

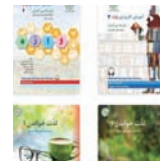
Iran urges world to hold Riyadh accountable for covert nuclear work **2**



Iran chosen to host FIVB Boys' U19 World C'ship **3**



Coronavirus didn't halt Iran's oil production, not even one day **4**



Iranian ebook store offers publications for non-native Persian learners **8**

Strengthening ties despite pressures

See page 3



© Tehran Times / Bahman Vakhshour

By Mahnaz Abdi
Head of Economy Desk

Iran determined to become fully independent in railway industry

After the U.S. imposed a new round of sanctions on the Iranian economy, a national determination was formed inside Iran for empowering its domestic production to achieve self-reliance.

Since then, the national will for independence has become stronger and the Iranian industry has invigorated production in different sectors.

Railway is one of the sectors in which such status is outstanding, as self-reliance has been achieved in some major areas of this sector.

From domestic manufacturing of parts and equipment to rail tracks, wagons, and locomotives, self-reliance is now being witnessed in the railway sector.

In June 2018, the first domestically-manufactured rail tracks were handed over to the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI).

The consignment contained 500 tons of U33 rail tracks which were produced according to the latest global standards including engineering standards EN13674.

Mentioning the hand-over of the first domestically-manufactured rail tracks (known as National Rail) to the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami said, "Moving toward self-sufficiency in this sector is a must and delivery of the first cargo of the National Rail has been a big achievement in this regard."

He underscored that the country would become a major rail track manufacturer in the region in near future.

Also speaking on the sidelines of the 20th edition of Iran's International Exhibition of Building and Construction Industry (Iran ConFair 2020) in mid-September, the minister said, "Applying National Rail in the railway network is an honor for the country's industrial sector."

In terms of domestic manufacturing of wagons and locomotives, last year the railway fleet received 213 domestically-made wagons and locomotives in September, and 243 wagons and locomotives in December. **→4**

Sanctions will hamper Iran's access to medicine and medical equipment: Carleton University professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — A professor of Carleton University says that American sanctions will make Iran's access to medicines and medical equipment difficult even if, technically, such humanitarian goods are generally exempted from sanctions.

"Inevitably it will be more difficult for Iran to access certain medicines and medical equipment even if, technically, such humanitarian goods are generally exempted from sanctions," Dane Rowlands tells the Tehran Times.

"Even if other countries try to circumvent the sanctions and deliver humanitarian goods such as food and medicine, the U.S. sanctions will likely impose serious, though ultimately probably diminishing, barriers to the needed flow of goods," Rowlands says.

The following is the text of the interview:

■ What is your analysis of Donald Trump's pullout from the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA)

with Iran? What were his motives for such an action?

A: Iran has been a target of U.S. foreign policy since the revolution in 1979, and the seizure of American embassy personnel as hostages. Since then, the spiral of mutual antagonism has made Iran an easy target for the U.S., since there are no foreign policy needs or domestic electoral benefits for the U.S. from having better relations with Iran. The closest thing to a rapprochement was under President Obama, but one of President Trump's primary policy objectives is to reverse everything his predecessor did in both foreign and domestic policy, regardless of what the issue is. Since President Obama negotiated the JCPOA with the other various signatories, President Trump wished to withdraw. President Trump's administration has often included foreign policy hardliners, especially against Iran. **→5**

U.S. Protests: Protesters in Portland topple statues of Lincoln and Roosevelt

Protesters in Portland, Ore., swept through the city on Sunday night, toppling statues of Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt and damaging the entrance to the Oregon Historical Society in a demonstration against colonization and the treatment of Native Americans.

Protests around the country this year have mainly targeted statues featuring slave owners and symbols of the Confederacy, but the demonstrators in Portland focused on the 1920s statues of the former presidents as part of a protest billed as an "Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage."

According to New York Times, U.S. President Trump seized on the toppling of the statues on Monday morning, citing the destruction as a reason to vote for him next month. "The Radical Left fools in Portland don't want any help from real Law Enforcement which we will provide instantaneously," he wrote on Twitter. "Vote!"

Lincoln has long been celebrated as the president who brought an end to slavery in the United States, but the protesters sprayed the base of his statue in Portland with "Dakota 38" — a reference to the largest mass execution in U.S. history, in which 38 Dakota Indians were sent to the gallows in 1862, accused of killing settlers in raids.

Lincoln had signed the execution order. He had also expressed worry about the rapid speed and lack of evidence presented at military tribunals that led to the death sentences; he commuted the sentences of 265 others who had been tried.

Roosevelt has been scrutinized over his opinions about racial hierarchy and his role in the Spanish-American War. He endorsed eugenics proposals. He was quoted as saying it would be better if almost all Native Americans were dead.

COVID-19 has given a fillip to biodiversity

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN — The COVID-19 outbreak caused many problems for the world, but in return gave the planet's environment and biodiversity a chance to breathe. The high mortality rate may be worrisome, but it provided us with the opportunity to think more about how we should treat biodiversity in a better way.

Biodiversity is an important feature of life explained by the vast diversity of plants and animals, which is a non-renewable resource and

its loss will be irreparable. Kioumars Kalantari, head of the natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment said.

The growing importance of biodiversity is due to its role in maintaining the stability of ecosystems, because in an ecosystem, the greater the species diversity, the longer food chains, resulting in a more stable environment, he added.

According to him, today the protection of biodiversity, habitats, and natural ecosystems is among the most important indicators of sus-

tainable development in the world.

Fortunately, Iran benefits from rich biodiversity due to special climatic, geographical, and topographic conditions and characteristics, and more than 8600 species of plants and 1300 species of vertebrates live in the country, he highlighted.

Unfortunately, the environment faces a variety of threats and challenges, including pollution, habitat destruction, climate change, sand and dust storms, natural disasters such as droughts, floods, and increasing disease outbreaks, he noted. **→7**

Top film expert Akbar Alemi dies of COVID-19

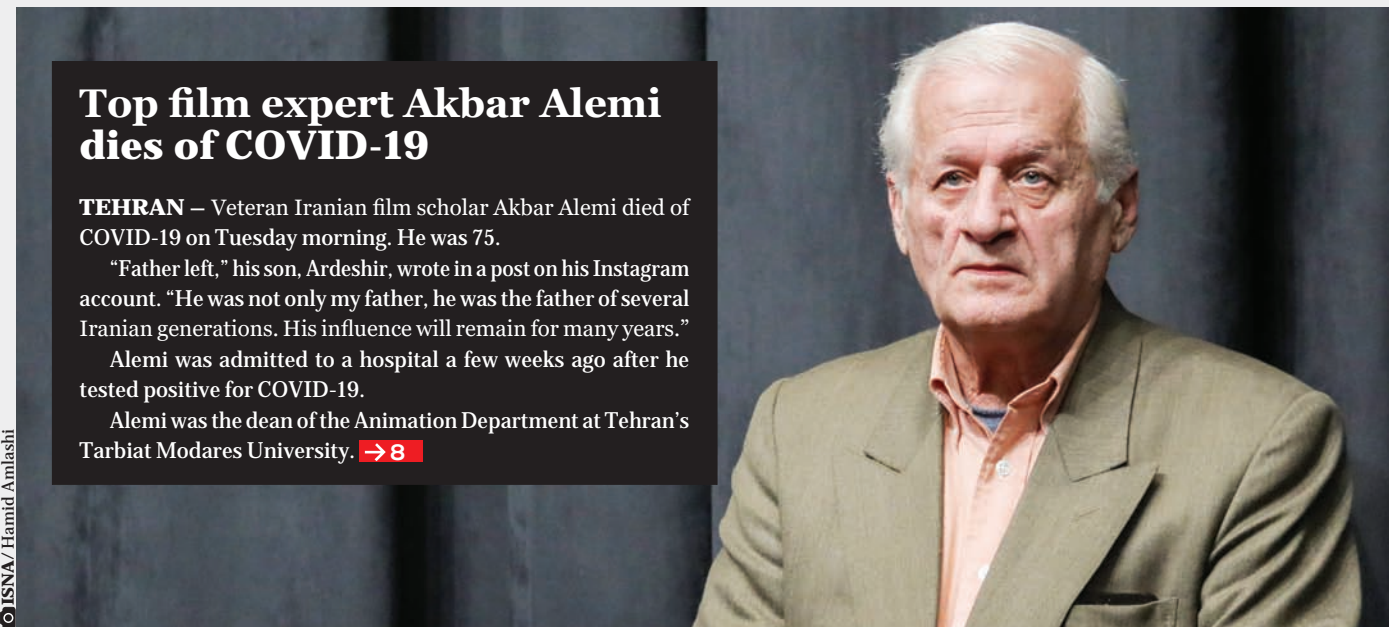
TEHRAN — Veteran Iranian film scholar Akbar Alemi died of COVID-19 on Tuesday morning. He was 75.

"Father left," his son, Ardeshtir, wrote in a post on his Instagram account. "He was not only my father, he was the father of several Iranian generations. His influence will remain for many years."

Alemi was admitted to a hospital a few weeks ago after he tested positive for COVID-19.

Alemi was the dean of the Animation Department at Tehran's Tarbiat Modares University. **→8**

© ISNA / Hamid Amlashi



Iron ore concentrate output up 4% in H1

TEHRAN — Iran produced 24.6 million tons of iron ore concentrate during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), which was four percent higher than the figure of the same period of time in the past year.

Also, the monthly iron ore concentrate output during the sixth month of this year has risen six percent on an annual basis.

The country produced 4.248 million

tons of the product in the sixth month of the present year, while the figure was 4.014 million tons in the same month of the previous year.

Iran's iron ore concentrate production capacity has increased by five million tons to reach 62 million tons following the inauguration of the country's biggest concentrate unit in northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province on June 11. **→4**

JCPOA parties must now formally announce lifting of UN arms embargo: senior MP

TEHRAN — Remaining parties to a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers must now formally declare that UN restrictions on arms trade with Iran have come to an end, a senior Iranian lawmaker said.

The lawmaker, Mojtaba Zolnouri, said the UN arms embargo on Iran will expire on October 18 in accordance with the provisions of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which is officially known as the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"Now, countries which are parties to the JCPOA must formally announce the lifting of arms restrictions in accordance with the JCPOA and let the world know that the Islamic Republic of Iran is allowed to buy and sell arms," Zolnouri, who is the head of the Parliament's National Security Committee, was quoted by the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA) as saying. **→3**

Literacy rate in rural areas grows significantly

TEHRAN — The difference in literacy rate between urban and rural areas has decreased from 34.9 percent in 1976 to about 12 percent in 2019, which demonstrates a significant rise in the literacy rate of rural areas.

According to the censuses conducted between 1976 and 2016, the literacy rate of urban areas has increased from 65.5 percent to 99.8 percent. At the same time,

the literacy rate in rural areas has increased from 30.5 percent to 78.5 percent.

Moreover, the country's population aged 6 and above was estimated at 71.5 million, of which more than 62 million declared themselves literate and over 8 million were illiterate. Accordingly, the literacy rate has increased from 47.5 percent in 1976 to 87.6 percent in 2016, which reached up to 89 percent in 2019. **→7**

Discover top ten travel destinations of western Iran

TEHRAN — Although potential travelers to Iran are mostly fascinated by tourism delights of Isfahan, Yazd, and Shiraz, they are unaware that almost every corner of the ancient land is home to astonishing attractions such as dusty labyrinthine bazaars, centuries-old monuments, colorful landscapes, scorching deserts, snow-capped mountains, eroded volcanic plateaus, long-abandoned castles, ancient river valleys, enigmatic places of worship, and above all, hospitable and welcoming people.

Below are sites in western Iran, well-selected by Lonely Planet for the sort of person, who wants to hit off-the-beaten-path to feel Iran:

■ Armenian churches

To the untrained eye, Iran's earliest churches may seem modest structures to some but they bear testimony to a vast panorama of architectural and decorative scenes associated with Armenian culture blended with other regional cultures: Byzantine, Orthodox, Assyrian, Persian, and Muslim.

St. Thaddeus, St. Stepanos, and the Chapel of Dzordzor are three photogenic ancient churches that constitute the Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran, which were collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage in 2008. They are dotted in fresh and green lands of northwest Iran and are important pilgrimage sites for Armenian-Iranians and others from across the globe.

Also known as the Qareh Klise ("the Black Church"), St. Thaddeus, as one of the oldest surviving Christian monuments in the country, is situated in Chaldoran county some 20 kilometers from Maku, adjacent to the borders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey. **→6**

Funeral to be held for eight martyrs of Syrian war

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran is scheduled to hold funeral services for eight fallen soldiers who lost their lives defending the people of Syria against Takfiri terrorists.

According to Tasnim, the funeral ceremonies for the eight martyrs will be held separately in the cities of Babol, Amol, Ghaemshahr, Fereydoonkenar, Karaj, Andimeshk and Qazvin.

The martyrs' bodies were discovered in an operation to find the remains of the victims of the war in the Syrian village of Khan Tuman.

"The martyrs of Khan Tuman prevented Daesh (ISIS) from coming close to Iran's borders," Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of the Expediency Council, said on Tuesday.

Nategh-Nouri will not run for president: ex-MP

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Former senior lawmaker Mohammad Reza Bahonar says top political figure Ali Akbar Nategh-Nouri will not run for president in the next year's election.

"We tried to get him involved, but he decisively says he doesn't feel obligated to do so," Bahonar said in an interview with Mehr published on Tuesday.

"He is involved in his seminary and has no resolve to enter political activities. That's why he is not willing to play a role in the political sphere, neither as a candidate nor as a political actor," he added.

Nategh-Nouri was a candidate in the presidential election in 1997, but he lost the election to Mohammad Khatami.

Nategh-Nouri was parliament speaker in the fifth parliament from 1996-2000. While he was speaker, Hassan Rouhani, the current president, was his deputy.

Asked whether the principlists are favored to win the election, Bahonar, who himself is a principlist, said nothing is certain about Iran's elections until the last moments. He then pointed to the last-minute victory of the past three presidents, namely Mohammad Khatami, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Rouhani, as examples proving his point.

Iran urges world to hold Riyadh accountable for covert nuclear work

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Republic of Iran has called on the international community to hold Saudi Arabia responsible for its covert nuclear activities.

"It is unfortunate to see hostility from countries like Saudi Arabia, while Iran has always offered peace plans to stabilize our region," Iran's permanent envoy to the UN General Assembly First Committee said on Monday.



"However, they have not accepted these peace demands and have instead continued their failed policies on military solutions to confront Iran, in addition to their vicious attempts to accuse Iran," Heidar Ali Balouji added, according to Mehr news agency.

Balouji said Iran's nuclear activities are completely transparent, and Iran fully cooperates with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The latest reports and statements of the IAEA director general have explicitly confirmed Iran's cooperation, he asserted.

The ambassador said the IAEA director general has described the recent agreement between Tehran and the Agency as a brilliant moment in diplomacy.

"I must remind the Saudi representative that only the IAEA is the competent authority to evaluate the activities of member states, not countries like Saudi Arabia, whose malice towards Iran never allows them to hear or see the real facts," he stated.

Balouji went on to say, "Riyadh is not fully implementing the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and is not submitting even the current small amount of its plan to the IAEA for approval as the IAEA has repeatedly requested."

He argued that the failure of the IAEA's safeguards comes at a time when the Saudi nuclear capability appears to be able to carry out an ambitious plan that could allow the Saudis to conceal some nuclear activities without being inspected by the UN nuclear watchdog.

"Concerns about Saudi Arabia's nuclear activities and the identification of secret nuclear sites in the desert require widespread support for a concerted international effort to hold the Saudis accountable for their actions," the envoy remarked.

"The international community must urge Riyadh to implement the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement immediately," Balouji said, adding, "Stopping nuclear aid to Saudi Arabia is the only way to alleviate these concerns."

Saudi Arabia's clandestine nuclear program, which had been revealed by whistle-blowers, was recently confirmed by satellite images showing a large compound, in a suspicious location in the middle of the desert.

The Wall Street Journal uncovered the facility constructed in a remote area in Saudi Arabia for extracting uranium yellow-cake from uranium ore. Ironically, the facility is located near a solar-panel production area.

Observers say such undeclared nuclear capabilities in the hands of the KSA are extremely worrying, in light of the abysmal Saudi human rights record.

"I must remind the Saudi representative that only the IAEA is the competent authority to evaluate the activities of member states, not countries like Saudi Arabia, whose malice towards Iran never allows them to hear or see the real facts," Iranian diplomat Heidar Ali Balouji says.

'Nagorno-Karabakh clashes to persist as long as Azeri cities remain occupied'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Former Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Mohsen Pak-A'een has said the Azerbaijan-Armenia clashes will continue as long as Azerbaijan's seven cities remain occupied.

"So long as Baku hasn't liberated its seven cities, it sees itself entitled to their liberation and that's why the Karabakh clashes will continue," Pak-A'een said, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

"In order to reach a truce that leads to permanent peace, we should see what measures should take place so that both countries, I mean the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, feel satisfaction and think they have won," the former diplomat commented.

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

Pak-A'een emphasized that the ceasefires

will not lead to permanent peace. "In fact, the ceasefires are reached in order to buy time, compensate for the damage, and prepare for another round of wars and clashes."

"The mediators do not address the main issue, namely the occupation of the territories," he said, adding that the same thing happened during Iraq's imposed war on Iran, when the mediators called for ceasefire while

Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had Iran's territories under his army's occupation.

"Ceasefire was meaningless as long as the occupation of the territories continued," he remarked.

In a Twitter thread on Monday, Iranian presidential chief of staff Mahmoud Vaezi called for an end to the clashes between the two neighboring countries.

Vaezi lauded Russia's efforts to mediate between Baku and Yerevan, saying Iran welcomes the ceasefire and an end to the war over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"We hope the peace talks would begin as soon as possible and the results of the talks would conform with the internationally-recognized rights of the two countries, so that it would not lead to another war," he added.

He further said that the region has the necessary capacities for the settlement of problems and guaranteeing peace and security.

"Moscow's talks with the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia are a good sign of the potential of the independent regional powers, and Iran is fully prepared for cooperation and assistance in the process of peace and stability in accordance with international law," stated Vaezi, who was Iran's second-ranking diplomat when Ali Akbar Velayati was foreign minister.

Trump's withdrawal from JCPOA 'major blow to world peace': expert

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Seyed Hossein Mousavian, a former Iranian nuclear negotiator, has said U.S. President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has dealt a major blow to world peace and security.

"The JCPOA is the most comprehensive and complete document in the history of nuclear non-proliferation. By destroying the JCPOA, Trump has dealt a major blow to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and global peace and security," Mousavian said on Monday, according to IRNA.

Back in 2015, in order to address the commotion created by the United States and its allies over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, Tehran signed the 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, 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. Trump's move drew worldwide

criticism.

On whether the U.S. has become safer with Trump's ditching of the JCPOA and the U.S. assassination of Iran's top general Qassem Soleimani, Mousavian said, "I believe America's security has diminished. The non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is an integral part of global security."

"It is true that Trump has caused billions of dollars in economic damage to Iran by imposing the most extensive sanctions, but with his withdrawal from the JCPOA, Iran expanded its range of nuclear activities and enrichment, which the Americans themselves consider it as contrary to the U.S. security," he added.

Mousavian, who now works as a researcher at Princeton University, said all U.S. security and military agencies believe that with Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA, cyber warfare between the two countries has expanded, which proves that security threats against the United States have increased.

He went on to say that the rising U.S. hostilities against Iran will not help U.S. "security, regional peace, and stability".



"Iran is an important regional power, and the United States is a global power, and until the cooperation of these two powers is realized, there will be no hope of resolving the regional crises," added Mousavian, Iran's former ambassador to Germany.

Next U.S. president will have to reconsider failed 'max pressure' campaign on Iran: expert

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A U.S. affairs expert believes Washington's "maximum pressure" policy on Iran has failed to achieve its goals and whoever wins the November 3 presidential election in the U.S. will have to reconsider the failed policy.

In an interview with IRNA on Monday, Foad Izadi said any U.S. presidential candidate should change the policy, because the U.S. government had the fantasy that, as a result of the maximum pressure, the Islamic Republic of Iran will either collapse or give up.

The nuclear agreement, endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, was signed between Iran, the United States, Britain, Germany, France, the European Union,



Russia, and China on July 14, 2018. However, U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned the deal on May 8, 2018, and returned sanctions and imposed new harsh ones.

On May 8, 2019, exactly one year after

the U.S. abandoned the deal, Tehran said its "strategic patience" is over and began to partially reduce its commitments to the agreement at bi-monthly intervals.

Finally, on January 5 of this year, Iran issued a statement announcing suspension of all limits under the JCPOA.

"Everyone can see that none of the two goals has been achieved," Izadi said.

The expert added that Iran is progressing regardless of the sanctions, and the greater the progress of Iran, including the nuclear field, the greater the U.S. concern will be.

He maintained that the result of the U.S. presidential election will be a win-win for Iran.

"If Trump will be re-elected as president

Germany reiterates full commitment to Iran nuclear deal, regrets U.S. withdrawal

TEHRAN (Press TV) — Germany has reiterated its full commitment to a multilateral nuclear agreement signed between Iran and major world powers in 2015, saying the United States' move to pull out of the agreement is "regrettable."

In a post on its Twitter page on Monday, Germany's mission to the United Nations said Berlin "remains fully committed to preservation & full implementation" of the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses the accord.

It added that the U.S. "withdrawal from the 'JCPOA & its re-imposed sanctions [against Iran] are regrettable."

The mission further expressed Germany's concern about measures by Iran "contrary to key nuclear-related provisions in JCPOA," referring to Tehran's suspension of some of its commitments under the deal, in response to the failure of the other signatories to live up to their obligations stipulated in the accord.

U.S. President Donald Trump, a hawkish critic of the landmark nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers – the United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany -- unilaterally withdrew Washington from the agreement in May 2018, and unleashed the "toughest ever" sanctions against the Islamic Republic in defiance of global criticism.

Following its much-criticized exit, Washington has been attempting to



prevent the remaining signatories from abiding by their commitments and thus kill the historic agreement, which is widely viewed as a fruit of international diplomacy.

Iran remained fully compliant with the JCPOA for an entire year, waiting for the co-signatories to fulfill their end of the bargain by offsetting the impacts of American bans on the Iranian economy.

But as the European parties failed to do so, the Islamic Republic moved in May 2019 to suspend its JCPOA commitments under Articles 26 and 36 of the deal covering Tehran's legal rights.

Iran took five steps in scaling back its obligations, among them abandoning operational limitations on its nuclear industry, including with regard to the capacity and level of uranium enrichment.

All those measures were adopted after informing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) beforehand, with the agency's inspectors present on the ground in Iran.

Admiral: Iran's defense chain in PG ready to respond to any threat

TEHRAN (MNA) — Deputy Navy Commander for Coordination Rear Admiral Hamzeh Ali Kaviani said that Iran's defense chain in the south of the country is ready to respond to any threat.

He made the remarks at the welcoming ceremony of Iran's 69th naval flotilla which returned to the southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Tuesday after a 67-day mission in the international waters.

"The presence of foreigners in the Persian Gulf is of no use to them, we declare to the enemies that Iran will respond to any threat to its waters and interests," said Kaviani.

"In order to defend the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Navy has a bold presence in international waters," he added, saying, "Security and protection of international waterways and escort of Iranian ships are among the duties assigned to the Army."

"The 69th fleet of warships of the Iranian Navy has also been successful in carrying out its orders and plans," Kaviani highlighted.

He stressed, "Our presence in the seas will be continuous and authoritative, and this presence is a continuation of the implementation of the orders of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces."

"On its first overseas mission, 'Sahand' destroyer set out on a mission to the Gulf of Aden and was able to emerge from its pre-determined plans successfully," he added.

Kaviani noted, "Today, the capability of Iran Navy goes beyond building a destroyer



and has the authority to deliver a strong response to the United States in the face of threats."

"The Navy of Iran is present in the seas and supports the country's oil, commercial and fisheries fleet," he said.

"The 70th flotilla set sail for the high seas immediately after the return of the 69th naval flotilla on the same day," Kaviani highlighted.

The 69th fleet of warships of the Iranian Navy, comprising 'Sahand' destroyer and logistical warship 'Bandar Abbas', berthed at southern Iranian port city this morning and was welcomed in a ceremony attended by navy commanders and staff.

The flotilla traveled a total of 7,888 nautical miles during its overseas journey and tracked over 700 vessels, 36 of which were Iranian tankers and commercial vessels.

In recent years, Iran's naval forces have increased their presence in international waters to secure naval routes and protect merchant vessels and oil tankers against pirates.

Strengthening ties despite pressures

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — From China through Russia to Iraq, Iran proactively takes measures to boost its economic ties with countries around the world as the United States doubles down on its renewed efforts to isolate Iran from the global financial system.

Over the past few weeks, while the U.S. officials were busy preparing new sanctions on Iran, several Iranian officials were planning visits to a number of countries mainly to cement Iran's economic and financial ties with a world that the White House wants it to isolate Iran.

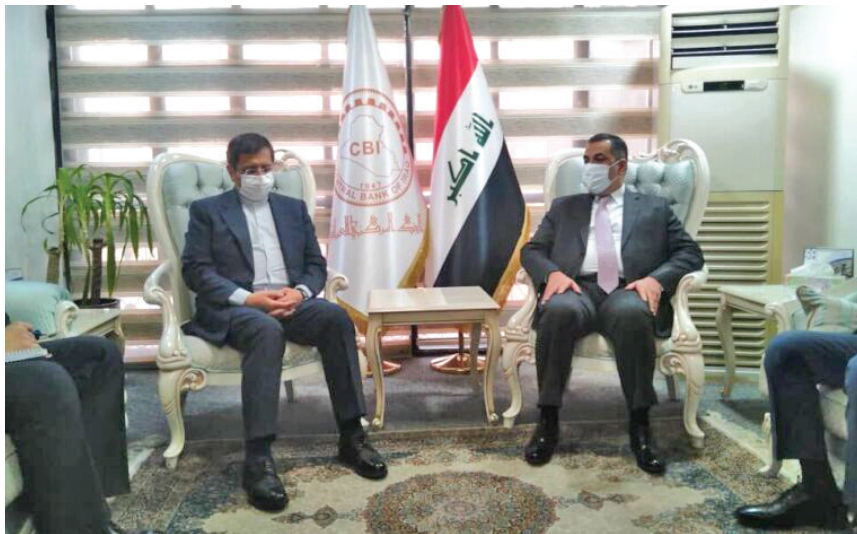
Russia was the first destination for Iranian officials. In September, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif paid a two-day visit to Russia to discuss a variety of issues including the implementation of agreements and the process of developing cooperation between the two countries.

Russia is a close ally of Iran which firmly opposed the U.S. push to restore all UN sanctions on Iran lifted under the 2015 nuclear agreement. In addition to their cooperation on issues related to the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, Russia and Iran are also in the process of negotiating over upgrading a decades-long bilateral agreement and turning it into a strategic partnership. During a meeting in early August with Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the International Affairs Committee of Russia's State Duma, Zarif said Iran plans to extend a 20-year agreement with Russia. Tehran and Moscow signed a cooperation agreement nearly 20 years ago.

This agreement will expire in the coming months. Zarif has said Iran is willing to extend and upgrade the agreement to a strategic level. Since July, he has visited Moscow twice. During his visit to Russia on July 20, the foreign minister said "Iran-Russia relations are strategic."

It's expected that Russia and Iran hold more discussions about how to establish a strategic partnership as the decades-long agreement nears its end.

Similarly, Iran also is pursuing a 25-year comprehensive strategic partnership plan with China. On October 9, Zarif arrived in the southern Chinese province of Yunnan. One day later, Zarif met with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. Following the meeting, Zarif tweeted, "Fruitful talks in beautiful Tengchong with my friend Wang Yi on Iran-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership." He added that Iran and China "rejected U.S. unilateralism and U.S.



Iran's central bank chief Hemmati (left) met his Iraqi counterpart Mustafa Ghaleb in Baghdad on Monday, Oct. 12.

attempts to create unipolar world."

On the other hand, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying has said Beijing was willing to deepen its strategic partnership with Tehran.

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

Zarif also discussed the ways to facilitate the trade between Iran and China, according to Reza Zabib, an assistant to the foreign minister.

The assistant told the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) news agency that facilitating the trade between Iran and China was the first issue that Zarif discussed in China.

"Unfortunately, the [U.S.] sanctions are putting pressures everywhere but fortunately we are in a very good position to do business with China," Zabib pointed out ahead of Zarif's trip to China.

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

Assets unblocked, sanctions ignored

As Zarif returned from China to Iran, Abdolnasser Hemmati, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran visited Baghdad on Monday to hold talks with the Iraqi authorities over Iranian assets in frozen bank accounts in Iraq. The central banker met with his Iraqi counterpart Mustafa Ghaleb, Iraqi Finance Minister Ali Allawi, Salem Jawad al-Chalabi, the head of the Trade Bank of Iraq, and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi.

The chief banker's talks resulted in an agreement with Iraq to unblock the Iranian assets, a move that came a few days after the U.S. imposed sanctions on eighteen Iranian banks with the purpose of cutting off Iran's ties with the global financial system.

Hemmati said in an Instagram post that he held "intense negotiations" with the Iraqi officials, leading to reaching a deal with Iraq to unblock the Iranian assets.

"During these negotiations, especially at the joint trilateral meeting with the heads of Central Bank and Trade Bank of Iraq, we have reached good agreements to unblock the CBI assets and using them in providing our country with basic and necessary goods. We held detailed discussions on trade exchanges," Hemmati stated.

According to Hemmati, Iran has significant financial assets in Iraqi banks as a result of its gas and electricity exports to Iraq.

Under the agreements, Iran will be able to

withdraw these assets according to its needs.

Hemmati also said that during his meeting with al-Kadhimi, the Iraqi prime minister expressed satisfaction at the agreements and instructed the Central Bank and the Trade Bank of Iraq to accelerate the implementation of the agreements.

The release of the Iranian assets came at a time when the U.S. is ramping up its economic pressures on Iran to isolate it from the global financial system. To this end, on October 8 the U.S. introduced sweeping sanctions on the remaining eighteen Iranian banks.

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

The U.S. Treasury issued a statement that explained the implications of the new sanctions.

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

However, the Iran-Iraq agreements on the release of assets highlighted the little impact of these sanctions. Iran and Iraq has not only agreed to cement banking ties, but also to resume border trade.

According to Iraqi news website al-Eqtasad News, the governors of the central banks of Iran and Iraq have signed a commercial memorandum of understanding.

One day after Hemmati visited Baghdad, Iran and the Kurdistan region of Iraq reached an agreement on resuming the export of Iranian fuel to Iraq. The two sides also agreed to hold further talks on boosting border trade between Iran and Iraq through the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

The new measures taken by Iran to strengthen economic ties with countries around the world is part of Iran's efforts to mitigate the effects of the U.S. economic sanctions and turn Donald Trump's "maximum pressure into a maximum disgrace."

On Monday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to turn the U.S. policy of "maximum pressure" against Iran into a "maximum disgrace" through boosting the production capacity of the Iranian economy.

Drone crashes inside Iran as Azerbaijan-Armenia war rages on

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A drone came down inside northwestern Iranian territories along Iran's borders with Azerbaijan as the war between Baku and Yerevan entered its seventeenth day.

The drone crashed while flying over a village in the border county of Pars Abad Moghan on Tuesday Morning.

Citing local sources, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that the drone is likely to belong to Azerbaijan or Armenia, which are locked in a deadly war over the Nagorno-Karabakh region since late September. The disputed region is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but controlled by local Armenian forces.

Behrouz Nedayi, the deputy governor of Ardabil for political and security affairs, confirmed that the drone has crashed in Iran, saying that Iranian authorities are investigating whose the drone was and how it crashed.

According to a Fars news report, the drone had something to do with the Azerbaijan-Armenia war during which the two warring sides, especially Azerbaijan, have resorted to combat drones to target each other's positions.

In addition to the drone, several rockets and mortar shells



have landed inside Iran over the past few weeks, prompting Iran to formally warn the two warring sides against violating the Iranian soil.

"Movements in the border areas of our country are being seriously and sensitively monitored by the Islamic Republic

of Iran, and in this regard, while declaring any attack by any of the warring parties in the region on our country is intolerable, we seriously warn all parties to seriously take care in this regard," the Iranian Foreign Ministry has recently said in a statement.

Iran has called on Azerbaijan and Armenia to immediately cease the war and resolve their differences through dialogue, expressing readiness to facilitate such a dialogue.

"Iran is closely monitoring the alarming violence in Nagorno-Karabakh. We call for an immediate end to hostilities and urge dialogue to resolve differences. Our neighbors are our priority and we are ready to provide good offices to enable talks. Our region needs peace now," tweeted Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif shortly after Armenia and Azerbaijan began the war.

A few days ago, Russia brokered a ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which was supposed to deescalate tensions in the southern Caucasus region. However, the war didn't stop and the two warring countries continued to double down on their military operations. The war still rages on with no end in sight.

JCPOA parties must now formally announce lifting of UN arms embargo: senior MP

1→ He added, "If this happens, a small portion of what was foreseen in the JCPOA, and Iran is entitled to have, will be implemented. Of course, this alone cannot be considered as a victory because it's a gratuitous restriction and oppression that will be lifted."

Under the JCPOA, the UN arms embargo on Iran will expire on October 18, a move that the U.S. has used everything in its power to prevent. It has submitted a draft resolution to the UN Security Council calling for the extension of the arms embargo but the resolution was firmly rejected by thirteen of the 15-member UN Security Council. Then the U.S. resorted to triggering a highly controversial mechanism that is mentioned in UN Security Council Resolution 2231. The mechanism, known as the snapback process, stipulates that a "JCPOA participant state" can trigger the return of all UN sanctions on Iran if it failed to uphold its obligations

under the JCPOA.

In August, the U.S. triggered the 30-day process despite firm opposition from all JCPOA parties and almost all UN Security Council members who said with one voice that the U.S. has lost the legal authority to trigger the snapback process after it withdrew from the nuclear deal on May 8, 2018.

On September 19, the U.S. announced the return of all UN sanctions on Iran in a bid to extend the UN arms embargo but the global community once again stood against the U.S. However, the U.S. has threatened anyone violating the UN sanctions with unilateral punitive measures.

Zolnouri said the U.S. has used everything in its power to prevent the lifting of the UN arms embargo but failed.

"This can be considered as a failure for the U.S. and a victory for Iran because the



U.S. failed to bring on board the P4+1," the lawmaker asserted.

P4+1 refers to the four permanent members of the UN Security Council (Russia, France, China, and Britain) plus Germany.

He also pointed to Iran's requested \$5 billion emergency loan from the International Monetary Fund, which was blocked by the U.S., saying international institutions are under the U.S. influence and have treated Iran discriminatorily.

Iran supports any initiative to end clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran backs any initiative to stop the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on Tuesday, reiterating the position that Tehran is ready to mediate between Baku and Yerevan.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Rabiei said, "We support any initiative that brings the Azerbaijan-Armenia war to an end, establishes ceasefire, and prevent the killing of humans." The spokesman said Iran has expressed readiness to act as a go-between and help deescalate tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"Iran is one of the few players that has good relations with the two warring sides and other regional parties. From now on, we will be in a special position and will have an important mission. Accordingly, we sought to be in constant contact with both capitals in a mutual way. Due to our previous correct policies, we have equal access and we are in contact with regional players," Rabiei noted.

He added, "We welcome the cessation of hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region as a step towards peace, and ask our neighbors to engage in serious dialogue based on respect for international law and territorial integrity, and to refrain from any action that violates the ceasefire and

undercuts the first steps towards diplomacy and peace."

The spokesman also expressed deep regret over the killing of civilians during the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Iran has recently offered an initiative to end the conflict, which broke out on September 27.

"Iran has prepared a detailed plan, which will be pursued through making consultations with the two sides [of the conflict]," said the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry on October 8. "We have prepared a plan and we hope that we would be able to end this war as soon as possible," Saeed Khatibzadeh added.

SPORTS

Iran chosen to host FIVB Boys' U19 World C'ship

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran has been chosen to host FIVB Volleyball Boys' Under 19 World Championship by FIVB.



Following an open bidding process and the approval of the FIVB Board of Administration, the FIVB has confirmed the hosts for the next editions of the FIVB Volleyball Age Group World Championships.

After careful evaluation of all the proposals received, the countries below were approved as hosts for the following World Championships:

- FIVB Volleyball Girls' Under 18 World Championship – Mexico
- FIVB Volleyball Boys' Under 19 World Championship – Iran
- FIVB Volleyball Women's Under 20 World Championship – Netherlands and Belgium
- FIVB Volleyball Men's Under 21 World Championship – Italy and Bulgaria.

"I am delighted to see such strong hosting nations committed to providing more opportunities for young athletes to participate in international competitions. Each of these events is an important step in the development of an athlete's career. As they grow their competition experience, I have no doubt that, in the future, we will see many of them proudly representing their nation at some of the biggest volleyball competitions on the planet," FIVB President Dr Ary S. Graça Fº said.

Each event is hosted every two years and have played an important role in the journeys of many Olympic and World Champions, FIVB.org reported.

Iran, Mali friendly canceled

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The friendly match between Iran and Mali national football teams has been canceled.

The warm-up game had been slated for Tuesday in Antalya, Turkey but it was called off after several Malian players tested positive for COVID-19.

Dragan Skocic's team had defeated Uzbekistan 2-1 in a friendly match on Tuesday.

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

Iran's Super Cup postponed

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The sixth edition of Iran's Super Cup which had been scheduled for Oct. 26 was postponed.

The Iran League Football Organization announced that the Super Cup between Persepolis and Tractor will be held in mid-season but has not revealed the reason behind the decision.

The 20th edition of the Iran Professional League (IPL) will begin on Oct. 31 but Persepolis had previously announced that they need more time to rest since they participated at the 2020 AFC Champions League (west) until Oct. 3, where the Iranian giants qualified for the final match.

The Super Cup will be held between IPL titleholders (Persepolis) and Hazfi Cup winners (Tractor).

Persepolis have won the last three editions of the cup. Saba and Zob Ahan have claimed the title one time.

Iran, Serbia wrestling federations sign MoU

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran and Serbia Wrestling Federations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Tehran on Tuesday.

Head of Iran Wrestling Federation Alireza Dabir signed the MoU with his Serbian counterpart Zeljko Trajkovic at the Khaneye Koshti (House of Wrestling) on Tuesday.

"It's a great opportunity for our federation to learn from Iran since we are at the beginning of the way. We both have the same favorite subject and it's wrestling," Trajkovic said.

"I was appointed as head of the federation in 2006 and the wrestling has improved a lot in Serbia since then. Our wrestlers are on the same level as others at the moment. The investment in sport is the right thing to do," he added.

"Iran can be a role model and we can use the country's experience to organize the world competitions. I am impressed by the lovely atmosphere at the Khaneye Koshti. I've seen many big complexes and they might be more modern but every complex needs motivation," Trajkovic stated.

Reza Ghoochannejhad linked with Tractor

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Former Iran striker Reza Ghoochannejhad has been linked with a move to Tractor football team.

Gucci currently plays at Eredivisie side Zwolle but local media reports suggest that the Tabriz based football club have shown interest in signing the 33-year-old forward.

Tractor are looking forward to win Iran Professional League for the first time ever.

The team won Iran's Hazfi Cup last month and will meet Persepolis in Iran's Super Cup.

Tractor will also participate at the 2021 AFC Champions League. Ghoochannejhad was a member of Iran national football team in the 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cups.

He can join his former friends Ashkan Dejagah, Masoud Shojaei and Ehsan haji Safi in Tractor.

Gasoline export to Iraqi Kurdistan resumed

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — During a meeting between some officials from Iran’s western Kordestan province and Iraqi Kurdistan Region on Monday, the two sides made agreement on direct transportation of fuel from Iran to Kurdistan through Bashmaq border, IRNA reported.

It was decided that at the first stage the tankers carrying gasoline, which were stopped at the borderline, can unload their consignments in Kurdistan, and then those tankers carrying oil and gas oil unload their consignments at Bashmaq.

As ISNA reported on Tuesday, the tankers started transporting fuel to Kurdistan after the Monday agreement.

In addition to the issue of direct transportation of fuel, the expansion of Iran’s exports to Kurdistan was also discussed during the meeting.

Coronavirus didn’t halt Iran’s oil production, not even one day: Zanganeh

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said on Tuesday that the outbreak of the coronavirus did not halt the country’s oil production for even one day, Shana reported.



Elaborating on the Oil Ministry’s measures for containing coronavirus pandemic, Zanganeh noted that since the very beginning of the outbreak the ministry made serious efforts to prevent any stoppage in the oil production while protecting the workforce.

“The Oil Ministry was one of the first bodies to take the lead due to the sensitivity of activities and the impossibility of shutting down oil activities,” he said.

“If oil and gas are not produced, electricity and water will not be produced,” Zanganeh stressed.

Zanganeh had previously announced that Oil Ministry’s measures were taken in four phases of prevention, readiness, confrontation, and returning to normal conditions.

Mentioning the drastic fall of the global oil prices and the U.S. sanctions along with the pandemic, Zanganeh noted that the oil industry is going through a hard time but people are shouldering the real burden.

Back in March, Zanganeh had said that the coronavirus outbreak did not halt oil production in the country.

Later that month, the minister and Head of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Masoud Karbasian had discussed necessary measures for containing the coronavirus in the Iranian oil industry’s operational areas.

In the meeting, the oil minister also discussed ways of preventing the spread of coronavirus in the oil, gas, refining, and petrochemical operational areas with his deputies and managers of operating companies via videoconference.

Over 1,795km of flood-damaged main roads reconstructed

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami said over 1,795 kilometers (km) of main roads, as well as 7,324 km of side and rural roads, and 6,592 technical buildings that were damaged from floods in the country during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) have been reconstructed, IRIB reported.

Speaking in the inauguration ceremony of the reconstruction projects, which was held through video conference, Eslami said: “The Transport Ministry, the Housing Foundation of Islamic Revolution, and several contractors worked on various projects in the affected areas and completed most of them.”

Pointing out that 22 provinces of the country were affected by floods in the previous Iranian calendar year, the official said: “Over 2,485 kilometers of main roads, 2,637 kilometers of side roads, 10,000 technical buildings and bridges were damaged in the floods.”

The damage made to the mentioned infrastructure was estimated to be 35 trillion rials (about \$833.3 million) at the time, he added.

The minister further stated that the government has so far paid 11 trillion rials (about \$261 million) to the ministry for the reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure.

“The reconstruction of the damaged areas in the road and urban development sector began and carried out with high quality and speed, and the people returned to their normal lives,” he noted.

Eslami pointed to the construction of alternative roads as another measure taken by the ministry in the mentioned regions noting that over 690 kilometers of various roads will be inaugurated in the next Iranian calendar year (begins on March 21, 2021).

Back in February, Eslami had announced that 724 km of new main roads and highways were added to the country’s roads network in the previous Iranian calendar year.

In late January, the transport ministry announced that six prioritized freeways projects with a total length of 550 kilometers (KM) were planned to be inaugurated in the country by the Iranian Calendar year of 1400.

TEDPIX gains 132 points on Tuesday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 132 points to 1.579 million on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 11,522 billion securities worth 109.838 trillion rials (about \$2.615 billion) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first market’s index gained 522 points and the second market’s index climbed 1,530 points.

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

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

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

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

Iran determined to become fully independent in railway industry

1 → The current Iranian calendar year is named the year of “Surge in Production” by Leader of Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei, and since the year start (March 20), the national railway fleet has constantly received new domestically-made locomotives and wagons.

At the first stage, which was on April 28, the fleet received 56 new domestically-made locomotives and wagons.

As reported, over 1.25 trillion rials (about \$29.7 million) was invested by six domestic companies for the manufacturing of the mentioned wagons and locomotives.

As for the second stage, 88 wagons and locomotives were added to the fleet, while in the third round 65, and in the fourth stage 50 wagons and locomotives joined the fleet.

In total, since the beginning of the current year, 778 wagons and locomotives worth 12.7 trillion rials (over \$302 million) have joined Iran’s railway fleet.

All such achievements prove that Iran is determined for complete self-reliance in the railway sector.

During a ceremony for inaugurating the permanent exhibition of self-reliance



in the railway sector at the railway station of Tehran on Sunday, RAI Head Saeed Rasouli said, “We are determined to achieve real independence in the railway industry, and besides meeting the domestic need, we can have a strong presence in the regional

market”.

The official also reiterated, “If we want to reach an ideal status in railway transportation, we should take some vast measures in this field.”

Addressing the same ceremony, the

Iron ore concentrate output up 4% in H1

1 → The mentioned production unit was inaugurated by President Hassan Rouhani via video conference.

As announced by the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry, Iran produced 47,306 million tons of iron ore concentrate in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), registering a four-percent rise compared to its preceding year.

The country extracted 64.274 million tons of iron ore during the past calendar year.

In its outlook plan for the Iranian calendar year 1404 (2025-2026) Iran has envisaged production of 55 million tons of steel per annum, and to achieve this target the country requires to extract 160 million tons of iron ore.

In a bid to prevent the exports of unprocessed minerals,

creating more value-added and meeting the requirements of domestic producers for the raw materials, Iran has levied a 25-percent duty on the exports of raw minerals (especially iron ore) since last September.

The duty is aimed at encouraging the production of more processed minerals such as pellets and concentrate instead of selling the raw minerals.

Private sectors of Iran, Kenya confer on energy, agriculture co-op

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted a meeting with a trade delegation from Kenya’s Bomet County on Tuesday in which the two sides discussed cooperation in various sectors including renewable energies, water, and agriculture.

The meeting was attended by officials from the two sides including Bomet Governor Hillary Barchok, and the Iranian Ambassador in Kenya Jafar Barmaki, as well as representatives of private companies from the two countries, the ICCIMA portal reported.

During their visit to Tehran, the Kenyan delegation also visited Iran’s International Exports Acceleration Company.

Speaking in the meeting, Barmaki pointed to the existing capacities and facilities in the African country and announced the establishment of an innovation center in Kenya by the Iranian Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Barchuk, who headed the Kenyan delegation, also mentioned the appropriate areas of cooperation between the two countries,

noting that Kenya, with its smooth agricultural lands, could be a good destination for investors in this field.

“About 80 percent of the country’s land is arable, and 60 percent of Kenya’s tea is currently produced in Bhutan,” she said.

She also said that Kenya is ready to present new ideas to strengthen relations between the two countries, while expressing satisfaction with the significant opportunities for cooperation between the two countries.

“Agriculture in Kenya which is still done in a traditional way can be developed with the help of Iranian experiences and technology. On the other hand, the country welcomes investors in the field of packaging and value creation,” Barchok stressed.

“We believe that the two countries can work together to take over the markets in their regions,” she added.

Elsewhere in her remarks, the official pointed to the challenges of this country in the field of water and energy, the high cost of electricity, and the lack of proper storage systems for storing agricultural products, and said: “Kenya hopes to work together to solve its problems.”

Optimizing engine rooms to save 500 mcm of gas annually

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) said that optimizing the engine rooms of the residential and commercial buildings across the country is going to save 500 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas every year, Shana reported.

Speaking in the unveiling ceremony of a national program for optimizing the engine rooms of residential and commercial units on Tuesday, Hassan Montazer Torbati said: “Optimizing energy consumption is not the responsibility of the Oil Ministry and the National Gas Company and this issue should be pursued by consumers such as power plants and industries.

“Regardless, this issue is very important because despite the development of South Pars, this field alone cannot meet the country’s consumption needs and if consumption is not controlled gas supply will be interrupted,” he said.

That is why, since the beginning of this Iranian year (March 2020), in the meetings with the Oil Minister, it was decided for the ministry to also enter the

area of optimization and use the ministry’s capacities to optimize the consumption in engine rooms, the official added.

Torbati further noted that the implementation of this program is not time-consuming, and it will also be done free of charge for building owners and will also reduce their gas bills.

“Our social responsibility dictated that we enter the issue, and by doing so, both fuel consumption will be reduced and the environment will be protected,” he stressed.

According to the official, the Oil Ministry has created a website in which those who are willing for their engine rooms to be optimized would register and their buildings will be subsequently assessed and optimized as soon as possible.

Iran’s daily natural gas consumption increased 28 percent earlier this month due to the sudden decline in the temperature across the country.

The daily natural gas consumption by households and the commercial sector reached 253 million cubic meters (mcm) in early October.

1st VP stresses need for developing Comprehensive Energy Plan

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian First Vice President Es’haq Jahangiri has said that developing the country’s Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) should be on the agenda for all the relevant organizations and government bodies, Shana reported.

Addressing the Supreme Council of Energy on Monday, the official thanked the Oil Ministry, the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), and other related organizations for developing the country’s comprehensive energy plan and said: “Developing the country’s comprehensive energy plan is a valuable step that should be finalized as soon as possible as the country’s main strategy in the field of energy.”

Emphasizing the need to develop the energy sector, especially the oil and gas industries in the country, Jahangiri said: “Undoubtedly, the main source of development of the country in the coming years will be oil and gas resources.”



“Of course, the government’s budget reliance on oil revenues should be reduced, however the development of

the country in the next 20 years, both in the industrial and non-industrial sectors is bond to the oil and gas resources,” he added.

The development of the country’s oil and gas industry must be in such a way that these sectors would be able to contribute \$70-\$100 billion to the country’s economy every year, the official stressed, adding: “This means that in addition to meeting domestic needs, we must be able to export surplus production to other countries.”

He further stressed the need for energy optimization in the country, saying that precise planning must be devised and efforts must be taken to boost optimization in all sectors especially the energy sector.

“We must see serious reforms and changes in various sectors such as automobile manufacturing, home appliances, construction, and public transportation,” he said.

24 idle mines to be revived in southwestern province

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Among 1,020 idle mines, which have been planned to be revived in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), 24 mines are located in the southwestern Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-ahmad province, according to an official with Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry.

Reza Azimi, the director of the plan for reviving and developing small mines, also said that a mineral processing unit has been planned to be constructed in the province in this year.

Following the implementation of a program for reviving idle small mines across Iran, the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has revived 42 such mines in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

Based on the data released by Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company (IMPASCO), during the mentioned

period, 510 mines across the country have been identified and prioritized under the framework of the small-scale mining reviving activation and development program.

Holding more than 10 joint technical committee meetings with investors, as well as holding meetings to activate the country’s copper mines with the help of the National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) were reported as other measures taken in this program during the past five months.

In early August, IMPASCO announced that the company has it on the agenda to revive and develop 1,020 mines, and construct 25 mineral processing units in the current Iranian calendar year.

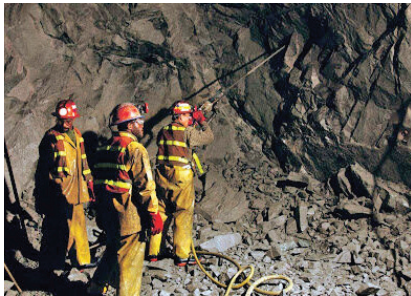
According to the IMPASCO Head Vajihollah Jafari, the company has signed 32 memorandums of understanding for the development of the mining sector’s various fields.

“These memorandums include 16 investment memoranda, eight research and training memorandums, six financing memorandums, and two memorandums related to startup development,” he explained.

Back in April, the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)’s Mining Committee had announced that more than 146 idle small mines were revived by the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry in the past Iranian calendar year.

According to Bahram Shakouri, in addition to reviving and developing small-scale mines, 2,130 small mineral zones were also identified and 364 projects were defined for them.

Earlier in January, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Head Khodadad Gharibpour had mentioned the plan for reviving idle mines as one of



the most significant plans of “Resistance Economy”, saying that his organization was strongly determined to pursue it.

Holding 68 types of different minerals, Iran stands at the 10th place in the world in terms of diversity of its mineral reserves.

The country has over 60 billion tons of untapped mineral deposits, of which 40 billion tons are proven reserves, placing Iran at the 15th place globally.

Sanctions will hamper Iran's access to medicine and medical equipment: Carleton University professor

“I think it (sanction) is an abject failure in terms of achieving any real progress”

1 → So, Iran is a cheap and easy way for the current administration to shore up electoral support and support from allies in the region (Israel and Saudi Arabia).

■ How do you see the repercussions of the American unilateral sanctions on Iran's health system?

A: I am not an expert on Iran's health system, but inevitably it will be more difficult for Iran to access certain medicines and medical equipment even if, technically, such humanitarian goods are generally exempted from sanctions. The U.S.'s ability to extend the reach of its sanctions is due to the centrality of the U.S. in the international payments system, which it has been using with increasing frequency as a means of punishing opposing countries. So even if other countries try to circumvent the sanctions and deliver humanitarian goods such as food and medicine, the U.S. sanctions will likely impose serious, though ultimately probably diminishing, barriers to the needed flow of goods.

■ Why are the European countries reluctant to stand against U.S. sanctions and unilateral policies?

A: The Europeans are closely tied to the U.S. in economic and security terms, so they wish to minimize the damage the U.S. inflicts on them by being careful how they deal with the sanctions. I think the Europeans would like to avoid the sanctions, but it will be costly, and the benefits of getting along with Iran are much less than the benefits of getting along with the U.S. Iran has not made their situation better by its own regional policies, which many outside Iran, including in Europe, see as destabilizing. Iran's human rights record also does not make it popular in Europe. In any event, the real European decisions will take place after the U.S. election, when they see the outcome. If Trump is re-elected, then they have some difficult decisions to make. I suspect they are hoping that if there a newly elected President Biden,



“One of President Trump's primary policy objectives is to reverse everything his predecessor did in both foreign and domestic policy, regardless of what the issue is.”

the U.S. may reconsider its Iran policy and its withdrawal from the JCPOA.

■ Don't you expect major powers such as China and Russia to form a new economic alliance to confront U.S. economic hegemony?

A: No. There is no real common ground

between Russia and China, except perhaps antagonism towards the U.S. and its allies. China will try to establish alternatives to systems heavily influenced or controlled by the U.S., such as financial transfer systems, but it is doubtful they will become as desirable for other

“Most experts would conclude that the sanction will never work against a determined target state in a case like this, so much of the value of sanctions to the Trump administration is in domestic electoral support from his base.”

countries to access. In the end, the U.S. and Europe have too much in common to abandon the common mechanisms they currently share, and they are too big and influential for most countries to ignore. Eventually, the U.S. will also realize that abusing their power in these systems and organizations is not in their long-term interest, and hopefully become more restrained.

■ Do you think Trump's sanctions measures have succeeded to change Iran's behavior?

A: No. I think it is an abject failure in terms of achieving any real progress. My preference is dialogue, which could have built on the framework of the JCPOA. I am not supportive of many countries' foreign policies in the region: the U.S., Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Russia, Turkey, or Syria. But I think discussion and incremental progress is better than confrontation and the imposition of severe humanitarian costs on civilians. However, most experts would conclude that the sanction will never work against a determined target state in a case like this, so much of the value of sanctions to the Trump administration is in domestic electoral support from his base.

■ How do you evaluate the new U.S. sanctions on 18 Iranian banks?

A: Recent U.S. foreign policy has not really been carefully thought through. Certainly not from a long-term perspective. In the case of sanctions on Iran, the objective is to cause as much harm and disruption as possible to generate maximum pressure (even though I cannot imagine that any serious policy analyst in the U.S. thinks it will cause Iran to change behavior). The best-case scenario is the next administration, whether Trump or Biden, offers meaningful negotiations as an alternative to the sanctions, making Iran choose between the two and thus also start to offer some compromises. I am not really hopeful this policy will work if Trump is re-elected, but I would be happy to be wrong.

Is the U.S. facing a political civil war?

(How bad is the U.S. political schism going to get?)

By Jim W. Dean

When a Continental Convention was adjourning in 1787, a spectator called out to Ben Franklin, “What kind of government will we have? He answered, “A republic if you can keep it, sir.” That admonition is what anti-Trump people are facing now.

When Trump won in 2016, I predicted that his management style would be a version of his reality tv show, The Apprentice, where he would always be center stage and always firing people despite the irony that he is the apprentice.

America has a spoiled rich kid as president, one who had always had doors opened for him rather than earning his way, even paying a friend to take the college SAT exams for him, and threatening his prep school and colleges that he attended to never release his grades to the public, or he would sue them.

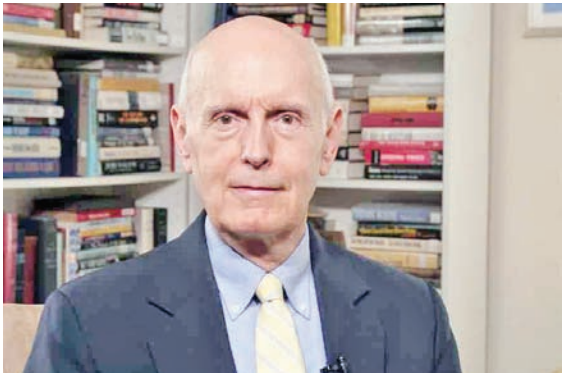
He was going to milk being president for everything he could get. He started with well-known experienced people, but then felt extremely uncomfortable being in a situation where everybody knew more than he did.

The Trump firings began, and the replacements would generally be less qualified and take an oath of office to Donald Trump rather than the Constitution. This was revealed when leakers broke the story of Trump's visit to the WWII U.S. cemeteries, where he was quoted saying those buried there were fools and suckers.

That has now backfired on him. Many Americans came to realize that he viewed them as fools and suckers, too. Donald Trump is now the most hated man in modern American political history. Even Republicans are abandoning ship, gathering around the flag of “Republicans for Biden,” something Americans never dreamed they would see.

He led the country into attaining the worst coronavirus figures in the world, a trail of death, tears, and lie after lie, where even after being shown transcripts of his lies, he

There is a campaign now to provide attorneys to U.S. servicemen for advice if they are called to break up peaceful demonstrations, which may be huge if Trump refuses to leave the White House.



Jim W. Dean is Managing Editor of Veterans Today involved in operations, development, and writing. Jim comes from an old military family going back to the American Revolution.

America has a spoiled rich kid as president, one who had always had doors opened for him rather than earning his way.

would still deny them. His credibility is so destroyed now that many think he faked he and his wife having a virus as a way to market his miracle cure, which will somehow be free for all Americans despite the company's claim that it cost \$96,000 per treatment. The treatment is based on stem cells from aborted fetuses, and Trump forgot to explain where all the stem cells would come from.

Then came the four-star generals that went public, saying that they could not vote for such a demonstrated incompetent leader who has been faking everything from day one.

The thought of four more years for the Trump gang in office and the damage they would do has opened voters' wallets like never before. A black man running for Senator Lindsey Graham's seat just filed a third-quarter financial report showing he raised \$57 million dollars from an average contribution of \$37, which is an unprecedented accomplishment in the state where Mr. Harrison is polling neck and neck with Graham.

There is a campaign now to provide attorneys to U.S. servicemen for advice if they are called to break up peaceful demonstrations, which may be huge if Trump refuses to

leave the White House while trying to steal the election with the help of his Israeli friends who are masters of the art, where the dirty deed is done in the counting.

Trump has created a 50,000-person army of poll watchers, focused on battleground states, to hover around polling stations to create a flood of voting irregularity reports so Trump can claim the mail-in ballots were rigged by the Democrats somehow.

Armies of lawyers will be standing by on both sides to fight it out to the political death of one candidate or the other. Another army of ex-prosecutors is waiting in the wings until after the election battle is over, to join in the numerous criminal charges expected to be brought against Trump and family and cohorts, plus Attorney General Robert Barr for numerous federal statutes.

Trump's tax returns, which he broke a promise by not revealing during the 2016 presidential race, are expected to generate numerous charges that could lead to the bankruptcy of his house of cards empire, taking his family down with him.

As I write, Republican congressmen are already leaking to the press that they should try to save themselves from going down with Trump, and focus on retaining control of the Senate so they can block Democrat reforms for the next four years.

The voters are aware of this, and reports are growing that many voters will be voting for the full Democratic candidate slate in both federal and state elections. This would have huge long-term implications, as the majority Parties in the state legislatures have control of the census and redistricting, a legal way to rig elections, which Republicans manipulated to the best of their ability.

No matter what happens on November 3rd, the United States may be a bitter and divided country when the dust settles, but I fear the political bloodletting will just be beginning. If the Oval Office changes occupants, it will be hard to try to reunite the country.

As I write, Republican congressmen are already leaking to the press that they should try to save themselves from going down with Trump, and focus on retaining control of the Senate.

U.S. military building new base in Syria's oil-rich Dayr al-Zawr

The United States has reportedly started building a new military base in Syria's oil-rich eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr as Washington moves to tighten its grip on the country's energy resources.

The Arabic service of Russia's Sputnik news agency, citing local sources, reported the military base was being built in Syria's vast Badia desert, and that construction equipment had been put into action there a few days ago.

The sources added that workers had begun building an airstrip at the location in order to secure the arrival of logistical supplies for the base.

They noted that the U.S. army had also deployed groups of allied militants with the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) at a number of points around the base in order to protect the site.

The new base will apparently be the US military's fourth in Dayr al-Zawr.

Berlin warns Turkey against 'provocation' in Mediterranean

Germany Tuesday called on Turkey to end a “cycle of detente and provocation” in the Mediterranean, after Ankara's decision to redeploy a research ship at the center of tensions with Greece over energy and maritime rights, Daily Star reported.

“If there should be renewed Turkish gas exploration in the more controversial sea areas in the eastern Mediterranean, this would be a serious setback for efforts to de-escalate,” Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said ahead of a trip to Cyprus and Greece.

“Ankara must end the cycle of detente and provocation if the government is interested in talks,” said Maas, whose country heads the rotating presidency of the European Union.

Karabakh fighting helping spread virus in region: WHO

Fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenian forces over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region has helped spread the coronavirus in the territory, the WHO said on Tuesday.

More than two weeks of conflict between the Caucasus rivals has left almost 600 dead, according to partial tolls, as fighting breaches a Moscow-brokered ceasefire signed last week, AFP reported.

“As we have been repeatedly saying, Covid 19 does not respect borders or lines,” WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said at a press conference.

“The mobilization of troops for conflict, the displacement of populations because of it all, adds to the ability of the virus to take hold.”

21 Israeli soldiers injured in massive brawl between troops at training base

Nearly two dozen Israeli soldiers have been injured after a massive brawl erupted between troops from two different training companies at a military base in the occupied territories.

According to the Israeli military, the confrontation occurred when soldiers from the Bedouin 585th reconnaissance unit's training company and the Shaked Battalion's training company were waiting in line to go into the dining hall for lunch at the Har Keren training base on Sunday.

The brawl involved around 30 people – some 21 of whom were injured in the altercation – and lasted roughly 10 minutes before the commander of the training class arrived and broke it up.

Things became so heated that one of the troops even started loading his gun, according to one witness cited by the English-language Jerusalem Post daily.

The majority of the soldiers were treated on site, but eight required hospitalization with light injuries.

A second fight then erupted at the base's clinic between two soldiers who had gone there for medical treatment after the initial confrontation. “That was quickly broken up by a commander,” the military said.

The military called the brawl an “unusual and serious” incident, emphasizing it will punish all soldiers involved, as well as their commanders.

Resistance News

Haniyeh: History will show no mercy for Arab traitors to Palestine

INTERNATIONAL DESK TEHRAN— The head of the Hamas resistance movement's political bureau has once again condemned the US-brokered deals that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain signed last month to normalize ties with Israel, warning that history will show “no mercy” towards the Arab states that betrayed fellow Palestinians.

In an interview with the Middle East Eye (MEE) news portal published on Monday, Ismail Haniyeh said that the Arab countries that made peace with Israel will be losers as the occupying regime will eventually threaten them.

“The Zionist project is an expansionist project. Its objective is to create a greater Israel. We don't want to see the Emiratis or the Bahrainis or the Sudanese being used as vehicles for this project. History will show no mercy, the people will not forget, and humanitarian law will not forgive,” he said.

According to Press TV, reports say Sudan and Oman could be next in line to normalize with Israel.

“We know Israeli leaders better than them. We know how they think. We would like to tell our brothers in the United Arab Emirates that they will lose as a result of those agreements because Israel's only interest is to seek a military and economic foothold in areas close to Iran,” Haniyeh said.

World Food Program says needs \$6.8 bln over next 6 months to avert famine

The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) will need to raise \$6.8 billion over the next six months to avert famine amid the COVID-19 crisis, the agency said Tuesday.

The WFP, which was awarded the No-

bel Peace Prize last week for its efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict, said it had so far raised \$1.6 billion, Reuters reported.

“We've got a lot more money to raise to make certain we avert famine,” David

Beasley, executive director of the WFP, said at a conference organized by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Beaseley noted that 7 million people had died from hunger this year as the

COVID-19 pandemic, which could double hunger worldwide, claimed a further 1 million lives.

“If we don't sort out COVID, (the) hunger death rate could be 3, 4, 5 times that,” said Beaseley.

World Heritage ‘Dome of Soltaniyeh’ rehabilitated

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Worn-out adobe brickworks have been rehabilitated at the rooftops of the Dome of Soltaniyeh, a 14th-century UNESCO site in the northwestern Zanjan province.

The project also included lightening the rooftop mass, strengthening by the use of plaster and soil, amongst other masonry works based on UNESCO criteria, Zanjan province's tourism chief Amir Arjomand announced on Tuesday.



Strengthening and lightening the centuries-old buildings, such as the Dome of Soltaniyeh for instance, helps them withstand earthquakes and horizontal stresses, and it is one of the priorities of the province's cultural heritage department, the official added.

As its name implies, the World Heritage is surmounted by a dome, one of the largest brick domes in the globe.

The monument stands tall in a town of the same name, Soltaniyeh, in Zanjan province. Meaning “Town of the Sultans”, Soltaniyeh was briefly the capital of Persia's Ilkhanid dynasty (a branch of the Mongol dynasty) during the 14th century.

■ Why it's called masterpiece of architecture
The 14th-century structure is highly recognized as an architectural masterpiece particularly due to its innovative double-shelled dome and elaborate interior decoration. The very imposing dome stands about 50 meters tall from its base.

The interior has long been under renovation, chockfull of scaffolding poles. However, its decoration is such impressive that scholars including A.U. Pope described it as ‘anticipating the Taj Mahal’. It is the earliest existing example of the double-shelled dome in Iran.

A great-grandson of Hulegu, founder of the Il-Khanid dynasty, Oljaytu was a Mongol ruler who, after dabbling in various religions, adopted the Shia name Mohammed Khodabandeh.

According to the UNESCO, the Mausoleum of Oljaytu is an essential link and key monument in the development of Islamic architecture in central and western Asia. Here, the Ilkhanids further developed ideas that had been advanced during the classical Seljuk phase (11th to early 13th centuries), during which the arts of Iran gained distinction in the Islamic world, thereby setting the stage for the Timurid period (late 14th to 15th centuries), one of the most brilliant periods in Islamic art.

UNESCO says, “Excavations carried out in the 790-ha Mausoleum of Oljaytu property have revealed additional vestiges of the old city, and a large part of this property has retained its archaeological character. As the ancient capital of the Ilkhanid dynasty, Soltaniyeh represents an exceptional testimony to the history of the 13th and 14th centuries in Iran.”

The very large dome is the earliest extant example of its type and became an important reference for the later development of the Islamic dome. Similarly, the extremely rich interior of the mausoleum, which includes glazed tiles, brickwork, marquetry, or designs in inlaid materials, stucco, and frescoes, illustrates an important movement towards more elaborate materials and themes.

First suspension bridge in Kermanshah being built

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – The first suspension bridge in Dalahu county, western Kermanshah province, is being constructed and will come on stream over the course of one year, a provincial tourism official has said.

The bridge is being constructed over Piran waterfall and Ezhdeha (Dragon) Valley and is expected to become a great competitor for Meshginshahr suspension bridge in Ardebil province due to the tourism potentials of the region in terms of suitable climate and beautiful landscape, Asghar Rashno announced on Tuesday.



Inaugurated in 2015, and with 345 meters long, 3 meters wide, and 80 meters high, Meshginshahr suspension bridge is said to be the largest of its kind in West Asia.

A budget of 235 billion rials (about \$5.6 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the project, which aims at boosting tourism in the region, the official added.

He also noted that the project has generated about 1,000 job opportunities directly and indirectly.

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

Discover top ten travel destinations of western Iran

→ 1 The ancient Church shows off elaborate bas-reliefs of flowers, animals, and human figures on its façade and exterior walls. It bears verses of the Old and New Testament in Armenian calligraphy as well.

The Chapel of Dzordzor stands tall on the outskirts of Maku. The name narratively originates from a famous painter Hovans Yerz, known as Dzordzortzi, who supervised the chapel's restoration for a while.

■ Aras River Valley
Forming Iran's northern border with Azerbaijan and Armenia, which are still technically in conflict over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, the scenically imposing Aras River Valley has played host to traders, spies, and marauding armies since biblical times. According to Lonely Planet.

Safe inside a line of watchtowers, the road along the dramatic southern Iranian bank meanders spectacularly through mudbrick villages, crumbling ruins, and soaring jagged peaks. Whether the Aras is actually the River Gihon from the Garden of Eden is debatable, but it's obvious that the northern bank, with its bombed-out stations, abandoned trains, and barricaded tunnels, is no paradise.



Highlights of the valley include the Kordasht Hammam, an ancient subterranean bathhouse within bubble-blowing distance of Armenia, and the Khodaafarin Bridges, dating from the 13th century, still spanning the Aras, now to a post-apocalyptic no-man's land. While traveling through the valley on the Iranian side is perfectly safe, be careful where you point your camera, as the border guards are notoriously paranoid.

■ Tabriz Bazaar
Possibly the easiest ancient site to find in western Iran is the sprawling, still-open-for-business Tabriz Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered bazaars in the world.

It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2010 and was mentioned by Marco Polo when he traveled the Silk Road in the Middle Ages. A labyrinth of interconnected covered passages that stretches for about 5 km, the bazaar has been a melting pot of cultural exchange since antiquity.

It embraces countless shops, over 20 caravanserais, and inns, some 20 vast domed halls, bathhouses, and mosques, as well as other brick structures and enclosed spaces for different functions. Its history dates back to over a millennium, however, the majority of fine brick vaults that capture most visitor's eyes date from the 15th century.

■ Takht-e Soleiman
Situated in the southeastern high-



A view of Sheikh Safi-al-Din Mausoleum in Ardebil, northwest Iran

lands of West Azarbaijan province, Takht-e Soleiman encompasses a lake roughly 80 by 120 meters and a Sassanid-era Zoroastrian temple complex dedicated to Anahita, an ancient goddess of fertility, parts of which were rebuilt in the 13th century during the Ilkhanid era.

The ensemble was established in a geologically anomalous location as the base of the temple complex sits on an oval mound roughly 350 by 550 meters. It draws local and foreign travelers who want even for minutes revel in its peaceful atmosphere.

According to Britannica Encyclopedia, its surrounding landscape was probably first inhabited sometime in the 1st millennium BC. Some construction on the mound itself dates from the early Achaemenian dynasty (559–330 BC), and there are traces of settlement activity from the Parthian period.

■ Bisotun
Bisotun bas-relief bears exceptional testimony to the distinctive visual arts in prehistoric Iran. It is nested on an elevated limestone cliff of a mountain of the same name in the western Kermanshah province.

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage site, the inscription is a patchwork of immense yet impressive life-size carvings depicting the king Darius I and several other figures. It was the first cuneiform writing that was deciphered in the 19th century.



The inscription, measuring about 15 meters high and 25 meters wide, was created on the order of Darius I, byname Darius the Great (r. 522–486 BC). It bears three different cuneiform

script languages: Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian.

UNESCO has it that Bisotun bears outstanding testimony to the important interchange of human values on the development of monumental art and writing, reflecting ancient traditions in monumental bas-reliefs.

■ Sheikh Safi-al-Din Mausoleum
Behind high walls on Ardebil's main drag lies one of Sufism's most revered fathers, Sheikh Safi. Originally constructed after his death in 1334 by his son Sadr, the shrine was expanded by the eponymous Safavids in the 16th century.

UNESCO has recognized the intricate blue mosaics and interior vaulted ceilings, tiled courtyards, formal gardens, kitchens, hammams, and myriad support buildings as a pre-eminent example of traditional Iranian architecture. Several museums round out the site, and restoration work continues while Sufi pilgrims, students of Islamic art, and curious tourists mingle. It's a pity most of the famed pottery collection is now in St Petersburg.

■ Susa
Now sprawling in the southwest of modern Iran, Susa is one of the oldest yet magnificent cities in the world. No need to head out of town, the modern oasis of Shush sprawls around the base of ancient Susa, whose relics occupy the flat-topped central hill.

A UNESCO World Heritage, Susa was once the capital of the Elamite Empire and later an administrative capital of the Achaemenian king Darius I and his successors from 522 BC.

Excavations have uncovered evidence of continual habitation dating back since about 5000 BC. The earliest urban structures there date around 4000 BC.

Part of Susa is still inhabited as Shush, Khuzestan province on a strip of land between the rivers Shaour (a tributary of the Karkheh) and Dez.

According to UNESCO, “the excavated architectural monuments include administrative, residential, and palatial structures” and the site contains several layers of urban settlement dating from the 5th millennium BC through the 13th century CE.

Relics unearthed from the region demonstrates that even the earliest potteries and ceramics in Susa were of unsurpassed quality, decorated with birds, mountain goats, and other animals designs.

■ Qal'eh Babak
Babak Khorramdin, Azeri nationalist and local bad-boy, perched his magnificent 9th-century citadel on a rocky precipice in the mountainous far north, high above the town of Kaleybar.

These days, Babak Castle can be reached by several hours of stiff climbing from the village below. The final approach on a stone staircase winding through a rock-cleft above sheer cliffs is pure Tolkien. The resulting 360-degree views are appropriately stunning, and the castle looks particularly photogenic in the low light between late autumn and early spring. Give it a miss in summer as there's no shade on the entire climb.

■ Qal'eh Rudkhan
Near the much-photographed village of Masuleh, Rudkhan Castle is a fine example of a Seljuk-era fortress, clinging to a wooded spur of the Alborz Mountains. Originally a Sassanid (pre-Islam Persians) structure, the wily Seljuks (medieval Turks) arrived 800 years later and account for the current gnarly bastion, where 1500m of stone-thick walls, interspersed with archers' slit windows and drop-holes for boiling oil, link the numerous unassailable towers.

This brutal stronghold is reached by a ridiculously steep (though thankfully shaded) climb. Well-worn stone steps wind high above a moss-fringed stream through lush forests to the daunting entrance gate. Catch your breath by pausing for a shared chay (tea) with the notoriously friendly locals.

■ Tchogha Zanbil
A topmost tourist destination in Khuzestan province, the magnificent ruins of Tchogha Zanbil is considered by many the finest surviving example of the Elamite architecture in the globe.

The brick ziggurat was made a UNESCO site in 1979. It is a multi-leveled square structure in which each level diminishes in size as it reaches for the sky, like a tiered wedding cake.

Its construction started in c. 1250 BC upon the order of the Elamite king Untash-Napirisha (1275-1240 BC) as the religious center of Elam dedicated to the Elamite divinities Inshushinak and Napirisha.

The prehistoric mud-brick complex bears testimony to the unique expression of the culture, beliefs, rituals, and traditions of one of the oldest indigenous communities of Iran.

The ziggurat overlooks the ancient city of Susa (near modern Shush) in Khuzestan Province. Reaching a total height of some 25m, the ziggurat was used to be surmounted by a temple and estimated to hit 52m during its heyday.

UNESCO says that Tchogha Zanbil is the largest ziggurat outside of Mesopotamia and the best preserved of this type of stepped pyramidal monument.

Tchogha Zanbil was excavated in six seasons between 1951 and 1961 by Roman Ghirshman, a Russian-born French archeologist who specialized in ancient Iran.



Waterfalls, canyon, wetland and oak trees added to National Heritage list

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Twelve natural spots and landscapes in the northern province of Mazandaran have recently been inscribed on the National Heritage List.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism announced the inscription on Tuesday in a letter to the governor general of the province. An ancient walnut tree, Ab Morad

and Kalireh waterfalls, Hessel wetland, and old oak trees in various cities and villages across the province are among the properties added to the National Heritage list.

The list also includes Shorshori canyon, Zangian cave, a habitat of lilium ledebourii flowers, and an old plantain tree.

Stretched along the Caspian Sea and

Alborz mountain range, Mazandaran is a popular destination for domestic holidaymakers, while it is home to more than 3500 villages and rural areas.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 24 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

800 historical water structures identified in Khuzestan province

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – Some 800 water-related structures have so far been identified across Khuzestan province in southwest Iran.

In line with a comprehensive plan for the management of historic water structures, 800 of such structures have so far been identified across the province. Moreover, they have been documented and registered in separate specific dossiers, IRNA reported on Monday.

Six travel routes have also been defined in that regard, which can be added to other natural tourism destinations of Khuzestan, the report added.

The UNESCO-registered Shushtar Hydraulic System, which is known as a ‘masterpiece of creative genius’ by far tops all historical water structures that exist in Khuzestan.

Named after an ancient city of the same name with its history dating back to the time of Darius the Great, the Achaemenid king, Shushtar Historical Hydraulic



System comprises bridges, weirs, tunnels, canals, and a series of ancient watermills powered by human-made

waterfalls in southwest Iran.

Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2009, may testify to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian know-how. According to UNESCO, the ensemble was probably influenced by the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.

The oil-rich province embraces two other World Heritage sites: Susa and Tchogha Zanbil. Lying at the head of the Persian Gulf and bordering Iraq on the west, Khuzestan was settled about 6000 BC by a people with affinities to the Sumerians, who came from the Zagros Mountains region. Urban centers appeared there nearly contemporaneously with the first cities in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium. Khuzestan, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, came to constitute the heart of the Elamite kingdom, with Susa as its capital.

IRCS holding online courses for earthquake preparedness

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The Red Crescent Society (IRCS), in collaboration with the Medical Council, is holding an online training course on how to be prepared for an earthquake.

Iran is considered as one of the earthquake-prone areas in the world and the principles of earthquake preparedness is a necessity that everyone needs to know.

In the earthquake preparedness training course, they will get acquainted with important points, so that they can be prepared before an earthquake occurs, and save their lives and the lives of their loved ones with appropriate behavior.

Participants will receive a certificate. The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes of the world occur in Iran but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes. This shows the high level of vulnerability in Iran, according to Mehdi Zare, a professor of engineering seismology.



■ **International Day for Disaster Reduction**

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was started in 1989, af-

ter a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.

This year's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is all about governance. You can measure good disaster risk governance in lives saved, reduced numbers of disaster-affected people, and reduced economic losses. COVID-19 and the climate emergency are telling us that we need a clear vision, plans, and competent, empowered institutions acting on scientific evidence for the public good.

We need to see strategies that address not just single hazards like floods and storms, but those that respond to the systemic risk generated by zoonotic diseases, climate shocks, and environmental breakdown.

Good national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction must be multi-sectoral, linking policies in areas such as land use, building codes, public health, education, agriculture, environmental protection, energy, water resources, poverty reduction, and climate change adaptation.

COVID-19 has given a fillip to biodiversity

➔ He went on to say that despite all the efforts that have been made nationally as well as internationally worldwide, the environment today is no better than it was in the early twentieth century.

The sudden prevalence of COVID-19, followed by lockdowns and restrictions around the world, reduction in human activity, the evacuation of highways, reduction in travel, air, and land transport, and a significant drop in greenhouse gas emissions, has benefited the nature much, he explained.

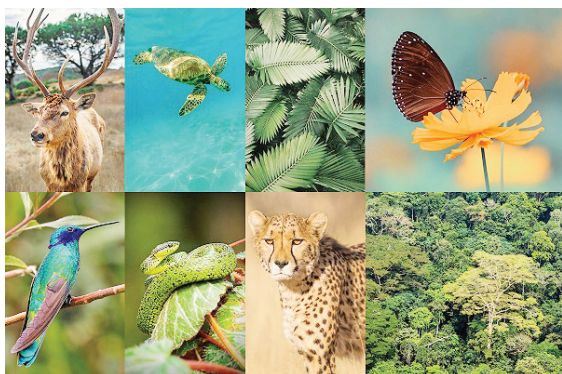
It greatly improved air quality and reduced the risk of lung and cardiovascular diseases, key environmental indicators that have been steadily deteriorating for more than half a century, remained fixed, or moved towards improvement, he emphasized.

The extent of the disease and the human casualties may be so painful that it does not give us a chance to rejoice in the healing process of nature and the environment, but the good condition of climate and nature can be a fillip for each of us on this planet, especially those in charge, to think more about our past actions and slow down our exponential pace of unsustainable development and the destruction of valuable biological resources, he also highlighted.

Perhaps changing our plans and behaviors to use more of renewable energy, while increasing the use of telecommunications facilities such as video conferencing, webinars, online meetings, can greatly reduce travel as well as greenhouse gas emissions and thus help preserve nature and valuable biodiversity treasures, he said.

Biodiversity conservation is in fact the protection of ourselves and the resources without which we cannot survive, he stated, adding, human health depends on the health of other creatures and the environment in which they live.

The outbreak of the coronavirus and its pathogenic consequences highlights the importance of the depend-



ence of the health of all organisms on the planet on each other and the environment.

"Our Solutions Are in Nature" which expresses the importance of nature in responding to the challenges we face in terms of sustainable development and the necessity of comprehensive cooperation to achieve a future in harmony with nature, he added.

According to experts, "the most important and largest public asset of any country is the environment", unfortunately, due to the wrong approach and underestimation of its vital importance, its capacity is declining every day, and it cannot be exchanged or bought, although some officials, especially economists, suggest ways to price these environmental resources, they are invaluable, he stated.

Kalantari further expressed hope that by living in harmony with nature, humans will be able to benefit as much as possible from the valuable resources and to protect and preserve the biological richness of the world in the best possible way.

■ Why human absence prospers nature?

Pointing out that protecting the planet is important to humans, and we need to maintain the best conditions on Earth after Coronavirus, Mohammad Darvish, a member of the National Security Council for the environment, said that the pandemic has caused the earth to breathe deeply, and now the wise man is faced with the question that "why, when human activity as a member of the ecosystem decreases, not only does nothing happen, but the condition of nature improves."

Think of bees being removed from nature. In this case, the integrity of the Earth's environmental property, the reproduction of many species and humans themselves will be damaged, or if brown bears are removed, soil fertility will decrease, or if wild boars are removed, water permeability will decrease and floods will increase, he explained.

Therefore, there have been wise in the creation of all plant and animal species or even insects, and have contributed to the earth's resilience, he emphasized.

Why has it now happened that man, who considers himself the best of creatures, that must be more responsible, has behaved in such a way that his absence is in favor of nature and the earth?

Such happening should give us a lesson to change our development programs in favor of nature and try to understand the laws of nature, instead of spending budgets on warfare, larger and more horrific weapons, he noted, implying that environmental research and health is now more essential as well as improvement of the education system so that in the post-corona crisis world we can appear wiser, more knowledgeable, and more responsible.

Literacy rate in rural areas grows significantly

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

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

The share of rural employment in the country has increased from 5 percent to 30 percent, which is valuable, and in addition, the rural unemployment rate has declined

from 8.7 to 7.3 percent, which has reduced the rural unemployment rate by 1.4 percent, he further emphasized.

■ Gender gap in literacy has decreased

The allocation of about 80 percent of literacy activities to girls and women, especially in rural areas, has led to a faster increase in the female literacy index.

The results of the census show that the difference in literacy rates between men and women has decreased from 23.4 percent in 1976 to 6.8 percent in 2016, which decreased



to less than 6.5 in 2019. The literacy rate among Iranians between

10-49 years is estimated at 98.2 percent, while the uneducated population of the same age is about 190,500, and also the population aged 10-29 years is reported to have a literacy rate of 97.3 percent, and 668,800 uneducated individuals.

Moreover, the literacy rate of the last group aging 10-49 is about 97.4 percent, while some 2.6 billion of them are illiterate.

Some 50 percent of the activities of the Literacy Movement Organization is focused on literacy empowerment so that there is no return to illiteracy.

ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → ع

Miankaleh peninsula faces serious risk of disappearing

Hossein Ali Ebrahimi, head of Mazandaran province department of department, has said that almost 20 percent of the peninsula's wetlands have dried up.

Drought spell and climate change are two of the key factors contributing to the Miankaleh peninsula dryness, YJC quoted Ebrahimi as saying on Wednesday.

Unfortunately, the province of Mazandaran has also been negatively affected by climate change and less precipitation has increased the peninsula water deficits, Ebrahimi said, stating that additionally mismanagement, unsustainable agricultural practices, and severe depletion of the wells and groundwater resources have exacerbated Miankaleh peninsula's condition.

تالاب میانکاله در معرض خشکی کامل

حسین علی ابراهیمی مدیر کل محیط زیست استان مازندران ۲۰ درصد از تالاب میانکاله کاملاً خشک شده است.

به گزارش روز چهارشنبه باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان ابراهیمی ادامه داد: تغییرات اقلیم شده و خشکسالی نیز بر این تالاب تأثیر گذار گفت: متأسفانه استان مازندران نیز مانند سایر استان‌های کشور درگیر تغییرات اقلیم شده و خشکسالی نیز بر این استان تأثیر گذار بوده است به همین دلیل قسمتی تالاب میانکاله کاملاً خشک شده است. وی در ادامه افزود: علاوه بر تغییرات اقلیمی و کمبود نزولات آسمانی، نبود مدیریت صحیح منابع آبی برداشت غیرمجاز از چاه‌ها و و منابع آب زیرزمینی و کشاورزی ناپایدار در منطقه، وضعیت این تالاب بحرانی است.

FAO calls for promoting climate-smart agriculture to deal with pandemic

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has called on countries around the world to deal with the widespread effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic through promoting climate-smart and environmentally friendly agricultural practices, such as agro-ecology, that preserve the Earth's natural resources.

In this regard, FAO urges all involved stakeholders across the world to link arms to urgently address the nutritional and livelihoods gaps that have engulfed the most vulnerable groups of populations amid COVID-19 pandemic, on the occasion of the World Food Day, October 16.

Recent estimates released by the Organization indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic and its collateral economic consequences may add between 83 to 132 million individuals to the total number of undernourished people in the world in 2020; the nutritional status of the most vulnerable population groups is likely to further deteriorate due to the health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 response is an opportunity to build back better by making food systems more resilient to shocks and more sustainable through agricultural practices that work with nature, according to a press release published by the FAO office in Iran.

Iran also called on the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to move forward to collective policies and response programs for member countries in the region to place food and agriculture at the center of the COVID-19 socio-economic response, at the 35th FAO Regional Conference for the Near East.

The country's ad interim envoy to FAO, Shahin Ghorashizadeh, shared the main adaptive strategies implemented by the Government to tackle challenges posed by COVID-19 to food and agriculture activities of the country.

According to Ghorashizadeh, "in [this] region, the spread of COVID-19 has affected the vulnerability of millions of small producers and agricultural workers and intensified challenges for this large part of the population."

Iran hopes "FAO, through this conference, provides a starting point to move forward collective policies and response programs for member countries in the region; to place food and agriculture at the center of the COVID-19 socio-economic response strategies," Ghorashizadeh said in his concluding remarks.

■ Hunger increases worldwide

A report jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO shows that currently around 690 million people, or 8.9 percent of the world population are hungry. Compared to the previous figures, this number is up by 10 million people in one year and by nearly 60 million in five years.

"The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020" also indicates that the number of people affected by severe food insecurity has experienced a similar upward trend over the last five years. In 2019, close to 750 million—or nearly one in ten people in the world—were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity.

The figures reveal that about 2 billion people in the world did not have regular access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food in 2019.

Considering the widespread impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is estimated that the pandemic may add between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world in 2020 depending on the economic growth scenario.

Also, the nutritional status of the most vulnerable population groups is likely to deteriorate further due to the health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

While the burden of malnutrition in all its forms remains a challenge for the world, current estimates reveal that in 2019, 21.3 percent (144 million) of children under 5 years of age were stunted, 6.9 percent (47 million) wasted, and 5.6 percent (38.3 million) overweight.

The report states that healthy diets are unaffordable to many people, especially the poor, in every region of the world. The most conservative estimate shows they are unaffordable for more than 3 billion people in the world. Healthy diets are estimated to be, on average, five times more expensive than diets that meet only dietary energy needs through a starchy staple.

Under current food consumption patterns, diet-related health costs linked to mortality and non-communicable diseases are projected to exceed USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2030.

On the other hand, the diet-related social cost of greenhouse gas emissions associated with current dietary patterns is estimated to be more than USD 1.7 trillion per year by 2030.

■ Iran's undernourishment prevalence

According to the report, Iran experienced a relative reduction in the prevalence of undernourishment in its total population, dropping from 5.2 percent in the period of 2004-2006 to 4.7 percent in the period of 2017-2019. However, despite this improvement, the net number of people experiencing undernourishment increased from 3.6 to 3.9 million.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 36)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

from, of /az/ از

next, later adj, adv /ba?d/ بعد

after /ba?daz/ بعد از

to be /bu'dan/ بودن

awake /bī'dār/ بیدار

to wake (up) (xāb) /از خواب/ بیدار شدن

tasty /xo'sma'ze/ خوشمزه

correct, right /do'rost/ درست

to make; to cook درست کردن

hand /dah/ ده

yesterday /di'ruz/ دیروز

last night /di'sab/ دیشب



خندیدن - خند



خوابیدن - خواب



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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Try to compete with one another in good deeds and hurry to seize the opportunities, and forget the good deeds that you haven't hastened to do.

Imam Hussein (AS)

Top film expert Akbar Alemi dies of COVID-19

➔1 Alemi was born in 1945 in Ahvaz, and was a graduate of cinema from the Dramatic Art College. He continued his studies in England and got his Ph.D. in cinema.

He has written and translated many books and was active as a jury member of several Iranian and international film and animation festivals.

He was also a member of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature.

Alemi was one of the pioneers of documentary making in the country and presented modern methods in the documentary genre.

He had also written several books on photography.

Resistance filmfest to honor best adaptations of Sacred Defense books

CULTURE d e s k TEHRAN — The 16th Resistance International Film Festival announced on Tuesday that the best screen and TV adaptations of books on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is known as Sacred Defense in Iran, will be honored in a new special section this year.

Adaptions of books on the Islamic Revolution, resistance and regional issues, and Islamic awakening will also be accessed in this section named "Narration of the Pen Section".

A short and a feature-length movie and a telefilm will be honored in this section.

Screenwriters from across the world whose screenplays have not been made into films are invited to attend the festival in the three languages of Persian, English and Arabic.

The 16th Resistance International Film Festival will review films on Commander Qassem Soleimani's role in awakening people of the region and the world in a special section.

Interested filmmakers are asked to submit their films on the main characteristic of the martyr as the symbol of resistance, highlighting the bravery of the commander and the soldiers without borders as the main themes of the section named "Prominent Resistance Martyr Section".

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

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

The festival has been organized in two stages, the first of which took place during the Sacred Defense Week from September 21 to 28. The second part of the festival will be held from November 21 to 27 to celebrate the anniversary of Basij Day, which falls on November 25.

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

The first of them was the Fajr Film Festival, which announced it would honor films on resistance and jihad with an award named after Soleimani. The award went to "Abadan 11, 60" directed by Mehrdad Khoshbakht about the people's fight against Iraqi forces in the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan during the early months of the Iran-Iraq war.

In addition, the 17th edition of the Resistance Theater Festival has established an award named after Commander Qassem Soleimani to honor a play every year.

"Due to the importance of the resistance issue and the need to promote the teachings of the popular figure of Iran's resistance culture and the leader of the resistance front, Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani, we plan to honor a top play with an award named after Hajj Qassem Soleimani this year for the first time," the organizers have announced.

The award will be presented in the next editions of the festival to represent its organizers' committed devotion to the divine commander.

The Association of the Revolution and Sacred Defense Theater organizes the festival every year in collaboration with several other institutions. This year's edition is scheduled to be held during November or December.

Isfahan children's filmfest announces lineups for intl. short, animation competition

By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN — The 33rd International Film Festival for Children and Youth has announced the lineups for the international short and animation competition.

Eleven short animated movies have been selected to be screened, while nine short films from across the world will be competing in the festival, which will be held online from October 18 to 23 this year due to a spike in coronavirus cases in the country.

"Butterflies" by Elizaveta Khlomova from Russia is a highlight of the lineup for the animation competition.

In "Butterflies", two girls wake up and start to play a game. Using their vivid imaginations, they create their own world out of nothing and fly up, up and away.

"Hello, My Dears" is another Russian animation by Alexander Vasiliev competing in this category.

The animation is about an elderly lady who loves her dear relatives in the portrait photos on display in the living room. Looking out the window, one by one, the relatives from the photos come out and act as they please on the bench or the ground. Their actions seem somewhat strange, but that's a reflection of who they really are. This simple animation, which unfolds alongside Chopin's piano piece, gives a deep sense of compassion, love and nostalgia.

"Hugo & Holger" has been selected from Denmark. Directed by Teddy Halkier Kristiansen, the animation tells the story of Hugo, who is always dreaming about getting a dog. He is overjoyed when he meets a baby elephant named Holger,



A poster for "Boje" by Andreas Cordes and Robert Köhler from Germany that will be competing in the short competition of the 33rd International Film Festival for Children and Youth.

thinking he's a big puppy dog.

Swedish filmmaker Jons Mellgren's "Elsa and the Night" will also be screened in this section.

Elsa is afraid to sleep. Actually, she has not slept a wink for thirty years. Early one morning when she's sitting at the kitchen table, she finds an unwelcome guest underneath her sofa. The creature turns out to be none other than the Night itself. Elsa tells it of

her life, and her best friend – an elephant named Ola as the Night accompanies her on a moving journey.

Iranian director Maryam Kashkulinia's acclaimed animation "The Eleventh Step" has been selected to be screened in the festival.

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

Iranian film "No.3 Azar Shahr. Street" competing in Chinese festival



A scene from "No.3 Azar Shahr. Street" by Kambiz Safari.

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — Iranian film "No.3 Azar Shahr. Street" by Kambiz Safari is competing in the 7th Silk Road International Film Festival,

which is currently underway in the Chinese city of Xi'an.

Starring Atila Pesyani and Behnaz Jafari, the film centers on Roja, a migrant woman who has lost her husband in Germany and returns to his home country (Iran) to manage his inheritance, only to realize he had a child from another marriage which complicates the situation.

With the theme "Silk Road Links the World, Film Connects Cultures" the festival this year aims to create a professional and international film event, while promoting and displaying the new image of the Chinese city in the new era.

In order to let the films enter the lives of the public and get close to the fans, this year's Silk Road International Film Festival has set up many outdoor screens, covering the whole province of Shaanxi for the first time.

More than 500 films from home and abroad are being shown in major cinemas, online platforms and outdoor squares in Shaanxi in the event that started September 25.

During the festival, which will run until October 16, nearly 200 classic cinema films have been selected to be

screened in about 40 outdoor places, including six landmark buildings, five large enterprises, three universities and four large communities in Xi'an, setting off a new upsurge for community outdoor movie watching.

Established in 2014 and hosted alternately by Shaanxi and southeast China's Fujian provinces, the Silk Road International Film Festival has become a festival for filmmakers in countries and regions along the Belt and Road, a grand event of film art and an engine for the development of the film industry.

Previously the Silk Road Film Festival had successfully been held three times in Xi'an, with the participation of domestic and foreign superstars including Jackie Chan, Sophia Marceau, Renny Harlin, Kara Wai, Angie Chiu and nearly 5,000 filmmakers from more than 50 countries.

The Silk Road International Film Festival aims at using the art of light and shadow to build a cultural bridge connecting countries along the Silk Road, promoting cultural exchanges and cooperation between these countries and regions.

Iranian ebook store offers publications for non-native Persian learners

CULTURE d e s k TEHRAN — An Iranian online book store has offered ebook copies of a collection of textbooks for non-native Persian learners.

The books that have been published by Iran's Sadi Foundation, a Tehran-based organization that promotes the Persian language abroad, are currently available on Taaghche, a major Iranian institute that has created a key online Iranian ebook store.

Eleven ebooks are offered at the online bookstore to provide foreign learners with easy access to sources for the standard Persian language, Sadi Foundation deputy director Shahruz Falahatpisheh said on Tuesday.



This photo shows a collection of the Sadi Foundation's ebook offered by Taaghche.

Among the ebooks is "First Step" that contains the basics of the Persian language. "Persian Collocations in Use" is another book of the collection.

The ebooks can be purchased from Taaghche through this link: taaghche.com/filter?filter=publisher=2253&order=undefined

In the next phase, the Sadi Foundation plans to offer its publications through some foreign online ebook stores based on mutual agreements, Falahatpisheh said.

The foundation is currently holding online Persian teaching courses, which are given by non-native Persian language teachers from 15 countries.

143 individuals registered for this course out of which nine were able to pass and receive the international certificate of the foundation, the foundation announced earlier in May.

The individuals registered are from Turkey, Georgia, Japan, Germany, Russia, Spain, Italy, Tunisia, Lebanon, Argentina, Egypt, Armenia and several other countries.

The package offered videos of Persian language instruction in addition to related sources and online tests followed by answers.

The videos were mostly liked by Iranian Persian language teachers, non-native Persian language teachers and teachers in Iranian cultural offices abroad.

"Sunless Shadows" named best in Italian festival's competition for Iranian films

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — "Sunless Shadows" directed by Iranian filmmaker Mehrdad Oskui was named best in a special section dedicated to Iranian cinema at Middle East Now, a film festival in the Italian city of Florence, on Sunday.

The film was screened in Focus on Iran, a section that was one of the initiatives in memory of Felicetta Ferraro, the former Italian cultural attaché to Iran who died on June 2, 2019 in Florence.

"Sunless Shadows" builds a remarkable relationship with a group of adolescent girls who are serving their sentences for the grave crime of murdering their father, their husband or another male family member in an Iranian juvenile detention center.

"Starvation" by Zahra Rostampur, "Shouting at the Wind" by Siavash Jamali and Ata Mehrad, "Command" by Farshid



"Sunless Shadows" by Iranian filmmaker Mehrdad Oskui.

Abdi, "Elephant Bird" by Amir-Masud Soheili, "Zhirleh" by Bahar Ruhani, "Life Is Gone with the Wind" by Siavash Saedpanah and Omid Gharibi, "The Wasteland" by Ahmad Bahrami and several other films were screened in the section.

The Middle East Now Audience Award went to the Palestinian divorce drama "Between Heaven and Earth" by Najwa Najjar.

The Middle East Now Staff Award for Best Short or Medium-length was given to "Maradona's Leg", a co-production between Palestine and Germany by Firas Khoury.

"Brotherhood" by Meryam Joobeur won the Best OFF award that is given by OFF Cinema to the best writer of a short film.

The 11th Middle East Now Festival, postponed from April, was held from October 6 to 11, showcasing cinema, art and culture from the region and North Africa.

Michel Foucault's "The Order of Things" appears in Persian

CULTURE d e s k TEHRAN — A Persian translation of French philosopher and literary critic Michel Foucault's book "The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences" has recently been published by Mahi Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Fatemeh Valiani.

With vast erudition, Foucault cuts across disciplines and reaches back into the seventeenth century to show how classical systems of knowledge, which linked all of nature within a great chain of being and analogies between the stars in the heavens and the features in a human face, gave way to the modern sciences of biology, philology

and political economy.

The result is nothing less than an archaeology of the sciences that unearths old patterns of meaning and reveals the shocking arbitrariness of the received truths.

In the work that established him as the most important French thinker since Sartre, Michel Foucault offers startling evidence that "man", man as a subject of scientific knowledge, is at best a recent invention, the result of a fundamental mutation in culture.

Foucault was born in Poitiers, France, in 1926. He lectured in universities throughout the world; served as the director at the Institut Francais in Hamburg, Germany and at the Institut de Philosophie at the Faculte des Lettres



Front cover of the Persian translation of Michel Foucault's book "The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences".

in the University of Clermont-Ferrand, France; and wrote frequently for French newspapers and reviews. At the time of his death in 1984, he held a chair at France's most prestigious institutions, the College de France.

Foucault's theories primarily address the relationship between power and knowledge, and how they are used as a form of social control through societal institutions. Though often cited as a post-structuralist and postmodernist, Foucault rejected these labels.

His thought has influenced academics, especially those working in communication studies, anthropology, sociology, criminology, cultural studies, literary theory, feminism and critical theory.