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## Defense co-op with the world a win for multilateralism: Zarif

**TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has congratulated the international community over defiance of “malign U.S. efforts” to extend an arms embargo on Iran, which officially came to an end on Sunday.

“A momentous day for the international community, which— in defiance of malign US efforts—has protected UNSC Res. 2231 and JCPOA,” Zarif tweeted on

Sunday morning.

“Today’s normalization of Iran’s defense cooperation with the world is a win for the cause of multilateralism and peace and security in our region,” he added.

Under the historic 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the UN Security Council’s ban on trade in conventional weapons against the Islamic Republic ended on Sunday. **→2**

## Iran's 1st geothermal power plant to come on stream by Mar. 2021

**TEHRAN** — Iran’s first geothermal power plant, with the primary electricity generation capacity of five megawatts (MW), is going to go operational in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), Deputy Energy Minister Homayoun Haeri announced.

According to Haeri, the necessary funding for the completion of the project has been allocated and the electricity generated by the power plant will be transmitted into the na-

tional grid in the current year, ILNA reported.

He put the project’s current physical progress at 71 percent and added: “[implementation of] This project was put on the agenda in order to evaluate and exploit the geological resources in northwest of Sabalan, while indigenizing the technical knowledge of design, construction and commissioning of geothermal power plants, as well as capacity building and empowerment of skilled manpower.” **→4**

## Iranian sniper Zarrin subject of new film by “Reclamation” director Ali Ghaffari

**TEHRAN** — Ali Ghaffari, the director of the acclaimed 2012 historical thriller “Reclamation”, is making his new film on Abdorrasul Zarrin, one of the most lethal snipers of Iranian forces during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Shooting of the project named “Hunting of the Hunter” will begin on location in Tehran, and then the crew will leave

the capital to film other scenes in other regions, set and costume designer Abbas Bolondi, who also works as an assistant director on this project, told the Persian service of MNA on Sunday.

“Although the Iranian film industry, like many other industries, has been affected by coronavirus, the project is currently under production,” he said. **→8**

By Mahnaz Abdi  
Head of Economy Desk

## Ports operating non-stop despite sanctions, pandemic

While the coronavirus pandemic has created many limitations for the economic activities all around the world, operations at Iranian ports are underway continuously, and even the U.S. sanctions could not halt activities at the ports.

As announced by the head of Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), loading and unloading of commodities are being conducted continuously at the ports of Iran while the health requirements are completely met.

Mohammad Rastad reiterated that all port operations are done observing healthcare protocols and the principles set by the Coronavirus Containment Headquarters.

Activities at Chabahar Port (Iran’s only oceanic port in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province), and Shahid Rajaee Port (Iran’s largest container port in southern Hormozgan Province) in the recent months prove and underline Iran’s outstanding performance under the difficult condition of the sanctions and the pandemic.

In a statement on Thursday, PMO declared that loading and unloading of commodities are underway continuously at the country’s ports.

While the enemy is trying to halt Iran’s exports and imports through imposing sanctions, operation at Iranian ports are underway without interruption as the result of the all-out efforts of the organization’s personnel, the statement reads.

Meanwhile, as the PMO head has announced, 11 new development projects with 59 trillion rials (over \$1.4 billion) of investment are currently underway at the Iranian ports.

Not only the sanctions could not stop development activities at the ports of Iran, some new development projects have been also defined, Rastad has underscored.

The third phase of the development plan of Shahid Rajaee Port is one of the major projects which is going to go operational by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

This phase will be able to accept ships with capacities of up to 18,400 TEUs. **→4**

## U.S. fighting on behalf of Israel: Jewish activist

By Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** — A Jewish political activist believes that the U.S. is fighting on behalf of Israel, citing imposition of sanctions on other countries by Washington and sacrificing young American soldiers in the wars as examples.

“America is willing to sacrifice its young soldiers and national interests and even its economy for Israel,” Gilad Atzmon, who was born in a Jewish family in Israel and grew up in Jerusalem al-Quds, tells the Tehran Times.

Atzmon, who now lives in Britain, also says, “Israeli pressure groups seem to believe that they are actually more powerful and certainly more important than the American constitution.”

The following is the text of the interview:

■ Numerous human rights bodies have slammed Western countries’ arms trade with Israel. What is your comment?

A: For decades, Israel has been selling killing

machines to the most oppressive regimes around the world, and this shouldn’t be surprising, as Israel itself is at the forefront of the list of oppressive regimes.

Embarrassed by the Israeli government’s current arming of Azerbaijan in its war with Armenia, Holocaust scholar Israel W. Charny penned an article for The Times of Israel titled: Would Israel sell a used drone to a Hitler? Charny admits in his piece that Israel’s conduct is fundamentally unethical. He ends his commentary writing, “to my Armenian colleagues and friends, I can only say that as a Jew and as an Israeli, I am mortified – and angry.”

I would think that if Israel’s leading genocide historian allows himself to admit in an Israeli nationalist outlet that the Jewish State is profiting from the non-ethical arms trade, the rest of us should be entitled to engage with this topic freely and to use every possible **→5**

## U.S. protests: Thousands protest Trump's Supreme Court pick at Women's Marches

Thousands of protesters have rallied in the U.S. capital – Washington, DC – and other cities across the country to protest against President Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nominee and to call for his defeat in the November 3 election.

Saturday’s rallies, which organizers said were taking place in all 50 states, were inspired by the first Women’s March in Washington, DC, a huge anti-Trump rally held a day after his 2017 inauguration.

Speaking to a crowd gathered at Freedom Plaza in the U.S. capital, Rachel O’Leary Carmona, the Women’s March executive director, urged women to oppose Trump in the upcoming election.

“When we come together, when we take the streets, when we vote, women are the single most powerful political force in America, and there is nothing – not one thing – that Donald

Trump can do to stop us,” she said.

Marchers also paid tribute to the late Supreme Court justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg – an icon for women and progressives – while protesting Trump’s choice of conservative judge Amy Coney Barrett to replace her.

Ginsburg died on September 18.

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled an October 22 vote on the nomination of Barrett over objections from Democrats that the confirmation process comes too close to the November 3 presidential election.

■ ‘Knock-out punch’

Demonstrators at the Women’s March said they were angry that Republicans appear ready to confirm Barrett’s nomination so close to Election Day after refusing to move forward Merrick Garland, the pick of former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, more than six months ahead of the 2016 election.

## Dragan Skocic needs opponents similar to Iraq's style of play

By Asghar Maziar

**TEHRAN** — Iran national football team friendly match against Uzbekistan was just an opportunity for the head coach, Dragan Skocic, to test some new players in the squad.

Iran defeated Uzbekistan 2-1 in a warm-up match on Oct. 8 in Tashkent as part of the preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers, where Iran sit third in Group C behind Iraq and Bahrain.

Tactically speaking, the game was not accompanied by a purposeful performance by the Iranian

national team, because Skocic just wanted to become familiar with the ability of the players. It was the main goal of the national team coach.

The game was the first for Dragan Skocic since taking over the coaching position from Mark Wimots in February.

Iran national team were supposed to play their second friendly match against Mali national team the last Tuesday but the warm-up game was called off after several Malian players tested positive for COVID-19.

If the game was played with the Malian national team, there was a better criterion for evaluating the performance of the new head coach of Persian Leopards’ team.

Skocic brought in some new players and I think this was the right time for him to invite them. However, in my opinion, he is looking to attract public attention by inviting some players who play in popular Iranian teams.

Now he has a rough idea of the new players and how to mix them up with the old players. **→3**



## Abdullah holds talks on Afghan peace process with Zarif, Ghalibaf

**TEHRAN** — Chairman of Afghan peace council Abdullah Abdullah, who is in Tehran to hold talks with top Iranian officials, held talks on Sunday with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.

In the meeting with Zarif at the Foreign Ministry, Iran’s chief diplomat reaffirmed Tehran’s support for the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the peace process under the leadership and management of Afghans, and the agreements among the participants in the intra-Afghan talks.

Zarif also admired Abdullah for his participation in the political process and assuming responsibility to run Afghanistan’s High Council for National Reconciliation. **→2**

## Governor says COVID-19 violators will be forced to work in hospitals

**TEHRAN** — People who endanger the whole society due to non-observance of health protocols will be forced to work in hospitals to provide services to coronavirus patients, the governor of Zanjan has said.

“To prevent the incidence of COVID-19 in Zanjan, we proposed a plan called “alternative punishment to imprisonment” to the judiciary to punish those who do not follow the health guidelines by working in hospitals to serve COVID-10 patients,” YJC quoted Reza Asgari as saying on Sunday.

Fortunately, the plan has been approved by the prosecutor and gone into effect, he highlighted.

■ Coronavirus deplorable in Iran

Massoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, said that the pandemic condition in the country is deplorable and there are no empty beds in the hospitals.

In the current situation, basic measures must be considered to deal with the third wave of the virus, he highlighted.

Lamenting that unnecessary gatherings and trips speeded up the disease transmission, he urged people not to travel and heed the advice of health officials, because if the current situation continues, the virus will get out of control.

According to him, using a mask outdoors is essential for everyone and everyone is required to follow the hygiene principles.

COVID-19 is a newly-emerging disease that can be described as the most complex threat to human health which leads to severe respiratory problems, he noted, adding that the virus is transmitted through direct contact with the respiratory droplets of an infected person through sneezing and coughing. **→7**



## Rouhani: Enemies have invested in domestic disputes

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – President Hassan Rouhani says that his administration has thwarted U.S. ominous goal to bring about the collapse of national economy through sanctions.

“Although the inhumane, illegal U.S. sanctions have reduced the country’s revenues and the country’s revenues in the year 1399 (2019-2020) are not comparable to the revenues in early 1390s (2010s), but after 2.5 years of sanctions, the government has thwarted the U.S.’s ominous plot to bring about the country’s collapse,” Rouhani said at a meeting of the government’s economic coordination headquarters in Tehran on Sunday.

The president also said Iran’s enemies have invested in the country’s domestic disputes as a supplement to their economic pressure and sanctions.

“I invite all authorities, active figures, and those who are concerned about the establishment and the country to maintain serenity and political wisdom to prevent disagreements and disputes,” Rouhani suggested.

The United States, under Donald Trump, has put enormous economic pressure on Iran through sanctions which have mainly targeted Iran’s oil industry and its banking system. The sanctions also have hampered the government’s efforts to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

The sanctions were put in place under the Trump administration’s “maximum pressure” campaign, which he pursued after he unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The latest round of Trump administration’s sanctions were announced last week. They targeted 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.

Independent analysts warn that U.S. sanctions are an “act of war” because they cause a shortage of the essentials of life.

“Let me say that the U.S. sanctions on Iran are an act of war. The impact on Iran is as if America was fighting a war but without bombs and bullets. Iran’s economy is being destroyed. There are shortages. Iranians lack some of the essentials of life. Patients are dying in hospitals because of a shortage of supplies. These are the fallout of war,” Hossein Askari, a professor of International Business at the George Washington University, told the Tehran Times after new financial sanctions.

Last month, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif accused the United States of impeding Iran’s ability to fight the outbreak, saying that U.S. sanctions have prevented the purchase of critical medical supplies.

In an interview with Russia Today published, Zarif said Washington’s efforts to stop Tehran from exporting oil have limited the government’s ability to respond to the global health crisis and provide relief to the Iranian people.

Iran also has “quite a bit of money stashed in countries abroad,” he said, adding that the U.S. has prevented Tehran from gaining access to these funds, even to buy medicine.

Since May 8, 2018, when Trump withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal, his administration has made efforts to impose “the strongest sanctions in history” against Iran in an effort to make it choose between agreeing to U.S. demands or facing economic collapse.

Nearly two weeks after Trump pulled out of the JCPOA, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo showed up at the Heritage Foundation outlining U.S. demands of Iran and threatening to inflict economic pain on Iran.

These (sanctions) will indeed end up being the strongest sanctions in history,” Pompeo said at the time.

## Bolton: U.S. strategy regarding Iran produced no ‘positive result’

**TEHRAN (MNA)** – Former U.S. national security adviser John Bolton has said that the Trump administration’s foreign policy with respect to Iran has had no “positive results”.



Pointing to President Trump’s “ad hoc, almost random decision-making” in the foreign policy, he told NPR on Friday that the administration’s “non-proliferation strategy for example with respect to Iran and North Korea have produced no positive results in neither of those cases.”

Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 and imposed unilateral sanctions against Tehran in hope of reaching a better deal with Iran.

Iranian officials have insisted that Tehran will not renegotiate the JCPOA, urging the international community to stand against U.S. unilateralism and vowing to adopt “maximum resistance” in the face of U.S. “maximum pressure” policy.

Bolton said he does not believe the United States is safer today than it was four years ago.

“I think unfortunately it’s not safer, which is not to say that there haven’t been some important positive decisions made and some important accomplishments,” he said, including withdrawing from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and from a Cold War-era nuclear arms control treaty with Russia.

“The trouble is, there has been no overarching strategy in the Trump administration,” Bolton said. “So that the series of decisions that have been made really have not followed a pattern that leads us over a sustained period of time to a stronger position internationally. And I think that is a fundamental failing in the administration’s approach that contributes to the general conclusion, netted out across all the different issue areas, that we’re not in a stronger position today than we were when the administration took office.”

Bolton added that there are “two main threats” to the U.S., namely China and Russia, because of “their nuclear capabilities, among other things.”

“With respect to both of those countries,” Bolton said, “we have no strategy.”

“These are all problems that are accentuated by the president’s ad hoc, almost random decision-making,” he said. “As I say, it produces decisions that I do agree with from time to time, but it does not produce a coherent, effective, sustained policy, which is what you need to be successful in national security.”

# Iran’s defense co-op with the world a win for multilateralism: Zarif

Chief diplomat says it is ‘momentous day for international community’ as arms embargo against Iran is terminated

**1 →** The ban was terminated under the terms of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that blessed the JCPOA between the Islamic Republic and six world powers.

The U.S. government, under President Donald Trump, suffered a humiliating defeat on August 14 as it failed to renew the arms embargo through a resolution at the UN Security Council. Russia and China voted against the motion and the remaining 11 council members, including France, Germany and the UK, abstained.

**■ Ghalibaf: ‘Weak-minded’ U.S. government suffered significant defeat**

In remarks on Sunday, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf described the termination of the embargo as a significant defeat for the “weak-minded” government of the United States and a victory for the Iranian nation.

“This is undoubtedly a significant failure for the weak-minded U.S. government and its powerless and isolated president, who, despite the illegal attempt to activate the snapback mechanism, was ridiculed by the international community and failed to address the issue,” Ghalibaf said, according to Mehr.

“To turn this U.S. defeat into a strategic achievement for the Iranian nation, important steps must be taken in a proportionate and deterrent reaction to further U.S. pressure,



as well as the sale and purchase of weapons,” the senior lawmaker suggested.

The speaker added that Iran has important days ahead and it is necessary to follow the guidelines of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to overcome the people’s problems.

**■ Iran can export arms to other countries, says ambassador**

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran’s ambassador and permanent representative to the Vien-

na-based international organizations, said with the termination of the ban, Iran has put on its agenda the act of arms cooperation with other countries.

“Naturally, given the high capacities and knowledge of Iran in production of different weapons, we can export them to other countries,” Gharibabadi told IRNA.

He said no one is able anymore to refer to sanctions as a pretext to seize weapons of Iranian origin in other countries.

## Iran announces termination of UN arms embargo

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – In an official statement on Sunday, the Foreign Ministry announced the termination of a UN arms embargo on Iran in defiance of the United States’ failed efforts to extend the embargo.

“Today is a momentous day for the international community, which in defiance of the U.S. regime’s efforts, has protected UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA),” the Foreign Ministry stated.

“As of today [October 18, 2020], all restrictions on the transfer of arms, related activities and financial services to and from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and all prohibitions regarding the entry into or transit through territories of the United Nations Member States previously imposed on a number of Iranian citizens and military officials, are all automatically terminated,” the ministry added.

It also emphasized that in one of the JCPOA’s innovations, the definitive and unconditional termination of arms restrictions and travel bans requires no new resolution, nor does it require any statement or any other measure by the Security Council.

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.

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.

According to the Foreign Ministry statement, from now on, the Islamic Republic of Iran may procure any necessary arms and equipment from any source without any legal restrictions and solely based on its defensive needs, and may also export defensive armaments based on its own policies

“At the same time, Iran’s defense doctrine is premised on strong reliance on its people and indigenous capabilities. Ever since the eight-year imposed war on Iran by Saddam Hussein’s regime—during which the Iranian people were victims of sophisticated and lethal weapons provided to Saddam by the West while Iran was deprived of procuring even the most basic defensive weaponry—the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided for its defensive needs through indigenous capacities and capabilities,” the statement read.

It also urged the United States to abandon its destructive approach toward Resolution 2231, return to full compliance with its commitments under the United Nations Charter, stop violating international law and ignoring international order, and cease further destabilization in West Asia.

“It is evident that any measure against the provisions of UNSC Resolution 2231—particularly paragraph 1 and its defined timetables—will amount to a material breach of the resolution and the purposes of the JCPOA. In that event, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to take any necessary countermeasures to secure its national interests,” it added.

**■ ‘Momentous day for the international community’**  
Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also called Iran’s normalization of defense cooperation with the world as a victory for multilateralism.

“Today’s normalization of Iran’s defense cooperation with the world is a win for the cause of multilateralism and peace



and security in our region,” Zarif said on Twitter.

Calling this “a momentous day for the international community,” Zarif said the world has defied “malign U.S. efforts” to protect the Security Council resolution and the nuclear deal.

Yet, Iran reiterated long-held principle that “unconventional arms, weapons of mass destruction... have no place in Iran’s defense doctrine.”

**■ Iran to have legitimate arms trade with other states: mission to UN**

Iran’s mission to the United Nation also announced that Iran, as a responsible member of the international community, will have legitimate trade with other states including in arms trade as of Sunday.

“As a responsible member of the international community, the Islamic Republic of Iran engages in legitimate trade—in accordance with international law and on the basis of its national interests—with other countries, including in the realm of the arms trade,” the mission said in a Sunday statement.

The mission emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always maintained that all sanctions and restrictive measures introduced and applied against the people of Iran have been baseless, unjust and unlawful.

“During the last few months, the United States had attempted, in violation of resolution 2231, to impose a new arms embargo on Iran to no avail, as the Security Council has rejected illegal U.S. move,” the statement said, adding, “The U.S. unlawful attempt to reinstate terminated Security Council resolutions against Iran also failed when 13 members and three consecutive Presidents of the Council rejected the U.S.’s claim that it was eligible to invoke OP 11 of resolution 2231, and considered said claimed eligibility null and void.”

**“As of today, all restrictions on the transfer of arms, related activities and financial services to and from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and all prohibitions regarding the entry into or transit through territories of the United Nations Member States previously imposed on a number of Iranian citizens and military officials, are all automatically terminated,” Iran’s Foreign Ministry declared.**

## Abdullah holds talks on Afghan peace process with Zarif, Ghalibaf

**1 →** The top Iranian diplomat finally expressed Iran’s support for the Taliban’s participation in Afghanistan’s political structure.

For his part, Abdullah expounded on the most recent developments in Afghanistan and the latest status of the intra-Afghan talks.

Abdullah has already visited Pakistan and India in efforts to win support for talks between the warring sides in Afghanistan.

The peace talks between the Afghanistan government and the Taliban began on September 12 in Qatar’s capital Doha to end decades of war.

Iran has strongly supported talks between the government and the Taliban without foreign interference. Zarif has also appointed an envoy for the purpose.

The senior Afghan peace official is accompanied by a delegation comprising of government and Foreign Ministry officials and lawmakers.

In a post on his Twitter page, Abdullah described his talks with the Iranian Parliament



(Majlis) speaker as “constructive”.

Abdullah said he and Ghalibaf discussed the Afghan peace talks. The top peace negotiator said Ghalibaf had assured him of the Iranian Parliament’s support for durable peace in Afghanistan.

“Had a constructive meeting with HE Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf @mb\_ghalibaf, Speaker of the Parliament of I.R. of Iran. We discussed the #AfghanPeaceProcess, & developments in Doha talks. HE Ghalibaf assured

us of Majlis’s support for a lasting peace in Afghanistan,” Abdullah tweeted.

**■ Ghalibaf expresses support for Afghanistan’s independence, security of Afghanistan**

According to a report released by the media office of the Majlis, Ghalibaf said Iran is unwavering in its support for the independence, security of Afghanistan.

Ghalibaf also said Iran hopes that the political dialogue that has been launched under the leadership of the new Afghan government will lead to “lasting peace between all groups”.

The Iranian parliament speaker also said Afghanistan’s constitution is the product of decades of serious efforts by the Afghan nation.

For his part, Abdullah thanked Iran for supporting the peace process in Afghanistan.

Pointing to the government’s talks with the Taliban, Abdullah said even though different persons and groups have diverse opinions about

talks “but all are moving in line with protecting the establishment and reaching a peace.”

The veteran politician said coordination with friendly and neighboring states can help facilitate the move toward stability in Afghanistan, adding, “42 years of war have been a great burden on the shoulders of Afghanistan and you (neighbors) have also suffered from it.”

Security problems, refugee influx, and drug trade have created problems for neighbors and great opportunities for economic progress have been lost in Afghanistan, stated Abdullah, a physician-turned politician.

Abdullah also said the comprehensive document for cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan is being prepared.

“We are witnessing good progress for interaction between Iran and Afghanistan,” he said, adding common historical and civilizational background have created a situation for sustainable relationship.

## Government: Iran’s resistance defeats ‘maximum pressure’

**TEHRAN (FNA)** – Government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on Sunday that his country has overcome the U.S. maximum pressure via resistance of the people, noting that Washington has once again failed since Tehran is going to do arms trade with the world as the UN Security Council arms bans on Iran expired on Sunday, October 18.

Rabiei said on Sunday that the Iranian nation have once more defeated the U.S.’s so-called doctrine of maximum pres-

sure through resilience, noting that the termination of UNSC sanctions on Iran’s arms trade is an example of the victory of the country’s steadfastness in the face of the U.S. pressure.

“A survey of the history of international relations shows that when the U.S. turned into a global hegemon, it needed an external enemy to achieve internal solidarity, and to justify global intervention, aggression, and ambition,” he went on to say.

“For decades, the Soviet Union played this role for the United

States. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, American strategists sought to replace Confucianism with Islam and to present it theoretically as an enemy. Eventually, the Islamic Republic of Iran was targeted as the U.S. enemy,” the spokesman added.

“Since then the U.S. enmity against Iran saw ups and downs until one of the most irrational presidents of the U.S. came to power and pursued a policy of maximum pressure through illegal sanctions against Iran,” he noted.



## SPORTS

## Dragan Skocic needs opponents similar to Iraq's style of play

**1→** From a technical perspective, we did not play very well against Uzbekistan in terms of organization, compactness, sharpness, and everything. These are the things that we need in our crucial games in the 2022 World Cup qualifying games against Iraq and Bahrain.

For the next friendly games, we have to test our preparedness with matches against opponents who are similar to Iraq and Bahrain's style of play, and then go to the field with a specific tactical strategy.

Skocic has to try offensive tactics against such opponents because the Iranian national team must win all of their four remaining games in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

In Carlos Queiroz's era as the head coach of the national team, his squad showed defensive prowess against big teams in the 2014 and 2018 World Cups.

Now the team needs something different which includes both a smart offensive approach and a strong defensive strategy.

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

The 2022 World Cup qualifiers scheduled this year were postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

\*Iranian member of the AFC's Technical Study Group (TSG)

## Hassan Yazdani aims gold at 2020 World C'ships

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian freestyler Hassan Yazdani says that he is looking forward to win his third gold at the World Championships in Serbia.

The 2020 World Wrestling Championships are set to go ahead as planned from 12-20 December in Belgrade, Serbia.



"I am just thinking of a gold at the World Championships. I will do my best in Belgrade to win my third gold in the competition," Yazdani said in an interview with Iran Wrestling Federation's website.

Yazdani claimed a gold medal at the 2017 World Championships in Paris after defeating Slovakian Boris Makojev at the 86kg final. Two years later he accumulated his second gold by beating his Indian rival Deepak Punia in Nur-Sultan.

"The wrestling was forced to shut down for seven months due to COVID-19 pandemic but I'm feeling good physically since I've trained individually to be fit," he added.

"At the moment, we are holding our training camp at the federation with stringent health protocols due to a coronavirus outbreak and nobody is allowed to leave the camp.

Yazdani is also a candidate to win a gold medal at 2020 Tokyo after his first gold in 2016 Rio, where he defeated Russian Anuar Geduev at the 74kg weight category final.

## Iran, Senegal likely in November

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran national football team will likely meet Senegal in a friendly match in November.

Iran coach Dragan Skocic on Saturday said that his team will play Bosnia or Panama in the upcoming international window in November.

Now, Iran's Ambassador to Dakar Mohammadreza Dehshiri, has talked to Senegal sports minister Matar Ba in the 50th anniversary of relations between Senegal and Iran and has expressed his wish to arrange a warm-up game between two teams.

Iran are one of the Asian powerhouse teams while Senegal sit first in Africa in the FIFA rankings.

"The match with Bosnia has not been officially confirmed so far but there is a possibility that we meet them in November," Skocic said.

Bosnia are scheduled to face Netherlands and Italy in UEFA Nations League on Nov. 15 and 18 respectively and the match against Iran will likely be held on Nov. 12 in the European country.

The 'Persian Leopards' defeated Uzbekistan 2-1 on Oct. 8 in Tashkent in a friendly match and were scheduled to meet Mali in Antalya five days later but the match was called off after two Malian players tested positive for COVID-19.

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

The 2022 World Cup qualifiers scheduled this year were postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Azmoun voted AFC National Team Player of the Week

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran national team striker Sardar Azmoun was chosen as the AFC National Team Player of the Week.

Azmoun defeated his compatriots Mehdi Taremi and Ali Gholizadeh in the poll.

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.

He won the poll with 32 percent of votes.

## Nagorno-Karabakh conflict from Iran's perspective

## Why MUST the conflict be resolved peacefully?

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — As the war over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region rages on, regional countries, including Iran, intensify their efforts to establish a ceasefire between neighbors Azerbaijan and Armenia.

September 27 was not a usual day in Nagorno-Karabakh. It marked the beginning of a new round of hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia after more than a decade of relative calm.

The ongoing war can be traced back to as recently as this past July, when border clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia broke out in the Tovuz region for several days and, as is the case with the current war, the two sides accused each other of starting the clash. Tovuz is a geopolitically important region that lies at the crossroad of energy pipelines, railways, and international highways. It also connects Azerbaijan to Turkey through Georgia.

Tovuz is outside the Nagorno-Karabakh region but the clashes there raised the tensions between Baku and Yerevan to a very high level, and ultimately culminated in an all-out, deadly war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Both countries have friendly relations and joint borders with Iran, factors that make the war in Nagorno-Karabakh a matter of national security for Iran. Furthermore, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has directly affected Iran's border areas. Since the beginning of the war, several rockets and mortar shells have landed inside Iran.

On October 13, a drone came down inside northwestern Iranian territories along Iran's borders while the war was on its seventeenth day. A day later, a missile landed inside Iran. The firing of projectiles toward the Iranian territories was so repetitive that the Iranian Foreign Ministry warned Azerbaijan and Armenia against violating the Iranian soil.

"Movements in the border areas of our country are being seriously and sensitively monitored by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in this regard, while declaring any attack by any of the warring parties in the region on our country is intolerable, we seriously warn all parties to seriously take care in this regard," the Foreign Ministry said in a recent statement.

Iran also sent military reinforcements to its borders with Azerbaijan to protect its civilians from any projectiles coming from the conflict zone.

This may be the reason why since the early days of the Armenia-Azerbaijan war, Iran called on both countries to immediately stop the war and resolve their differences through dialogue.

In addition to establishing peace and stability in its border areas, Iran has made efforts to bring the warring countries to the negotiating table in order to help resolve the conflict through dialogue and in accordance with the principles of international law.



To this end, Iran has prepared an initiative that, if accepted by the warring sides, would bring an end to the hostilities and promote peace and security in the South Caucasus region.

"Iran has prepared a detailed plan, which will be pursued through making consultations with the two sides [of the conflict]. We hope that the two sides end the war, avoid targeting civilians, and know that Iran cannot tolerate clashes on its borders. We have carefully told our friends in both countries that they need to take the necessary care," said Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry in early October, a few days after the Azerbaijan-Armenia war broke out.

The spokesman did not give further details about the Iranian initiative but it seems that the plan had something to do with the violations of Iran's borders because the spokesman has put the plan into the broader context of Iran's intolerance toward encroachments on its territories.

Khatibzadeh pointed out, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will by no means tolerate any violation against its borders and soil. To this end, Iran has prepared a plan and it hopes to move forward with it through making consultations with the two sides and with the help of other neighboring countries."

Iran's strategy toward the Armenia-Azerbaijan war was based on prioritizing peace and dialogue over war and aggression. The Iranian initiative seems to be offered in this context. Iran also offered to facilitate the peace talks between its warring neighbors.

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

hammad Javad Zarif shortly after Armenia and Azerbaijan began the war.

Some analysts believe that Iran is eligible to act as a go-between to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It shares borders with both countries and has refused to side with each of them. Besides, Iran has equal access to Azerbaijan and Armenia, unlike some other regional players who are seen as siding with one against the other.

Khatibzadeh said Iran has gained this special status because it had pursued "correct policies" toward both sides of the conflict in the past.

"We tried to be in mutual and continuous contact with both capitals. Due to our previous correct policies, we have equal access and we are in contact with regional players," the spokesman said.

Iran has intensified its efforts to deescalate tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh. Zarif has held phone conversations with his counterparts in Azerbaijan and Armenia, urging them to resolve their differences peacefully. Tehran has also welcomed the Russian-brokered ceasefires between Baku and Yerevan, although the ceasefires did not last long.

Since October 10, at least two ceasefires were brokered by Russia but both have failed. The first ceasefire was reached after marathon negotiations between the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Moscow but the ceasefire was violated soon after it was announced.

Russia recently announced a second ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which was supposed to come into force at midnight on Sunday (20:00 GMT Saturday) but this was violated too.

Armenia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on October 17 that Yerevan and Baku have agreed to a humanitarian ceasefire.

"The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan have agreed to a humanitar-

ian truce as of October 18th, 00h00 local time," the Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

However, a missile attack on the Azeri city of Ganja, which is located outside of the conflict zone, destroyed the humanitarian truce.

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the missile attack on Ganja has killed 12 people and injured dozens.

"On the night of 17 October, 2020 around 1 am the armed forces of Armenia attacked the Ganja city of Azerbaijan with ballistic missiles. This, third in a row atrocious attack on the second biggest city of Azerbaijan, since the new aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, situated far away from the frontline caused serious civilian casualties; 12 civilians, including 2 minors killed, more than 40 people injured," the statement said. "Armenia's deliberate and indiscriminate targeting of civilians, in a blatant violation of norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as declared humanitarian ceasefire, the purposeful killing of peaceful people constitute a war crime and a crime against humanity and the leadership of Armenia bears full responsibility for this crime."

After the Ganja attack, Azerbaijan and Armenia accused each other of violating the humanitarian truce. With the Ganja attack, the war took a dangerous turn because this attack widened the conflict zone, a move that could result in the killing of more civilians.

And this is another cause of concern for Iran. Although Iran is not siding with Azerbaijan or Armenia, it has condemned in the strongest terms the killing of the civilians in Ganja, saying the missile attack on the city violated international norms and was a "war crime."

"The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baku roundly rejects the last midnight's missile attack on the city of Ganja, which has left dozens of civilians dead and injured," the Iranian embassy in Baku said in a statement on Sunday, adding, "[The embassy] while expressing sympathy with the grieving families and wishing a speedy recovery for the injured, reiterates that attacking cities and innocent people goes against all legal principles and the recognized international norms and is considered a war crime that must be stopped as soon as possible."

Iran's stance on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict derives from a belief that this conflict cannot be resolved militarily. Instead, the two warring countries should sit at the negotiation table and resolve their differences through dialogue in accordance with international law and regulations. War cannot be a proper solution to a decades-long conflict that could further destabilize the South Caucasus region through inviting foreign interference, which, in turn, could prolong the conflict and turn it into a war of attrition.

## Russia ready to start military-technical cooperation with Iran: diplomat

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Russia is not afraid of U.S. restrictions on Iran and will move forward with military cooperation with the country, according to Sergey Ryabkov, the deputy foreign minister of Russia.

"Russia is not afraid of U.S. sanctions because it is accustomed to them," the Russian TASS news agency quoted Ryabkov as saying on Sunday.

"Russia is developing multi-aspect cooperation with Iran and cooperation in the military-technical sphere will proceed depending on needs of the parties and mutual readiness to [move forward with] such cooperation in a calm fashion," the Russian diplomat added.

Ryabkov's comments came as Iran formally announced the expiration of a UN arms embargo on Sunday in accordance with the provisions of a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, which is officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"As of today, all restrictions on the transfer of arms, related activities and financial services to and from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and all prohibitions regarding the entry into or transit through territories of the United Nations Member States previously imposed on a number of Iranian citizens and military officials, are all automatically terminated," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

The statement also said the termination of the UN arms embargo is a "momentous day for the international community, which in defiance of the U.S. regime's efforts, has protected UN Security Council Resolution 2231" and the JCPOA.

The arms embargo was a major point of contention between Iran and the U.S. over the past year. The U.S. made tremendous efforts to extend the UN arms embargo but it failed to do so because the international community firmly opposed the U.S. push to extend the international restrictions on Iran. To this end, the U.S. submitted a draft resolution

restrictions on Iran are now terminated," Majid Takht Ravanchi said in a tweet.

The ambassador added, "As of today, Iran's arms trade needs no prior consent from UNSC. The U.S. tried to prevent this but it failed, as the UNSC rejected all US efforts."

Also on Sunday, the Iranian Foreign Min-

istry said in a statement that as of October 18, all restrictions on the transfer of arms, related activities and financial services to and from Iran, and all prohibitions regarding the entry into or transit through territories of the UN Member States previously imposed on a number of Iranian citizens and military

officials, are all automatically terminated.

Before the expiration of the UN arms embargo, Iran was subject to a special licensing process that required Iran to obtain permission from the Security Council for engaging in the arms trade. This process has now expired based on the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2231.



calling for the extension of the arms embargo but the resolution was rejected by most members of the UN Security Council. Then, the U.S. resorted to triggering a highly controversial mechanism within the JCPOA and UNSCR 2231. The mechanism, known as the snapback process, stipulates that a "JCPOA participant state" can trigger the return of all UN sanctions on Iran in case Iran failed to uphold its obligations under the nuclear deal.

The U.S. triggered the snapback process in August and ultimately announced the return of all UN sanctions on Iran on September 19, a move that was widely rejected by the remaining parties to the JCPOA as well as almost all members of the Security Council. They said the U.S. had no legal authority to restore the international sanctions on Iran because it was no longer considered as a "JCPOA participant state" after it formally announced its withdrawal from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018.

Despite U.S. efforts, the remaining parties to the JCPOA including Washington European allies said the reimposition by the U.S. of the UN sanctions on Iran was incapable of having legal effect and that the UN arms embargo would be expired on October 18. Russia said that there were no restrictions on Iran right from the start.

## Iran no longer needs UNSC permission for arms trade: envoy

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — As of mid-October, Iran's arms trade will no longer be subject to prior permission from the United Nations Security Council, Iran's Ambassador to the UN said on Sunday.

"5 years after Adoption Day of JCPOA—and in accordance with UNSCR 2231—illegal arms



## Ports operating non-stop despite sanctions, pandemic

**1 →** While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play some significant role in this battle, and the ongoing operation at the ports indicates that they are playing their part perfectly.

As reported, loading and unloading of commodities at the ports of Iran have risen six percent during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).



Mentioning the round-the-clock activities at the ports, the PMO head has announced that over 54.85 million tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), which is an indication of non-stop operation at the ports.

Development of marine transportation is emphasized under the new round of the sanctions, and despite all limitations, it's been tried to continue the activities like before, so that those active in the economy sector will face no challenge, according to the official.

## Iranian trade center opens in Damascus

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The chairman of the Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce announced the official inauguration of the Iranian trade center in Damascus, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported on Sunday.

“This trade center has been opened with the aim of realizing the goal for \$1 billion of annual exports to Syria,” Keyvan Kashefi said.

According to Kashefi, this center has been purchased, equipped, and put into operation by ICCIMA in an area of 4,000 square meters in a free zone in Damascus.

Stating that this center is located in the foreign trade zone of Damascus and has a very special position for the establishment of Iranian companies and their trade activities, the official said: “the center is based in a twelve-floor building, two of which are exhibitions and in other floors, various services are provided in the field of marketing, transportation, legal advice, banking, insurance, exhibitions, etc.”

The opening of the Iranian trade center in Syria has made it possible to connect with the chambers of commerce, industry, and agriculture of important Syrian cities such as Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, and Latakia.

So far 24 Iranian companies have been settled and started their activities in the mentioned center, according to Kashefi.

Referring to the establishment of various banking, legal and financial consultant offices in this center, he said: “We have tried to provide the Iranian companies based in this center with easy access to the necessary facilities and services thorough comprehensive research and by using the experiences of different countries.”

Kashefi also informed about the planning for the holding of specialized meetings and exhibitions in this center based on the needs of Iranian companies.

Underlining the benefits of establishing this center for the development of Iran-Syria trade relations, the official expressed hope that the establishment of this center would improve the level of economic relations between the two countries' private sectors.

Iran and Syria agreed on the establishment of an Iranian trade center in Damascus free zone back in January.

The decision was made during a visit by an Iranian economic delegation to Syria.

Iran and Syria have been exchanging numerous trade delegations in the past few months and Iranian private companies are investing in different areas like providing construction materials especially cement and working on several reconstruction projects in Syria.

## Construction of Kish-Bandar Aftab gas pipeline completed

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The construction of an 18-kilometer (km) gas pipeline from Iran's southern Kish Island to Bandar Aftab has been completed, according to the Operator of Kish Gas Field's Development Project Abdollah Mehrabi.

As reported by the Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) portal, this project, which is the country's longest underwater gas transmission line, will transfer gas from Kish Gas field to the Kish Island power plants through a 32-inch pipeline.

The first part of this pipeline, with a length of 2.2 km, was laid using the shore pulling method in the Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 22-August 21) and the second phase of the operations began on October 3 using the pipe layer vessel C-Master, Mehrabi explained.

The official pointed to the restrictions created by the outbreak of the coronavirus and the implementation of safety measures by the workforce, saying: “Both phases of the project, including the 16-kilometer using the vessel and the shore pulling phase from the coast of Garzeh, were completed a week earlier than scheduled despite the restrictions.”

According to Mehrabi, the purpose of this project is to send gas to Kish Island gas power plants.

“The Kish Island gas supply pipeline project will be derived from the seventh national line in the north of Bastak city in the southern Hormozgan province and will lead to Kish Island gas power plants,” the official had previously said.

Engineering studies, the supply of goods, and the implementation of piping and cabling of the mentioned project have been carried out by Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company (IOECC) as the contractor of the project.

Located below Kish Island in the Persian Gulf, Iran, Kish Gas Field has been under development since 2012.

The field was discovered in 2006 by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and is the world's fifth-biggest offshore gas field.

The field is being developed by Iranian Pars Oil and Gas Company.

# Copper cathode production rises 6% in H1

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Production of copper cathode in Iran

increased six 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.

Copper cathode output hit 139,899 tons in the first six months of the present year, while the predicted figure was 130,015 tons.

Monthly copper cathode production in the sixth month of this year was 24,198 tons, 10 percent higher than the figure of the same month in the previous year.

Production of copper cathode, which stood at 250,000 tons in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), is planned to reach 280,000 tons in the present year.

In early May, four development projects worth 40 trillion rials (about \$952.3 million) were inaugurated in the copper sector of Kerman Province in the southeast of Iran.

President Hassan Rouhani put the pro-



jects into operation through video conference.

The projects inaugurated in Khatoon Abad Copper Complex included increasing the capacity of copper smelting in the com-

plex, building a copper concentrate storage, construction of a sulfuric acid production plant, and an oxygen supplying unit.

By putting the first project into operation,

## Iran's 1st geothermal power plant to come on stream by Mar. 2021

**1 →** Located in Meshkin Shahr County in the north-western Ardebil province, the country's first geothermal power plant is being constructed by the Thermal Power Plants Holding (TPPH).

The first stage of the plant development will feature a 5 MW turbine, while a total of 50 MW is targeted to be reached at later stages.

The power plant is being built at the foot of Mount Sabalan, about 85 km northwest of Ardebil. The current investment is reported at around \$40.4 million.

Geothermal power refers to the use of underground hot steam to drive turbines which in turn generate electricity. It is cheaper and more reliable than other renewable energy sources, such as thermal or hydropower.

Greenhouse gas emissions in geothermal power plants are a small fraction of those produced in gas-powered stations and even far less in coal-powered facilities.

Besides power generation, the geothermal energy will be used for heating purposes in the region's harsh winters and cooling in the summer.



## Angouran Complex's monthly zinc, lead extractions up 5%

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The extraction of zinc and lead ores from Iran's Angouran mining complex reached 88,720 tons in the Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (August 22-September 21), registering a five-percent increases year on year.

As one of the country's major zinc and lead mines, Angouran Complex had produced 84,095 tons of the mentioned minerals in the previous year's same month, according to the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Also, the amount of minerals sent to processing plants in the mentioned month was 83,328 tons, which shows a 66-percent increase compared to the same period last year in which the figure stood at 50,084 tons.

Angouran lead and zinc complex extracted about 473,325 tons of minerals in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19-September 21), while the figure was 473,990 tons in the same period last year.

The amount of minerals sent from Angouran Complex to processing units in the first half of this year reached 477,662 tons, to register an increase of 74 percent, compared to the same period last year (274,298 tons).

Major Iranian lead and zinc producers extracted a total of 211,304 tons of ores during the first three months of the current Iranian year (March 20-June 20) register-



ing a two percent rise compared with the corresponding period of last year.

According to IMIDRO, in the mentioned three months, Angouran Lead and Zinc Complex accounted for the highest share of the total output with 195,860 tons and with one percent growth year-on-year, while Nakhlak Lead and Zinc Plant accounted for 15,444 tons of the total output, indicating a seven percent increase.

Zinc is used in alloys such as brass, nickel, silver, and aluminum, and also in galvanizing steel structures. Furthermore, the metal is widely used in the manufacture of products such as paint, rubber, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, plastic, ink, soap, batteries, textile, and electrical equipment.

According to the United States Geological Survey, Iran holds the world's largest zinc, ninth largest copper, 10th largest iron ore, fifth largest gypsum and barite, and 10th largest uranium reserves.

## Red meat price to decrease in this week

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The price of red meat, including veal, will fall in the country in the current Iranian calendar week (started on Saturday), according to the head of Iran's Livestock Provision Council.

The price of red meat, especially veal, has been increasing in recent weeks because of the rising price of the livestock feed such as corn, barley, and soy cake, but the price will be balanced soon, Mansour Pourian told IRNA on Saturday.

Earlier this month, the official called on the government to purchase the red meat at guaranteed prices to support the producers.

Pourian also recommended the exports of livestock to support the producers and also bring foreign revenue for the country.

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

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

Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has



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

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

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

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

## 2nd part of govt. support package for non-oil exports to be implemented

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced the implementation of the second part of the government's support package for non-oil export in near future, TPO portal reported.

According to Hamid Zadboum, the mentioned support package consisted of two main parts, one was the allocation of incentives provided by the National Development Fund (NDF) of Iran and the other part pertained to the allocation of incentives provided from the annual budget.

Zadboum had previously announced that the current year's support package for non-oil exports included resources from the NDF amounting to 20 trillion rials (about \$476 million), as well as resources provided in the year's budget bill amounting to 6 trillion rials (about \$143 million) plus part of the revenues from export duties and the increase in the Export Guarantee Fund (EGF)'s capital that was up to 100 million euros.



The official noted that part of the funding allocated from the budget for the mentioned package has been provided to the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry and the ministry has obliged the relevant bodies to take the necessary

## Expansion of economic ties reiterated by Iran, Sweden

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — During a meeting between Iranian Ambassador to Sweden Ahmad Masoumifar and Secretary to Swedish Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Emil Högberg, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and stressed expansion of economic ties, IRNA reported.

The two sides discussed ways for developing trade relations between Iran and Sweden, and emphasized expansion of cooperation between Iranian and Swedish small and medium-sized enterprises active

in the fields of technology, innovation, transportation and environment.

They also put emphasis on holding the next meeting of Iran-Sweden Joint Economic Committee in the near future.

In mid-July, Sweden's Ambassador to Tehran Mattias Lentz said that Swedish companies will maintain their contracts in Iran and will fulfill their commitments.

He said, “In the current situation, the economic relations between Iran and Sweden are continuing in the fields of medicine, pharmaceuticals, food indus-

try, telecommunications, and automobile industry.”

Sweden was one of Iran's top trading partners in Europe, which had reached a good level of trade relations after the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed between Iran and world powers, however, with the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions, the restrictions led to a significant decline in the two sides' trades.

“Though there are problems, there is also hope,” the Swedish ambassador said, adding: “In the current situation, we may

not be able to expand economic relations with Iran; but keeping the current ties alive and holding joint economic meetings will help us to continue to operate within this framework.”

Lentz noted that although trade activities have become more limited due to the U.S. sanctions, Swedish companies have always been present in Iran and continue to be active.

“In many economic areas, Swedish companies are seeing the possibility of even expanding cooperation,” he said.



## News

## 95% of Bahrainis against normalization deal with Israel: Opposition tells UN

Bahrain's largest opposition group calls on the United Nations to intervene in the kingdom's unbridled push to deepen its relations with the Israeli regime, saying the move falls short of the general population's consent.

The Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society released the statement on Sunday, as the two sides are expected to sign a "joint communique on establishing peaceful and diplomatic relations" during a visit by Israeli and U.S. delegations to the Bahraini capital Manama.

The move marks a major step forward in formalizing Manama and Tel Aviv's ties after a September 15 event at the White House during which Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates signed "normalization" deals with the occupying regime.

## Over 50% of Israelis want Netanyahu to resign

A new poll has indicated that 54 per cent of Israelis want Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resign from politics, 35 per cent want him to remain and ten per cent did not have an opinion, QudsPress reported.

The poll, which was published by Israeli Hebrew newspaper Maariv, conveyed that 28 per cent of Likud voters who took part in the last elections, and 57 per cent of right-wing voters, want Netanyahu to resign from politics.

If the elections took place today, the Likud party, which currently has 36 seats, would only obtain 28 seats according to the poll, and the right-wingers led by MK Naftali Bennett would acquire 21 seats.

Israel has been witnessing almost daily demonstrations for months calling for Netanyahu to resign as prime minister over his failure to cope with the COVID-19 crisis, in addition to his corruption cases.

## At least 12 civilians killed in Afghanistan car bomb attack

At least 12 civilians have been killed and more than 100 people wounded after a car bomb targeting an Afghan police headquarters in the western province of Ghor went off on Sunday.

The attack took place in Feroz Koh, the capital of Ghor, a province that has not seen much violence compared with some other regions of the conflict-ravaged country, al Jazeera reported.

The ministry of interior said the car bomb detonated in front of Ghor police headquarters at about 11am local time (06:30 GMT).

"The terrorists detonated an explosives-filled car... as a result 12 civilians were killed and more than 100 people were wounded," the interior ministry said.

## Israel sends treaty delegation to Bahrain with Trump aides

An Israeli delegation accompanied by the U.S. treasury secretary arrived in Bahrain on Sunday to formalize nascent relations and broaden Gulf cooperation that Washington has promoted as an anti-Iran bulwark and potential economic bonanza.

Bahrain followed the United Arab Emirates in agreeing last month to normalize ties with Israel, stunning Palestinians who had demanded statehood before any such regional rapprochement, Reuters reported.

The breakthrough, overseen by U.S. President Donald Trump, is a foreign policy flourish ahead of his re-election bid next month. For the U.S. allies, it is a chance to close ranks on Iran more overtly.

The Israeli delegation, which flew on an El Al Israel Airlines charter flight from Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, was accompanied by U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

## Armenia, Azerbaijan report violations of new ceasefire

Despite a second attempt at a cease-fire, Armenia and Azerbaijan traded accusations Sunday of violating the new truce in their destructive conflict over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The latest truce, which was announced Saturday and took force at midnight, was the second attempt to establish a cease-fire since heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces broke out in Nagorno-Karabakh on Sept. 27. The fighting and shelling has killed hundreds of people - both combatants and civilians - and marks the biggest escalation of a decades-old conflict over the region in more than a quarter-century, AP reported.

Armenian military officials on Sunday reported artillery shelling and missile strikes by Azerbaijani forces carried out in the conflict zone overnight. In the morning, "the enemy launched an attack in the southern direction" of the conflict zone, and there were "casualties and wounded on both sides," Armenian Defense Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanian said.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry, in turn, maintained that Armenian forces used mortars and artillery in the conflict zone overnight despite the cease-fire and in the morning attempted attacks in several directions. The ministry also accused Armenia of using large-caliber weapons to attack the positions of the Azerbaijani army in two regions north of Nagorno-Karabakh along the border between the two countries, a claim Armenian military officials denied.

## Resistance News

## Hamas dismissed U.S. offer of negotiations over 'deal of century': Top official

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN** — Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has turned down an offer by the United States to hold negotiations over President Donald Trump's highly controversial "deal of the century" on the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a senior Hamas official says.

"Hamas refused to negotiate with the U.S. government over the deal of the century because Washington was trying to exploit the talks in order to threaten the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leadership by provoking divisions among Palestinian factions," Deputy head of Hamas political bureau, Saleh al-Arouri, said.

"National participation is the only response that can be given to the conspiracy of the deal of the century and [bids aimed at] elimination of the Palestinian cause," he noted.

"It is the occupying Israeli regime that has drawn up the roadmap for the elimination of the Palestinian cause, and the scheme is being implemented by the US government and its allies in the region," Arouri said.

According to PressTV, the deputy head of Hamas political bureau further highlighted that the Tel Aviv regime does not accept any international solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and only wants to destroy the Palestinian issue by any means.

## U.S. fighting on behalf of Israel: Jewish activist

“America is willing to sacrifice its young soldiers and national interests and even its economy for Israel,” says Gilad Atzmon

**1 →** platform to denounce Israel or anyone else from profiting from non-ethical practices.

The issues go well beyond Israel's arms trade. A few days ago, we learned from the Jewish Press about a Bipartisan bill in America that would give Israel a say on the Middle East (West Asia) arms sales. The bill "would require the President to consult with the Israeli government to ensure concerns are settled." If the bill passes, the USA military-industrial complex trade would be dependent on Israeli consent.

■ How great is the Zionist and Jewish lobbies' influence in the United States, and how can this status quo change?

A: The facts regarding Israel's immense influence and the Jewish Lobby in the USA and other Western countries have been established for a while. One can refer to The Israeli Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy, a detailed study by two of the most influential American social scientists (Prof. John Mearsheimer & Prof. Stephen Walt). Another leading American political scientist admired by a generation of academics who also covered the topic is, of course, Prof James Petras, in his book The Power of Israel in the United States.

What can be done about the well-documented domination of AIPAC? I would like to believe that the most effective method to approach this topic would be to point squarely at the Lobby and its corrosive impact: this entails pointing the finger at the wars the USA fights on behalf of Israel, the sanctions that the USA mounts for Israel, the fact that America is willing to sacrifice its young soldiers and national interests and even its economy for Israel. Theoretically speaking, American citizens are entitled to voice such criticisms as freedom of speech is enshrined in their constitution's first amendment. Israeli pressure groups seem to believe that they are actually more powerful and certainly more important than the American constitution. A few months ago, we learned that Right-wing activists attempted to spread new laws across Republican-controlled states that would suppress criticism on Israel's public university campuses and its occupation of Palestinian territory.

By now, the USA is practically functioning as a remote and subservient Israeli satellite. I am unable to identify any genuine political force in the USA that can change this anytime soon. I do not see anyone within American politics who is willing to tackle the matter. But the American people, like the Brits and the French, are no fools; they see it all.

■ Though Israel is violating and defying international law on a daily basis, its Western supporters and allies continue to support these actions or at least turn a blind eye to them. How do you assess

**“By now, the USA is practically functioning as a remote and subservient Israeli satellite.”**



**“Many human rights campaigns are funded by elements that are themselves dedicated to human rights abusers.”**

this double standard?

A: In general, it's a good practice not to overestimate people's intelligence. But Israel and its Lobby make the opposite mistake; they tend to believe that people are far stupider than they are.

People do see what is going on, and the general discomfort with Israel and its Lobby is growing rapidly. People do notice Israeli criminality; they also notice their politicians on all levels operating as foreign agents for a criminal state. Israel and The Lobby interpret this rise of awareness as "growing anti-Semitism," but this is hyperbole. A general mass awareness has surfaced. The Israelis and The Lobby know that once you see the full picture, you can't just un-see it. In that respect, Israel is facing a wall of silent resistance, and the consequences of this reality are unpredictable.

It is fascinating to observe the tsunami of mass protests that we see within Israel against Netanyahu and institutional corruption. The Israelis, or at least many of them, are also tired of themselves being themselves. In line with Jewish history, it is possible that it will actually be the Jews who bring their current empire down. As far as I can tell, they are better at that battle than anyone else.

■ How do the Western countries exploit the issue of human rights to implement their policies? And how do they politicize human rights?

A: Human rights issues are close to our hearts. We don't like to see abuse of others; we hate discrimination; we are appalled by the racism of any kind. Seemingly, some were clever enough to attach barcodes to these genuine universal and ethical feelings. As things stand, human rights matters have morphed into a profitable industry. Many human rights campaigns are funded by elements that are themselves dedicated to human rights abusers.

Since the Palestinian struggle is close to my heart, it took me little time to find out that while the BDS movement was receiving money from George Soros' Open Society Institute, BDS changed its goal statement and practically gave up on the Palestinian Right of Return.

In 2012 the BDS National Committee in Ramallah made a crucial change to its goal statement. It changed the wording of its original (June 2005) mission statement from "demanding that Israel end its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands" to demanding that Israel end "its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967". My attempt to find out who introduced this change revealed that this new wording first appeared in Omar Barghouti's 2011 book, 'BDS: Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights' (page 6).

It seems that since 2011, The BDS National Committee basically abandoned the most precious Palestinian right—it drifted away from the commitment to land occupied since 1948 and limited its struggle to the liberation of lands occupied in 1967. Further attempts to clarify who made the change and what process revealed that this significant change was made in a clandestine manner appeared only in English. It has never appeared in Arabic or any other language. It is evident that the change took place behind the backs of the Palestinian people. Despite BDS' claim to be a 'civil society' representing more than 170 Palestinian organizations, Palestinians were totally unaware of the BDS National Committee's compromise of their mission.

Further investigation revealed that BDS—like most Palestinian NGOs—was funded by George Soros' Open Society Institute. In 2013 I was asked to review a book titled Israel/Palestine and the Queer International, by Sarah Schulman. It was Schulman who resolved the mysterious change in the BDS goal statement. In her search for funding for a young Palestinian Queer USA tour in support of BDS, Schulman wrote that she was advised to approach George Soros' Open Society Institute. The following account may leave you flabbergasted, as it did me:

"A former ACT UP staffer who worked for the Open Society Institute, George Soros' foundation, suggested that I file an application therefor funding for the tour. When I did so, it turned out that

the person on the other end had known me from when we both attended Hunter [College] High School in New York in the 1970s. He forwarded the application to the institute's office in Amman, Jordan, and I had an amazing one-hour conversation with Hanan Rabani, its director of the Women's and Gender program for the Middle East (West Asia) region. Hanan told me that this tour would give great visibility to autonomous queer organizations in the region. That it would inspire queer Arabs—especially in Egypt.

For that reason, she said, funding for the tour should come from the Amman office" (Israel/Palestine and the Queer International, by Sarah Schulman p. 108).

Here is clear and embarrassing evidence of a crude intervention made by George Soros' institute in an attempt to shape Arab and Islamic culture and political life. We also learn about the manner in which Soros' Open Society Institute introduces gay and queer politics to the region. Apparently, money for a tour promoting Palestine and BDS is traveling from Soros' Open Society to Jordan and then back to the USA.

This makes it clear why BDS had "good reason" to remain silent regarding its funding sources. After all, being funded directly or indirectly by a liberal Zionist philanthropist, a man who also funded the openly Zionist J Street and was invested in Israeli companies in the West Bank, is indeed embarrassing. But the meaning of it is rather devastating. The discourse of the solidarity of the oppressed is shaped by the oppressor's sensitivities who fund the oppressed's movement. We see this in the Palestine solidarity movement; we saw the same thing in Occupy Wall Street and currently in some BLM activity segments. Instead of genuinely caring for the oppressed, human rights and solidarity movements often morph into policing forces that dedicate themselves to controlling the so-called opposition.

The case of the language of BDS has a good ending. However, Omar Barghouti didn't change the words printed in his book, where he bluntly compromised on occupied land demands on behalf of the Palestinian people. The BDS movement eventually changed its goal statement once again. It now resembles the original 2005 statement opposing the occupation of ALL Arab Land.

■ Why doesn't Israel accept the idea of a nuclear-free zone in the region?

A: The real meaning of thinking yourself chosen is attributing a unique sense of impunity to yourself and no one else. In real politics, this means that your Jewish state is the only nuclear power in the region, your Air Force is the only one to fly F-35s, your army is not committed to any recognized ethical standards, your military industry trades with the darkest regimes around. Try to imagine a world where everyone believes themselves to be chosen.

**The Israelis, or at least many of them, are also tired of themselves being themselves.**

## Trump likes to make deals, but he is not very good at it: American foreign policy expert

By Hamid Bayati

**TEHRAN** — Director of Future of Iran Initiative in Atlantic Council Barbara Slavin said Donald Trump's claims about reaching an agreement with Iran in a short time is "just the usual Trump rhetoric."

According to the Iranian foreign ministry, despite opposition from the United States, a long-standing conventional arms embargo imposed on Iran has expired in line with the terms of a landmark nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

The 13-year ban imposed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) came to an end on Sunday as part of Resolution 2231 of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), an accord signed in 2015 that gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

To know more about this event's effects, we reached out to Barbara Slavin, former the Director of Future of Iran Initiative in Atlantic Council.

Here is the full text of the interview:

■ As you know, despite the United States' willingness, the arms embargo on Iran is coming to an end, so does this event have a significant impact on the situation that exists between the U.S. and Iran?

A: I don't see a significant impact as relations are already at rock bottom.

■ What is the main reason that led to U.S. partners' rejection of the Iran arms embargo extension?

A: The U.S. was isolated on this issue because of most other countries – not just the U.S. European



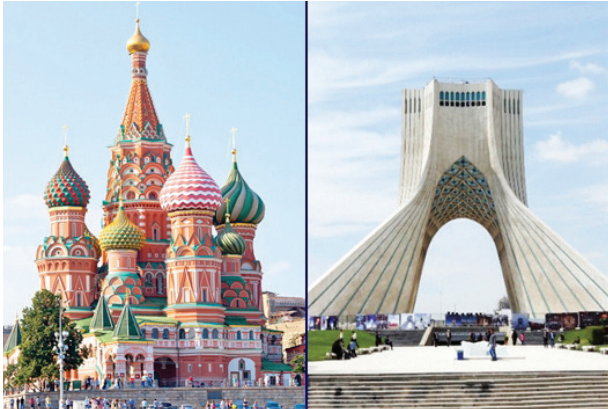
allies – want to preserve what's left of the JCPOA. The hope is that a future Biden administration will

**The U.S. is isolated on this issue because most other countries – not just US European allies – want to preserve what's left of the JCPOA.**



## Russia says visa-free regime with Iran hinges on pandemic

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Russia hopes to finalize work on a bilateral visa-free regime for certain tourist groups with Iran in the near future, but says the time for its implementation depends on the situation of coronavirus pandemic in the two countries.



“We hope this work will be finished soon and the agreement will come into force,” Tass quoted Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova as saying on Thursday.

“The decision for implementing the agreement would depend on the epidemic situation in Russia and Iran and on coronavirus lockdown measures in the two countries.”

Russia’s Federal Tourism Agency is working with the Iranian partners on mechanisms of the implementation of the arrangements under the agreement, she added.

Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ebrahim Pourfaraj said earlier this month that new rounds of negotiations have been commenced between Iranian tour operators, travel marketers, and their Russian counterparts.

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

The agreement on visa-free group tourist trips was signed on March 28, 2017, during Iranian President Hassan Rouhani’s visit to Moscow.

## Safavid-era palace in northern Iran undergoes restoration

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Parts of the walls of the Safavid-era (1501-1736) Jahan-Nama Palace in the northern province of Mazandaran, which had been destroyed due to natural and human factors, have undergone some rehabilitation works, a provincial tourism official has said.



A budget of four billion rials (\$95,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the project, Baqer Solhjoo announced on Saturday.

Located in the city of Farahabad, the palace was built during the rule of Shah Abbas the Great (r. 1588 – 1629) and was destroyed by the Kazakhs during the Qajar era (1789–1925).

In recent years, archaeological excavations have begun in this palace, which is a part of Farahabad historical complex.

Stretched along the Caspian Sea and Alborz mountain range, Mazandaran is a popular destination for domestic holidaymakers and it is home to more than 3,500 villages and rural areas, hosting millions of domestic night-stays in a year.

## Archaeological map to be prepared for East Azarbaijan

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — An all-inclusive archaeological map of the northwestern East Azarbaijan province is planned to be prepared in collaboration with the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Institute, the director of the institute has said.



To preserve the historical sites as well as prevent them from destruction, the importance of collecting all previous archaeological maps of the province and reviewing them to prepare one comprehensive map was felt, Behrooz Omrani said on Friday.

As the map will be uploaded on Iran’s archeological website after being prepared, it will make it easier for everyone, including students, researchers, and history buffs to access their desired information, the official added.

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

# Asbads, the windy pride of Nashtifan

By Afshin Majlesi

In the tiny village of Nashtifan in north-eastern Iran, one may feel an ancient magic inherited from preceding generations, a traditional technique to harness the wind power.

Made of clay, wood, and straw, the windmills, locally known as “Asbads”, are perched on a cliff overlooking the village, milling grain for an estimated 1,000 years there. They also bear testimony to the human being’s adaption with nature by transforming environmental obstacles into opportunities.

The windy pride of Nashtifan, the structures are doted on by an amiable custodian named Ali Mohammad Etebari, who estimates that parts of the earthen windmills are 1,000 years old.

“If I don’t look after them, the youngsters will come and spoil it and break everything,” Etebari said in an interview with the International Wood Culture Society in 2015.

Honored as a Living Human Treasure, Etebari has dedicated his life to keep the windmills spinning by the hard work of daily inspections and maintenance.

“I was a driver and I’ve been looking after this for the last 28 years,” he said.

“It’s the pure, clean air that makes the windmills rotate—the life-giving air that everyone can breathe.”

Asbad development took place due to



**The sad part of the story is an unclear future for the windmills. Without due attention, the Asbads may fall into disrepair, maybe due to different beliefs and tastes of the younger generation.**

## Centuries-old Saint George Church still open in northwestern Iran

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN**—The Saint George Church in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province is one of the oldest churches of the country which are still in use centuries after being built.

Located in Haftvan village, Salmas county, the original construction of the church dates back to the 13th and 14th centuries based on the inscriptions in the Armenian language, which have been placed on the walls of the entrance gate of the building, however, it was rebuilt and renovated in 1652 during the Safavid era (1501–1736).

The Armenian Apostolic church was restored once again after the 1930 Salmas earthquake, which almost destroyed the historical monument.

To enter the rectangular building, you have to bend your head as the entrance doors were made smaller than other doors to make visitors bow and respect the holy place.

The roof of the church consists of arches and rafters built on four pillars in the middle. Covering the center of the church is a straight dome with twelve skylights. On either side of the altar of the church are two small symmetrical rooms, one a baptismal room, and the other a service room. The altar of the church is in the form of an oval arch. The main materials used in this building are carcass stone and lime sand mortar.

On the west side of the church’s dome is the church bell tower and on the east side of the main hall is a space that in Armenian churches is a place for praying and singing.

The decorations of the building are limited to its entrance, which is decorated by changing the color and gender of the stones, and the decorations of the interior facade also include blue painting on plaster.

A few meters north of the church, there are the remains of the Haftvan Theater. It was built during the Russian occupation during World War I, after 1914, and was used as a theater.

In recent years, porcelain plates and metal utensils bearing the Tsar’s logo have been found near the site.

There is nothing left of the building except a beautiful entrance gate and a few ruined walls.

The Saint George Church was inscribed on the National Heritage List in 2001, while Salmas county is home to 24 historical churches registered on the list that belong to the Armenian community of Iran.

Iran is home to several ancient and historical churches. Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians are the most significant religious minorities in the country with Christians constituting the bulk.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums includ-



ing the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Tepe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region was a center of several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander’s generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

## Tourism, sport ministers ink MOU to deepen cooperation

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Sport and Youth Minister Masoud Soltanifar on Sunday to expand bilateral ties.

The MOU aims at quantitative and qualitative development of sports tourism both in national and international scales, maximum use of employment and entrepreneurship capacities among young people in the field of tourism, handicrafts, and traditional arts of the country, and providing the employees with equal opportunities.

Creating sustainable employment by attracting sports tourists, developing a service-oriented economy by involving federations and other sports institutions in sports tourism, developing and strengthening regional and



international relations using the capacities of sports tourism, developing of branding of national sports events in Iran and the use of relevant capacities at international levels under the national brand of tourism are also among the most important goals of signing the

memorandum.

Speaking on the sidelines of the signing ceremony, Mounesan said that there are many similarities between the two ministries, many of which seem to have been overlooked, and paying attention to them can help strengthen cooperation between the two ministries.

Referring to the diversity in the tourism sector, he said that various fields of tourism such as mining tourism, agritourism, ecotourism, and health tourism were created in recent years, and now sports tourism is also an important part of the tourism sector, which could generate more income and employment for the country by turning sports events into sports-tourism events.

Two important sectors that could create social vitality, as well as the development of social welfare, are the tourism sector and the sports sector,

he added.

Soltanifar for his part said that the turnover in the sports events can provide a suitable basis for cooperation in the field of tourism, which can provide economic prosperity employment for the country.

Competitions and sporting events cause millions of tourists to travel to different countries each year, for instance an annual Olympic sporting event attracts tourists from 200 countries to the host country while the FIFA World Cup, Nations Cup, and the prestigious leagues of the world attracts the most tourists as well, he added.

He also noted that in addition to sports events, local and indigenous games are another capacity that can be effective in attracting tourists, given that this type of sports and games are very attractive to foreign tourists.

## Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad to improve religious tourism infrastructure

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Religious tourism is planned to be developed by improving the necessary tourism infrastructure in the southwestern Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The province has the potential to become one of the top religious tourist destinations in the country as it is home to over 200 holy shrines, eight of which are among the province’s historical monuments, Majid Safai said on Saturday.

However, in order to attract more pilgrims and tourists to the religious attractions of the province, creating health and welfare infrastructure, building pilgrim’s guesthouses with the necessary facilities, improving the quality and quantity of services, and improving the ways to access these places are necessary, the official added.

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



The province attracted over four million people, mostly domestic travelers, during the Iranian year 1397 (ended March 2019), according to data announced by the provincial tourism department.

Among the top destinations for international tourists to Iran are the religious cities of Mashhad, Qom, Shiraz, and capital Tehran. These cities are respectively home

to the holy shrines of Imam Reza, the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims; his sister Hazrat Masumeh (SA); his brothers Ahmad and Mohammad; as well as the late founder of the Islamic Revolution Imam Rouhollah Khomeini.

In terms of religious tourism Iran enjoys an enormous potential. It has 8,000 sacred sites and pilgrimage places, around 4,400 of them have been registered. Moreover, different religions in Iran have their own religious ceremonies, which can attract tourists.

A unique time for visiting Iran for religious tourists is during the first ten days of the lunar month of Muharram, when Iranians, who are mostly Shia Muslims, hold special ceremonies to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his 72 loyal companions.

Over the past couple of years, Yazd, Meybod, Isfahan, and Kashan were among the cities which hosted the highest numbers of foreign tourists on the ninth and the tenth days of Muharram (Tasua and Ashura) when the mourning ceremonies reach its climax.



# Iran-Russia environmental working group holds meeting

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Following a previously signed memorandum of understanding between Iran and Russia, the two countries held their second meeting of the joint environmental working group through a video conference.

The meeting focused on biodiversity, protection of protected areas, wetlands and pollution of the Caspian Sea, and issues such as conservation of endangered species, enhancing the safety of protected areas, management of wetlands biodiversity and Iranian and Russian delegations expressed their views, IRNA reported.

Referring to the environment as the foundation of sustainable development, Narges Saffar, the head of the Iranian delegation, said that the effects of the environment are beyond the borders, so Iran has always tried to improve it through interaction between neighboring countries, the region, and other countries.

Given the growing challenges posed by global warming and climate change, wild-life trafficking, uncontrolled consumption of natural resources, and the consequent increase in pollution and waste, require the joint cooperation of governments, she stated.

Exchange of experiences and expertise for a long time in various fields, including the



protection of biodiversity, terrestrial, marine ecosystems, endangered species, national and protected parks within the framework of bilateral cooperation under the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) has been continued between

Iran and Russia, she highlighted.

Today, in view of the emerging environmental challenges, it is necessary to hold joint meetings between the two countries and prepare a one-year plan for 2021, she noted.

The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed inland body of water on Earth by area. It is

bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast. The sea has a surface area of 371,000 square kilometers and a volume of 78,200 cubic kilometers.

Waste management in the Caspian Sea is on the verge of crisis and seriously threatens the Sea's environment.

The Caspian Sea water level has reached its lowest level since 1995, mainly because of a recent drop in the water level of the Volga River, which supplies most of the sea's water, by about 22 percent.

In 2019, the average water level stood at -27.18 meters, showing 13 centimeters decrease compared to the year before.

According to the national center for Caspian Sea studies and research affiliated to the Water Research Institute, seawater temperature is one of the main criteria in heat exchange and an indicator in assessing the potential for evaporation from the water level, which is one of the main components of the Caspian water balance.

The increasing trend of the Caspian Sea surface temperature, especially in recent years, has been one of the factors affecting the reduction of water level.

## WHO provides Iran with ventilators, PCR systems

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The World Health Organization (WHO) has delivered 150 medical ventilators and 100 high-performance real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) thermal cyclers to Iran to further support the health system and help respond to the pandemic.

PCR testing represents the gold standard in diagnosing COVID-19. The addition of the new devices, worth more than \$2.8 million, procured through contributions from German Humanitarian Assistance and other international partners, will increase the testing capacity of the country's laboratory network. The network currently conducts an average of 27,000 PCR tests daily.

"Increased testing capacity is important for detecting and isolating cases at earlier stages and tracing those in contact with them, which can contribute to early control of transmission and effective treatment of patients," said Christoph Hamelmann, WHO Representative in Iran.

The devices will be distributed to reference laboratories in 24 provinces including Ardebil, Alborz, Isfahan, Ilam, Bushehr, Tehran, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, North Khorasan, Zanjan, Semnan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Fars, Qazvin, Qom, Kordestan, Kerman, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, Lorestan, Gilan, Markazi, Hormozgan, and Yazd.

Ventilators are vital instruments in the care of COVID-19 patients in critical care units. Of the 150 ventilators delivered by WHO, at a value of more than \$2.7 million, 50 have been funded by the Government of Japan and the other 100 have been procured through contributions from the State of Kuwait



and other international humanitarian aids. "The machines will contribute to an increased recovery rate for critically ill patients suffering from COVID-19," Hamelmann noted.

The recent resurgence of COVID-19 in the country has put the national health system under stress. WHO is actively supporting Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education by providing medical supplies and equipment.

WHO has continuously supported the health system's efforts in combat against the COVID-19 pandemic by providing personal protective equipment, medicines, and medical equipment.

A month earlier, WHO, through a donation by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) in Germany, has provided Iran with over 67,500 enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) tests.

In an effort to strengthen Iran's response to the COVID-19

pandemic, the Organization also delivered 100 ultrasound imaging machines to the Ministry of Health.

It also sent 16 CT scan machines to Iran, which were distributed among hospitals in different provinces of the country where they were urgently needed.

WHO has earlier sent an aircraft carrying tons of medical supplies and test kits along with a medical team to Iran in early March.

Also, it delivered a shipment of emergency medical supplies and medicine to Iran as part of COVID-19 response measures on March 24.

In the press briefing on Sunday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 3,890 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 530,380. She added that 427,400 patients have so far recovered, but 4,744 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 252 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 30,375, she added.

Lari noted that so far 4,511,154 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

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

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

## 210 special education schools to open by March 2021

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Some 210 schools for students with special education needs will be constructed across the country by the end of the next Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

One of the most important educational missions is to provide equal educational opportunities for all students according to the local and national conditions and geographical location of their place of residence. Therefore, the cooperation of all pillars of education is necessary to provide access to appropriate education and learning opportunities for all students in urban and rural areas.

The Special Needs Education Organization has also conducted an assessment, indexing, and identifying the dimensions of education components in less developed, deprived, border, rural and nomadic areas, in order to remove barriers and educational problems of students with special education needs.

The assessment plan showed that 210 schools are needed nationwide, 99 of which are so far under construction. Seyed Javad Hosseini, the head of the Organization, said, IRNA reported.

The goal is to increase the number to 150 by the end of this year and to complete the construction of 210 schools within the next year, he said.

According to Hosseini, some 253,000 students with special education needs are studying in 1,600 special education schools in the country, and the number of students has increased 17 times since its establishment.

He further stated that there are 8,008 students with special education needs in the villages of the country, adding, exceptional students living in villages of Khorasan Razavi, Tehran, Gilan, Mazandaran, and Hormozgan constitute the largest number



of this population.

This organization provides services tailored to the needs of students in each region; Therefore, the linguistic, regional, and indigenous needs of students in these schools are taken into account, he concluded.

Education designed to facilitate the learning of individuals who, for a wide variety of reasons, require additional support and

adaptive pedagogical methods in order to participate and meet learning objectives in an educational program. Reasons may include (but are not limited to) disadvantages in physical, behavioral, intellectual, emotional, and social capacities.

Educational program in special needs education may follow a similar curriculum as that offered in the parallel regular education system, however, they take individuals' particular needs into account by providing specific resources (e.g. specially trained personnel, equipment, or space) and, if appropriate, modified educational content or learning objectives.

These programs can be offered for individual students within already existing educational programs, or be offered as a separate class in the same or separate educational institutions.

### ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → ج

## \$2.8b government aid paid to quake-stricken Kermanshah

The government has so far spent 120 trillion rials (about \$2.8 billion) to make up for the damages caused by earthquake in the western province of Kermanshah, Esmail Najjar, head of the National Disaster Management Organization has said. "Over 104,000 residential units have been destroyed through the earthquake last year, 52,000 of which have been reconstructed," he explained.

He went on to say that some 23,000 quake-affected houses in villages have been retrofitted and provided to the residents, and some 4,000 houses are being reconstructed for the families residing in rental houses.

## کمک ۱۲ هزار میلیاردی نظام به مناطق زلزله زده کرمانشاه

اسماعیل نجار رئیس سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور گفت: نظام ۱۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای بازسازی مناطق زلزله زده کرمانشاه هزینه کرده است. وی گفت: در جریان زلزله کرمانشاه، ۱۰۴ هزار واحد مسکونی تخریب شد و ۵۲ هزار واحد مسکونی احداث شده است.

وی با اشاره به اینکه ۲۳ هزار واحد روستایی ساخته شده و در اختیار ساکنان قرار گرفته است، افزود: برای سه تا چهار هزار خانوار مستأجر کرمانشاهی نیز تعیین تکلیف شده و برای آنها سرپناهی در حال احداث است.

## Austrian Embassy to hold mountaineering workshop in Tehran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The Austrian Embassy in Tehran in cooperation with the Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation will hold a mountaineering training workshop concurrent with the national physical education and sports week.



Iranians celebrate physical education and sports week each year on October 18-23, and the first day of the week is called physical education day, which aims at familiarizing the society with the importance and effects of sports in individual and social life, the spread and development of sports at home.

Several programs will be held in the districts of Tehran in full compliance with the health protocols, Amir Mohseni, director of Tehran Municipality's Sports Organization, said on Sunday.

Cycling tours, computer game leagues, Rubik's intellectual games festival, father-son rowing competitions, mother-daughter darts shooting competitions, women's stair climbing record, friendly soccer are among the programs to be held, he explained.

Referring to the 'Car-Free Tuesdays' campaign in Tehran, he said that the campaign will be held this week with a number of ministers, the mayor of Tehran, and city managers in attendance.

The campaign kicked off in 2016 by NGOs aiming to decrease the number of private cars in cities, hence mitigate air pollution, but lost momentum after almost a year probably because of the inefficient infrastructure in the country.

## Governor says COVID-19 violators will be forced to work in hospitals

**1 →** Public education is informing, empowering, and increasing community participation with the aim of observing health principles and paying attention to the recommendations of health officials as a way to prevent the disease. Proper use of personal protective equipment is the most important strategy to control the virus, he explained.

The coronavirus can stay on the surface for several hours, and the proper use of disinfectants also plays an important role in controlling it, he concluded.

### COVID-19 mortality hit 30,000 in Iran

In the press briefing on Sunday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 3,890 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 530,380. She added that 427,400 patients have so far recovered, but 4,744 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 252 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 30,375, she added.

Lari noted that so far 4,511,154 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

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

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

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 39)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

### ● Exercise 2. Change into the simple past:

۱. ما از دانشگاه به خوابگاه ..... (آمدن)
۲. بچه ها با ما صبحانه ..... (خوردن)
۳. شما دیروز زیاد ..... (خوابیدن)
۴. دانشجویان در کلاس حاضر ..... (بودن)
۵. پدرها خیلی کم ..... (خندیدن)
۶. ما دیشب با هم در خانه ..... (درس خواندن)

### ● Exercise 3. Change into the simple past:

۱. دانشجویان یک روز اینجا ..... (بودن)
۲. ما هر روز مکالمه ..... (داشتن)
۳. او دوباره کره، مربا و قهوه ..... (خوردن)
۴. پسرها فقط چند ساعت ..... (خوابیدن)
۵. شما دیروز کی از خواب ..... (بیدار شدن)
۶. آنها بعد از بیدار شدن چکار ..... (کردن)

### ● Exercise 4. Change into the negative simple past:

۱. آقایان خوابگاه را ..... (دوست داشتن)
۲. خانم های دانشجو به کلاس ..... (آمدن)
۳. دوست من در آنجا ..... (درس خواندن)
۴. ما دیشب قهوه ..... (درست کردن)
۵. شما در آن شهر ..... (زندگی کردن)
۶. در اتاق بزرگ، میز و صندلی ..... (بودن)



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Extremism is like going down in a swamp, and keeping company with abject and corrupt ones will bring evil and misery for you.

Imam Hussein (AS)

Iranian films to flicker at Tallinn Black Nights

**A R T** **d e s k** TEHRAN — Four Iranian movies will be competing in the 24th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, which will take place in the Estonian capital from November 13 to 29.  
“The Enemies” by Ali Derakhshandeh about the loneliness of a middle-aged woman will be competing in the First Feature Competition category.

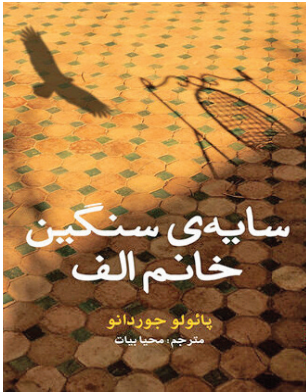


A scene from “The Enemies” by Ali Derakhshandeh.

In the Kids Animation Competition, “Eaten” by Mohsen Rezapur will be screened.  
The story of “Eaten” is set on a mysterious, unknown planet, in which a rabbit-like creature is eaten by a wolf. It meets another rabbit-like creature in the wolf’s stomach and they begin a new life with each other, but that’s not the end of the story.  
“Crab” by Shiva Sadeq-Asadi is an entry to the Shorts Animation Competition.  
The movie tells the story of a shy schoolboy who is interested in performing in a play with his school’s theater troupe. But the only part offered to him is to play the role of a crab.  
“The Third Person” by Puya Aminpuri will also be competing in the New Talents Competition.  
The film tells the story of a patient who runs away from a mental asylum in Iran’s northern forests, and the units of two nearby police stations are looking for him on the roads.  
Iranian director Narges Abyar’s acclaimed drama “When the Moon Was Full” received the audience award at the 23rd edition of the festival last year.  
The film tells the story of a woman from Tehran who marries a man from an Iranian province near the border of Pakistan. Soon after, she discovers that her new brother-in-law is a religious extremist trying to recruit her husband for his bloody cause.

Paolo Giordano’s “The Black and Silver” published in Persian

**C U L T U R E** **d e s k** TEHRAN — A Persian translation of Italian novelist Paolo Giordano’s book “The Black and Silver” (Il nero e l’argento) has been published by Borj Publications in Tehran.  
The book originally published in 2014 has been translated into Persian by Mahya Bayat. An English translation of the book by Anne Milano Appel was published under the title of “A Family” in 2016.  
When Mrs. A. first enters the narrator’s home, his wife, Nora, is experiencing a difficult pregnancy. First as their maid and nanny, then their confidante, this older woman begins to help her employers negotiate married life, quickly becoming the glue in their small household.  
She is the steady, maternal influence for both husband and wife, and their son, Emanuele, whom she protects from his parents’ expectations and disappointments. But the family’s delicate fabric comes undone when Mrs. A. is diagnosed with cancer.  
Moving seamlessly between the past and present, Giordano highlights with remarkable precision the joy of youth and the fleeting nature of time. An elegiac, heartrending and deeply personal portrait of a marriage and the people chosen to call family, this is a jewel of a novel, short, intense and unforgettable.  
Giordano is a professional physicist and is currently working on a doctorate in particle physics. “The Solitude of Prime Numbers”, his first novel, took Italy by storm where it has sold over a million copies. It is being translated into twenty languages and has sold all over the world.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Italian author Paolo Giordano’s novel “The Black and Silver”.

Isfahan children’s film festival kicks off

By Manijeh Rezapoor

TEHRAN — The 33rd edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth opened on Sunday in Tehran and Isfahan, physically screening a number of Iranian movies for limited numbers of people in audiences due to an increase in the number of the COVID-19 cases.  
The Farhang Theater Hall in Tehran and the City Center Cineplex in Isfahan hosted a limited number of Iranian cineastes invited by the director of the festival, Alireza Tabesh, to attend the opening ceremony of the event.  
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizers have selected the motto “Every House a Cinema, Each Child a Judge” for the 33rd edition of the event.  
The Iranian lineup includes “Beautiful Wish” by Ali Qavitan, “Wolf Clubs of Apple Valley” by Fereidun Najafi, “After Incident” by Purya Heidari, “The Fantasy Island (Tornado 2)” by Javad Hashemi and “Sun Children” by Majid Majidi.  
Also included are “Loopetou” by Abbas Askari, “Reverse Path” by Abolfazl Jalili, “Mehran” by Roqieh Tavakkoli, “Coconut” by Davud Atyabi, and “Deposited Parents” and “A Selfie with Rustam” both by Hossein Qenaat.  
The jury members of the Iranian national competition section are producer Habib



A poster for the 33rd International Film Festival for Children and Youth.

Esmaeili, screenwriter Farhad Tohidi, animator Mehdi Khorramian, writer Fereidun Amuzadeh Khalili, filmmaker Ebrahim Foruzesh, film critic Hamidreza Modaqueq and actress Parivash Nazarieh.  
A lineup of 107 films is also scheduled to go on screen on different platforms online, some of which will be presented for visually and hearing impaired audiences.  
Additionally, Iraj Tahmasb and Aida Panahandeh from Iran, Pablo Salvador from Sweden, Sahraa Karimi from Afghanistan and Chad Chenouga from France are judging the feature films in the international competition.  
The films in the short competition are

Iranian sniper Zarrin subject of new film by “Reclamation” director Ali Ghaffari

**➔** “It is rather difficult to work under these conditions. The pandemic has reduced all motivations for more efforts, and this condition adds to the stress,” he lamented.  
Born in 1941 in a village near the town of Qalegol, Kohkluveh-Boyerahmad Province, Abdorrasul Zarrin lost his parents in childhood and his uncle retained custody of him.  
He left his uncle’s home to find a job in the central Iranian city of Isfahan when he was a young adult. His paternal relatives helped him find a job and with all his savings, he

opened a clothing store.  
Abdorrasul soon married and had seven children by the beginning of the war, when he joined the IRGC on the warfront.  
With his pinpoint accuracy, Abdorrasul saved countless lives of Iranian forces on the battlefield and was tuned into legend among his fellow Iranian comrades.  
He was martyred during Operation Kheibar in 1984 and the Iraqi radio announced their forces had killed “Khomeini’s Hunter”.



Iranian sniper Abdorrasul Zarrin in an undated photo.

“Yalda” wins special commendation at Washington DC filmfest

**A R T** **d e s k** TEHRAN — Iranian drama “Yalda: A Night for Forgiveness” has won a special commendation from the 34th Annual Washington DC International Film Festival.  
Directed by Masud Bakhshi, the film is about Maryam, a young woman who has been sentenced to death for murdering her husband, Nasser. Iranian law allows the victim’s family to forgive her and spare her life, so Maryam’s fate will be decided by Nasser’s daughter, Mona, on the country’s most popular televised reality show. In front of millions of viewers during Yalda, the winter solstice celebration, Maryam and Mona discover that forgiveness can be difficult as they relive the past.  
“The Iranian film ‘Yalda’ tackles the



“Yalda: A Night for Forgiveness” by Iranian director Masud Bakhshi.

universal issue of forgiveness in a unique way, while giving audiences a look at another world culture,” the jury said in a statement published on the closing day of the festival on October 11.

“A teenage bride who has accidentally killed her husband appears on a reality TV show on which she is expected to apologize to, and be forgiven by, the daughter of the man killed. If all goes as planned, the daughter will be awarded the blood money she is due, and the young widow will be free of legal consequences. Told briskly, with effective tension, the story reveals how complex the human reality of forgiveness can be. At the same time it suggests a critique of media manipulation of religious belief for the sake of entertainment,” the statement added.  
The audience award in the feature film category went to “A Son”, a co-production of Tunisia, France and Lebanon by Mehdi M. Barsaoui, while the audience award in the

documentary competition was presented to Peruvian director Claudia Sparrow’s “Máxima”.  
Director Atiq Rahimi’s drama “Our Lady of the Nile”, co-produced by France, Belgium and Rwanda, won the Circle Award, and Guatemalan director Jayro Bustamante’s “La Llorona” received the Justice Matters Award.  
“1982” directed by Oualid Mouaness from Lebanon was grabbed Signis Award and “A Mother” by American director Natasha K. Ngaiza was named best short.  
The Iranian movies “Coup 53” by Taqi Amirani, “Just 6.5” by Saeid Rustai, and “Driving Lessons” by Marzieh Riahi were also screened in various sections of the event.

Twice-postponed exhibit “Momayyez: Art as a Profession” to go online next week

**A R T** **d e s k** TEHRAN — The Iranian Graphic Designers Society will open its twice-postponed exhibition “Momayyez: Art as a Profession” virtually on Friday.  
The society first planned to organize the showcase as a tribute to top Iranian graphic designer Morteza Momayyez during Iran’s Graphic Design Week, which begins every year on April 27 concurrent with World Design Day.  
Due to a spike in the COVID-19 cases in the country, the weeklong festival was postponed until September. However, as the critical situation continued, the exhibition was postponed again indefinitely.  
The society’s decision to pay tribute to Momayyez, who is considered to be the father of modern graphic art in Iran, refers to the International Council of Design’s decision to select the theme “Be Professional!” for World Design Day 2020.  
An opening ceremony will be held with a limited number of guests at the Iranian Museum of Graphic Design in Tehran, which will stream live on Instagram, curator Onish Aminollahi said in a press release on Sunday.  
The exhibition will showcase over 70 designs by over 70 artists. In addition, the exhibit will display works by a number of the overseas graphic designers whose works



A poster for the exhibition “Momayyez: Art as a Profession”.

previously were on display in an exhibition organized by the Momayyez Foundation.  
The overseas artists include Alain Le Quernec, Alex Jordan, Armando Milani, Dimitris Arvanitis, Guy Schockaert, Leonardo Sonnoli, Linda Fu, Milton Glaser, Mimmo Castellano, Niklaus Troxler, Paula Scher, Sadik

Karamustafa, Seymour Chwast, Shigeo Fukuda, Ug Sato and Uwe Loesch.  
The exhibition will run for two months at the Iranian Museum of Graphic Design.  
In a statement previously published, the selecting committee for the week wrote, “As history confirms, Morteza Momayyez is a powerful symbol of professionalism in graphic design and tribute to him is homage to a professional life.”  
“Finding examples of professionalism and a new approach to Morteza Momayyez is really pleasant, however, it is difficult to express it through designs.”  
Momayyez died of cancer in 2005 at the age of 70.  
The theme “Be Professional!” is a reflection on the designer’s role, not only in designing, but in their greater responsibilities towards humanity, the planet and culture, ico-D wrote in its statement for World Design Day 2020.  
“If we consider ourselves professionals, then we must adhere to a set of commonly held principles that we are not willing to compromise. If we consider ourselves professionals then we must consider the impact of our work on more than the client and the individual end-user. We are accountable for the social, cultural and environmental costs of our professional actions,” the council stated.

Iran’s “White Whale” named best animated short at Warsaw festival

**A R T** **d e s k** TEHRAN — “The White Whale” by Iranian director Amir-Hossein Mehran won the award for best animated short at the 12th Warsaw Film Festival, which took place in the Polish capital from October 9 to 18, the organizers announced on Saturday.  
The animation tells the story of a man who has lost his close friends in an air attack during the war a long time ago. After 30 years, he is looking for their remains in a big river while a White Whale is the only sign he has.  
The festival’s grand prix was given to “18 Kilohertz” by Farkhat Sharipov from Kazakhstan.  
The best director award went to Martin Sulik for the film “The Man with Hare Ears”, a co-production of Czech and Slovakia,

Actors Bogdan Farkas and Dragos Dumitru received the special jury prize for their performance in Romanian filmmaker Bogdan George Apetri’s drama “Unidentified”.  
Four movies by Iranian filmmakers were competing in the various sections of the festival.  
“The Black Cat” by Karim Mohammad-Amini had its world premiere in the official competition of the event.  
The film is about underground rap music in Iran, and the Iranian new generation whose hopes and dreams have been changed due to the prevalence of the internet and social networks.  
Directed by Masud Bakhshi, “Yalda, a Night for Forgiveness”, a co-production of Iran, Germany, France, Lebanon and Luxembourg, was also screened in this



“The White Whale” by Amir-Hossein Mehran wins at the 12th Warsaw Film Festival.

category.  
The film is about Maryam, a young woman who has been sentenced to death for murdering her husband, Nasser. Iranian

law allows for the victim’s family to forgive her and spare her life, so Maryam’s fate will be decided by Nasser’s daughter, Mona, on the country’s most popular televised reality show.  
In front of millions of viewers during Yalda, the winter solstice celebration, Maryam and Mona discover that forgiveness can be difficult as they relive the past.  
The film won a special mention for best screenplay at the 24th Sofia International Film Festival in Bulgaria in July.  
“Witness” directed by Ali Asgari was competing in the short competition section.  
The co-production between Iran and France is about a mother who goes to a shopping mall and leaves her young daughter waiting in her car. Helping an elderly woman, she sets a chain of events in motion.