



Mehdi Rahamti hangs up his gloves

3



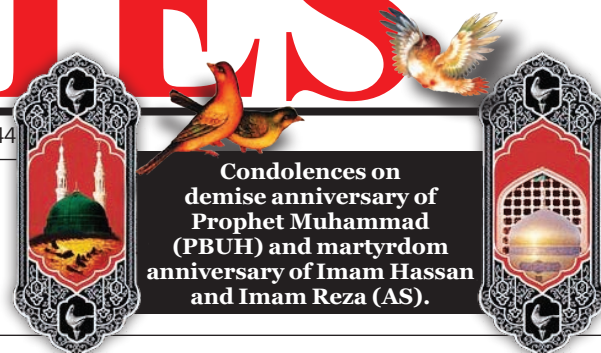
Iran to Trump: Linking bin Laden to Iran a 'wild conspiracy' theory

3



MK2 Films to hold retrospective of filmmaker Kiarostami in April 2021

8



The right to defensive arms

See page 3



© YIC/ Arash Mirseini

By Ebrahim Fallahi
Tehran Times journalist

“Each rooftop a power plant” scheme to be implemented in Iran

TEHRAN — Managing electricity consumption has become a hot topic in Iran's Energy Ministry planning for the past few years, because during the peak consumption periods the consumption across the country surges to such unprecedented levels that the national grid struggles to meet the demand.

Since the construction of new power plants is a very costly and time-consuming process, so the alternative scenario would be to encourage people to optimize their consumption. In this regard, the energy ministry has started several programs for encouraging households and commercial subscribers to consume less electricity and more efficiently.

Back in August, Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian announced that his ministry was going to award low-consuming electricity subscribers with a 100 percent discount on their bills.

“This program will be implemented to both reward low-consuming subscribers and to encourage others to consume less,” Ardakanian said.

However, despite all the incentive packages, there are still consumers which fall on the red side of the spectrum and somehow need to use more electricity; for this group of consumers the Energy Ministry has come up with a new scheme called “each rooftop a power plant” based on which high-consuming households or industries will be encouraged to install rooftop PV stations in order to generate their own electricity.

Earlier this year, Ardakanian had also said that his ministry prepared two programs for high-consuming subscribers so that by implementing these plans, these subscribers would also join the low-consumer group.

The official described the first program as a training course to teach consumption management methods with the help of knowledge-based companies and start-ups, and said: “Start-up companies will be formed in this field and will help us optimize the consumption of high-consuming subscribers by providing simple solutions.”

The second plan is to install solar panels on the roofs of high-consuming subscribers' houses so that such subscribers would meet their electricity needs by installing these PV stations, Ardakanian explained. ➔4

Celebrating a different World Food Day on FAO's 75th Anniversary

By Marjan Ghanbari, Assistant FAO Representative

Each year, the international community, national partners and local associates across different corners of the globe commemorate the World Food Day, making it one of the most celebrated international days. However, this year, the World Food Day is no ordinary day.

It comes as the world continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exposed the fragility of our agri-food systems and threatens to push millions more into hunger. The World Food Day also comes as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) turns 75.

Since the founding of FAO, the world has made significant progress in the fight against poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. Agricultural productivity and agri-food systems have come a long way; however, the cumulative challenges we have faced over the last couple of years un-

derscore how we must transform our current agri-food system that is out of balance.

Hunger and at the opposite end obesity, environmental degradation, food loss and waste and a lack of security for food chain workers are only some of the issues that underline this imbalance.

Although we now produce more than enough food to feed everyone, yet too many people suffer from malnutrition. Even before the pandemic, over two billion people did not have regular access to enough safe and nutritious food. Nearly 700 million people go to bed hungry.

In such circumstances, the COVID-19 health crisis has added to these challenges. The economic disruption linked to the pandemic may push another 130 million people into hunger by the end of the year. The pandemic has reminded everyone that food security and nutritious diets matter to all. ➔7

Iran assumes rotating presidency of G24

TEHRAN — Governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Abdolnasser Hemmati was appointed as the chairman of the Group of 24 for a period of twelve months, in the recent virtual meeting of the ministers and heads of this group, according to the CBI's office of public relations.

“That's a great honor for me to be at your service as the head of the G24 in the next 12 months,” Hemmati told the online meeting.

Highlighting the significance of G24, he added that due to the current deep recessions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the role, and importance of the group is becoming more prominent every day.

“In pursuing the agenda of the group, we intend to follow up on the previous issues as much as possible and at the same time establish more constructive interactions between the members of the group,” he said. ➔4

Iran hails Zarif's 'very successful' visit to China

TEHRAN — Mahmoud Vaezi, President Rouhani's chief of staff, praised on Wednesday the outcome of the chief Iranian diplomat's visit to China, saying the top diplomat had a “very successful” visit to that country.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arrived in the southern Chinese province of Yunnan on October 9. One day later, Zarif met with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. The two diplomats held talks on a range of issues including cooperation on

developing a Covid-19 vaccine, boosting bilateral trade, and pursuing a 25-year comprehensive strategic partnership plan between the two countries.

Speaking at the sidelines of a cabinet session on Wednesday, Vaezi said, “Mr. Zarif's visit was very good and during this visit, very comprehensive negotiations have been held about bilateral, economic, political and cultural issues as well as the 25-year plan.” ➔3

Iran cancels intl. competition of Fajr theater festival as global coronavirus cases grow

TEHRAN — Director of the Fajr International Theater Festival said on Wednesday that the international competition of the 2021 edition of the event will not be held due to a spike in coronavirus cases around the globe.

“There will be no international section for the 39th edition of the festival, because most of the theater companies around the world are currently closed,” Hossein Mosafer Astaneh told the Persian service of MNA.

“Being international is supposed to

have some advantages, which cannot be realized in this situation,” he added.

He said that several overseas troupes and stage experts will be invited to organize workshops or performances and added, “However, we cannot consider the festival an international event.”

“Due to the pandemic, these times have not resulted in an ideal opportunity for Iranian troupes to produce new plays for taking part in the festival. ➔8

Court: U.S. can't target reporters at Portland protests

In a split opinion, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has restored a court injunction that bans federal law enforcement from using force, threats or dispersal orders against journalists and legal observers who are working at protests in Portland, Oregon.

The 2-1 ruling issued restores an injunction issued by U.S. District Court Judge Michael H. Simon. That injunction was put on hold when the Trump administration challenged Simon's order. The ruling by the 9th Circuit restores the ban while it considers the U.S. government's appeal.

The federal agencies “assert a very important public interest, but the record fully supports the district court's conclusion that the Federal Defendants' interest does not require dispersing plaintiffs,” according to the majority opinion. “They have not threatened federal property, and the journalists,

in particular, provide a vitally important service to the public.”

The Justice Department did not immediately comment on the ruling.

The ACLU of Oregon, which filed the initial class-action lawsuit on behalf of journalists and legal observers, applauded the news.

“This is a crucial victory for civil liberties and the freedom of the press, which are critical to the functioning of our democracy. The court's opinion affirms that the government cannot use violence to control the narrative about what is happening at these historic protests,” said attorney Matthew Borden.

The lawsuit included affidavits from journalists, including a freelance photographer for the Associated Press, and legal observers who had been shot by federal officers with non-lethal munitions.

Online courses aim to raise awareness of child safety travels

TEHRAN — The Touring and Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran has formulated day-long educational courses focusing on safe traveling of children and young adults with an eye to challenges, hazards, demands, practical tips, and the threats of vehicle crashes.

A pilot project of the online courses was held on October 3, during a national tourism week, for target populations selected from the southern neighborhoods of Tehran province. The audiences were reached via a homegrown mobile applica-

tion, called SHAD, launched by the ministry of education to cater distance learning programs in the coronavirus era.

Teamwork skills; deepening the sense of responsibility; financial management during travels; emergency measures and situations; the weather, natural conditions, cultural heritage of a specific travel destination; as well as traffic safety measures and regulations were amongst topics discussed during the outreach program.

The educational content included two separate

brochures (for the parents and children), and eight video clips in which instructors explained a sort of well-selected issues.

The ‘child safe tourism’ approach in working with government bodies, communities, and the tourism sector seeks to advise at-risk children to build a more protective tourism environment through education, training, and public campaigning, fostering the culture of tourism, driving, riding, and car racing accentuated on children aged eight to ten. ➔6



© Mehr/Masumeh Jafari

Funeral held in Sari for five martyrs of Syrian war

TEHRAN — A funeral procession was held on Wednesday for five martyrs who lost their lives in the Syrian village of Khan Tuman while defending the people of Syria against Takfiri terrorists.

The ceremony, which was held in Sari, the capital of Mazandaran Province, commemorated martyrs Reza Hajizadeh, Ali Abedini, Mohammad Belbasi, Hassan Rajaeifar and Mahmoud Radmehr.

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

Yunnan meeting, a major step toward a comprehensive and constructive partnership

By Dennis Etler

The meeting of Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in the Chinese province of Yunnan bodes well for the future of Sino-Iranian relations. It is a little known fact that during the Yuan dynasty Shams al-Din, an Iranian from Bukhara, was appointed Yunnan's first provincial governor. The meeting of the two foreign ministers in Yunnan thus takes on added historical significance.

Both China and Iran are ancient civilizations that have been in contact with one another throughout the span of history. As far back as the Han dynasty, over 2000 years ago, China and Anxi, the Chinese name for ancient Persia, were in contact and had friendly trade and diplomatic relations. These ties were strengthened during later dynasties and Iran was an important conduit for the ancient and medieval Silk Road connecting China to the West.

In more recent times both China and Iran have been targets of Western colonialism and imperialism. The U.S. hegemonists have sought to destabilize both nations and have waged an incessant hybrid war against them, pursuing their containment by encircling them with military bases and engaging in provocative military actions. It is only natural that Iran and China see themselves as comrades-in-arms in their struggle to protect their sovereignty and independence.

Under the Trump Administration, both have suffered from maximum pressure campaigns meant to force them to concede to Washington's demands. ➔5

Trump's anti-Iran rhetoric aimed to attract Zionists' support: expert

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – Mohammad Marandi, a professor at the University of Tehran, says U.S. President Donald Trump's anti-Iran tweets are intended to attract endorsement from the Zionists of the United States.

Trump makes such remarks to attract support for the November presidential election because his campaign suffers from bad financial situation compared to his rival Joe Biden, Marandi said in an interview with IRNA published on Wednesday.

Asked about the latest round of U.S. sanctions on Iranian banks, he said a psychological war is behind the sanctions because "it is not a new issue as all those banks had already been sanctioned by the United States."

On October 8, the Trump administration announced it had imposed new sanctions on Iran's financial sector in defiance of Washington's European allies who warned of the humanitarian consequences of the sanctions on Iran's fight against the coronavirus.

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

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

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

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

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

Marandi, who is a professor of English literature and Orientalism, said since a long time ago, the international banking system, under the secondary sanctions, has had no cooperation with the Iranian banks.

The new sanctions will create no fresh problems for Iran, he underlined.

The U.S. has already put "maximum pressure" on Iran and there's nothing higher than that, he said, reiterating that the sanctions will not affect Iran's economy in practice.

He also underlined the need to control the psychological aspect of those sanctions.

Pointing to the U.S. move to disrupt transfer of food and medicine to Iran, Marandi said Washington does such things despite its claim that it is an advocate of human rights.

The professor said Tehran has its own methods to import fundamental needs and conduct financial transactions.

Asked about U.S. foreign policy on Iran following the upcoming presidential election, Marandi said Iran should rely on its own domestic capacities.

Undoubtedly, he continued, both U.S. presidential candidates seek to harm Iran whether they are Democrat or Republican. Both are after imposing their will on other countries, so though their methods may differ, their goals remain the same, he added.

He concluded his remarks by saying that the United States faces various crises, and it seems that its power to put pressure on Iran will reduce in next months and years.

Missile hits Iran's East Azarbaijan Province

TEHRAN (FNA) – An official in East Azarbaijan said that a missile fired by the warring sides in Karabakh conflict has hit Heris County, 70 kilometers Northeast of Tabriz on Tuesday.

East Azarbaijan Deputy Governor- General Aliyar Rastgou said that a missile fell on the farmlands of Aqa-Alilou village in Heris County.



He expressed pleasure the missile blast did not cause any casualties or financial losses.

Earlier on Tuesday, Deputy Governor-General of the Northwestern province of Ardabil Behrouz Nedavee said that a drone crashed in the farmlands of the border County of Parsabad.

"A drone crashed 500 meters away from the border village of Uzuntapeh of Parsabad County," Nedavee told FNA, adding that it is not yet clear to which country it belongs.

He noted that according to the local sources, the unmanned aircraft is related to the Karabakh conflict.

The official made it clear that the Iranian foreign ministry and the border police had already warned the warring sides in the conflict against the violation of Iran's territory as a result of the clashes.

18 days into the Caucasian military conflict, the clashes are on the rise despite the ceasefire that was signed earlier in the week.

Earlier in October, the Iranian foreign ministry repeated the country's warning to Azerbaijan and Armenia to avoid misfire during military clashes between the two neighbors.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously and with high sensitivity monitoring the moves at the bordering areas of Iran and declares that any aggression against our country's territories by any party engaged in the (conflicts in the) region will not be tolerated and we seriously warn all sides to show necessary caring in this regard," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

He reiterated the need for respecting Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, watching for civilians' lives, stopping clashes and starting serious and timed talks, adding that Iran is ready to help achievement of the aforesaid goals.

Deputy Commander of Iran's Law Enforcement Forces Brigadier General Qassem Rezayee had also late in September warned Armenia and Azerbaijan which have been engaged in clashes to avoid misfire at Iranian bordering areas.

Ending of Iran arms embargo was 'a great success': Vaezi

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – Presidential chief of staff Mahmoud Vaezi has said that the restrictions on Iran's import and export of weapons will be lifted next week, describing the development as a "great success" for Iran.

"The restrictions that we had on exporting and importing weapons will be lifted next week," Vaezi said on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

Vaezi said the lifting of the UN arms embargo was a great success, adding, "This embargo was imposed in 2010. The embargo has been in place for more than ten years and it will be lifted next week."

Under the Iran nuclear deal, which is officially called the JCPOA, the UN arms embargo on Iran will expire on October 18. The U.S. has so far used everything in its power to prevent the expiration of the arms embargo. 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.

The U.S. also resorted to triggering the so-called "snapback mechanism" to reimpose all UN sanctions on Iran. That move failed miserably as well. The U.S. went on with the move 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. unilaterally announced the return of all UN sanctions on Iran in a bid to extend the UN arms embargo but the international community rejected the move. However, the U.S. has threatened anyone violating the UN sanctions with unilateral punitive measures.

Vaezi reiterated that the lifting of the arms embargo was a great success for Iran against the U.S., which used all its power

to extend the embargo but failed.

Then they tried to trigger the snapback mechanism but failed once again, he said, adding, "That was a big success as well."

"Iran is not a country on which the U.S. can exert its will through its power and capabilities," Vaezi added.

The deputy chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee also said Iran will soon enjoy the

right to purchase and sell weapons, as the arms embargo on the Islamic Republic nears its end.

"In the years after the conclusion of JCPOA, the Islamic Republic of Iran acted in accordance with international regulations. However, a significant part of Iran's privileges and rights has not been realized by JCPOA participant states," Abbas Moghtadai said, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

Moghtadai said under the JCPOA, the arms embargo on Iran will end soon and Iran will be able to sell arms to interested parties, and in return, Iran will also be able to buy weapons and equipment that cannot be manufactured domestically.

"The United States has withdrawn from the JCPOA, and under no circumstances can it comment on issues related to Iran, including the end of arms embargo," Moghtadai remarked.

He added that Iran is an independent country that has always complied with its international obligations and can now implement the actions that are legal under international law.

The JCPOA, 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 in pursuit of what it called the "maximum pressure" policy against Iran.

Official dismisses Europeans' human rights claims as hypocritical

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – Head of the Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights, Ali Bagheri-Kani, has said Iranians will never forget or forgive the inhumane acts of some European countries, dismissing their push for human rights in Iran as hypocritical.

"We call on the Western countries, which support the Zionist and Saudi regimes, to take human rights into account in their human rights policies, and not to always use their illegitimate interests as a criterion for dealing with human beings," Bagheri-Kani suggested.

Bagheri-Kani made the remarks during a meeting with Austrian Ambassador to Tehran Stefan Schulz, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

In the meeting, Bagheri-Kani and Schulz discussed the potential for bilateral cooperation in the legal and judicial fields.

Pointing to judicial innovations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bagheri-Kani voiced his country's readiness to



share its judicial experiences with the Austrian judiciary.

"The human rights approach of Western countries stems from their policies," Iran's human rights chief pointed out.

Atlantic Council: New U.S. sanctions 'more window dressing'

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – In a report on Wednesday, the Atlantic Council described the new round of U.S. sanctions against Iran as "more window dressing than anything of strategic import", as Iran's banking sector was already subject to a substantial level of sanctions.

"Instead, the sanctions may be more directed at creating difficult conditions for the resumption of the Iran nuclear deal under a potential Joe Biden administration. However, that is not to say that there will be no impact," the report said.

"Secondary sanctions now apply to all large Iranian banks—only primary sanctions had applied to these banks before under a separate sanctions executive order. This may seem like a major escalation, but most international trade with Iran was already subject to secondary sanctions in practical terms, so the effect of those newly relevant secondary sanctions is likely to be limited," it added.

The report noted that Iran's activity was

already subject to secondary sanctions, so this action will do nothing to curb Iran's ballistic missile development.

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

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

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

The move will further deprive "the Islamic Republic of Iran of funds to carry out its support for terrorist activities and nuclear extortion that threatens the world," Pompeo alleged.

"The wild card in assessing impact, though, is the chilling effect that specific sanctions like these may have on all transactions with

these banks, including the trade that is exempt from sanctions or authorized," the Atlantic Council said.

"The United States has secondary sanctions that target financial messaging services to banks that have been sanctioned," it said, adding, "Not having access to the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) can make communications more difficult for banks, but is not crippling, especially for banks that have been subject to sanctions for so long."

The report further said, "All in all, the above hardly seems 'crippling' or indicative of impending economic collapse. Instead, the real goal with this action may have been to appease those in Congress calling for tougher action and to complicate any attempt by a prospective Biden administration to re-enter the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)."

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said the United States is seeking to blow up Iran's remaining



channels to pay for food and medicine.

"Amid Covid19 pandemic, U.S. regime wants to blow up our remaining channels to pay for food & medicine," Zarif tweeted on October 8. "Iranians WILL survive this latest of cruelties."

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

Cruel sanctions on Iran amount to collective punishment: NY Times

A leading American newspaper has denounced as "cruel" the ongoing efforts by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump to pile up sanctions on Iran amid the deadly coronavirus pandemic, saying the imposition of embargoes amounts to collective punishment for tens of millions of innocent Iranians.

An op-ed article by the New York Times published on Tuesday said U.S. efforts to cut Iran off from the rest of the world in the midst of the pandemic were "cruel," as the country is the hardest-hit in the Middle East.

To hermetically seal the Iranian economy off from the rest of the world, the paper said, the hawkish U.S. administration has slapped draconian embargoes on Iran, the latest of which targeted 18 Iranian banks that appear to have been the last financial institutions with international ties left untouched by Treasury Department sanctions.

In its latest move, the U.S., which usually sanctions Iranian banks under the claim that they help terrorism or the country's peaceful nuclear program, has not even spared the country's Bank Maskan, which specializes in mortgages, and Bank Keshavarzi Iran, which lends to farmers, the paper said.

"This sweepingly broad application of sanctions amounts to collective punishment for tens of millions of innocent Iranians," the newspaper said.

"The new sanctions against these 18 banks are particularly cruel during a pandemic," it added.

Although Trump administration officials insist the sanctions, which will take effect in December, don't apply to food and medicine and they claim they have provided waivers to companies that want to sell needed supplies to Iran, the article said, the process of getting waivers approved is too "cumbersome and time-consuming" to meet health needs during a pandemic, not to mention the obstacles facing the country in its banking transactions due to the sanctions, which make it difficult for Iran to touch the export revenue it earns.

The paper also criticized the U.S. administration for obstructing a \$5 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund to help Iran combat the coronavirus pandemic.

It said that the embargoes have also enraged America's closest allies as the "unilateral and extraterritorial nature of the sanctions" have threatened their companies, thus prompting the countries to refuse to have Washington's back at the UN Security Council in its bid to extend an arms embargo on Iran, which is to expire in days.

"The United States has been virtually alone on the United Nations Security Council in trying to ratchet up pressure on Iran," the article said, adding, "The more the United States throws its weight around, the more appetite there will be around the world for establishing alternative financial mechanisms that will ultimately deprive Washington of its global clout."

The paper also recommended that American officials stop piling sanctions on Iran during the pandemic, noting the U.S.

so-called maximum pressure campaign "has not achieved the ultimate goal of forcing the Iranian government to capitulate to Washington."

As Barbara Slavin, director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, says the American "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran is "sadism masquerading as foreign policy," it said.

Since pulling out of a historic multilateral deal with Iran and other major powers in 2018, the U.S. has been piling up pressure on Iran through reinstating of the sanctions that had been lifted under the agreement and adding new sanctions.

Washington has been prodding even its allies into following suit in cutting their trade with Iran, and even threatening them with secondary sanctions.

Despite its concerted efforts, the Trump administration failed to renew an arms ban against Iran through a resolution at the UN Security Council in mid-August as the draft was supported only by the Dominican Republic, leaving it far short of the minimum nine "yes" votes required for adoption.

The following month, the U.S. suffered another resounding defeat as it failed to trigger the so-called snapback provision in the nuclear deal aimed at re-imposing all UN sanctions against Iran, as UN Security Council member states questioned the United States' claim that it was still a participant state to the nuclear accord, citing its unilateral withdrawal in May 2018.

(Source: Press TV)

The right to defensive arms

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — As a UN desk arms embargo on Iran nears its end, Iran appears to be poised to exercise its right to freely buy and sell arms while securing the support of the remaining parties to a 2015 nuclear deal.

With the expiration date of the arms embargo a few days away, Iran is calling on the signatories to the nuclear deal — officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - to make clear that they would translate their political and diplomatic support for Iran into actions.

The UN arms embargo, which is scheduled to expire on October 18 in accordance with the provisions of the JCPOA, is a licensing process set by the 2015 nuclear deal that stipulates that arms trade with Iran would be subject to permissions from the UN Security Council for a period of five years after the implementation of the nuclear deal.

This restriction will come to an end in the coming days, setting the stage for a real showdown between the United States and the international community over the implementation of the UN sanctions which were unilaterally and reimposed by the U.S. on September 19.

Over the past months, the UN arms embargo has been a major point of contention between the U.S. and Iran, with other countries, especially those on the UN Security Council, being stuck in the middle in terms of which side they can support.

Iran has said many times that the UN arms embargo must end in mid-October as agreed in the JCPOA five years ago. On the other hand, the U.S. has said the arms embargo will continue to be in place after October 18.

In an effort to extend the arms embargo, the U.S. also unilaterally restored all UN sanctions on Iran in September, a move that was met with steadfast opposition from the remaining parties to the JCPOA and almost all UN Security Council members.

"Last week, the U.S. triggered the 30-day process to restore virtually all UN sanctions on Iran after the Security Council failed to uphold its mission to maintain international peace and security. These sanctions will snap back at midnight GMT on September 20," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a tweet on August 27, a week after he traveled to New York to submit a "notification" to the president of the Security Council calling for the restoration of the international sanctions on Iran in accordance with a highly controversial mechanism within the JCPOA that allows a "JCPOA participant state" to restore the UN sanc-



tions on Iran in case it didn't uphold its obligations under the JCPOA.

On September 19, Pompeo announced the return of all UN sanctions on Iran, throwing the Security Council into chaos and uncertainty as most members of the Council had already announced that they would not recognize the legality of the U.S. announcement that international sanctions against Iran have been restored. In addition, all signatories to the JCPOA, including Washington European allies, said the U.S. announcement on the restoration of UN sanctions was incapable of having legal effect.

Now that the U.S. has moved forward with its threat to restore the international sanctions, the world is holding its breath to see how the JCOPA parties would react when the expiration date of the UN arms embargo arrives. Will they translate their political opposition to the U.S. into actions?

Iran has said the arms embargo will be lifted by October 18. On Wednesday, President Hassan Rouhani already congratulated the Iranian people on the lifting of the arms embargo.

"Next week, we will be congratulating and giving glad tidings to the people that ten years of cruel arms embargo will come to an end. We fought with America on this issue for four years. Over the past four years, America used everything in its power to prevent the lifting of the embargo on October 18. The embargo will be lifted due to the endurance of the people," Rouhani said, according to IRNA.

The president added, "The U.S. failed because of the efforts made by our diplomats. Those who say what the point of the JCPOA was, should know that this is

one of the JCPOA's privileges. It lifted the arms embargo and as of Sunday, we will be able to buy arms from anyone and sell arms to anyone."

Russia and China are seen as the two main candidates that would sell arms to Iran after the expiration of the UN arms embargo, especially now that the two countries have firmly opposed the U.S. push to extend the arms embargo.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in September that there would be no limitations whatsoever on arms supplies to and from Iran, calling into the question the arms embargo itself.

"There is no such thing as an arms embargo against Iran. The Security Council, when it was adopting the comprehensive Resolution 2231, which endorsed [the] Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which settled the nuclear issue for Iran, and this was adopted by consensus under the Chapter 7 of the United Nations' charter," the chief Russian diplomat said in an interview with Alarabiya in September, adding, "The Security Council in that resolution said that the supply of arms to Iran and from Iran would be subject to consideration by the Security Council and that on the 18th of October, 2020 this regime of sales to Iran would stop. There is no embargo and there would be no limitations whatsoever after the expiration of this timeframe established by the Security Council."

In addition to Lavrov, many other Russian officials underlined that Russia would continue the military cooperation with Iran even after the U.S. announced the return of all UN sanctions.

In the months leading to the expiration of the UN arms embargo, some Russian media outlets showcased the weapons that Iran could purchase from Russia after the expiration of the arms embargo. Su-30SM fighter jets, the K-300P Bastion-P mobile defense missile system and the S-400 Air Defense System are among defense weapons that Russia could sell to Iran, according to the Russian website Russia Beyond.

Furthermore, the Russian ambassador to Iran, Levon Jagarian, has said his country has no problem in selling the S-400 missile defense system to Iran.

In an interview with Resalat daily, the ambassador also noted that the U.S. threats would by no means affect Russia's arms cooperation with Iran.

Unlike Russia, the European stance on the arms embargo on Iran is still ambiguous. They said that they have their own arms embargo on Iran that will last until after 2020. This means that that they will almost certainly refrain from selling arms to Iran. But they didn't clarify whether they will oppose other countries selling arms to Iran. Some analysts believe that the European signatories to the JCPOA may repeat what they did after the U.S. reimposed sanctions on Iran following the White House's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal: Publicly opposing the U.S. sanctions but stopping short of making any effort to defy U.S. sanctions in practice. If the Europeans do so, Rouhani's "glad tidings" would be in danger of turning out to be bad news.

The Europeans' record in relation to the JCPOA has created deep mistrust in Tehran, with some analysts believing that Europe may only announce that the UN arms embargo has been lifted without taking any tangible measures to help Iran enjoy what it's entitled to. This may be the reason why a senior Iranian parliamentarian has recently called on JCPOA parties to formally announce the lifting of the arms embargo.

"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," Mojtaba Zolnouri, who is the head of the Parliament's National Security Committee, was quoted by the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA) as saying.

Regardless of what the Europeans would do, Iran seems to be determined to exercise its right to sell and buy defensive arms just like what other countries around the world freely do.

Iran to Trump: Linking bin Laden to Iran a 'wild conspiracy' theory

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry ridiculed on Wednesday a tweet by U.S. President Donald Trump linking the head of al-Qaeda terrorist group Osama bin Laden to Iran.

On Wednesday, Trump retweeted a tweet originally published by a twitter account that is widely known to be run by the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK) terrorist group.

The tweet quotes Benghazi whistleblower Nick Noe as claiming that three former CIA directors involved in keeping bin Laden alive in Iran, and then moved him from Iran to Pakistan for Obama's trophy kill.



The tweet also claim that the Obama administration made payments to Iran for its cooperation on the killing of bin Laden.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, dismissed the tweet as a "conspiracy theory".

"U.S. presidents have long used Iran as campaign cudgel. But we're reaching new lows: One day, Donald Trump expresses wishful fantasies of a call from Tehran. The next, he spreads wild conspiracy theories from a fake account run by a terrorist cult," Khatibzadeh said in a tweet on Wednesday.

Iran hails Zarif's 'very successful' visit to China

1→ The president's chief of staff said the cabinet was briefed on the visit during the Wednesday session and that "there will be a good opening up in all areas after this trip," given the foreign minister's "good and successful visit to China," according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) news agency.

Vaezi added, "The country of China also sees Iran as a good partner in terms of economic and political issues."

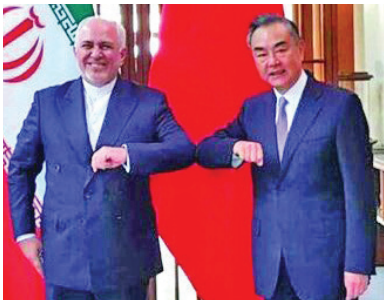
Zarif himself has described his visit to China as "fruitful." Following his meeting with his Chinese counterpart, he tweeted, "Fruitful talks in beautiful Tengchong with my friend Wang Yi on Iran-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership." He added that Iran and China "rejected U.S. unilateralism, and the U.S. attempts to create a 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 want to work with Iran to deepen our bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership."

In addition to the 25-year plan, Zarif and Wang held talks on regional issues, according to Vaezi.

"During this trip, regional issues were discussed as well. It is natural that Iran and China attach importance to regional developments because China,



due to the type of its economic ties with many countries around the world, attaches importance to the security of countries. It pursues issues more seriously than it did in the past."

During Zarif's visit, Wang proposed to create a "regional multilateral dialogue platform" to resolve differences in the Western Asia region through dialogue.

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

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

In a bid to further support a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, China said that support for the nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, would be a precondition of entry to the regional forum.

Rouhani says UN arms embargo on Iran will be lifted by October 18

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani congratulated the Iranian people on the imminent lifting of a UN arms embargo on Iran, saying the country would be able to buy and sell arms as of mid-October.

"Next week, we will be congratulating and giving glad tidings to the people that ten years of cruel arms embargo will come to an end. We fought with America on this issue for four years. Over the past four years, America used everything in its power to prevent the lifting of the embargo on October 18. The embargo will be lifted due to the endurance of the people," Rouhani was quoted by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) as saying on Wednesday morning.

The president added, "The U.S. failed because of the efforts made by our diplomats. Those who say what the point of the JCPOA was, should know that this is one of the JCPOA's privileges. It lifted the arms embargo and as of Sunday, we will be able to buy arms from anyone and sell arms to anyone."

Rouhani made the remarks during a regular cabinet session. He said the U.S. has not achieved any foreign policy breakthroughs.

The UN arms embargo on Iran is slated to expire on October 18 in accordance with the provisions of a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. The deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), stipulates that the UN arms embargo on Iran would be lifted five years after the implementation of the JCPOA. This five-year period will end on October 18.

But the U.S. has made tremendous efforts, from submitting a draft resolution to the UN Security Council calling for the extension of the arms embargo to triggering a controversial mechanism within the JCPOA, to make sure



that the UN Arms restrictions on Iran will not be lifted. But all U.S. efforts in this regard have faced firm opposition from the international community. All JCPOA parties along with thirteen of the 15-member UN Security Council have said the U.S. had no legal authority to extend the arms embargo on Iran.

As the expiration date of the arms embargo approaches, some Iranian officials reiterate that the arms embargo will be lifted. They also call on the remaining signatories to the nuclear deal to formally declare that the arms restrictions will be lifted on October 18.

On Tuesday, a senior Iranian lawmaker underlined the need for JCPOA parties to announce the end of the arms embargo. "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," Mojtaba Zolnouri, who is the head of the Parliament's National Security Committee, was quoted by the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA) as saying.

Earlier in September, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, said there would be no limitations whatsoever on the arms trade with Iran after the expiration of the UN arms embargo on October 18.

SPORTS

Mehdi Rahamti hangs up his gloves

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Former Iran national football team goalkeeper Mehdi Rahmati announced his retirement from football.

The custodian called time on his 23-year spell at football on Wednesday.

Rahmati started his long journey in Iranian football club Fajr Sepasi in 2000 and played in Sepahan (two stints), Esteghlal (three stints), Mes Kerman, Paykan and Shahr Khodro since then.

He was part of Iran national football team in 2004 AFC Asian Cup but remained an unused substitute. Rahmati won the 2004 West Asian Football Federation Championship in Jordan with Iran. He was again part of the team in 2007 AFC Asian Cup but did not play any match.

Rahmati represented Iran at the 2010 and 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifications and 2011 AFC Asian Cup qualification as well.

He announced his retirement from international duty in 2013 after a dispute with Iran coach Carlos Quieroz.

Rahmati made 76 caps for Iran national football team from 2004 to 2013.

He joined Shahr Khodro from Esteghlal last year on a two-year contract and was appointed as the team's coach in late August as Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh's replacement. He headed the team in the 2020 AFC Champions League, where the Mashhad based team failed to book a place in the next stage.

Rahmati penned a three-year contract with Shahr Khodro on Tuesday.



Persepolis in crisis; who's at fault?

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN — Wednesday was the culmination of crisis in the Persepolis club several days after the qualification of the team to the final match of the 2020 AFC Champions League.

Even the most pessimistic Persepolis fans didn't expect that the Iranian giants would face so many crises and problems after this great success, reaching the Champions League final for the second time in the last three years.

The Iranian side, who were crowned as the West Asian champions, will face the East Asian champions in the final match on Dec. 19.

The club's failure to pay the salary of the former coach Branko Ivankovic provoked perhaps the worst crisis in the Reds' history.

Persepolis have been banned by FIFA from signing new players in the next transfer window until they pay the dues.

But after a month since the FIFA verdict, the Tehran based club are still unable to pay the money to the Croatian coach and now the club is in danger of point deduction or being relegated to the lower division.

For supporters of Persepolis, the idea of losing points or playing in lower league remains essentially unfathomable.

On Wednesday, a large group of supporters gathered around Persepolis club's headquarters to protest club president Mehdi Rasoul Panah's handling of the situation.

They asked the Ministry of Sports and Youth and even the Iranian Parliament to help their favorites club.

Things escalated to the worst point for the fans when some rumors claimed that some of the team's key players are going to leave Persepolis because of the financial problems and the club's failure to pay their demands.

What is certain is that Persepolis need more support to get through these nightmarish days ahead of the start of the new season of the Iranian Professional League (IPL) and most importantly as the Iranian football's representative in the final match of the most prestigious club tournament in Asia, namely the AFC Champions League.

Three Iranians nominated for AFC National Team Player of the Week

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Sardar Azmoun, Mehdi Taremi and Ali Gholizadeh have been nominated for AFC National Team Player of the Week

With a handful of Asia's top national sides in action for the first time in 2020, attention this week has turned to the international game, where some of the continent's biggest names reminded us of what we've been missing.

■ Sardar Azmoun

75 minutes, 1 goal (2-1 v Uzbekistan)

One of Asia's top strikers celebrated his return to the international stage by finding the back of net, with Iran's Azmoun playing a key role in his side's 2-1 win over Uzbekistan last Thursday.

The Zenit Saint-Petersburg star was arguably the best known of the Iranian arrivals in Tashkent, and he lived up to his billing when he rocketed the ball past Eldor Suyunov from 25 yards just before half-time, helping Team Melli to a first win under new head coach Dragan Skocic, the-afc.com reported.

■ Ali Gholizadeh

75 minutes, 1 assist (2-1 v Uzbekistan)

Supplying the pass for Azmoun's strike was Gholizadeh, who continued his terrific recent club form with a fine display for his country.

The Belgium-based attacking midfielder emerged as one of the best performers on the night and would have had two assists had Azmoun not missed an even better chance in the early stages of the clash.

■ Mehdi Taremi

72 minutes, 1 goal (2-1 v Uzbekistan)

He may be yet to open his account at new club FC Porto, but Taremi added to his international tally while on Iran duty, converting a penalty kick he won himself against Uzbekistan.

Taremi easily skipped around Uzbekistan's Suyunov to draw the foul, before sending the shot-stopper the wrong way to make it 2-0 on the night, and three goals in his last four matches for the national team.

The Iranian trio will vie with Almoez Ali (Qatar), Eldor Shomurodov and Igor Sergeev (Uzbekistan) as well as Takehiro Tomiyasu Gaku Shibasaki from Japan.

Sponge iron output up 8% in H1

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Production of sponge iron in Iran increased eight percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

More than 15.568 million tons of sponge iron has been produced in the six-month period of this year.

Iran's production of sponge iron has climbed six percent to 27.907 million tons in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), from 26.359 million tons in its preceding year, according to the data released by Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).



The country's export of sponge iron has also risen 77 percent in the past year.

Meanwhile, sponge iron consumption in the country increased four percent to 26.965 million tons from 25.826 million tons on an annual basis.

Three projects each with a capacity of 800,000 tons were launched in the country during the past Iranian year.

The projects were put into operation in the southeastern province of Kerman, South Khorasan Province in the east, and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province in the southwest of the country.

Iran is only second to India globally in terms of the volume of sponge iron production. The country is the 10th largest steel producer in the world.

Sponge iron is a metallic product produced through the direct reduction of iron ore in the strong state. It is a substitute for scrap and therefore is mostly applicable in making steel through the secondary route. The procedure of sponge iron making aims to expel the oxygen from iron ore.

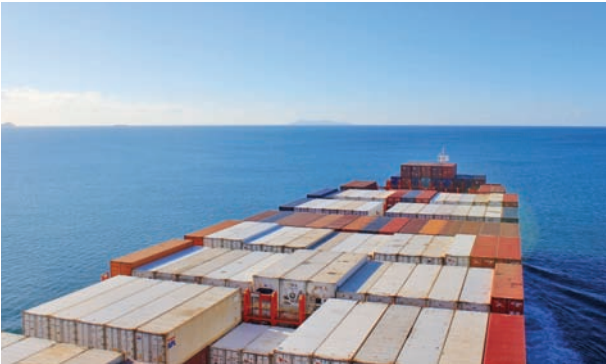
Trade between Iran, EAEU increases 6% in 11 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Trade between Iran and the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) increased by six percent during the 11-month period from October 27, 2018 to August 22, 2019, compared to the same period in the previous years, data released by the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran showed.

Based on the TPO data, Iranian exports to the mentioned union increased by 21 percent, while the imports experienced a one percent raise, the TPO portal reported.

Iran exported \$823.9 million worth of commodities to the EAEU nations in the mentioned period compared to the \$679.8 million in the same corresponding period of time.

As reported, Russia had the highest amount of imports from Iran among the five Eurasian Economic Union member states during the period under review and the lowest exports were made to Belarus.



Meanwhile, most imports came from Russia and the least from Kyrgyzstan, the data indicated.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration (IRICA) data, Iran's trade with the member of the Eurasian Economic Union during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19-August 21) stood at \$2.791 billion, up six percent compared to the same period last year in which the figure stood at \$2.635 billion.

The interim agreement enabling the formation of a free trade area between Iran and the EAEU was signed on May 17, 2018, and officially came into force on October 27, 2019.

This agreement, which has laid the ground for the expansion of trade ties between the two sides, consists of two commodity lists, including the preferences granted by the Eurasian Economic Union to Iran (504 items) and the preferences granted by Iran to that union (390 items). These preferences are in the form of tariff reduction or tariff fixation (no tariff increase for the other party) in the base year.

119 energy projects inaugurated under A-B-Iran scheme since Mar. 20

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said that 119 major water and electricity projects worth 280 trillion rials (about \$6.66 billion) have been inaugurated throughout the country in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20) under the framework of the ministry's A-B-Iran program.

A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the previous Iranian calendar year, during which the minister made 31 trips to various provinces for inaugurating over 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion).

One of the ministry's programs under the framework of the A-B-Iran is rewarding efficient electricity subscribers with 100 percent discount on their bills.

This program called "power of hope" was unveiled by the energy minister in mid-August, and is expected to reduce the country's electricity consumption by 10 percent.

“Each rooftop a power plant” scheme to be implemented in Iran

1 → Iranian Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry, Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, told IRNA on Wednesday that in the first stage this program is going to be implemented only for high-consumption electricity subscribers across the country with the aim of optimizing their consumption and reducing the pressure on the national grid.

He said that the information and the date for the beginning of the project will be announced soon; noting that as planned, high-consuming subscribers will register and take the necessary steps to join the program and receive their own solar PV station.

According to the official, the stations considered for this program occupy very little space, so that for each kilowatt of solar energy generation, approximately four to five square meters of space is required.

“Some households need only 400 to 500 watts of solar power capacity, which can even



be installed on their rooftop water air coolers and use it as a canopy for the air cooler, which will also increase the efficiency of the cooler,” Rajabi Mashhadi explained.

Regarding the facilities provided for the participants in this plan, the official said: “The investment in this program is made by the subscriber himself, but the interest on the loan or the subsidy of the facility interests will be paid by the Renewable Energy and Electricity Efficiency Organization of Iran (SATBA). This will help to provide an interest-free loan to the subscriber which will be repaid in installments.”

Rajabi Mashhadi pointed out that high-consuming subscribers can cover the costs of the rooftop power station from the additional costs that they are already paying for their electricity bills, and gradually own a solar power plant as soon as their debts are settled.

Iran assumes rotating presidency of G24

1 → Stressing the need for further coordination to solve the problems caused by the pandemic, the official said, “As a group, we must always advocate for a coordinated global solution to ensure that all countries, without exception, have access to low-cost vaccine and treatment for Covid-19 as well as financial assistance, including emergency assistance, based on their needs and humanitarian reasons.”

“I am confident that during my service, we will be able to formulate policies based on the future vision and pre-determined goals and help member countries overcome this unprecedented crisis and the current harmful

situation,” he said, adding: “Our joint programs will focus on the goals of economic recovery in the post-epidemic period, how to achieve financial stability, and in particular, public debt management.”

The Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development, or The Group of 24 (G-24) was established in 1971 as a chapter of the Group of 77 in order to help coordinate the positions of developing countries on international monetary and development finance issues, and to ensure that their interests are adequately represented in negotiations on international monetary matters.



IMF sees Iranian economy rebounding in 2021

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its latest World Outlook Report titled “The Long and Difficult Ascend”, sees the Iranian economic growth at 3.2 percent as the global economy slowly ascends from the recession created by the coronavirus outbreak.

The international body's estimation of Iran's economy has improved 0.1 percent in this report compared to its previous report published in June.

According to the International Monetary Fund, next year's inflation rate in Iran will reach 30 percent, which shows a decrease of three percent compared to the fund's previous



estimate for the next year.

Based on the report, the unemployment rate in Iran, which is projected at 12.2 percent for this year, is estimated to reach 12.4 percent in the next year.

The international body estimates that the world economy will end the year with a negative growth of 4.4 percent, which is an improvement of about 0.8 percent compared to the fund's previous report.

The estimated improvement is due to increased hopes for the recovery of economies after the coronavirus pandemic and the reduction of restrictions due to the implementation of health protocols such as social distances and business closures.

Meanwhile, IMF estimates that global economic growth will reach 5.2 percent in 2021, indicating a recovery in the global economy after the pandemic.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. economy will shrink 4.3 percent this year and grow 3.1 percent next year.

This year, the economies of European countries will also experience negative growth; France and the United Kingdom will face negative growth of 9.8 percent. Italy will experience a negative 10.6 percent growth while Spain's economy will shrink 12.8 percent.

India will record negative growth of 10.3 percent this year, according to the report.

Among the world's economies, only China will grow positively this year, with economic growth estimated at 1.9 percent.

Tehran to host 7th Iran-Qatar joint economic committee meeting

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's capital Tehran is going to host the seventh round of Iran-Qatar joint economic committee meeting by the end of 2020, the Energy Ministry portal (Paven) announced.

The decision was made during an online meeting between Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian and Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, who are the chairs of the mentioned committee, on Tuesday.

The two sides agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) approved by the two countries during the upcoming committee meeting and to further facilitate the development of trade relations between the two neighboring Muslim countries.

During the meeting, Al Kuwari invited the Iranian min-



ister to visit Qatar in the second week of the next Iranian calendar month of Aban (begins on October 22).

Petchem output rises despite limitations caused by pandemic

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Petrochemical production in Iran has increased in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20) despite the difficulties and limitations caused by the coronavirus outbreak, the managing director of Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) noted.

Jafar Rabiei also underlined the efforts made by the petrochemical complexes for producing the products to combat the pandemic.

PGPIC is the largest company listed in Tehran Stock Exchange, which is Iran's major stock exchange, and is the second-largest petrochemical company in West Asia.

The company has been ranked 40th among the world's top 100 petrochemical

companies based on Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (ICIS) 2020 ranking.

The giant holding has been ranked second in the region despite the maximum U.S. pressure to restrict the activity of the petrochemical industry in Iran, and without access to international funding or investment.

The petrochemical industry is playing a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, so that based on official data, petrochemical exports constitute the second-largest hard currency earner in Iran after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already make up nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

In late August, National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Managing Director Behzad Mohammadi said that Iran is going to become the top petrochemical producer



in the region after the realization of the industry's third leap in the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

In addition to the projects in the second and third leaps of the petrochemical industry, 34 new projects with an investment volume of \$17 billion, and a total capacity

of 19 million tons have been defined, with their implementation, Iran's position will be more privileged, the official stated.

He pointed to the Iranian petrochemical industry's pioneering projects, saying such projects are the key to the development of the petrochemical industry.

“Along with other pioneering plans, defining new petrochemical projects based on mixed feedstock is a process based on thinking, effort, engineering, and accurate market calculations,” Mohammadi stressed.

According to the official, the NPC's pioneering projects have been classified into four major categories, namely methanol, propylene, ethylene, and benzene, according to which 20 smart projects have been defined for meeting the domestic demand and diversifying the export basket.

TEDPIX drops 18,000 points on Wednesday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 18,259 points to 1.561 million on Wednesday.

Some 6.592 billion securities worth 92.806 trillion rials (about \$2.209 billion) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday.

The first market's index fell 20,409 points and the second market's index dropped 9,181 points.

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

Since the week ended on August 14, the TSE, which is Iran's major stock exchange,

witnessed drop of its main index every week, except for the week ended on September 18.

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

TEDPIX had hit the record high of two million points on August 2, and while it had been experiencing an unprecedented trend of rising over the recent months,

it witnessed several weekly drops since mid-August.

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

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

“The stock market situation is not measured only by the fluctuations of its

index. The Iranian stock exchange is in the process of becoming a modern stock market,” Dejjpasand said.

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

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

News

Hezbollah, Amal oppose Lebanon's team in Israel demarcation talks

Delegations from Beirut and Tel Aviv have taken part in an opening round of indirect negotiations on the demarcation of Lebanon's southern maritime border with the occupying entity, and agreed to meet again in two weeks.

Hosted by the UN and mediated by the U.S., the meeting broke up after barely an hour, and the two sides agreed to hold the next round of discussions on October 28.

The four-member Lebanese team is headed by Deputy Chief of Staff of the Lebanese Army for Operations Brigadier General Pilot Bassam Yassin, while the six-member Israeli delegation is led by the director general of the regime's energy ministry.

The talks mark a "first step in the thousand-mile march towards the demarcation" of Lebanon's maritime frontier, he said. "Based on the higher interests of our country, we are looking to achieve a pace of negotiations that would allow us to conclude this dossier within reasonable time."

Earlier on Wednesday, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Amal movements expressed their opposition to the makeup of their country's delegation.

Saudi Arabia fails in bid for seat on UN Human Rights Council

Saudi Arabia failed in its attempt to become a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the next three-year term starting on January 1, while China, Russia and Cuba were elected on Tuesday in a vote that caused an outcry among human rights defenders.

Russia and Cuba ran unopposed in the UN General Assembly election. Saudi Arabia and China vied for membership in a five-nation race for four spots with Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Nepal, al Jazeera reported.

Pakistan received 169 votes, Uzbekistan 164, Nepal 150, China 139 and Saudi Arabia 90 votes – ending Riyadh's bid to again be a member of the UN's top human rights body.

Fifteen countries were elected to the 47-nation council on Tuesday. Human Rights Watch has described China and Saudi Arabia as "two of the world's most abusive governments". The New York-based group also singled out numerous war crimes in the Syrian war as making Russia a highly problematic candidate.

Russia appeals to Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire

Russia made a new appeal to Armenia and Azerbaijan to stop fighting in and around the mountain enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh after the warring sides accused each other of fresh ceasefire violations on Wednesday.

According to Reuters, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu made the appeal by telephone to the Azeri and Armenian defense ministers, urging the countries to "fully meet the commitments" made under the fraying humanitarian ceasefire brokered by Moscow on Saturday.

Each side denied violating the ceasefire over Nagorno-Karabakh, which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but is governed and populated by ethnic Armenians, though Azeri President Ilham Aliyev later said his country's forces were continuing military operations.

Erdogan denies sending terrorists to Nagorno-Karabakh

In a speech to lawmakers from his ruling AK Party in parliament, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey had not sent Syrian fighters to Azerbaijan, as some reports have alleged. He added Turkey fully backed its Azeri allies.

Erdogan also said the Minsk group was stalling in dealing with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and repeated that the region should be given back to Azerbaijan, al Jazeera reported.

Resistance News

'God help us' if Trump wins re-election, Palestinian PM says

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh has said a Donald Trump victory in the upcoming presidential elections in the United States will be disastrous for his people – and the world at large.

In comments made during a meeting with European legislators on Tuesday, Shtayyeh said the last four years of the Trump administration have greatly harmed the Palestinians, al Jazeera reported.

"If we are going to live another four years with President Trump, God help us, God help you and God help the whole world," the prime minister said, repeating comments he made a day earlier in a virtual address to the European Parliament. The comments were also posted on his Facebook page.

"If things are going to change in the United States, I think this will reflect itself directly on the Palestinian-Israeli relationship," Shtayyeh said, referring to Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden winning the November 3 polls. "And it will reflect itself also on the bilateral Palestinian-American relationship."

Human rights groups concerned about life of Palestinian prisoner on hunger strike

INTERNATIONAL d e s k TEHRAN — The Islamic Jihad's Muhjat al-Quds Foundation for Prisoners said in a press statement that the Israeli Supreme Court had contented itself with issuing a recommendation to release Akhras on November 26th despite calls for his immediate emancipation due to his deteriorating health conditions.

The 49-year-old Palestinian prisoner is now in an Israeli hospital suffering from heart pain and convulsions and has slipped occasionally into a coma, his wife said on Tuesday, Reuters reported.

According to his family, he has been drinking water but refusing solid food since he was moved to the hospital three weeks ago.

APT-Shahrak-e-Gharb

130sqm 1st floor, 2 beds, 2 baths, fully furnished, near new north mountain, south green views, quiet, private & secure location with no traffic always leased to foreign diplomat, refs available

contact:

Whatsapp: **09125982237** mobile: **09121793185**

The fires of Belad al-Sham: Attacks on nutrition supplies

By Abir Bassam

Last week was one of the worst weeks the area of Belad Al-Sham has witnessed. The fires spread all over the Belad Al-Sham coast, i.e., the Syrian coast from Latakia to Palestine. The victims were mainly the forest trees and, in particular, the aging Oak trees, the olive trees, and other fruit trees. However, the targeted injured party was the farmer, who is still holding on to his land and his means of survival.

In Syria, the fires caught two kinds of forests, the natural forests which were burning last week, and the afforestation, which was gardened on a large scale in the late 70s and early 80s of the last century. The virgin forest was heavily damaged last week, while the forestation was damaged heavily last month in Al-Ghab Plain around the Orontes River. The two major fires have destroyed a large number of fruit trees.

Unfortunately, the fires did not stop there. It had spread as well in Lebanon from its north to its south. The fires caught the olive trees in Palestine as well. The targeted trees made it impossible not to think that the fires all over Belad Al-Sham coast were accidental.

It is true that the weather has played an important role in the spreading of fires, but what remains to be a dilemma is what started the fires in the first place. The accumulation of the small number of fires has started by diverse small fires that went out of control. And the result was catastrophic.

However, according to the Syrian scientist, Dr. Riyadh Karah Falah, four out of one hundred of the forest fires happen naturally. He elucidated that most fires start at night when humid and atmospheric pressure is higher than the daytime. Once the fire is on at dawn, the sun's rise will do the rest because the weather will become drier and atmospheric pressure will become lower, and the dry eastern wind that prevailed during the last three days of fire will take care of the rest.

Accordingly, the Syrian scientist assures that natural resources caused not all the latest fires. Whatever the reason was, there is also a local factor contributing to the spread of fire. It is related to neglecting the rural and the virgin land of the woods. The grass becomes very dry at the end of every summer, and if the land was not weeded and plowed, the dry grass becomes a source of danger to the trees.

However, as mentioned, only 4% of the forest fires are natural this season. Others have been intentionally or un-



intentionally initiated. Whether it was done by a farmer error who wants to dispose of the remaining of the dry weeds or by a terrorist who intentionally lit the forest, the result was huge damage for both woods and fruit trees.

This year, in particular, there are different scenarios. In Syria, the fires started in June, which were initiated by the Americans airplanes, the Turks, and Syrian Democratic Forces [SDF], who lit the wheat plains in the Al-Jazeera area in the east-north of Syrian, which is occupied by the USA and the Turkish armies. The fires started as a punishment to the farmers because they refused to sell their crops to anyone other than the Syrian government.

The second phase of fires was a month ago. This phase of the fire has raised the question about the message behind these deliberate actions since the previous fires targeted the nutritious Syrian supplies, in addition, to its green surrounding.

In Lebanon, the fires spread for three days as well before it was controlled; unfortunately, the flames engulfed a large number of olive trees and large numbers of the forest trees, which need years to be restored. The fires spread all over the coastal and inner areas, which surprisingly were the main olive source

to Lebanon. The fire spread to Nabatieh district in the east-south of Lebanon. Its attack reached Akkar in the north, and in Safinat Al-Kateea, the fire engulfed 2.4- 3 million square meters amongst them 10s of thousands of square meters of olive trees, which were not harvested yet, in addition to the hundreds of hives that were totally destroyed.

It is necessary to pay attention that the fires in the south of Lebanon were initiated several times by the fires caught from the Palestinian side. It was caused many times by flare bombs fired by the Israelis or by the flames ignited on the Palestinian side and spread to the south because of the seasonal eastern dry winds.

In Palestine, the fires caught the aging olive trees in the north of Palestine and the West Bank. In addition, the Israeli prevented the farmers from reaching their olive groves to save them.

The heavy attack on the Syrian and Lebanese seasonal crops can't be taken into granted. It has intentional goals to deprive the population of its living resources. The olive oil is considered to be the main yearly economic supporter for its owners. It can send their kids to schools, buy their yearly supplies of clothes, houseware, etc.

Accordingly, the spread of fire might

The fires of Lebanon were caused many times by flare bombs fired by the Israelis or by the flames ignited on the Palestinian side and spread to the south because of the seasonal eastern dry winds.

Yunnan meeting, a major step toward a comprehensive and constructive partnership

1 → Trump's tactics have scuttled international agreements and contravene international norms. U.S. actions should be condemned by all peace and freedom-loving people and nations.

Both Iran and China share a common experience of resistance to foreign domination that has not only strengthened their resolve but fortified their friendship. It is in their common interest to develop their ties in a comprehensive and constructive manner. The meeting in Yunnan is a major step in that direction.

The forthcoming November elections in the U.S. will have a significant impact on both Sino-American and Iranian-American relations. A Trump win may signal a continuation of the current policies toward both but could result in either a lessening of, or increase in, tensions as Trump's mercurial personality is hard to predict. Neither Iran nor China, however, can put any trust in what he or his representatives say as they have constantly gone back on their word. The only sound policy is to prepare

for the worse when dealing with them.

If the Democrats retake the White House there is a greater prospect of a return to the policies of the previous Obama administration as regards Iran and China. American tactics may change but the strategic goal of containing Iranian and Chinese influence both regionally and globally will remain the same.

Being ancient and proud civilizations that have made sterling contributions to human progress throughout the centuries it is no wonder that the two nations share a common bond of friendship and support each other's efforts for national rejuvenation and a multipolar world.

Although the two countries have different political systems they are united by mutual respect and shared admiration for each other's fine cultural traditions and a common desire for peace, development, and security. It is on this firm foundation that Sino-Iranian ties will continue to grow in strength and flourish over the coming decades.



Dennis Etler is an expert on Chinese Studies. He holds a doctorate in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. He conducted archaeological and anthropological research in China throughout the 1980s and 1990s and taught at the college and university level for over 35 years.

Trump cannot order the waves to rollback against Iran

By Bill Dores

Well, first, congratulations on the tankers going through. It's a great victory, not only for the people of Venezuela and Iran but for the people of the world. It is a defeat for U.S. energy monopolies, who dream of restoring the control they once had of the world's energy resources. The interests of the monopolies and Wall Street banks are at variance with those of the people of the United States. We have no need for permanent war just to keep some corporations wealthy and to keep the wealth of the world pouring into Wall Street. The people of the United States would benefit from cooperation with the people of the world.

What President Rouhani at the UN General Assembly last week said was in such contrast President Trump's hate-filled rant, where he bragged about ordering the



murder of General Soleimani and imposing "crippling sanctions" on the people of Iran. He also called COVID-19 the "China virus."

President Rouhani on the other hand spoke of resistance and resilience and against racism war and hatred. He compared the boot of U.S. power on the people

in the world to the knee of the Minneapolis cop who murdered George Floyd.

As you know we have a major uprising here in this country against racism, police brutality and injustice. There should be solidarity between the people of this country and the people of Iran and everyone else who is fighting an unjust global order, an unjust order both here and in the world.

The Trump regime, in particular, represents oil and gas interests. It is pursuing confrontation with Iran and Venezuela because it wants U.S. oil monopolies to be the center of the world economy again. The only way to defeat them is to keep challenging them.

Their imperialist system is in decline, in crisis, which is why someone like Trump is in the White House. People here are rising up against that unjust system. And inside the ruling class they are fighting

each other.

A thousand years ago King Canute of England went to the sea and ordered the waves to roll back. He was showing he didn't have absolute power because of course the waves didn't rollback. Trump seems to actually believe he can order the waves of change to roll back, but he can't. Nor can Biden or anybody else in Washington.

The world is changing, and it's in the best interests of the majority of people in the United States to embrace that, to live in peace and solidarity with the people of the world. Bring all the troops and warships and planes home. Stop funding Israel. We don't need any more wars for corporate profit.

Bill Dores is an American political analyst, a writer for Struggle/La Lucha, and a longtime antiwar activist.

(Source: Press TV)

Discover Damavand cuisine at online food expo

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – Arrays of dishes, indigenous to d e s k Damavand region of Tehran province, will take the center stage at an online food expo, which is held today on the occasion of World Food Day.

Walnut constitutes the essential ingredient of the traditional cuisine in the chilly Damavand region, according to the organizers.



Persian cuisine is, above all, about balance – of tastes and flavors, textures, and temperatures. And no Persian meal is complete without an abundance of herbs. Every table is usually set with sabzi khordan, a basket of fresh herbs, radishes, and scallions, which are eaten raw and by the handful.

World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year around the world on 16 October in honor of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945.

Wind towers, reminiscent of novel Persian architecture, being restored in Qeshm

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – Centuries-old wind towers, which are reminiscent of innovative Persian architecture in oasis towns or scorching places, are being restored by a team of cultural heritage experts in Laft neighborhood of Qeshm Island, southern Hormozgan province.

“Badgirs (wind towers), which are part of many houses Laft, constitute the most important characteristic of this historical port.... And for this restoration season, five of which have been selected to be restored,” provincial tourism chief Reza Boroumand said on Tuesday.



Perched on a rocky slope in the Persian Gulf, the fishing village offers its visitors a patchwork of delightfully photogenic scenes minarets and badgirs which once were an essential element for the residential structures as an air-conditioning system.

Qeshm Island embraces a wide range of ecotourism attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island has an abundance of wildlife, including birds, reptiles, dolphins, and turtles as well.

Visit 620-million-year-old fossil in Semnan

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – The Museum of Rocks and Fossils d e s k in Sangsar, north-central province of Semnan, hosts one of the oldest fossils in the world.

The 620-million-year-old fossil is a kind of algae, which is one of the most visited objects of the private museum.

Inaugurated in 2016, the museum displays collections of fossils and rocks gathered from different provinces as well as some foreign countries including Germany, Sri Lanka, and Brazil.

Most of the thousands of fossils in the museum are marine organisms, and a small part of them belong to terrestrial organisms.

There are also collections of ornamental and mineral stones, which are mostly collected from the edge of the central desert of Iran and Alborz and Zagros mountain ranges.



There is also a section dedicated to the Sangsar nomads, which showcases weapons, spearheads, and stone tools as well as the history of clothes and traditions in nomadic life.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat) and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

A peek into pristine places of Kish Island

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Traveling to d e s k islands and coastal cities has always been fascinating for tourists.

Amongst the Persian Gulf islands, Kish is the more luxurious and developed. Except for its unique nature such as waters and shallow beaches, the tourist attractions of this charming island are due to its rich historical background as well as kind and hospitable people.

The pristine and beautiful nature, the meeting of land and sea, the clear sky, the pleasant air, and the pleasurable reverberation of the waves create such a sense of calm that one cannot even distinguish between imagination and reality.

Nowadays, about one million foreign and domestic tourists travel to the island every year and it is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Iran as it has magnificent attractions some of which noted below:

■ Kariz Underground City

Not many people travel to Kish for its historical attractions, so it surprises them to know that Kish has one of the oldest underground cities in Iran, Kariz Underground City. Kariz literally means Qanat or aqueduct. Kariz was built some 2,500 years ago by the inhabitants of the Harireh city in order to collect pure water.

This ancient structure has been preserved but modernized with the addition of handicraft stalls and a traditional teahouse.

Visitors can take a walk through the city's tunnels and watch the coral ceiling, which holds ancient fossils of fish and shells. Kariz has also a steady cool temperature in all seasons, never going above or below 22-25 Celsius.

■ Harireh Ancient City

Located in the central, northern part of the island, the 8th-century Harireh offers a glimpse of ancient architecture, and though not much of it remains intact today, the ruins suggest a once thriving region. Excavation of this site estimates it having been established around 1000 and abandoned 600 years later.



■ Greek Ship

80-year-old Khoula F. has been anchored on the southwest coast of the island since 1966. The ship was built in Britain and changed owners several times before reaching the last owner, who was Greek. The Greek Ship has become a major Kish tourist attraction in recent years, where hundreds of people gather on the beach to watch the beautiful view of the sunset in the evening.

There is a wide range of facilities in the Greek Ship beach, including Iranian and Lebanese restaurants, coffee shops, and bike rentals.

■ Marjan Beach

Located on the east side of the island, this beach is named for the beautiful coral that can be found there. The coast is lined with pergolas, which, along with the palm trees and landscaping, provide an especially panoramic view. This beach is a particularly popular site to watch an unforgettable sunrise. Many of the sea sports clubs are



■ Green Tree Complex

The north of the island, a particularly green area known as the Portuguese Valley, is the location of the Green Tree Complex, which was built around one of the oldest lur (banyan) trees. Said to be around 600 years old, many believe this tree is auspicious and come here to make a wish and tie a thread around the thick twisted branches to make it come true, a necessary act for finding your soulmate! The rest of the complex provides a wonderful green space in which to relax with a glass of hot Persian tea or perhaps a cold ice cream.

■ Dolphin Park

The Kish Dolphin Park is a 100-hectare massive entertainment park located in the southeastern part of Kish Island. It hosts over 20 types of sea mammals, including dolphins, sea lions, catfish, walruses, and penguins. There are buses inside the facility

which you can take to visit the different parts of the park, including the dolphinarium, the bird park, and the different pools which host different sea mammals.

■ Bird Garden

The Bird Garden is situated inside the Dolphin Park with more than 57 bird species, including Pelicans, Ostriches, Blue & Yellow Macaw, and different kinds of Storks, Toco Toucans, Turacos, Swans, African Penguins and rare species like Marsh Crocodiles.

This, undoubtedly, is one of the most unique animal centers in Iran. It is noteworthy to say that different kinds of species from the farthest parts of the world, from South America to Australia and from East Asia to Africa have been brought to this park.

■ Ocean Theme Park

The Ocean Water Park is the first themed water park in Iran that was opened in January 2017. This outdoor park is themed around the story of the Mystery of the Sun Castle, implemented by the Disney legend and veteran architect Ahmad Jafari.

The theme park employs over 400 staff and contains 13 rides, four swimming pools, and one spa in addition to two restaurants, four beverage stops and coffee shops, and two shopping areas. In the first six months after its opening, the Ocean Water Park set new records in Kish Iran tourism by attracting over 80 thousand tourists.

■ Grand Recreational Pier

Kish Grand Recreational Pier was built with steel piling and wooden decks with four side-deck spaces by Iranian experts. This pier is 437 meters long, 18 meters wide, and 10 thousand square meters in area. Its construction did not damage the marine habitat.

Tourists can enjoy the natural sights from this pier while watching the colorful fish species of Kish coral beaches. The first phase of Kish Grand Recreational Pier was constructed within a short period of 20 months and inaugurated on the 27th of July 2006.

Online courses aim to raise awareness of child safety travels

➔ **1** The tourism industry is booming globally as visits to distant destinations and countries are being easier than ever before. This way the tourism industry could make growing impacts on children's lives.

Below is 15 tips, provided by Y Travel, for keeping kids safe before we set off on a road trip:

■ Be diligent

It's so easy to take your eyes off your child, anything can happen in a blink of an eye.

Keep your children nearby, scan ahead, and around for potential dangers. Set the safe boundaries wherever you are and ensure your children know where they can and can't go.

Don't be all freaked out about scary strangers, allow your children to develop those social skills and lovely interactions, but still be stranger danger alert.

■ Make smart choices

Don't take a 10 km hike in the middle of the day. Know your child's limits and capabilities. Don't travel to countries that are high-risk due to war or political situations. You're smart enough to know what's safe and what's not. If in doubt, research and ask.

■ Know your doubts

Watch for danger, understand what the risks are for anything you do and if it's too great to protect your child's safety, then don't do it.

Don't go crazy about it and let unwarranted fear get in the way of life lessons and fun.

But, we make sure there are plenty of safety precautions in place and we always triple-check that children of their age can do it safely.

■ Buy travel insurance

Get travel insurance. It's not worth the risk. Anything can and will happen.

Make sure you're adequately covered in case of an unfortunate accident or emergency. Be sure to read the fine print. Some activities may not be covered by travel insurance; you may want to purchase extra coverage to ensure adequate protection.

■ Drink plenty of (filtered) water

In many countries, bottled or filtered water will be your only option. This includes brushing your teeth and keeping your mouth closed when you shower. Train your



children to practice this before they leave for the holiday.

Keep up their hydration while traveling so ensure they are constantly drinking, especially on hot days. Water is always the best option. Skip the juice and soft drinks.

■ Be careful of food choices

This is especially important in countries where health regulations may not be as prevalent. Still get into the culture, and enjoy the street food, but make sure it looks fresh, healthy and it's frequented by the locals.

■ Wear safety vests

We rarely get on a boat without putting safety life vests on the kids. It's the first thing we ask for when we get on the boat.

I'm not going to take the risk. It's too easy for something to happen quickly. As your children get older, wiser, and more competent, stronger swimmers, this won't be necessary.

■ Be prepared

Children at different ages require different things to keep them healthy and safe.

Ensure you have enough water and food for your journey packed in your bag, along with any required medication. If your child requires a certain diet, research ahead of your family holiday to ensure you can adequately provide for that.

■ Watch the heat

The heat can quickly wipe a child out and cause them

to feel ill. Protect them from the sun, keep them cool, and explore early morning and late evening on hot days.

■ Seat your child in the middle

Sit your child in the middle or next to the window on public transport, just in case you fall asleep and they don't wander off.

This will also keep them from sticking their legs and hands out into the aisle and potentially grabbing hot coffee or something dangerous.

■ Take a safety child restraint

Research ahead to know the child safety seat requirements for cars in your destination. It's a good idea to either take your own child safety car seat or rent one when you arrive at your destination.

There are some regions where this won't be necessary – neither are seat belts! Sit them on your lap, hold tight, and do not let them get up and wander around in a mini-van, as much as they want to.

■ Don't overload your prams

Travel Prams can be brilliant for helping you carry extra bags and luggage. Just be careful you don't load it too much and the pram falls over. I've heard of babies dying as a result of this. It's an important travel safety tip with kids you may not have considered.

■ Childproof your room

Accidents can so easily happen in your accommodation. Check the height of the balconies and windows and keep them locked. Move anything that can fall or looks dangerous.

Check for exposed electrical cords around protruding bits of metal or sharp objects. Remove chairs from balconies as children love to climb on them.

■ Take a medical kit

Don't forget your travel medical kit with baby paracetamol, band-aids, anti-itching lotion, sunscreen, bandages, bug spray, oral rehydration preparation and anything else you feel is valuable. A thermometer is a really important tool for your medical kit.

■ Get your travel immunizations

Ensure you know what immunizations your child needs and get them. Prepare in advance as some have to be given x amount of days before you arrive at your destination.

Historical mansion in Hamedan being restored

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – The historical mansion of Janani d e s k in the northwestern province of Hamedan has undergone some rehabilitation works.

The mansion is planned to be turned into a traditional hotel after being fully restored.

The preservation of the building, which dates back to the late Qajar era (1789–1925) and early Pahlavi period (1925-1979), has been a matter of concern for many years, but since it was privately owned, the tourism ministry could not do anything alone, ISNA quoted Ali Javaheri, the owner of the mansion, as saying on Wednesday.

Last year, however, parts of the building and its walls collapsed due to the heavy

rains in the spring and its restoration project has become one of the priorities of the province's cultural heritage department.

The cost of restoration will be estimated after the work is completed, and it is provided by the province's cultural heritage department and a percentage is the responsibility of the owner.

Repairing the walls are on process, however, the project is time-consuming as the building is intended to be preserved in its original shape, he added.

Over the past couple of years, hundreds of monuments and buildings, which bear historical values, have been restored by private investors under the close supervision of the state-run Revitalization and

Utilization Fund for Historical Places.

The restored, renovated structures go up for auction to be temporarily ceded to the private sector to receive higher productivity and better maintenance being repurposed into hotels, traditional restaurants, or lodging places. According to the cultural heritage ministry, the lack of sufficient government budget for the restoration of all centuries-old sites is the main reason behind the trend.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. It was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC. Ali Sadr cave, Gan-



nameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan's attractions to name a few.

Ashk Island, a haven for Persian fallow deer

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN — The Ashk Island of Lake Urmia, which is considered one of the most important habitats of rare Persian fallow deer, has become a safe place to protect the species from extinction due to the difficult access of illegal poachers.

Shared between West Azarbaijan and East Azarbaijan provinces in northwestern Iran, Lake Urmia, was once the largest salt-water lake in West Asia.

However, decades of long-standing drought spells and elevated hot summer temperatures that speed up evaporation as well as increased water demands in the agriculture sector shrank the lake drastically. In 1999 the volume of water which was at 30 billion cubic meters drastically decreased to half a billion cubic meters in 2013. Moreover, the lake surface area of 5,000 square kilometers in 1997 shrunk to one-tenth of that to 500 square kilometers in 2013.

Lake Urmia had approximately 102 islands; Shahi island was historically the lake's largest. Some of the islands have a rich ecosystem due to being out of reach, including Kaboudan, Arezo, Spir, and Ashk islands.

Moving on the southern route, you can reach the shores of Ashk Island, a special habitat of Persian fallow deer, in the middle of 5,700 km of Lake Urmia within 2 hours.

Being encircled by salt rocks has made it inaccessible to reach except for the few rangers who travel to the island every day to monitor.

The vegetation of Ashk Island is similar to those of Zagros forests, as wild almond and pistachio can be seen everywhere in this calm and beautiful place.



Ashk and Kaboodan islands were the main habitats for two herbivorous species of Persian fallow deer and Armenian mouflon, which have been endangered due to the lake's improper conditions in recent years.

The Persian fallow deer is a rare deer native to West Asia, today occurring only in Iran and Israel. It has been listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List since 2008. After a captive breeding program, the population has rebounded from only a handful of deer in the 1960s to over a thousand individuals today. It has also successfully been reintroduced into the wild.

Persian fallow deer after four or five years of severe water shortage is now benefiting from water and food availability and is feeding from tree branches and grassy vegetation that

grow everywhere thanks to heavy rainfall and paved the way for life for this unique mammal.

The population of the valuable species in Lake Urmia National Park started shrinking year by year, from 255 in 2012 to 166 in 2014 and 55 in 2019, so the need to revitalize the lake and the Island of Ashk multiplied.

The arrival of Armenian mouflon and wild goats to the Island due to water shortage and the connection of the islands to each other caused a decrease in food for the deer; also carnivores such as leopards, wolves, and foxes also entered the ecosystem, and the life of this creature became endangered.

Therefore, the Department of Environment decided to prepare and implement plans on reviving the endangered ecosystem and

wildlife of the Lake Urmia islands.

The most important member of Lake Urmia wildlife

Damage to the environmental infrastructure of the province, especially the natural environment and wildlife of the lake national park and the surrounding islands are among the most important damages, Mehran Nazari, head of the provincial DOE stated.

Referring to the damages over the last two decades, he said that Persian fallow deer, as a unique species that lived in these islands, left with decreasing water level and vegetation.

Some of these deer were preyed upon by invasive species such as foxes, leopards, and jackals that had made their way to the islands from other areas, some also fell prey to the illegal hunters, he lamented.

Expressing that increasing the water level of Lake Urmia was a solution to these problems, he noted that "in recent years, due to the rising water level of the lake, the movement of boats has become possible and monitoring wildlife has resumed."

The revitalization of Lake Urmia has made a significant contribution to wildlife and vegetation, and we can soon see a resurgence in this ecosystem and the reproduction of species on the islands, he highlighted.

A conservation program for deer is being implemented to protect the animal, he further emphasized.

"The live capture of leopards and carnivores that enter the island from other areas are part of environmental programs," he added.

Currently, five species of mammals live in Lake Urmia National Park, including 1,400 wild goats, 55 Persian fallow deer, foxes, jackals, and leopards, which are mostly on Kaboodan Island, he concluded.

UNICEF in Iran provides anti-corona supplies for vulnerable children

SOCIETY d e s k TEHRAN — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has delivered a number of locally procured hygiene items to address the needs of vulnerable children in Iran during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Hygiene items include 30,000 hand sanitizers, 12,000 sanitizing gels, 30,000 liquid hand soaps, 11,988 sanitary pads, 33,000 detergent powder, 33,000 dishwashing liquid as well as 300,000 masks.

The items are being dispatched to 31 cities in six provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, Kordestan, Kermanshah, Kerman, Khuzestan, and Hormozgan where local NGOs and municipalities will help deliver them to vulnerable groups of children including children without effective caregivers, children in alternative care centers, children with cancer and special diseases, children in a street situation, children in low-income families, children with disabilities, as well as at-risk children.

ECHO allocates €8m to help counter pandemic in Iran

An 8-million-euro contribution from the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) is allocated to the UN and its partner Relief International in Iran to support the management and control of the

COVID-19 pandemic, and to mitigate its impact on the most vulnerable communities with a focus on most at-risk children, adolescents, and young people.

The ECHO fund is allocated to UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, and Relief International to support their COVID-19 operations in Iran with UNICEF as a convening agency for this joint program.

UNICEF will spend the ECHO fund to procure COVID-19 lifesaving health and diagnosis equipment for the relevant government entities and enhance WASH and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) standards among schools especially in less developed provinces to ensure their readiness for the reopening.

The fund will also be used to mitigate the adverse COVID-19 mental health and psychosocial effects through the production of stigma-free information and communication material as well as exclusive psychosocial counseling tailored to the needs of the at-risk community including children and adolescents.

Using the ECHO fund, UNICEF will also be working with the Government on the provision of COVID-19 exclusive educational material, protocols, and standards to the healthcare providers, social and mental health

workers, child-care center workers as well as teachers to enhance their capacity for improved services to children during the pandemic.

COVID-19 mortality hit daily record in Iran

In the press briefing on Wednesday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 4,830 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 513,219. She added that 414,831 patients have so far recovered, but 4,609 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 279 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 29,349, she added.

Lari noted that so far 4,398,723 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

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

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

Celebrating a different World Food Day on FAO's 75th Anniversary

1 → Now is the time to address the persistent inequalities and inefficiencies that have continued to plague our food systems, economies and social support structures. It is the time to build back better.

One key lesson, which FAO has learned over the last 75 years, is that simply producing more food is not enough. Indeed, making agri-food systems sustainable, resilient and inclusive, and healthy diets accessible and affordable for everyone is paramount to building the situation back better.

* We need smart, systemic action to get the food to those who need it and improve it for those who have it, without affecting our earth.

* We need to bring together data, big data, technology, innovation and good

governance to achieve better production, better nutrition, better environment and better livelihoods.

* We need to enhance the use of digital tools and artificial intelligence, to predict threats to harvest and cut climate risk.

* We must transform the way the food is produced, processed, traded, consumed, and wasted, to ensure that we can meet our future needs without degrading and depleting the biodiversity and other natural resources on which we all rely.

* We need to invest in social protection policies and programmes that ensure safe conditions and decent incomes for smallholder farmers and food chain workers and adopt measures that avoid economic disruptions.

FAO, being the lead UN agency in pro-

moting food and nutrition security and advocating sustainable development of agri-food systems, has adopted several initiatives, streamlining innovative solutions in addressing pending challenges.

Coordinating global activities to track, monitor, control and report on desert locust infestations across African, Middle Eastern and Southern Asian regions; implementing FAO's Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform to provide vital information to monitor agricultural systems at risk due to human pressure on land and water and analyse weather-related trends; and using satellite technology to monitor agricultural areas with a high water stress/drought at national, regional and international levels are among the most recent initiative implemented by

FAO at global echelon.

With the theme "Grow, nourish, sustain together - Our actions are our future", World Food Day 2020 calls for global solidarity, which is vital for our recovery from this crisis. We need strong partnerships more than ever.

This World Food Day also provides an opportunity to thank our Food Heroes – farmers and workers throughout the food supply chain – who, no matter the circumstances, continue to provide food to their communities and beyond. In the early days of the pandemic, when shelves went empty; when fruit-pickers went missing; when markets fell silent, we realised how we were taking these services and the people, that provide them, for granted.

Zanjan University to host IWGM 2020

SOCIETY d e s k TEHRAN — The University of Zanjan will virtually host the 6th International Workshop on UI GreenMetric World University Rankings (IWGM 2020) on October 13-15.

IWGM 2020 will address the theme of "Universities' Responsibility for Sustainable Development Goals and World's Complex Challenges".

The attendees will be mostly officials from universities who have shown extraordinary performance in every criterion in UI GreenMetric, environment experts and esteemed representatives from universities (rectors, vice-rectors, sustainability directors, deans, respectful professors).

The representatives attending the conference will come from all over the world. The workshop will provide an excellent platform for the exchange of information and cooperation in maintaining sustainability.

For the last 10 years, UI GreenMetric has become one of the flagship programs of Universitas Indonesia that ranked universities throughout the world according to appointed indicators of campus environmental issues such as setting and infrastructure, energy, waste management, water, and transportation, and education.

The ranking is conducted through an online questionnaire system in which each university provided data about sustainability indicators.

Participation from universities throughout the world including Indonesian universities keeps increasing. In 2010, 22 universities in Indonesia participated in UI GreenMetric. In 2019, 780 universities from 85 countries participated in UI GreenMetric. The increasing number shows that this program can grab the attention of many universities throughout the world.

Twenty-two Iranian universities were ranked among the world's green institutes announced by the University of Indonesia's GreenMetric World University Ranking on Sustainability 2019.

The University of Zanjan was ranked first among Iranian universities and 48th globally.

Travel restrictions imposed as COVID-19 continues to ravage big cities

SOCIETY d e s k TEHRAN — Travel restrictions from and to five big cities of the country were imposed on Wednesday as the number of new coronavirus cases and deaths once again broke its record.

The Health Ministry reported a record 4,830 new confirmed cases and 279 deaths, announcing that the total cases and deaths have reached 513,219 and 29,349 respectively

Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari said that from early Thursday till Sunday noon, all travels to and from five cities of Tehran, Karaj, Isfahan, Mashhad, and Urmia will be banned.

Alireza Zali, the head of the Coronavirus Control Operations Headquarters, has said that Tehran is experiencing its hardest ever days during the third peak of the pandemic.

Observing health protocols declined

Health Minister Saeed Namaki has said that the level of observing health protocols has decreases and this issue will lead to higher death toll.

Meanwhile, Deputy Health Minister Alireza Raeisi said the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is looming in some provinces across the country mainly as a result of reopening businesses, offices, and educational centers.

In March, when the disease peaked, people observed health protocols well which led to a decline in new cases and deaths. In April, the disease went into control, but due to holiday trips, the rate of compliance with the protocols decreased from 78 percent in April to 17.5 percent in late May, followed by a sharp rise in mortalities and new patients, he explained.

"In late August, the rate of hospitalizations and deaths decreased, but now, following the holidays and trips, the disease is re-emerging," he noted.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 37)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

restaurant

/restūrān/ رستوران

supper

/sām/ شام

to become

/sav/ شو – /so'dan/ شدن

when

/key/ کی

last, past

adj, n /gozā'ste/ گذشته

property

/māl/ مال

lunch

/nā'hār/ ناهار

also, too

/ham/ هم



شب

متن

اَحْمَد اَهْلِ پاكِستان است. او ديروز ساعتِ

يش بیدار شد. بعد صُبحانه خورد و به دانشگاه رفت.

اَحْمَد صُبح سه ساعت دَرِسِ فارسی داشت.

ساعتِ يك دَرِ رستوران دانشگاه ناهار خورد اما بعد از ناهار کلاس نداشت.

دیشب او و رُونالد کَمی دَرِ خوابگاه دَرِسِ

خواندند و بعد شام دُرُست کردند. شام آنها

خوشمزه نبود اما آن را خوردند و خندیدند و

خوابیدند!

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → C

Tehran air pollution incurs annual loss of \$2.8b

Air pollution brings heavy economic burden amounting to \$2.8 billion for the Iranian capital, Tehran, head of the national working group for air pollution mitigation affiliated to the Department of Environment (DOE) has announced.

The vehicle cycle consisting of manufacturing process to scrapping due to being clunker is the highest contributor to air pollution, as some 70 percent of the emission are generated by mobile sources, Vahid Hosseini lamented.

The economic consequences of air pollution haunting the metropolis of Tehran equal \$2.8 billion per year, as estimated in 2018, he highlighted.

خسارت اقتصادی آلودگی هوا سالانه ۲.۸ میلیارد دلار است

دبیر کارگروه ملی آلودگی هوای کشور گفت: خسارت اقتصادی آلودگی هوا برای تهران سالانه ۲.۸ میلیارد دلار است.

وحید حسینی گفت: چرخه تولید، مصرف و اسقاط خودرو مهمترین زنجیره انتشار آلودگی هواست. ۷۰ درصد از ذرات معلق هوا از منابع متحرک هستند.

به گفته دبیر کارگروه ملی آلودگی هوای شهر تهران، خسارت اقتصادی آلودگی هوا برای تهران سالانه بالغ بر ۲.۸ میلیارد دلار است که در سال ۲۰۱۸ برآورد شده است.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com
 ■ Managing Director: Mohammad Shojaeian
 ■ Editor-in-Chief: Ali A.Jenabzadeh

» **Editorial Dept.:** Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
 editor@tehrantimes.com
 » **Switchboard Operator:** Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
 » **Advertisements Dept.:** Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
 » **Public Relations Office:** Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
 » **Subscription & Distribution Dept.:** Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
 » **Webmaster:** webmaster@tehrantimes.com
 » **Printed at:** Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

 Tehrantimes79  Tehrantimes79  Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
 P.O. Box: 14155-4843
 Zip Code: 1599814713



GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Gain people's praise with your efforts and successes, and do not expose yourself to people's blames through laziness and lethargy.

Imam Hussein (AS)

Historical development of Persian lexicography

Lexicography means the compiling of dictionaries, glossaries, and vocabularies of a language or a particular lexical corpus, the entry words being defined in the same language (monolingual) or another (bilingual).

From the early 20th century, with increasing exposure to foreign interest and influences, and a growing colloquial element in the literature, modern methods began to transform traditional Persian lexicography.

Publications representative of these changes have been particularly numerous during the past years.

Reference to specific works is necessarily selective, the principal reference for manuscripts and printed editions of classical works, is somewhat outdated and not devoid of errors. Catalogs of particular manuscript collections and the introductions to printed editions of classical dictionaries are further sources of specific information.

■ **Alphabetical dictionaries**
 The first Persian dictionaries were of the alphabetical type, and reputedly appeared soon after the earliest court poetry in New Persian. They were compiled by poet-scholars, with the object of clarifying their own or others' rare, figurative, or dialectal vocabulary, especially that of the court poets of Bukhara under the Samanid dynasty (819-1005), where literary New Persian was evolving.

Early works, of which no trace remains, have been attributed, without strong evidence, to the 10th-century poet-musician Abu Hafz Sogdi and to the poet Rudaki.

The first reliably reported, though not extant, alphabetically-arranged defining dictionary was compiled by the 11th century poet Qatran, whose mother tongue was probably Azari.

Nasser Khosrow described how he glossed verses of two popular poets of Khorasan for this "good poet" who "did not know Persian very well".

The third level of alphabetization, when introduced, used either the medial or the penultimate letter. Each new letter was flagged with a category word: at the first level "chapter".

■ **Shifting paradigms and recent developments**
 Several large and learned dictionaries grace the late Qajar and early Pahlavi period in Iran. The Farhang-e nafisi of Nazem al-Atebba (d. 1902) for the first time employs Latin transcription as a pronunciation guide.

Nevertheless these works are the products of individuals and of the traditional methodology of building upon the work of earlier lexicographers. They are notable as monuments to a renewed interest, both popular and official, in the national language as part of a conscious cultural and political enterprise, a rite of passage for an emerging nation.

The era of modern collaborative lexicography in Iran begins with the monumental Dehkhoda Encyclopedia. Structurally an alphabetical-initial Persian citation dictionary, based on the corpus of classical Persian poetry and citing classic Persian and Indo-Persian dictionaries, it was begun by the gifted journalist and statesman Ali-Akbar Dehkhoda (1879-1956) while he was in hiding among the Bakhtiari tribe during World War I with little more than a Larousse French dictionary for leisure reading.

In 1945, the Iranian parliament voted funds for its publication. It was completed only in 1975, printed in folio fascicles, and has since appeared in a revised edition and successively in microfiche, CD-Rom, and online formats.

With the growth of a modern Persian literature incorporating colloquial and dialect vocabulary since the first quarter of the 20th century, and again during the puristic language movement between the 1930s and the 1950s, which rejected Arabic as a lexical source and accepted both European loanwords and native neologisms, Iranians sensed the need for up-to-date dictionaries of a more rapidly evolving native lexicon.

This required a more radical paradigm shift: a fundamental change in methodology. Classical lexicographers had relied excessively on the inbred dictionary tradition at the expense of personal research and field observation.

Appropriately, compilations of popular sayings, proverbs, and catchphrases led the way. The earliest of these was Dehkhoda's Amsal va hekam, which included many etiological myths and jokes that had reputedly launched these collocations.

The first systematically "contemporary" dictionary was the Farhang-e farsi-e emruz, produced between 1981 and 1990 by G. H. Sadri-Afshar, Nasrin Hakami, and Nastaran Hakami, which won a national award. It has been almost annually revised, under varying titles, up to a 5th edition, called Farhang-e moaser-e yek jeldi, in 2008.

The reverse dictionary of Persian of over 74,000 words is Khosro Keshani's Farhang-e Farsi-e zansu, based on the first 4 volumes of Mo'in and an additional 4,000 words from spoken Persian, with Latin transcription, and a French introduction. A boon to linguists, this will furnish data on historical and contemporary morphology and etymology, and for quantitative and literary studies.

(Source: Iranica)

MK2 Films to hold retrospective of filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami in April 2021

A R T **TEHRAN** — MK2 Films, d e s k a French film company that distributes a unique library of 800 films in France and around the world, plans to hold a retrospective on the work of late Iranian master Abbas Kiarostami during April 2021 at the Pompidou Center in Paris.

The plan was announced on Tuesday by MK2 CEO Nathanael Karmitz during a masterclass at the Lumiere Festival in Lyon, Variety reported.

He has been invited by Thierry Fremaux, the chief of the Cannes Film Festival and the Lumiere Festival, to present the masterclass as a special guest of this 2020 edition.

The executive called the Kiarostami exhibition a big event for MK2, which will spread over 1,000 square meters at the Beaubourg Center, causing people to travel there from across the world.

Another big event in MK2's pipeline for 2021 is paying homage to Claude Chabrol with a program of five iconic movies restored in 4K labeled "Suspense in the Female Form". In addition, the company plans to celebrate



Babak Ahmadvir in a scene from Iranian master Abbas Kiarostami's movie "Where Is the Friend's Home?"

the 100-year anniversary of "The Kid", Charlie Chaplin's first film.

In a report published earlier in April, Variety announced that Netflix has penned a deal with MK2 Films to screen a number of restored versions of Kiarostami's films.

The collection included 33 features, documentaries and shorts by Kiarostami including "Taste of Cherry", "The Wind Will Carry Us" and "Where Is the Friend's Home?".

MK2 Films acquired all rights to the first 20 movies made by Kiarostami in a deal with Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) in 2017.

As part of the deal with IIDCYA, MK2 has restored the films in 4K. The titles include "The Traveler" and "Where Is the Friend's Home?".

On April 7, MK2 released Kiarostami's Koker Trilogy, which is composed of "Where Is the Friend's House?", "And Life Goes On" and "Through the Olive Trees". The movies all were shot on location in the rural northern Iranian town of Koker.

Azerbaijan's Animafilm festival screening movies from Iran



"Divinity" (Malakout) by Iranian director Fernush Abedi is contending for the Grand Prix at the 3rd Animafilm - Baku International Animation Festival, Azerbaijan.

Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN — Four animations by Iranian filmmakers have been selected to be screened at the 3rd Animafilm - Baku International Animation Festival, which opened on Wednesday in the capital of Azerbaijan.

"Divinity" (Malakout) by director Fernush Abedi and "The Eleventh Step" by Maryam Kashkulinia are contending for the Grand Prix in the short animated film competition.

"Divinity" is a horror film about a pianist, who has lost one of his hands and can't play the piano anymore. Doctors decide to transplant a dead criminal's hand to his body. The pianist with his new hand starts killing people.

The film won the Excellence Award at the 18th Hiroshima International Animation Festival in Japan during August.

Produced at the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, "The Eleventh Step" based on children's writer Susan Taqdis's story of the same title is about a lion cub that never dared to take one more step

toward its freedom when the zookeeper forgot to lock the door to its cage.

"Forward" by Najmeh Imani and Mohadeseh Shahbazi is competing for the award for best short animated film made by children.

"Trip" by Rana Hejazi in contending for the award for best short student animated film.

Nancy Denney-Phelps, well-known Belgian journalist writing about European animation and festivals, is the president of the jury for animated films, which is composed Olivier Catherin from France, Daria Kashcheeva from Czech, Zurab Diasamidze from Georgia and Shamil Najafzade from Azerbaijan.

The jury for the screenplay section is composed of Aaron Wood from England, Mohammad Zare' and Rana Vaezi from Iran, Alena Polikowska from Russia and Oleg Safaraliyev from Azerbaijan.

A jury of children selected by the well-known animation director Elchin Hami Akhundov are also judging the movies at the five-day festival.

"Cinema Donkey" crowned best at Spanish comedy film festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian d e s k comedy "Cinema Donkey" directed by Shahed Ahmadvir has won the Corall d'Or for best picture at the 6th Begur International Comedy Film Festival in the Costa Brava, a coastal region of Catalonia in northeastern Spain.

Starring Mohammadreza Davudnejad, Hassan Rezai and Puria Shakibai, the movie satirizes professional misconduct in Iranian cinema. It is about the making of a movie and the need to find a donkey for the shoot.



Hassan Rezai acts in a scene from Iranian comedy "Cinema Donkey" directed by Shahed Ahmadvir.

The dark comedy was showcased during the Cannes Film Market – Marché du Film during May 2019.

The Begur festival, which brings together thousands of comedy film fans every year, was held this year from October 1 to 12.

The award for best screenplay went to Argentinean film "Toxic" written by Santiago La Rosa, Ariel Martinez Herrera, Lautaro Nuñez de Arco, Luz Orlando Brennan and Santiago Podestá.

Guillermo Francella was selected as best

actor for his role in "El Robo del Siglo" by Ariel Winograd from Argentina, while Juliette Binoche was named best actress for her role in "La Bonne Épouse" by Martin Provost from France.

"El Robo del Siglo" also won the festival's CineLatino award for the best Latin American production.

"Le Graffiti" by Aurélien Laplace from France received the award for best short film and the short film "Hypersensible" by Lewis Eizykman from France was awarded a special mention of the jury.

Iran cancels intl. competition of Fajr theater festival as global coronavirus cases grow

→1 Consequently, this year's festival should not be compared with the previous editions," he noted.

Earlier in July, Mosafer Astaneh said that the 2021 edition of the event will likely be held online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"This is one of the issues we need to take into consideration, and of course, we have no alternative but to make the best use of technology. Either the festival will be held online or in its usual form," he stated.

"We also need to make the best use of the potentials in the virtual world, while the necessary and appropriate infrastructures should be provided," he said.

He noted that there are no plans as yet to postpone the festival, which is held annually during January, and



A poster for the Fajr International Theater Festival.

added, "The festival is a strong motivation for many troupes in Tehran and other cities, and that we should not be hindered by coronavirus."

Mosafer-Astaneh's play "Return", which was on stage at Tehran's Sarv Theater Hall during spring, was halted due to a significant rise in the number of COVID-19 infections in the country.

"At the present time, the new virus is with us and we must continue with our lives and cannot shut down theaters completely. However, we need to adapt ourselves to the current situation," he concluded.

Many international festivals and movie theaters around the world have been shut down amid the pandemic.

"Communal Luxury" comes to Iranian bookstores

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — American d e s k scholar Kristin Ross's book "Communal Luxury: The Political Imaginary of the Paris Commune" has recently been published in Persian by Markaz Publications.

The book has been translated into Persian by Rahman Buzari.

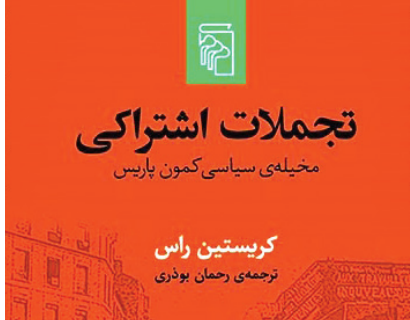
Ross's highly acclaimed work on the thought and culture of the Commune uprising of 1871 resonates with the motivations and actions of contemporary protest, which has found its most powerful expression in the reclamation of public space.

Today's concerns, internationalism, education, the future of labor, the status of art, and ecological theory and practice,

frame and inform her carefully researched restaging of the words and actions of individual Communards.

This original analysis of an event and its centrifugal effects brings to life the workers in Paris who became revolutionaries, the significance they attributed to their struggle, and the elaboration and continuation of their thought in the encounters that transpired between the insurrection's survivors and supporters like Marx, Kropotkin, and William Morris.

The Paris Commune was a laboratory of political invention, important simply and above all for, as Marx reminds us, its own "working existence". "Communal Luxury"



A poster for the Persian version Kristin Ross's book "Communal Luxury: The Political Imaginary of the Paris Commune".

allows readers to revisit the intricate workings of an extraordinary experiment.

Ross is a professor of comparative literature at New York University. She is the author of numerous books, including "Fast Cars", "Clean Bodies: Decolonization and the Reordering of French Culture" and "May '68 and its Afterlives".

Ross has also translated several works from French including Jacques Ranciere's "The Ignorant Schoolmaster". Along with her research interests in French political culture and literature, Ross's work gains its focus through her interest in urban and revolutionary history, theory, politics, ideology and popular culture.

Croatian schoolchildren learning how to deal with COVID-19 from "Hannah, Our Hero"

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — Schools in the northern d e s k Croatian town of Krapina have selected Iranian writer Ali-Asghar Seidabadi's book named "Hannah, Our Hero" to teach their students how to take care of themselves during the coronavirus pandemic.

Copies of the book have been distributed by the Embassy of Iran in Croatia, the Persian service of IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Seidabadi authored the book when the home quarantine began in Iran with the Iranian New Year holiday on March 20.

Illustrated by Seidabadi's daughter, Ghazaleh, the book was translated into English, Italian, Croatian, French, German and several other languages. Bijan Alai is the translator of the Croatian version.

In a preface to the book, Seidabadi refers to some books

written on coronavirus – COVID-19 by Chinese and American authors during the coronavirus pandemic and added, "They were useful books, but for me, the social aspects of the event and its effect on our lives and tolerating the situation were more important than how to tackle and get rid of the virus."

"Hannah, Our Hero" is about several children including Hannah that go to visit their uncle, Bahman, who doesn't know that he is infected with COVID-19. All children are infected, but Hannah escapes uninfected due to her care about the tips for dealing with coronavirus.

All translations of the book are available for download on Seidabadi's official website <http://aliseidabadi.ir>.

The book was translated into Italian by Shabnam Kasrai. Farshid Sadatsharifi and Sara Louise Anderson are the translators of the English and French versions. The German

and French versions have been rendered by Zahra Nurbakhsh.

Seidabadi was nominated for the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award in 2019. The biennial award has been co-established by the iRead Foundation in China and the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) in Switzerland to honor worldwide the reading promoters who have made an outstanding contribution to children's reading.

At the same time, he also received a nomination for the 2019 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, a prestigious Swedish honor to promote children's and youths' literature in the world. However, he did not win any of the honors.

His is the writer of numerous books, including "Whom Did Aunt Suska Marry?", "The Wedding of Bijan and Manijeh" and "Rainbow in My Pocket".