital and important item for ICU patients, which have even reached the export stage," he said.

Electrospinning is another product made by knowledge-based companies, which can apply a nano-layer on the fibers. Europe which was the only producer of the product refused to transfer the production line to Iran due to sanctions, and the price of each production line was one million euros, he highlighted.

Mehdi Kashmiri, director for technology and planning at the science ministry, said in July that about 450 knowledge-based companies were active in the country for manufacturing protective equipment and treatment products to fight the coronavirus.

## Earthquake hazard zoning: An international effort conduction in Iran for Western and South Asia

By Prof. Mehdi Zare

As an international effort, this article is aimed to represent the important controlling factors for seismic hazard analysis (SHA) performed over the last 3 decades in Iran, Western and South Asia.

After each major earthquake, the seismic source and ground motion models will be modified and there are always discussions on the reliability of the seismic hazard zoning maps and a comparison between the recorded and previously assessed ground motions.

This draws attention to the importance of input dataset and the level of knowledge of the seismic source parameters in the potential seismic regions (geometry and mechanical of faults, return periods, etc.)

The South Asia region is exposed to high seismic activities and are greatly influenced by the continental convergence and active crustal shortening between the African, Arabian and the Indian plates to the NE (Northeast) and northward with respect to the Eurasian plate. According to the regional tectonic regime of the Iranian plateau, the focal mechanism solutions of the most earthquakes are compressional, strike-slip or a combination of these two mechanisms (Fig. 1).

The GPS-derived velocity field for the zone of interaction of the Arabian, African (Nubian, Somalian), and Eurasian plates indicates counterclockwise rotation of a broad area of the Earth's surface including the Arabian plate, adjacent parts of the Zagros and central Iran, Turkey, and Eurasia (Fig. 2).

Central Turkey (Anatolia) moves in a coherent fashion with internal deformation <2 mm/yr. The motion of Anatolia is bounded on the north by the right-lateral North Anatolian fault and on the southeast by the left-lateral East Anatolian fault. Relative to Eurasia, the southwestern Aegean-Peloponnissos moves toward the SSW (South-south-west). The similar measurements in the Iranian continent and northern Oman indicate that most of the shortening is accommodated by the Makran subduction zone and less by Kopet-Dag. The Central Iranian Block moves consistently with internal deformation smaller than 2 mm/yr.

In the western part of Iran, distributed deformation

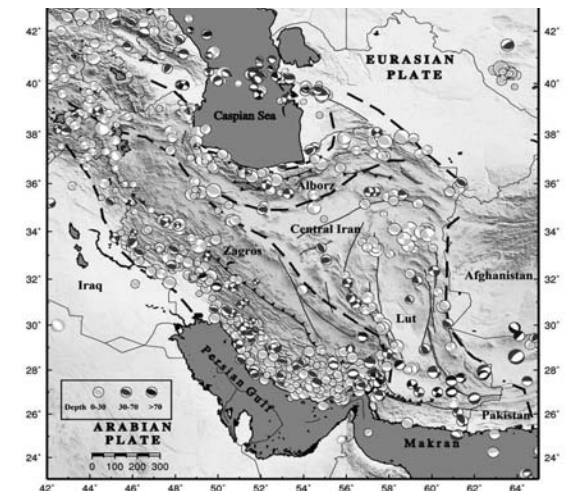


Fig 1. Focal mechanism of the main earthquakes recorded in Iran during the last century. Dashed lines: borders of the 3 main tectonic zones of Iran. Solid line: major faults

occurs among several fold and thrust belts. The maximum velocity (38 mm/yr) in the northern Ganges plains approximates the rate of convergence between the Indian and Eurasian plates. All these GPS analysis indicate high rates of deformation in the West Asian region and the Iranian Plateau, so that the region is exposed to all-round pressures caused by the collision of lateral tectonic plates.

Therefore, the geodetic, seismic and tectonic studies in the region confirm the existence of a complex active tectonic framework with high deformation rates, a part of which expressed in terms of earthquakes. This region experiences different earthquake magnitudes each year, some of them may reach Mw8 (e.g. 27 November 1945Mw8.1 Makran earthquake). Many destructive earthquakes with magnitude >7.0 have occurred during the last century such as the 1909 Silakhor, Boroujerd (Mw.7.3), 1930 Salmas (Mw.7.1), 1962 Bou'in-Zahra (Mw.7.1), 1968 Dasht-e-Bayaz (Mw.7.4), 1978 Tabas (Mw.7.4), 1990 Manjil (Mw.7.4), 1997 Ghaen (Mw.7.3), 2003 Bam (Mw.6.6), 2013 Savaran (Mw.7.8) in Iran; 1939 Erzincan (Mw.7.8), 1970 Gediz (Mw.7.2), 1976 Çaldıran–Muradiye (Mw.7.0), 1999 Izmit (Mw.7.6), 1999 Duzce (Mw.7.2), 2011 Van (Mw.7.1) earthquakes in Turkey; the Nuweiba earthquake south of the Dead Sea fault and in the Gulf of Aquaba in Egypt; the 1935 Quetta (Mw.7.7), 1945 Balochistan (Mw.8.1), 2005 Balakot (Mw.7.6), 2011 Dalbandin (Mw.7.2) and 2013 Awaran (Mw.7.7) earthquakes in Pakistan; and the 2002 Hindu-Kush (Mw.7.4) and 2015 Hindu-Kush (Mw.7.5) earthquakes in Afghanistan (Fig. 3).

After earthquakes (i.e. 1990 Mw7.3 Manjil earthquake and 2003 Mw6.5 Bam earthquake) some questions were raised on the reliability of the seismic hazard zoning maps and on the comparison between the recorded and previously assessed ground motions. These triggered the importance of input dataset and the level of knowledge of the seismic source parameters in the region (fault geometry and mechanics, return periods of large and destructive earthquakes, etc.)

## ■ Related efforts

The application of most popular seismic hazard analysis methods such as the deterministic seismic hazard analysis (DSHA) as well as the probabilistic seismic hazard analysis (PSHA) in this region is explained.

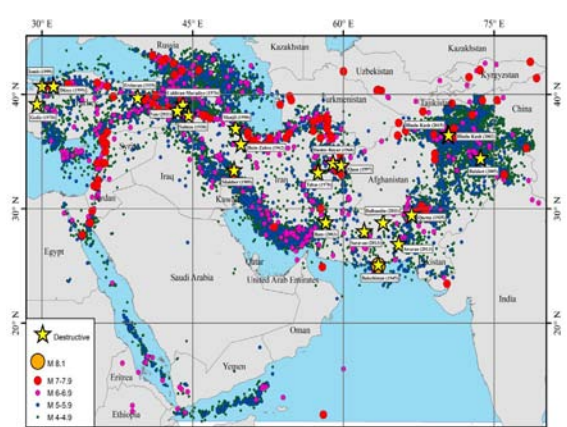


Fig 2. Horizontal velocity field for a major part of Alpine-Himalayan chain.

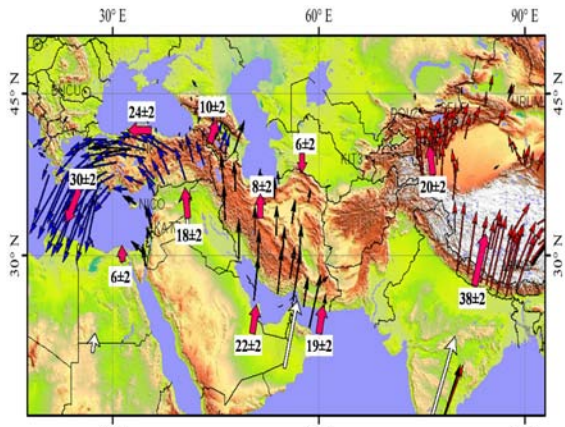


Fig 3. Seismicity map of the Middle East region before declustering represented by epicenters of earthquakes (4Mw). Yellow stars indicate some of the destructive seismic events (with 6.5Mw) during the last century. Source of data: EMME earthquake catalogue (Zare et al., 2014).

## Unilateral coercive measures may hamper global efforts to combat pandemic: Iran's health minister

**1 →** He further invited the members for a minute of silence in recognition of all who lost their lives during this pandemic and in particular the deceased doctors and nurses who dedicated their lives to save others.

## ■ How sanctions affected Iran's health sector

Although food and medicine were claimed to be exempted from the U.S. sanctions, financial and banking sanctions have limited the life-saving medicine trade which harshly targeted the patients suffering from rare diseases.

Moreover, fears of falling afoul of Washington have restricted exports to Iran.

Exemptions for humanitarian trade (such as food, medicine, and medical equipment) have not been effective in protecting Iranian patients from access to imported medicine, such as the bandages used for patients suffering Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare genetic disease that causes painful blistering of the skin.

With the return of sanctions, over a year (May 2018-May 2019), 15 patients covered by EB Health House lost their lives, including Ava, a two-year-old girl in Ahvaz city, who died of infection and lack of skincare.

Companies exclusively producing medicine for Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) patients, such as BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. of the U.S. and a South Korean company, have refused to export these drugs to Iran, threatening the lives of 335 patients in Iran.

So far, Swiss delivered 180,000 packages of medicine needed for cancer patients and transplant operations to Iran in February in an attempt to facilitate humanitarian trade following the implementation of the Swiss payment mechanism.

The government of the Republic of Korea also started close consultations with the United States and Iran in order to facilitate humanitarian trade with Iran with won-currency deposits made by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) at banks in the ROK. As a result of such consultations, the ROK government resumed humanitarian trade with Iran on April 6, which was suspended after the U.S. tightened sanctions on the CBI in September 2019.

So, South Korea sent by air a shipment of medical supplies and medicine worth \$500,000 needed for genetic diseases to Iran on May 29, which will mark the first case of shipment of goods for the recently resumed humanitarian trade and is expected to be followed by exports of medicine and medical equipment worth about 2 million U.S. dollars in June.

Building on the resumption of exports of humanitarian items, the ROK government will continue consultations with the U.S. and Iran on ways to broaden the scope of trade items to include not only medicine and medical equipment, which are currently the main trade items, but also foods and agricultural products, according to the Relief Web website.

## Special clinic to be launched to relieve bereaved coronavirus families

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — A special clinic will be opened for the first time in the country to provide free psychological services to families who have lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The clinic is called "Soog" (literally meaning mourn) will be inaugurated at Shahid Beheshti Educational and Medical Center in Zanjan province on Wednesday.

The outbreak of coronavirus has changed the lifestyle of many families, Ehsan Fakoor, head of the mental health department of Zanjan University of Medical Sciences said.

Sudden changes in life cause stress, while the coronavirus itself has doubled the stress due to its contagion and the number of lives it has claimed in the world to date, he regretted.

## ■ COVID-19 toll hits records high

In the press briefing on Monday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 4,206 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 504,281. She added that 409,121 patients have so far recovered, but 4,533 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 272 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 28,816, she added.

Lari noted that so far 4,340,831 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

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

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

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 35)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

## ■ Tanvin

تَنْوین

Final **آ**, pronounced /an/, is called tanvin. It indicates an Arabic adverb that has entered Persian:

/ma?mu?lan/ معمولاً

/masa?lan/ مثلاً

/lot?fan/ لطفاً

■ **زَمَانِ حَالِ "آمَدَن"**

می آیم، می آیی، می آید، می آییم، می آید، می آید، می آید

نمی آیم، نمی آیی، نمی آید، ...

درک ← کتاب کار

● Exercise 1. Put ص or غ. Correct the false ones:

۱. ( ) پترا در شهر تهران زندگی نمی کند.
۲. ( ) خوابگاه دختران فقط دو اتاق دارد.
۳. ( ) در هر اتاق، سه یا چهار نفر زندگی می کنند.
۴. ( ) صبحانه ایرانی کره، مربا، پنیر و ... است.
۵. ( ) دانشجویان در خوابگاه صبحانه می خورند.

## ENGLISH IN USE

## LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## Education, labor ministries ink MOU on out-of-school children

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to bring out-of-school children back to school.

The memorandum of understanding will pave the way for future steps, ISNA news agency quoted Education Minister Mohammad Bat'haei as saying on Sunday.

## تفاهم وزراء برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل به مدارس

وزارت آموزش و پرورش تفاهم نامه مشترکی با وزارت رفاه برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل امضا کردند.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه ایسنا، محمد بطحایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش گفت: امروز تفاهم نامه ای امضا می شود که نقشه کار برای ادامه مسیر کاملاً مشخص شود.



INTERNATIONAL DAILY

www.tehrantimes.com

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» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com

» Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79

Tehrantimes79

Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran

P.O. Box: 14155-4843

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One of the signs of a scholar is criticizing his/her own words and thoughts and being aware of different viewpoints.

Imam Hussein (AS)

## Buffi Neal's "Wonderfully Dysfunctional" published in Persian

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of "Wonderfully Dysfunctional: It Must be Genetic" by Buffi Neal has recently been published by Khazeh Publications in Tehran.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Buffi Neal's book "Wonderfully Dysfunctional: It Must be Genetic".

The book has been translated into Persian by Bahareh Qasempur. The book narrates the true story of a gypsy mother and a father who refused to leave his first wife; a brother who slept under the coffee table and a sister who was kidnapped; a cheating minister, a missing uncle and a feisty red-headed grandmother who was longing to leave it all.

"I always knew my family was unusual, but I was lucky enough to have escaped that gene. Or was I? In a nursing home, seated next to my dying grandmother, I looked around at my family and it occurred to me that I fit right in with dirty sneakers and two ex-husbands. Maybe it really is genetic; maybe I never had a chance. With the help of my siblings, I began a journey of self-discovery as we recalled stories of our youth including juicy family secrets, inappropriate practical jokes and betrayal. On a journey to find normal, I found myself instead," reads part of the book.

Neal is a free-spirited mother of two living in a small town in central New Jersey. She earned her Master of Computer Science from Lehigh University and holds a degree in Mathematics and Physics. Neal is the second oldest of five children. Growing up without designer clothes, heat or even toilet paper gave her inner strength and perseverance. She worked her way through college cleaning houses, was awarded an academic scholarship, and went on to become CEO of a successful business. She loves the beach and loves to write.

## Nicaraguan envoy visits Farabi Cinema Foundation in Tehran

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Nicaraguan Ambassador Isaac Lenin Bravo Jaen has paid a visit to Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation.

He also held a meeting with the director of the foundation, Alireza Tabesh, and discussed plans to expand relations in the film industry between the two countries, the foundation announced on Monday.



Farabi Cinema Foundation director Alireza Tabesh (L) and Nicaraguan Ambassador Isaac Lenin Bravo Jaen meet in Tehran on October 11, 2020. (FCF)

Tabesh pointed to the 120-year-long history of the Iranian cinema and briefed the diplomat about the structure of the film industry and specialized film organizations in Iran.

He announced the foundation's readiness to hold mutual specialized meetings on cinema as well as to work on joint film projects with Nicaraguan filmmakers.

Bravo Jaen also gave details about the motion picture industry in his country, and said that Nicaraguan people are interested in Iranian films and are highly eager to learn more about Iranian culture.

He also said that his country is keen to expand cultural relations with Iran.

# Former diplomat Hossein Amirabdollahian recounts memories of Syrian crisis in "Morning of Damascus"

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — Former Iranian diplomat Hossein Amirabdollahian has written his memories of the Syrian crisis in a book named "Morning of Damascus".

The book published by Sureh-Mehr and the Art Bureau was unveiled during a special ceremony at the Martyr Soleimani Foundation in Tehran on Monday.

Art Bureau director Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman, Soleimani's daughter Zeinab and Amirabdollahian attended the ceremony.

Amirabdollahian said, "Hajji Qassem Soleimani never ignored the details during his hard work, and this is what I know about him after two decades."

"About one year before he was martyred, he told me once, 'I don't have much time and chance to write my memories, though I have written what I have seen and been through all these years in dozens of notebooks, but you try to write down your memories of Syria as much as you can and keep them for next generations'," Amirabdollahian said.



Author Hossein Amirabdollahian hands a copy of his book "Morning of Damascus" to Martyr Soleimani Foundation director Zeinab Soleimani during the unveiling ceremony of the book in Tehran on October 12, 2020. (Mehr/Mahmud Rahimi)

Soleimani, the commander of the Quds Force, the overseas arm of IRGC, was martyred during a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad on January 3.

"He asked me to write and depict all the bravery, sacrifice and martyrdom of those who were martyred to keep them for the next generations to understand what happened and how this sacrifice came about," he added.

Amirabdollahian also thanked Sureh-Mehr for the publication of the book.

Amirabdollahian was the former deputy foreign minister for Arab and African Affairs. He is currently the Special Aide on International Affairs of the Islamic Parliament.

In his brief words, Dadman said he also hoped that the book would be a beginning for other books by those who were present in the region.

Hojjatolislam Saeid Fakhrazadeh, also present at the ceremony, said that the book is a diplomatic narration of the crisis in Syria, with a glance at the role of Iran in the improvement of the crisis in the region.

## "Sunless Shadows" wins honorable mention at ZagrebDox



"Sunless Shadows" by Iranian documentary Mehرداد Oskui.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Mehرداد Oskui's documentary "Sunless Shadows" won an honorable mention at ZagrebDox, the Croatian international documentary festival, on Sunday.

It is a co-production between Iran and Norway and is

also competing in the international section of the festival, which opened on Monday.

The story of the documentary is set in an Iranian juvenile detention center, in which a group of adolescent girls are serving time for having murdered their father, husband or another male family member.

Oskui managed to build up a remarkable relationship with these inmates, whose frank conversations and playful interactions he observes, and who gradually open up about the consequences of, and sometimes the reasons for, their terrible act. He occasionally leaves them alone with the camera, allowing it to become a means for them to address both their victims and their accomplices, three of the girls having killed their fathers with the help of their mothers. The mothers await execution elsewhere.

"Sunless Shadows" received the honorable mention in a category that presents the Movies That Matter Award for a film which best promotes human rights.

"Advocate" co-directed by Rachel Leah Jones and Philippe Bellaiche won the award.

"The film sowing the faces and voices of justice in a

militarized Israeli society oppressing the discriminated Palestinians in Gaza and on the West Bank deserves the Movies That Matter Award not only for its masterful insight into the protagonist's internal struggle and the risks she is taking together with her family because of her devotion to justice, but also for focusing in decade-long persistence on the small but important sprout of humanity and empathy to the Palestinians in the militant Israeli society," said the jury.

"The Euphoria of Being" by Hungarian filmmaker Réka Szabó also received another honorable mention in this category.

The festival's main award, the Big Stamp, went to "Froth" by Russian filmmaker Ilya Povolotskiy. The documentary depicts the customs and everyday life on the coast of the Barents Sea. At the heart of the narrative are the stories of three ordinary people.

ZagrebDox also screened "Anticlockwise" another Iranian film by Jalal Vafai. The film is about his family from 2011 to 2019, showing how their world has radically changed. It failed to win an award.

## Doc depicts charisma of Imam Khomeini among Iraqi army under Saddam Hussein

→1 "When Iraq entered the war with our country, there was a remarkable conflict between Iraqis and the Ba'ath Party so that many Iraqi people did not support the party and were opposed to the war against Iran and this was due to the affection they had for Imam Khomeini," he added.

In his research for the documentary, Qahramani met Aboo Taaha, a commander of Iran's psychological warfare against Iraq. He worked as an investigator in camps of Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran. He had talked to many of



A poster for Hassan Qahramani's documentary "Aboo Taaha".

prisoners and knew them well.

As a result, Aboo Taaha joined Qahramani's crew in their journey to Iraq to find the former Iraqi soldiers and officers for making the documentary.

They visited Abu Zulficar, a former Iraqi officer who surrendered an armored brigade to Iranian forces during the war.

"When we entered his home, we saw photos of the Leader of the revolution [Ayatollah Khamenei], Imam Khomeini and Imam Musa Sadr hung beside each other on the wall," Qahramani said.

"He told us that his father had threatened

to curse him out if he would fight against the soldiers of Imam Khomeini. He also noted that his father showed special respect for Imam Khomeini and Imam Musa al-Kadhim (AS). The most important part of his words were that many Iraqi people did not agree to follow Saddam in his fight against Iran, and that it was clear that Saddam could do nothing against Iran," he added.

"Aboo Taaha" is scheduled to be broadcast from the Mostanad Channel, IRIB's network dedicated to screening documentary films.

## Sao Paulo festival picks films from Iran

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — A lineup of five Iranian films have been selected to go on screen at the Sao Paulo International Film Festival that will be held online in the Brazilian city from October 22 to November 4, the organizers have announced.

The lineup includes "Sun Children" by Majid Majidi, "Soundless" by Behrang Dezfulizadeh, "Headless" by Kaveh Sajjadi-Hosseini, "When the Moon Was Full" by Narges Abyar and "Crows" by Naqi Nemati.

The films will be competing in the International Perspective section with films from different countries including Portugal, Germany, Mexico, France, Lithuania, the U.S. and Greece.

Ruhollah Zamani, the star of "Sun Children" was named the best young actor of the 77th Venice Film Festival, winning the Marcello Mastroianni Award in September.

The "Sun Children" is about child labor in Tehran, and won the Crystal Simorgh for best film at the 38th edition of the Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in February.



"Sun Children" by Majid Majidi.

Abyar's acclaimed movie "When the Moon Was Full" won the grand prize at the 2nd edition of the Carcassonne

International Political Film Festival in France.

The film also received the student jury award for the best film, while the best performance award was presented to the star of the film, Elnaz Shakerdoost.

"When the Moon Was Full" tells the story of a woman from Tehran who marries a man from an Iranian province near the border of Pakistan. Soon after, she discovers that her new brother-in-law is a religious extremist trying to recruit her husband for his bloody cause.

"Crows" is about Yasha, a bird hunter, who finds the dead body of a well-known man on a snowy day in a mountain town. He becomes involved in a 300 billion Toman embezzlement scheme after getting clues that lead to finding the killers. He begins to seek his benefit in this adventure.

With a total of 83 films, the International Perspective section makes a selection of recent film production around the world, with feature films that have been shown and awarded at festivals over the past year with new works by renowned directors and films from cinema revelations.

## "Machines Like Me" available for Persian readers

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — British writer Ian McEwan's 15th novel "Machines Like Me" has recently been published in Persian in Tehran.

Ashkan Daneshmand is the translator of the book published by the Nimaj publishing house.

The story of the 2019 novel occurs in an alternative 1980s London. Britain has lost the Falklands war, Margaret Thatcher battles Tony Benn for power and Alan Turing achieves a breakthrough in artificial intelligence. In a world not quite like this one, two lovers will be tested beyond their understanding.

Charlie, drifting through life and dodging full-time employment, is in love with Miranda, a bright student who lives with a terrible secret. When Charlie comes into money, he buys Adam, one from the first batch of synthetic humans. With Miranda's assistance, he co-designs Adam's personality. This near-perfect human is handsome, strong and clever — a love triangle soon forms. These three beings will confront a profound moral dilemma. McEwan's subversive and entertaining new novel poses fundamental questions: what makes us human? Our outward deeds or our



A poster the Persian translation of British writer Ian McEwan's novel "Machines Like Me".

inner lives? Could a machine understand the human heart? This provocative and thrilling tale warns of the power to invent things beyond our control.

McEwan studied at the University of Sussex, where he received a BA degree in English Literature in 1970 and later received his MA degree in English Literature at the University of East Anglia.

McEwan's works have earned him worldwide critical acclaim. He won the Somerset Maugham Award in 1976 for his first collection of short stories "First Love, Last Rites".

## National plan for Kashan as capital of Nahj-ul-Balaghah launched

→1 "We hope a series of important and positive events in the religious-cultural arena will begin after Kashan has been named the capital of the Nahj-ul-Balaghah," he said.

The Nahj-ul-Balaghah (The Peak of Eloquence) was compiled by Seyyed Razi (d. 1015). It has been translated into many languages, including English, French, Russian and Spanish.

"Kashan enjoys a rich cultural and scientific background and Allameh Qutbeddin Rawandi, as an eminent commentator of the Nahj-ul-Balaghah, was from Kashan. In addition, the city has been home to one of the most

influential cultural institutes of the Quran, as well as the Institute of Imam Ali (AS), which trains many memorizers of the Nahj-ul-Balaghah," he said.

He added that these are good reasons to select Kashan as the capital of the Nahj-ul-Balaghah.

Kashan embraces abundant scenic landscapes, historical sites and monuments such as UNESCO-registered Fin Garden with its Safavid and Qajar era edifices, Tabatabai House, Borujerdi House, Ameri House, a traditional bazaar, and Jame Mosque of Kashan.

Every year, by late April, dozens of festivals of rose and

rosewater start to take the center stage in Kashan along with other nearby townships and villages.

The distillation ceremonies, which are commonly known as "Golab-giri", usually attract thousands of people from different parts of the country and abroad to witness the iconic tradition of the region.

While Kashan and its neighboring villages are covered with pink roses and the scent of the flowers spreads over the area, visitors can have a unique experience watching the process of making rosewater from harvesting to steaming rose petals.