



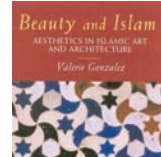
**Problems can be solved by people: Judiciary chief** **2**



**Skocic knows Iranian players well: Mehdi Taremi** **3**



**Johnson to 'resign in spring because his £150,000 salary is too low'** **5**



**Persian litterateur translates Valerie Gonzalez's "Beauty and Islam"** **8**

# Different, but just in details



See page 3

**For Iran, Biden is cut from the same cloth as Trump**

**By Afshin Majlesi**  
Teheran Times journalist

## Tea tourism: experience the taste of a serene holiday

If you are the type of person who is looking for new travel destinations that are peaceful, pristine, and perfect for a picnic with loads of indigenous culture, you may consider a tea tour for your next excursion.

An essential feature of a tea tour is that you are not just an observer but be a part of a traditional experience to boost support for farmers and the local community. A countryside retreat in a greenish serene landscape is perhaps the most exotic way to enjoy nature.

A stimulating sea of green on the rolling slopes where the silence is broken by the tweeting birds, babbling streams, and the buzz of vibrantly-clad farmers can be very appealing in where the tea all about!

You may choose to stay with the locals for a couple of days. Domestic accommodation with sprawling rooms, delicious indigenous cuisines combined with rare Persian hospitality offers you the desired warmth and comfort.

But why? Tea, one of the most popular drinks after water in the global scene, is well intertwined with its own history behind, arts, rituals, traditions, Know-hows... Tea is not just a commodity from the farmers of northern Iran but also a rich tradition to make a living. Here visitors can share such a way of life as a prime example of social change.

Chai? The tea culture is really strong and a sign of hospitality in the ancient land. The tea and its associated philosophy are well soaked into the life of Iranians from all walks of life. It also constitutes a vital sign of hospitality across the ancient land; a cup of tea is the first thing that an Iranian will offer their guests!

For almost every Iranian, an earthenware teapot with a drawing of a red rose flanked by a steaming samovar conjure up memories of the childhood when mom, grandma or dad were making a perfect shade of brown, golden tea as the sunlight coming through from the horizon. They usually poured strong thick tea for the adults, and regally, a hint of color for the kids and grandkids!

Iranians start the day with a freshly brewed cup of tea sweetened with some sugar served with their breakfast, believing its taste is in great harmony with bread and cheese. Iranians story of drinking tea is not limited to mornings with breakfast only; they drink tea at work, after their meals at home, or at night before sleep. ➔6

## Psychologist describes America as a society in which 'trained Marxists' are against supremacists

**By Amir Mohammad Esmaili**

**TEHRAN** — Walt Peretto, an American analyst and sociopolitical psychologist, tells the Tehran Times that although Donald Trump is seen by his followers as opposing globalist agenda, he is "completely controlled by these same Zionist-globalist interests."

"The political violence we are seeing in the United States this year is being largely promoted by power elites with complicity of their mainstream media," Peretto notes.

He says, "Agents of the power elites like George Soros are funding 'left-leaning' groups sometimes led by "trained Marxists" promoting the notions of fighting systemic racism, White supremacy, and encroaching fascism."

The sociopolitical psychologist stresses that money, power, and media are three key factors which play a crucial role in presidential elections in the United States, saying, "No

candidate, no matter how competent and well-intentioned, will get anywhere near the White House without international financial backing and deep-pocket mainstream media promotion."

Following is the full text of the interview.

Q: Some experts warn that the U.S. is on the edge of a civil war. The U.S. was already seeing a surge in political violence. In August, the FBI put out a bulletin that warned of a possible escalation heading into the election. What is your taking on it?

A: Some elites throughout the centuries have evoked the Latin term Ordo Ab Chao (order out of chaos). When pathological people are attempting to maintain or increase control of large populations, they sometimes create chaotic events to distract populations while they stealthily advance their secret agendas. ➔5

## U.S. protests: National guard spy plane monitored protests

A peaceful protest in a sleepy and affluent suburb that is home to the head of the California national guard was among four demonstrations monitored by national guard spy planes.

The planes flew over several cities in early June, to monitor street protests following the police killing of George Floyd, triggering concerns the military was improperly gathering intelligence on US citizens, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Three reconnaissance planes watched demonstrations in Minneapolis, Phoenix and Washington DC that drew large crowds and were marred by violence. But the target of the fourth plane was the prosperous Sacramento suburb of El Dorado Hills, where much smaller rallies were entirely peaceful, the Times said.

Local and state authorities have not explained how and why that neighborhood was chosen when other cities that saw property destruction and street clashes amid large protests, including

Los Angeles and Oakland, were not.

The head of the California national guard, Maj Gen David S Baldwin, lives in El Dorado Hills. In addition to deploying the RC-26B reconnaissance plane, the guard sent a Lakota helicopter to hover over the suburb, according to officials and records. The aircraft were requested by the El Dorado county sheriff's office, state records show.

A spokesman for Governor Gavin Newsom, who oversees the state national guard, criticized the operation. "The use of the RC-26 to meet the sheriff's request for aerial support to provide situational awareness for law enforcement is concerning and should not have happened," Nathan Click said. "It was an operational decision made without the approval — let alone awareness — of the governor. After the incident, operational policies and protocols were reaffirmed and strengthened to ensure RC-26 aircraft are not used for these incidents again."

## Macron's mission in Lebanon – raising the dead dream

**By Batool Subeiti**

French President Emmanuel Macron came to Lebanon in the wake of the August explosion, harboring with him the scent of nostalgia that marks 100 years since Lebanon was declared a state under the French colonial mandate.

Macron came with demands, as though France will once again be victorious in shaping Lebanon's system of governance- for it was France that laid the foundation of Lebanon- as a multiconfessional state that ran along sectarian lines, whilst pro-

moting individuals to power who they deemed fit for their interests.

Indeed, Macron has yet to fathom we are in an era and context that differs from France's colonial ancestry- for the balance of powers in the whole region has changed immensely in the past decade, let alone century.

Whilst there was a potentiality for figures and movements to exist that opposed colonial French presence in the region in the early 20th century, the reality is that the leaders who belonged to such

movements did not have the strength, awareness or abilities to actualize their aims, which led them to reign under the direction of the West, such that whilst these movements were opposed to colonialism, their opposition carried with them the scent of their colonizers.

A prominent example is Riad Al-Solh, the first prime minister of Lebanon post-independence. He was sentenced to death in absentia in 1920 for his rejection of France's creation of Greater Lebanon- a punishment that was later commuted to exile, ➔5



© Mehr/ Arvan Nasrollahi

## 'Blood-red ruby' being harvested in Hooraman

A farmer in Hooraman, western Kord-estan province, shows pomegranates he has just harvested, October 18. Pomegranate, which is dubbed 'blood-red ruby', is native to the region and it is expected that five thousand tons of the crop will be harvested this year. Locals process pomegranates into paste, while using peels for producing dyes and medicine.

## Iran's strategic oil pipeline project nearing completion

**By Ebrahim Fallahi**

**TEHRAN** — Iran's new 1000-kilometer-long Goreh-Jask oil pipeline in the southern Hormozgan province, which will provide the country with an alternative route for crude oil exports that are currently transferred through the Strait of Hormuz, has registered over 60 percent of physical progress and is underway with full force.

The project, which is aimed at expanding the oil transport capacity in the south of the country to one million barrels a day, was inaugurated in late June by President Hassan Rouhani.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the project, President Rouhani said this project was currently the country's most strategic project.

Rouhani said a total of \$300 million has so far been invested in the project while another \$800 million to \$850 million is needed for its full operation.

"We hope that exports from Jask will begin as the government's most strategic project by the end of this [calendar] year (March 20, 2021)," the president noted.

According to the head of Iran's Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), considering the current rate of progress in the Goreh-Jask oil pipeline project, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) will be able to export its first oil cargo from Jask terminal by the end of the current Iranian calendar year.

Touraj Dehqani, who visited the project on Sunday, held several meetings with contractors and project managers and was briefed about the details of the project progress; during these meetings, the official emphasized the completion of the project on schedule. ➔4



## U.S. regional allies see JCPOA as 'greatest threat against themselves', says ex-diplomat

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Seyed Hossein Mousavian, a former Iranian nuclear negotiator who now works as a researcher at Princeton University, believes the United States' allies in the region regard the Iran nuclear deal as the greatest threat against themselves.



Mousavian cited the benefits of the nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, saying the opposition of the global Zionism, radicals in the U.S. and Takfiri Arabs toward the JCPOA is due to the deal's benefits.

He made the remarks in an interview with IRNA published on Monday.

On the expiration of the UN arms embargo on Iran, the former diplomat said under international norms and regulations, Iran is now able to import and export weapons.

In an official statement on Sunday, Iran's Foreign Ministry announced the termination of the UN arms embargo in defiance of the United States' failed efforts to extend the ban.

"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.

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.

Mousavian pointed to the U.S. sanctions and said that the most horrific sanctions and pressures were imposed on Iran during the Trump administration.

"In the last few months, the Trump administration suffered two defeats at the international arena with regard to Iran, one on the arms embargo and the other on the triggering of the snapback mechanism to reimpose all the pre-JCPOA sanctions of the UN Security Council," stated Mousavian who was Iran's ambassador to Germany from 1990–1997.

He also predicted that the lifting of the restrictions on sale and purchase of weapons will not lead to military cooperation or sale and purchase of weapons between Iran and Europe.

"The Europeans still condemn the anti-JCPOA policy of the United States in words but will adhere to [the U.S.] in practice," added Mousavian.

## Envoy hails Iran as China's strategic partner

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — China's Ambassador to Iran Chang Hua praised the Islamic Republic as a strategic partner of his country, stressing the need for closer cooperation in various fields and in countering the U.S.'s unilateralism.



In an interview with Tasnim, Chang Hua said China and Iran are "comprehensive strategic partners", expressing his country's willingness to promote cooperation and links with Iran in all arenas, including the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

China believes that positive interaction among all countries could safeguard multilateralism and counter unilateralism and hegemony, he said.

Collective cooperation would also protect international justice and equality for

the fulfillment of common interests of the developing nations, the envoy added.

The ambassador also pointed to the growing political, economic and cultural interaction between China and Iran on the basis of mutual respect and interests, saying the two states have also joined hands in the efforts to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

Asked about the U.S.'s failure to trigger the snapback mechanism of the JCPOA and its intensified sanctions against Iran, the Chinese ambassador said Washington has disregarded the UN Charter and violated the international law by imposing economic and financial sanctions or resorting to unilateral and punitive measures against other nations.

Such American policies amount to an onslaught on the international political and economic system, Chang Hua said, adding that the U.S. sanctions have impaired the improvement of livelihood of people in the sanctioned states and have ignored the basic rights of innocent people, including children, women and the elderly.

On the prospect of the U.S. presidential election, the Chinese ambassador said it is a domestic issue of the U.S., adding, "China's policy on the United States is a fixed policy."

"As regards the U.S., we are committed to the principles of non-conflict and non-confrontation, mutual respect, and win-win cooperation. At the same time, we will defend our country's national sovereignty, security, and interests in the process of development."

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif visited China last week at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi.

"Fruitful talks in beautiful Tengchong with my friend Wang Yi on Iran-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Rejected U.S. unilateralism and U.S. attempts to create unipolar world. Agreed on strengthening our ties incl 25-yr plan, regional coop, preserving JCPOA & vaccine collab," Zarif said in a tweet after the trip.

Recently, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said Tehran and Beijing "are determined to further expand their strategic partnership," adding that China is Iran's "1st economic partner" despite the U.S. "maximum pressure" campaign against the Islamic Republic.

# Rouhani: Trump abusing Afghan peace talks as election boost

Abdullah Abdullah says Iran is "a good friend and neighbor of Afghanistan"

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani has warned that U.S. President Donald Trump is trying to abuse Afghanistan's peace talks to reach his presidential election objectives.

Rouhani made the remarks in a Monday meeting with Abdullah Abdullah, the head of Afghanistan's peace council, who is in Tehran on a three-day visit to meet top Iranian officials.

Rouhani emphasized that the U.S. intervention and presence in Afghanistan contradicted the public will of Afghans, Mehr reported.

He said that the U.S. government, which has failed several times in its policies in the region and the larger world, seeks its own political and electoral goals in the country.

The president added that Iran supports the Afghanistan peace talks as the key to resolving the country's problems.

Expressing hope for the success of efforts to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan, Rouhani said, "It is important that the people of Afghanistan achieve a real peace after years of war and conflict."

"Sustainable peace, stability and security in Afghanistan as a neighbor and brotherly country is of special importance for the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

Pointing to the good relations between Iran and Afghanistan as two friendly and neighboring countries, Rouhani stressed the importance of developing and deepening bilateral relations.

For his part, Abdullah thanked Iran for supporting the developments and efforts to establish lasting peace and security in his country.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is a good friend and neighbor of Afghanistan," he said. He further praised Iran for hosting Af-



ghan refugees during the years of war and conflict, saying, "During my visit to Tehran, I had good meetings with the officials of the Islamic Republic and I will take the message of Iranian support to Kabul and follow up the agreements between the two countries."

He expressed the hope that with the support of the Islamic Republic, he will witness the conclusion of the Afghan peace talks and the establishment of lasting security and peace in his country.

Later in the day Abdullah met with Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme

National Security Council (SNSC).

During the meeting, Shamkhani said the U.S. government seeks the policy of fomenting insecurity and chaos in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The United States' policy is based on creating chaos and insecurity, no matter where it is pursued, in Afghanistan or in Iraq," he said, adding that Washington's destructive policies in West Asia have brought nothing but wars, devastation and underdevelopment.

He condemned Washington's role in formation of terrorist groups such as Daesh

**Rouhani says: "It is important that the people of Afghanistan achieve a real peace after years of war and conflict."**

## Iran will sell more weapons than it will buy: defense chief

**I →** He said all countries have the right to defend their territorial integrity and Iran will be a good actor in this regard as it seeks to preserve peace.

According to the defense chief, Iran's first goal is to become self-sufficient and powerful in terms of defensive capabilities and its second goal is to support the countries in their attempt to defend their existence.

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.

"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," Iran's Foreign Ministry declared in a statement on Sunday.

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.

In his Sunday remarks, Hatami said the U.S. sanctions on Iran pushed the country toward self-sufficiency.

Now, the Islamic Republic can produce and supply 90 percent of its defense needs inside the country, he stated.

The general also assured regional countries that Tehran wants peace, stability and security for the region and the world, underlining that this is the defense policy of the Islamic Republic.

**■ Pompeo threatens to sanctions Iranian arms buyers**

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also reacted to the lifting of the Iran arms ban, saying the U.S. will impose sanctions on any individuals and entities that get engaged in arms transfer to and from Iran.

Arms sales to Iran would violate UN resolutions, Pompeo claimed on Sunday, adding, "The United States is prepared to use its domestic authorities to sanction any individual or entity that materially contributes to the supply, sale, or transfer of conventional arms to or from Iran."

He also warned that "every nation that seeks peace and stability in the Middle East (West Asia) should refrain from any arms transactions with Iran."

**■ Navy chief terms arms bans as 'a joke'** Meanwhile, Iran's Navy commander said the arms bans that prevent the Navy from buying weapons are "a joke".

"The Iranian Navy has reached a level of capability and self-sufficiency that it does not need to buy weapons and we regard the arms embargos as a joke for the Navy," Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi said,



ISNA reported on Monday.

Khanzadi explained that Iran used to be dependent on buying weapons from other countries, "but today, I say confidently that in the Navy, the fact that the arms embargo has been lifted is not an important issue."

The remarks came a day after Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif congratulated the international community over defiance of "malign U.S. efforts" to extend an arms embargo on Iran, saying Iran's defense cooperation with the world is a win for the cause of multilateralism and peace and security in our region.

"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.

## Problems can be solved by people: Judiciary chief

Raisi suggests there's no political solution to economic problems

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi has said the country's problems can be solved by the capable hands of the Iranian nation.

"The solution to resolve economic problems lies in the economic sector and pursuing political solutions to resolve economic problems is wrong," Raisi noted on Monday.

In remarks in August, Judiciary

spokesman Gholam-Hossein Esmaeili said that the Judiciary is ready to help the administration to lessen the economic problems.

The Judiciary is ready to cooperate in the areas needed to resolve people's problems even where the government has direct responsibility, Esmaeili said at a regular press briefing.

He said everyone should cooperate so

that the most effective measures would be taken by the administration to implement necessary executive plans.

In July, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said all economic problems can be solved through self-reliance thinking and national confidence.

"If self-reliance thinking and national confidence, especially among the youth,

be on the rise and the country's strong capabilities are tapped, and illusory hopes on outside borders... are weakened, I am quite confident that economic problems are solvable," the Leader told the parliament via videoconferencing on July 12.

The parliament should prioritize issues, avoid being drawn into marginal issues and also work honestly for the people, Ayatollah Khamenei added.

## Ghalibaf: Iran expects Muslim states to resist U.S. anti-Iran sanctions

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf condemned the U.S.'s continued economic terrorism against the Iranian nation, calling on Muslim leaders not to follow such sanctions.

"The U.S. regime has imposed cruel and illegal sanctions against the Iranian nation, and we expect friendly and Islamic countries not to comply with these sanctions," Ghalibaf said on Monday in a phone talk with his Malaysian counterpart, Azhar bin Azizhan Harun.

He also pointed to the need to strengthen unity among Islamic countries and said, "Iran and Malaysia, as two important countries in the Islamic



Azhar bin Azizhan Harun



Ghalibaf

world, should have more cooperation to strengthen unity among Muslim countries and avoid division."

Referring to the opening of the new parliaments of the two countries this year, Ghalibaf said, "We hope that both parliaments will try to facilitate and accelerate comprehensive cooperation between the two countries, especially in economic cooperation."

He termed the development of cooperation between the two countries important and said, "We hope to see the further development of relations between the two countries by forming a joint commission between Iran and Malaysia as soon as possible."

The Iranian speaker also called for the facilitation of consular affairs for Iranian citizens in Malaysia.



# Different, but just in details

For Iran, Biden is cut from the same cloth as Trump

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — As U.S. election debates heat up, so does the speculation over which candidate will be better for Iran. While some foreign commentators claim that a certain candidate would be better for Iran, analysts and officials in Iran say there is no difference between the policies of Donald Trump and Joe Biden toward Iran.

“Whether Trump or Biden becomes president, there will be no difference in the main policy of harming the Iranian nation,” said Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the speaker of Iran’s parliament on September 20, adding, “Therefore, we need to concentrate on empowering the Iranian nation.”

Kamal Kharrazi, the head of Iran’s Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, has also echoed the same assessment, saying Iran doesn’t care about who will win the U.S. November election.

“For Iran, it does not matter who will be elected in November, for us, American policies will be the criterion. Of course, Trump’s presidency was important because the nature of America became clear to the world. Today, the absurdity of Americans’ deceptive slogans and their instrumental use of international institutions against others has become clear to everyone,” the council quoted Kharrazi as saying on September 19.

However, Trump and his supporters have sought to portray Biden as Iran’s favorite candidate that if he wins the election, Iran will “own America.” Trump said on many occasions that he was willing to make a deal with Iran but Democrats, namely former Secretary of State John Kerry, have dissuaded Iran from holding talks with the Trump administration until after a Democrat president moves into the White House.

“What they [Iran] should do is be smart and make a deal. It’s only because of, you know, you look at what happened, it’s John Kerry I guess just doesn’t want them to make a deal and they probably figuring they can wait and maybe it will be Biden and they’ll own America if Biden gets [elected] and they know with me doesn’t work that way, it doesn’t work that way. If Joe Biden got in, they’d own America between them China, Japan, Mexico, Canada. They’d own America. You wouldn’t have a country left if he got in,” Trump said in a press briefing at the White House in April 2020.

Trump even accused Kerry of violating the Logan Act, a U.S. federal law that criminalizes negotiation by unauthorized American citizens with foreign governments having a dispute with the U.S.

Criticizing the secret meeting between Kerry and Senator Chris Murphy and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif,



Trump tweeted on February 19, “Kerry & Murphy illegally violated the Logan Act. This is why Iran is not making a deal. Must be dealt with strongly!”

By accusing the Democrats of secretly dealing with Iran, Trump sought to suggest that Iran and the Democrats are collaborating to delay Iran-U.S. negotiations until after the November election. But analysts told the Tehran Times that there is no difference between Trump and Biden. Both of them could continue imposing pressure on Iran.

Generally, there will be no change in the policies of Trump or Biden toward Iran, according to Houshang Sheikhi, a political analyst and expert on West Asia.

“I think the U.S. follows a strategic policy toward Iran and it has moved within this policy so far,” Sheikhi told the Tehran Times, pointing to some differences in tactics that Trump and Biden could employ against Iran.

He added, “Trump has less ability to build consensus and create coalitions but do coalitions determine the behavior of states? What we see is that coalitions do not determine the behavior of countries.”

The analyst also alluded to the triggering by the U.S. of the return of all UN sanctions on Iran. According to Sheikhi, the Trump administration pressed ahead with its plan to restore the UN sanctions despite the fact that the members of the UN Security Council stood against the U.S.

“Therefore, I think the outcome of the U.S. elections will not make a difference to Iran. If Biden wins the election, the U.S. will once again put pressure on Iran to begin talks, and that the previous process may be repeated. This can inflict costs on the country because what we will see is the repetition of Obama

policies against Iran,” Sheikhi commented.

Biden has said that he will rejoin a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, which Trump quitted on May 8, 2018. After exiting the deal, the Trump administration reimposed sweeping economic sanctions on Iran in line with the “Maximum Pressure” campaign that Trump launched following the U.S. pullout from the nuclear deal, which is officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

But Biden says Trump’s Iran policy was a total failure.

“We urgently need to change course,” he said in an opinion piece published by CNN on September 13, adding, “There is a smart way to be tough on Iran, and there is Trump’s way.”

Biden also said he will rejoin the JCPOA if Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal. But Sheikhi believes that Biden will build on what Trump achieved against Iran.

“Biden will not even return to the days of Obama. He will move forward with the current policies, using Trump’s four years of experience. Therefore, I don’t think there will be a difference between Trump and Biden to the interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

Biden himself hinted that his return to the JCPOA would not be unconditional and it will rather be “a starting point for follow-on negotiations.”

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

issues of concern,” Biden wrote.

It remains to be seen whether a Biden administration would rejoin the JCPOA. Even if he does so, there would be little doubt that he will make efforts to extend the nuclear deal, a goal that even President Obama wanted to achieve. The nuclear deal was only a “window” to help Iran and the U.S. resolve important issues, according to President Barack Obama.

“As I have said many times, the nuclear deal was never intended to resolve all of our differences with Iran but still engaging directly with the Iranian government on a sustained basis for the first time in decades has created a unique opportunity, a ‘window,’ to try to resolve important issues. And today I can report progress on a number of fronts.... I want also to point out that by working with Iran on this nuclear deal, we were better able to address other issues,” Obama said on January 16, 2016, as the International Atomic Energy Agency verified that Iran has completed the necessary steps under the JCPOA that will ensure Iran’s nuclear program is and remains exclusively peaceful.

Addressing the Iranian people, Obama added, “Following the nuclear deal, you, especially young Iranians, have the opportunity to begin building new ties with the world. We have a rare chance to pursue a new path, a different better future that delivers progress for both our people and the wider world. That’s the opportunity before the Iranian people. We need to take advantage of that.”

Some analysts believe that a President Biden could pursue a path with Iran similar to what Obama has done, although he may fail to accomplish what Obama failed to.

If Biden wins the election the situation around Iran may get better, according to Seyed Jalal Sadatian, the former Iranian ambassador to London.

“The situation would get better if Biden wins the election but this does not mean that everything will be resolved. The Democrats also have their own demands,” the former ambassador told the Tehran Times.

According to the former ambassador, some may welcome a Biden presidency because he has said he would rejoin the JCPOA. Sadatian also said some say that Iran can better negotiate with Trump and get concessions but this is not the case.

Biden and Trump have made clear that they would pursue different tactics if they win the elections. Iranian officials said there would be no big difference between Trump and Biden’s strategy because both seek to see Iran change tack. Some Iranian analysts even believe that Biden and Trump seek regime change in Iran, although they pursue different tactics to make this happen.

## SPORTS

### Skocic knows Iranian players well: Mehdi Taremi

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — National football team forward Mehdi Taremi says that Dragan Skocic has a great knowledge of the Iranian players and it could be helpful in the remaining four matches in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

Taremi was on target in the friendly match against Uzbekistan in Tashkent on Oct. 8 and is one of Skocic’s weapons in the upcoming matches.

The Bushehr-born hitman who currently plays at Porto, is optimistic about Iran’s future under leadership of the Croat.

“Skocic has worked in Iran for many years and has a great knowledge of the Iranian players. He is a quality coach and can change our style and put us on the growth path. However, we need more friendly matches ahead of our qualifiers,” the 28-year-old player added.

“Unfortunately, we lost to Bahrain and Iraq but they are not the teams to beat. We need continuous training if we want to qualify for the next stage. I think Skocic will be successful in Iran since he knows the players very well and is a skillful coach,” Taremi said.

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.

### Women’s basketball league postponed

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s women basketball league has been postponed, Iran basketball federation announced.

The competition has been canceled due to a ban on intercity transport which has been imposed to cut chain of coronavirus’ spread.

The league was originally scheduled to kick off on Oct. 22. Iran’s Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari has 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.

### Shoja Khalilzadeh stay at Persepolis, Rabikhah leaves

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis defender Shoja Khalilzadeh has agreed to stay at the team, while Mohsen Rabikhah will leave the team.

Iconic defender Khalilzadeh had been linked with a move to Qatari teams but he has accepted to pen a new contract.

Khalilzadeh played an important role in the 2020 AFC Champions League (West), helping the Iranian team to reach the final for the second time in three years.

Bashar Resan, Persepolis Iraqi midfielder, also wants to leave the team to join a Qatari football club.

Defensive midfielder Mohsen Rabikhah has canceled his contract with Persepolis football club.

The 33-year-old player joined Persepolis in 2016 and won four Iran Professional League titles with the team as well as three Super Cups and one Hazfi Cup.

Persepolis has signed Milad Sarlak from Shahr Khodro in the summer transfer window.

Rabikhah was forced to leave the club after he was deemed surplus to requirements.

### Volleyball federation narrows candidates to three

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Islamic Republic of Iran Volleyball Federation (IRIVF) has narrowed down its candidates for National Team to three.

Daniel Castellani, Andrea Giani, Ferdinando De Giorgi, Lorenzo Bernardi and Vladimir Alekno were among the five candidates in the running to take the helm of Iran volleyball national team and now IRIVF Secretary General Milad Taghavi has said that the list of candidates is narrowed down to three.

According to him, the new head coach of Iran will be named in the next two weeks.

Media reports suggest that Russian coach Alekno has a high chance of becoming Iran coach at the 2020 Tokyo.

Iran volleyball team are without a coach since parting ways with Igor Kolakovic in March.

In the Olympic Games, Iran have been drawn in Pool A along with Japan, Poland, Italy, Canada and Venezuela.

Pool B consists of Brazil, USA, Russia, Argentina, France and Tunisia.

### Khaled Shafiei signs for Bangladesh’s Bashundhara Kings

Iranian defender Khaled Shafiei has joined Bangladeshi champion Bashundhara Kings on a one-year deal.

Shafiei’s move from Iran Professional League outfit Sepahan is a welcome boost for the Nilphamari side as they bid to bolster their backline as they prepare to defend their Bangladesh Premier League title.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, club president Imrul Hassan said the defender is a worthy addition to the Bashundhara squad.

“We were looking for a good defender to strengthen our defense. I received many biodatas, but chose him (Khaled) because I feel he is more worthy than others.”

Shafiei, who spent the majority of his career in Iran, is determined to return the trust shown to him by bringing silverware to the Dhaka-based club.

“Bashundhara is the best and most popular team in Bangladesh. It trusts in me; now it is my responsibility to give them good in return. I will try to give trophies to Kings’ fans,” said the 33-year-old former FC Seoul player.

The Bangladeshi top flight is scheduled to start on December 19, with the Federation Cup, won by The Kings last year, serving as the curtain raiser.

(Source: the-afc)

## Expiration of UN arms embargo a ‘major victory’: Iran

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, said on Monday that the expiration of a UN arms embargo on Iran was a major win for the country.

“It was a major victory for Iran and the resistance. What expired yesterday was a thirteen-year embargo on Iran and the termination of resolutions that our friends, Russia and China, have voted in favor of,” Katibzadeh was quoted by Fars news agency as saying.

Speaking at a weekly press conference, the spokesman added, “The arms restrictions on the Islamic Republic of Iran automatically expired last night at 03:30 am. And the Islamic Republic of Iran has once again succeeded in stopping the U.S. unilateralism. What we saw was a victory and achievement for Iran.”

According to the spokesman, during the nuclear negotiations between Iran and the P5+1, the Western and American side was not willing to discuss the UN arms embargo. But Iran insisted that it will not move forward with the negotiations if the arms embargo is excluded from the discussions.

Khatibzadeh said the details of the nuclear negotiations that culminated in the signing of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal – officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – were “very interesting”. But he did not give further details about what happened during the negotiations.

However, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, deputy foreign minister for political affairs, has recently recounted how in the last nights of the nuclear negotiations the issue of the UN arms embargo turned the negotiations into a shouting match between the Iranian and American negotiation teams.

According to Araghchi, in the last nights of the nuclear negotiations, two foreign ministers were insisting that the arms restrictions should be removed in ten years, not five years. However, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif held a “stormy meeting” with these foreign ministers and convinced them to agree to a five-year timeframe. Araghchi did not name these foreign ministers but it’s highly likely



that one of them was former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry who led the nuclear negotiations with Iran under the Obama administration.

In an opinion piece published by the Khorasan daily, Araghchi said, “Due to Dr. Zarif’s furious tone of voice and his shouts, Ms. Sherman asked her colleagues to leave the room and leave the foreign ministers alone. The report of that meeting is one of the memorable documents in the history of Iran’s diplomacy.”

Under the Iran nuclear deal, it was agreed eventually that the UN arms embargo on Iran would be lifted in five years after the Adoption Day of the JCPOA on October 17, 2015. This period came to an end on October 18, 2020, which prompted Iran to issue an official statement declaring the termination of the arms embargo.

“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 statement said.

On the other hand, the Trump administration, which has studiously worked to extend the UN arms embargo, announced that it would punish anyone engaging in arms

security of our border areas,” the defense minister told Aljazeera on Monday.

He called on Turkey to play a positive role in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis diplomatically.

“We expect that Turkey, as a friendly and

important regional country, helps resolve the crisis diplomatically,” the top general noted.

Hatami also pointed out that Iran is ready to sign military and security agreements with the Persian Gulf countries regarding stability in the region, warning that any

### Defense Minister Hatami says Iran is ready to sign military and security agreements with the Persian Gulf countries.

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami has rebuffed allegations that Iran was siding with Armenia by allowing Russian weapons to pass through its territories to neighboring Armenia.

“We have not opened our borders and territories to transfer Russian weapons to Armenia, and these are just accusations, and we have also issued clear official warnings to Azerbaijan and Armenia regarding the



## Salehinia appointed as head of IDRO

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — In a decree on Sunday, Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini appointed Mohsen Salehinia as the new head of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO).

Salehinia who was previously the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) will take the office as IDRO's 23rd head since the organization's establishment in 1967.



In mid-May, Iran's Acting Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Hossein Modares Khiabani had appointed Amir Bayat as the acting head of IDRO.

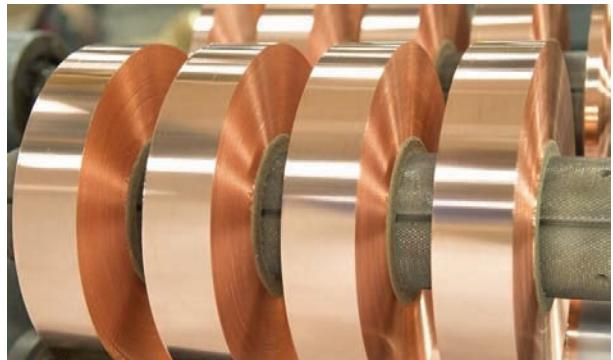
Bayat replaced Mohammad-Baqer Ali, who was the head of the mentioned organization since May 2019.

The Industrial Development & Renovation Organization of Iran known as IDRO Group is one of the largest companies in Iran. It is also one of the largest conglomerates in Asia. IDRO's objective is to develop Iran's industry sector and to accelerate the industrialization process of the country and to export Iranian products worldwide.

Today, IDRO owns 117 subsidiaries and affiliated companies both domestically as well as internationally.

## Copper anode output rises 10% in H1

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Production of the copper anode in Iran has risen ten percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), from the same period of time in the previous year.



As reported, 179,536 tons of the product has been produced in the six-month period of this year, 12 percent more than the predicted figure, which was 159,681 tons.

Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex accounted for 117,094 tons of the total sum and Khatonabad Copper Cathode Production Plant produced 62,442 tons of copper anode during the said period.

Copper anode output stood at 30,303 tons in the sixth month of this year, which was 30 percent higher than the figure of the past year's same month.

Sarcheshmeh accounted for 19,716 tons of the output during the sixth month of the year.

Iran has seen its copper exports doubled in the past Iranian calendar year despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade of lucrative metals.

## Arvand FTZ attracts \$48.5m of foreign investment in 6 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Arvand Free Trade Zone in Iran's southwestern province of Khuzestan attracted \$48.5 million of foreign investment during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), a local official announced.

Seyed Ali Mousavi, the deputy head of Arvand Free Zone Organization for investment and economic affairs, underscored that the zone managed to attract this amount of foreign investment despite all existing limitations due to the U.S. sanctions and also coronavirus pandemic.



Earlier this month, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand announced that Iran attracted over \$3.8 billion of foreign investment during the first half of the current year.

The minister said that attracting this amount of foreign investment indicates the proper performance of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran.

Arvand is one of the seven major free trade zones of Iran.

The zone with an area of 37,400 hectares is in the northwest of the Persian Gulf, including the cities of Abadan, Khorramshahr and Minushahr (Minu Island). It is located at the confluence of Arvand and Karun rivers. The region is in the neighborhood of Iraq and Kuwait.

# Afghanistan calls for expansion of economic ties with Iran

**1 →** we will have a very good future, especially with the realization of peace in Afghanistan."

The official also mentioned the two countries plans for cooperation in the field of renewable energies in the border between Iran and Afghanistan and said: "The issue of energy production in the wind corridor on the border of the two countries is one of the issues that will be further discussed during the Iranian energy minister's future visits to Kabul."

"All the necessary research studies have been done in this regard," he

added.

Pointing to the limited capacity of the electricity network in Afghanistan, Abdullah said: "These are issues that the two sides must agree on, and if things go well, there is a possibility that it [the joint wind farm on the border of the two countries] will become operational."

Regarding the construction of the Khaf-Herat railway and its role in the development of economic cooperation between the two countries, he said: "This project has reached the final stage and preparations are being made for its opening in the coming weeks; it is



Chairman of Afghan Peace Council Abdullah Abdullah (R) and Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian

hoped that this will be done and have a positive impact on all economic areas."

Abdullah said: "We are well prepared for holding the two countries' upcoming Joint Economic Committee meeting

and we hope to achieve practical results after the meeting, including electricity transmission, preferential tariffs, customs issues and Make progress in other areas as well."

## Iran's strategic oil pipeline project nearing completion

**1 →** Regarding the overall progress of the project, he said: "The project is being followed up with the aim of completing and launching it before the end of the year, and considering that the project progress has reached about 60 percent, so we focus more on the sectors in which the project operations are facing difficulties and need more attention."

According to the official, currently, about 650 kilometers (km) of pipes have been provided to the project site.

"It is necessary for pipe manufacturing companies to make extra efforts for timely delivery of the entire length of pipes required for the project within the next three months and send it to the workshop," he stressed.

Regarding the pump houses No. 2 and 4, which



are important parts in the first phase of the project and have priority, more attention has been paid to

the supply of required items and deficits. Delivery of the main pumps needed for the launching of this phase is also planned by domestic manufacturers for late November, Dehqani explained.

"Also, in the storage tanks section of Jask terminal, parts of sheets have been made and the welding operations of the tanks have started about one month ago", the official added.

The PEDEC head also referred to the consequences of the outbreak of the coronavirus and said: "In such circumstances, we have always tried to monitor the health and safety protocols to ensure the health of our colleagues."

Goreh-Jask pipeline will transfer one million barrels of heavy and light crude oils per day to Jask oil terminal in the southern Hormozgan province to be exported.

## IME's weekly worth of trades up 90%

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) rose 90 percent during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), IME International Affairs and Public Relations Department reported.

As reported, over 928,524 tons of commodities worth \$401 million were traded at IME during the past week, while the volume of trade also increased 70 percent.

Last week, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 522,959 tons of various products worth \$279 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 457,162 tons of steel, 6,340 tons of aluminum, 8,125

tons of copper, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrates, 12 tons of precious metal concentrates, 51,200 tons of zinc ingot as well as 5 kg of gold bar were traded by the customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 405,108 tons of different commodities with the total value of \$121 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 108,000 tons of VB feed stock, 130,964 tons of bitumen, 66,115 tons of polymer products, 42,088 tons of chemical products, 18,500 tons of lube cut oil, 1,462 tons of insulation, 1,394 tons of base oil, 150 tons of argon as well as 36,525 tons of sulfur were traded.

Furthermore, 457 tons of commodities were traded on the side market of the IME.

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

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

In late April, IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad unveiled the market's new outlook plan, which depicts IME's development roadmap until the Iranian calendar year of 1404 (March



20205-March 2026). Materializing the slogan of this Iranian year, which is "Surge in Production" is seriously considered in the mentioned plan and it is, in fact, the strategic approach of the outlook plan.

## Iran, Syria confer on signing free trade agreement

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) held a meeting on Sunday with Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Adnan Hassan Mahmoud in which he stressed the significance of signing a free trade agreement between the two sides.

"With the signing of a free trade agreement between Iran and Syria, there will be good days in trade between the two countries," Gholam-Hossein Shafeie said in the meeting.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, the meeting was also attended by the Chairman of Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce Keyvan Kashefi.

Speaking in the meeting, Shafeie noted that Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture has not invested as much in any country as Syria.

Referring to the Iranian Trade Center in Damascus, he said: "This trade center is one of the largest centers of Iranian trade abroad, which can play an important role in the development of trade between the two countries."

Mahmoud for his part praised the efforts of the



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Adnan Hassan Mahmoud meet in Tehran on Sunday.

heads of the Iran chamber of commerce and the Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce to improve the level of trade relations between the two countries.

## 10 investment holdings to be established in industry, mining sectors

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Saeed Zarandi announced the establishment of 10 investment holding companies in the industry and mining sectors in near future, IRIB reported on Monday.

"Launching seven investment holdings in the industrial sector and three holdings in the mining sector is on the agenda and will be operational soon with legal considerations," Zarandi said in a ceremony for the establishment of a public joint-stock company active in the mining and mineral industries sector.

As reported, the ceremony was held in the presence of representatives of large mineral and mining industry companies, as well as investment funds related to



these companies.

Speaking in the ceremony, Zarandi said the investment is one of the main requirements of the country's mining sector today, adding: "In this regard, the capital market has provided the opportunity to

form new investment holdings in the form of public joint-stock companies."

"Directing the existing liquidity and the capital market resources toward the productive sectors of the country is a priority of the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade," he stressed.

According to the official, the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade has paid special attention to these resources both in the production sector and in the mining sector, and has proposed and presented specific programs in this regard since the end of the previous Iranian calendar year (March 19).

The deputy minister further stated that if the necessary preparations are done for the entry of 50 mining companies into the capital market in the current year, in

practice, very important work has been done in this sector and it can be a prelude to planning for years to come.

Being among the world's top mineral-rich countries, Iran has set a new target for further development of its mining sector as the country's economy is moving away from oil toward becoming oil-independent.

In this regard, the government has urged the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry to take necessary measures for supporting such mines to get back on their feet and start operating again.

The main solution that has been offered for the mining sector is for mines to enter the capital market and offer their shares to raise funds for developing projects and resuming their operations.



## News

## White House official met with Syria govt. to 'secure Americans' release'

The Wall Street Journal says a senior White House official took a rare trip to Syria earlier this year to allegedly help release a number of Americans, who are reportedly held by Damascus.

The paper carried the report on Sunday, citing officials with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump and others familiar with the reported negotiations.

The secret talks between Kash Patel, a deputy assistant to Trump, and officials with the Syrian government took place in Damascus, administration officials told the Journal.

It called the trip the first one to be made by such a high-level U.S. official to Syria in more than a decade, alleging that while in Syria, the official met with Syrian authorities in the Arab country's capital.

The purported talks, the Journal said, was expected to help release Austin Tice and Majd Kamalmaz.

The daily said Tice was what it called a "freelance journalist" and former Marine officer and Kamalmaz, a Syrian-American "therapist."

Observers say notwithstanding the titles that American officials and sources assign to the U.S. nationals -- who strangely happen to be present in conflict zones at critical junctures -- many are later found to be on the payroll of Washington's military or intelligence apparatus and tasked with sabotage.

These have included the White Helmets, a Western-backed so-called aid group active in Syria that is blamed by Damascus and its ally Russia for staging false flag chemical attacks inside the Arab country to justify foreign intervention.

On Sunday, Reuters cited a Trump administration official as confirming the Journal's report.

## Johnson to 'resign in spring because his £150,000 salary is too low'

Boris Johnson is reportedly intending to resign next spring because he thinks his salary is too low, Tory MPs have claimed.

The prime minister has allegedly complained to his colleagues that he cannot live on his annual salary of £150,402 and earned more before he took up the top job in July last year.

Shortly before becoming PM, Johnson earned £23,000 a month for his newspaper column in The Telegraph, on top of speeches and appearances for which he raked in hundreds of thousands of pounds.

In one month alone, he reportedly received £160,000 for giving two speeches, according to the Mirror.

## New Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire jeopardized by shelling reports

A new ceasefire in the mountain enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh appeared to be in jeopardy Monday, with ethnic Armenian forces and Azerbaijan accusing each other of renewed shelling.

The ceasefire was agreed Saturday after a deal brokered by Russia a week earlier failed to halt the worst fighting in the South Caucasus since the 1990s. More than 1,000 people have been killed since fighting began on Sept. 27.

The failure to halt the fighting has raised fears of a humanitarian crisis and put new strains on ties between Turkey, which strongly backs Azerbaijan, and its allies in NATO, which want the fighting to stop, Reuters reported.

Russia, which has a defense pact with Armenia, could also be at risk of being sucked into a regional war.

## PLO leader Saeb Erekat in 'critical' condition

Prominent Palestinian leader Saeb Erekat is in a critical condition and his health has deteriorated as he undergoes treatment for COVID-19-related complications, al Jazeera reported.

Erekat, 65, was moved from his home in the occupied West Bank city of Jericho to Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital on Sunday.

The longtime chief Palestinian negotiator, who is Secretary General of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), tested positive for the coronavirus on October 8.

## Exit polls signal socialists sweeping back to power in Bolivia with Arce win

Exit polls from Bolivia's presidential election indicate Luis Arce has won the country's presidential election.

Arce, who hails from the Movement for Socialism Party, bagged more than 50% of the vote making him the new president, an unofficial count indicated on Monday.

The big win for Arce ruled out earlier opinion polls that had predicted the election would go to a run-off.

The leftist candidate Arce was running against former centrist president Carlos Mesa, who gained second place with some 31.5% of the vote.

## Resistance News

## Warnings of Akhras's martyrdom at any moment

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — The Prisoners' Media Office warned on Monday of the martyrdom of Palestinian detainee Maher Al-Akhras, who has been on a hunger strike in Israeli jail for 85 days, at any moment.

The Office said in a press release that Akhras, 49, from Jenin is continuing his open hunger strike protesting his administrative detention. He is in the Israeli Kaplan Hospital in a very serious health condition, it added.

## The danger stage

The real danger to the strikers' health begins after forty days of the hunger strike when continuous tissue damage and multiple organ failure happen, which may lead to damage to these organs and certain death.

Sixty days after the start of the strike, the main organs in the body enter the danger stage, as several problems happen to the heart and kidneys as the functions of these organs are poor. This poses a real threat to the strikers' lives. Furthermore, strikers may suffer bleeding resulting from skin cracking which puts their lives at risk of death because it reduces the amount of oxygen in the blood.

## Strike martyrs

Five prisoners have died as a result of a hunger strike in the Israeli occupation prisons: Abd al-Qadir Abu al-Fahm on July 11, 1970 during the Ashkelon prison strike, and he was the first martyr of the prisoners' movement during the hunger strike, and Rasim Halawa and Ali al-Jaafari on 24/07/1980 during the Nafha prison strike. Also, Mahmoud Freitikh in the Junaid prison strike in 1984, and Hussein Nimer Obeidat on October 14, 1994 in the Ashkelon prison strike.

## Psychologist describes America as a society in which 'trained Marxists' are against supremacists

“A prerequisite for a nomination from a major political party is an unwavering devotion to Zionism and Israeli interests over American interests.”

**1 →** Agents of the power elites like George Soros are funding 'left-leaning' groups sometimes led by "trained Marxists" promoting the notions of fighting systemic racism, White supremacy, and encroaching fascism.

A small but significant portion of these protesters have stepped over the line to commit vandalism, harassment, and violence within a general climate of diminished law enforcement and media disinformation. At times, the mainstream media have implied that neo-Nazi, White supremacist, or White advocate groups are behind most of the violence, but on-the-spot camera phones and other recording devices seem to tell a different story. The globalist elites prefer the 'left' ideology to surface and predominate due to its emphasis on heavy government control over society which plays well into the impeding one-world government agenda.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump is seen by his followers as opposing this globalist and authoritarian agenda with emphasis on American autonomy and greatness. But in fact, Trump is completely controlled by these same Zionist/globalist interests and he merely plays the role of controlled opposition. In the meantime, it's likely that the elites intend to keep giving the 'left' more room to commit violence in order to advance their agenda and provoke right-leaning and independent citizens into counteracting, which would increase the rate of violence and destruction. If this occurs, either the Trump or Biden administration may bring in Federal or international troops to line the streets. With omnipresent soldiers on the streets, this can open up many possibilities for the international financial elites and their pathological/technological/globalist/one-world government agenda.

**■** Given the experience of previous American elections, the influence of the Electoral College has always been a challenge to American democracy. What is your opinion?

A: The Electoral College was established upon the founding of the U.S. to give less populated States a more equitable voice with larger population States. Each State receives a certain number of delegates based on their population and presidential candidates vie for these delegates based on the popular vote within each State. Then it gets a bit mysterious. Supposedly delegates can go against the popular vote and make a different choice. The Electoral College was also supposedly designed to guard against a candidate winning the popular vote who was not approved of by powerful people.

Additionally, Democratic voters tend to be against the Electoral College because



**“The Electoral College was also supposedly designed to guard against a candidate winning the popular vote who was not approved of by powerful people.”**

many Democrats live in more populous States and more urban centers---while Republican voters tend to live in more rural areas and less populated States so they are largely in favor of the Electoral College. Donald Trump would not be president right now without the Electoral College, so Republican voters would like to see the system remain as is. Compared to other so-called democracies around the world, the U.S. Electoral College stands out as quite unorthodox.

**■** Can the U.S. election be considered a fully democratic?

A: The U.S. presidential election scheduled for November 3 is hardly democratic at all. The common people had little influence in

choosing Donald Trump or Joe Biden to be the only two candidates with a chance for the presidency. Both were selected by powerful international elites who have a vested interest in who resides in the White House for the next four years. These international elites largely represent the money-creation cartels based primarily in the 'City of London' financial district in the UK. Similar cartels have controlled the U.S. economy through the Federal Reserve System since 1913 and are now largely in control of the federal government and the entire mainstream media. With air-tight media control they can easily promote the candidates of their choosing over any challengers. A prerequisite for a

**“The U.S. presidential election scheduled for November 3 is hardly democratic at all. The common people had little influence in choosing Donald Trump or Joe Biden to be the only two candidates with a chance for the presidency. Both were selected by powerful international elites who have a vested interest in who resides in the White House for the next four years.”**

## Macron's mission in Lebanon – raising the dead dream

**1 →** after which he returned to Greater Lebanon in 1924 and was exiled again for his participation in the unsuccessful Great Syrian Revolt from 1925 until 1927- when Arab nationalists across Mandatory Lebanon and Syria sought to rid themselves of French rule.

William Harris, author of 2012 book Lebanon: A History, 600 – 2011, argues “in theory, Al-Solh never abandoned the ultimate goal of a big Arab state, however on pragmatic grounds, he ended up promoting France's 'Grand Liban'”- that is he held conservative notions of independence that sought a modus vivendi (way of life) with colonial powers without total subjugation.

Indeed, it was Al-Solh and Bichara Al-Khouri, the first post-independence president of Lebanon who achieved and implemented the National Pact in November 1943, that provided an official framework to accommodate the confessional differences in Lebanon.

Macron is oblivious to the fact that the resistance in Lebanon, on the ground of reality is original and pure, stemming from the roots of the land with all its strength- it is a liberation movement that is real, has its independence, thought, ideals and is of perpetual nature, unlike the past. Here, the word against real action has no value, and Macron has nothing to offer but empty talks and emotions.

The reality is that the people of Lebanon who resorted to seek refuge in Macron, who found themselves drawn to him by all their existence and inner desires

have demonstrated the psychological colonial mentality, whereby the colonized internalizes and believes in the colonial power's superiority, even going to the extent of enjoying the act of submission to one's own occupier! This doesn't take away from the reality of the occupier, who has nothing to offer but empty talks at best- sanctioning, demonization and aggression.

They have no power, whilst those garnering real power are on a different alley. The reality is that the resistance took what they needed from Macron, given it marked the first time a French leader met an official from the party, since the latter's establishment.

The significance of this lies in the fact that whilst Western governments continue to sanction the party's political wing and section it under 'terrorism', they have no choice but to acknowledge the pivotal role and strong popularity the party possesses, that has led it to penetrate into the heart of the political system.

At the same time, France was not given what it wanted, which is for the resistance party to back down, as per America's demands; the same resistance that watered its soil with the blood of its youth, sacrificed for its liberation- can never possibly give that up in the face of cheap words and emotions.

The operation that Macron sought to put Lebanon through, that is to 'support' it through the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and general reforms are all simply expressions for keeping Lebanon hostage to the



aggressive world capitalist system, that imposes its political conditions and agendas.

Indeed, Macron has demonstrated through his recent visits to Lebanon that his understanding is delayed and his calculations do not mirror reality, since there is a strong power on the ground that is imposing its operation of change and is hitting the region like a Tsunami.

Macron simply does not understand that the American presence in the region is perishing, whilst the balance of power is shifting in favor of the resistance on the ground. *The writer is a UK-based university student and activist.*

## U.S. presidential election result could lead to civil war

By Hamid Bayati

**TEHRAN** — An American scholar believes that in case Donald Trump is not re-elected in the upcoming elections, his supporters may lead the United States into an internal armed conflict.

“There are indeed groups that are in strong support of President Trump,” William O. Beeman, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Minnesota, noted.

“These groups are also armed, due to the Second Amendment to our Constitution, which has been interpreted as allowing citizens to own and use firearms,” he added.

The professor said that while there is no specific detail about the number of these



support groups, “We do know that some members of these groups have already announced that they would take up arms if President Trump were not re-elected.”

“There is some fear that if he lost the election in November that he would not leave the White House on January 20 when a new president would take office.”

Professor O. Beeman said, “My personal opinion is that some groups might take up arms and march on Washington. But I also believe that the number of people in these groups is not substantial. They could be extremely disruptive, but I believe in the end that they will be controlled by local law enforcement.”

With regard to the means of controlling these potential disruptions, he said, “Military force in the United States is very complex. In the United States, the national military (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard) is not allowed to operate within

the United States unless State governors request them. Each state has its own local military force, the National Guard, that is under the control of the individual States and marshaled by the State governors.”

“These and local police and sheriffs would be the people to control these groups. The Federal Bureau of Investigation could also be engaged if these groups violate Federal Law.”

He highlighted that “if Trump loses and these militia groups organize to maintain him in office forcibly, there will be sufficient military force to counter these people. However, forewarned is forearmed.”

“People are aware of this danger and are already making plans to control these militia groups should they try to stage what would effectively be a coup,” he concluded.



## Tea tourism: experience the taste of a serene holiday

➔1 The shade of color, temperature, strength, and taste of the tea is of very importance during formal gatherings and when served for specific guests. Before taking the teacups to the guests, the host traditionally checks the tone, color, and strength of tea with a single glance behind the shining glass.



Today, agritourism is regarded as a stimulus to the im-balanced economy of agriculture sectors and the tendency for emotional and nostalgic roots of the modern world citizens and due to factors such as visitor participation in farm activities, direct purchase of products, spending a night at a farm, curiosity and learning about the farm and agriculture products has been able to create a wide target population.

## Islamic-era graves, skeletons unearthed in northwestern Iran

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – A number of graves and human skeletons have recently been discovered by a team of archaeologists during archeological excavations in the city of Piranshahr in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan.

Based on the burial method, the right side of the face to the west, and head to the south, the tombs should date from the Islamic times, IRNA quoted Afrasyab Geravand, who led the project, as saying on Monday.

The graves were discovered in a Parthian-era (247 BC – 224 CE) site, which apparently was a place to live before it was used as a cemetery in the Islamic era, he added.

Back in September, provincial tourism chief Jalil Jabbari announced that new rounds of archeological excavations have been commenced on 10 historical sites around Zab River in Piranshahr, which aims at identifying, protecting, and preserving the city’s ancient and historical monuments and hills as well as exploring and studying previously discovered sites.

The oldest remains discovered in the area show that the region was inhabited in prehistoric times and the history of human h presence in the region dates back to about 30,000 years ago.

Many cultures treat the placement of dead people in an appropriate position to be a sign of respect even when burial is impossible. According to archaeologists, burials may be placed in a number of different positions. Bodies with the arms crossed date back to ancient cultures such as Chaldea in the 10th century BC, where the “X” symbolized their sky god. Later ancient Egyptian gods and royalty, from approximately 3500 BC are shown with crossed arms, such as the god Osiris, the Lord of the Dead, or mummified royalty with crossed arms in high and low body positions, depending upon the dynasty. The burial of bodies in the extended position, i.e., lying flat with arms and legs straight, or with the arms folded upon the chest, and with the eyes and mouth closed.



Extended burials may be supine (lying on the back) or prone (lying on the front). However, in some cultures, being buried face down shows marked disrespect like in the case of the Sioux. Other ritual practices place the body in a flexed position with the legs bent or crouched with the legs folded up to the chest. Warriors in some ancient societies were buried in an upright position. In Islam, the body is placed in a supine position, hands along the sides, and the head is turned to its right with the face towards the Qibla.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Teppe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region has been the seat of several ancient civilizations. It formed part of Urartu and later of Media. In the 4th century BC, it was conquered by Alexander the Great and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander’s generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. The area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE. The Arabs controlled Azerbaijan from the 7th century until Turkish nomads overran it in the 11th century. Thenceforth the inhabitants of the region were Turkish speakers. The region was overrun by the Mongols in the 13th century, and, under the ruler Hulegu, Azarbaijan became the center of a Mongol empire extending from Syria on the west to the Oxus River (now Amu Darya) on the east.

# 260 ancient relics, sites identified in southern Marvdasht plain

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – A total **d e s k** of 260 ancient relics and sites of historical value have been identified during an archaeological survey, which recently came to an end across Marvdasht plain in southern Iran.

It was the third archaeological season conducted by experts affiliated with the UNESCO-registered Persepolis aimed to develop a comprehensive archeological map of Parseh region and Marvdasht plain.

“260 ancient relics and sites have been identified during the third archaeological season for demarcation, mapping, and documentation of Marvdasht plain, which probed an area covering over 85,000,” Hamid Fadaei, director of the World Heritage site, announced on Monday.

Rock-carvings, caves, shelters, and human remains, dating to a wide span of time, were amongst the recent archaeological findings, he noted.

The survey, supervised by Iranian archaeologist Vahid Barani, also demarcated the third boundary layer over the UNESCO-tagged Persepolis and Marvdasht plain, which was once the seat of power for the Achaemenid



**The ancient region, known as Pars (Fars), or Persis (q.v.), was the heart of the Achaemenid Empire, which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae.**

## Bandar Lengeh-Dubai shipping line resumes operation after COVID-19 halt

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The Islamic Republic of **d e s k** Iran Shipping Line (IRISL) has announced that a shipping line between Bandar Lengeh and Dubai has resumed operation after a halt over the coronavirus pandemic.

The service will be on a regular weekly basis under strict health protocols.

Despite having a capacity of 235 passengers, the ships will only carry 100 passengers holding proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test while wearing masks during the five-hour voyage.

The journey costs 7.5 million rials (\$178) for one-way tickets and 11.5 million rials (\$274) for return tickets, which is less than half the price of an airline ticket.

Iran has suffered an average 15.8 percent fall in foreign arrivals during the first three months of 2020 compared to the same period last year, according to data released by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) that analyzes the impact of

the COVID-19 on international tourism.

Deputy tourism minister Vali Teymouri has said that international tourism could be recovered soon because it is mostly relying on potential travelers and pilgrims from the neighboring countries.

“Given the policies of the country’s tourism industry over the past two years to focus on tourism markets in the neighboring countries, the possibility of recovering and reviving international tourism in the shortest possible time is predictable,” Teymouri told the Tehran Times in May.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

The latest available data show eight million tourists



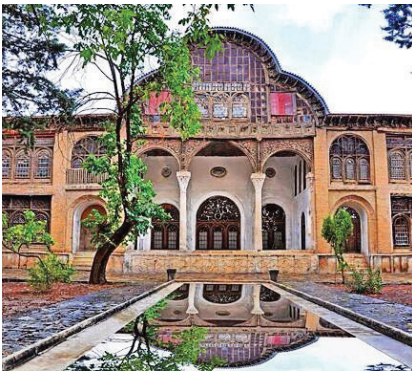
visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2019).

## Tehran museums extend closures for third consecutive week over COVID-19

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Museums **d e s k** and historical sites in Tehran province will remain closed for the third consecutive week as the province is in the high-risk “red” zone due to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, the situation in Tehran is extremely severe, and there is a possibility of extending the closure of museums once again, Mohammadreza Kargar, the director of museums and historical properties at the tourism ministry announced on Sunday.

The reopening of the museums will



depend on the decision of the Headquarters and will be announced later, the official added.

Restrictions have been also imposed on educational classes, recreational places, sports halls, gardens, cultural centers, and gatherings that increase the chain of transmission, as well as Friday prayers since two weeks ago.

Earlier in June, Kargar announced that the museums and historical sites have taken 600 billion rials (about \$14.2 million) hit from the coronavirus outbreak over the previous months.

Back in August, tourism minister

Ali-Asghar Mounesan said that Iran’s tourism has suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

However, Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

## Permanent handicrafts market to open in Malayer

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – A permanent market **d e s k** for handicrafts is planned to be established in the city of Malayer, which was named by the World Crafts Council - Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR) in January a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture.

A budget of 1.5 trillion rials (\$35.7 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to launch the market, which will generate 300 job opportunities, provincial tourism official, Alireza Qasemi, announced on Monday.

The ancient city is home to over 4,000 furniture workshops in which more than 8,000 wood masters and some 25,000 crafters are engaged.

Although the art had been practiced in Malayer for a long time ago, it is about half a century that it has gained prosperity in the region.

Artists and crafters use beech, walnut, and plane trees to make different products such as traditional,



classic, steel, and sofa furniture, as well as dining tables, desks, chairs, beds, and decorative items.

Currently, more than 60 percent of the furniture

## A glimpse of Persian handicrafts: Termeh

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – Termeh is a fine and **d e s k** precious handmade cloth with traditional patterns or textures made of wool and high-quality natural or synthetic silk with tall fibers.

Although some believe that the origin of Termeh is the heart of Central Asia and Kashmir highlands, some others believe that weaving Termeh has originated in Iran and then found its way to Kashmir. However, weaving Termeh was developed and became popular in the early Safavid period in Isfahan, and its excellent evolution took place in the reign of Shah Abbas Safavid and became one of the Iranian exportable products.

Taste and initiative of Iranians in the weaving delicacy, material, and fantastic schemes of this handicraft is unique; therefore, one of the important duties and barriers of the weaver of Termeh is on choosing and matching the colors as this matching is done whether by choosing harmonious colors or even by choosing contrasting colors in a particular form which can represent kind of congruity and beauty and it is considered as a secret in the Iranian style of weaving Termeh.

In general, the colors for weaving Termeh, and especially colors used for its texts, consist of natural herbal colors as well as natural materials in



colors like dark red, light red, green, orange, and black; and, the patterns generally include various traditional

curved patterns and schemes.

This delicate and fine cloth had been used for different occasions such as sewing aristocratic and noble clothes, curtains, prayer rugs, and robe, and were worn mainly by people from noble, aristocratic, and monarchical classes, in the past times; however, in the present time, most of the upper- and middle-class people offer it to each other as gifts in weddings, eves, and official or family occasions, and is sometimes used as furniture cloth or table cloth.

Nowadays, Termeh craft which is being forgotten is mainly woven in Yazd province, central Iran.



# Pakistan responsible for 363 malaria patients in Sistan-Baluchestan

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Some 363 patients infected with malaria have been identified in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), all of whom had visited Pakistan.

Malaria is a mosquito-borne infectious disease that affects humans and other animals; the disease is most commonly spread by an infected female Anopheles mosquito. The mosquito bite introduces the parasites from the mosquito's saliva into a person's blood.

It causes symptoms that typically include fever, tiredness, vomiting, and headaches. In severe cases, it can cause yellow skin, seizures, coma, or death. Symptoms usually begin ten to fifteen days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

"Since the past two years, there have not been any indigenous cases of malaria in our country," Abdolreza Mirolaei, a Health Ministry expert said.

However, border traffic has led to 363 non-native cases in the province of Sistan-Baluchestan, he added, ILNA reported on Monday.

The disease is affected by population exchanges in countries and climate change, our country is located near the malaria-prone country of Pakistan, and since Sistan-Baluchestan province has long borders with Pakistan, the most malaria cases appear in the central and southern regions, he explained.

"We divide the provinces of the country into clean and affected by the disease, so the malaria-prone provinces of the country are Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan and the south of Kerman province," he stated.



## Iran taking final step toward malaria elimination

Ahmad Raeisi, head of the Malaria control department of the Ministry of Health in July said that unfortunately, there have been cases of malaria-causing deaths in the last two years, but they are very rare. Patients in Iran were not infected and brought the disease from outside the borders. More than 95 percent of malaria cases are from Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the other 5 percent are Iranians who have contracted the disease while traveling to those countries.

Fortunately, the main route of transmission of the disease is still through the bite of

the female Anopheles mosquito, he added.

There are about six species of Anopheles mosquitoes in Iran, of which there are no more than two or three species, which are actively involved in disease transmission in the south and southeast, and the rest are in the north of the Zagros, from which there is no malaria transmission, Raeisi said.

Although the most common route of transmission of malaria is mosquito bites, in rare cases there is a possibility of transmission through the use of shared syringes among injecting drug users, he noted.

According to WHO 2017 malaria report, the incidence rate of malaria in Iran has de-

creased significantly from 12,000 people in 2000 to 57 in 2017.

Iran has not had any indigenous cases of malaria for two years in a row, and if the country passes this year with no indigenous cases, the World Health Organization will grant it a certificate of malaria eradication.

Between 2000 and 2014, the number of malaria-related deaths fell by 40 percent worldwide, from an estimated 743,000 to 446,000.

There are 20 countries in the world that are moving towards the elimination of malaria; in the Eastern Mediterranean region, Iran is at the forefront.

## WHO African Region carries high share of global malaria burden

According to the latest World malaria report, released in December 2019, there were 228 million cases of malaria in 2018 compared to 231 million cases in 2017. The estimated number of malaria deaths stood at 405,000 in 2018, compared with 416,000 deaths in 2017.

The WHO African Region continues to carry a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden. In 2018, the region was home to 93% of malaria cases and 94% of malaria deaths.

In 2018, 6 countries accounted for more than half of all malaria cases worldwide: Nigeria (25%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12%), Uganda (5%), and Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique and Niger (4% each).

Children under 5 years of age are the most vulnerable group affected by malaria; in 2018, they accounted for 67% (272,000) of all malaria deaths worldwide.

## Iran most active country in WHO study for COVID-19 treatment

**1 →** According to him, this great success has been achieved with the cooperation of 87 leading researchers and with the participation of 3,500 patients in 29 hospitals affiliated to medical universities in 15 provinces of Iran.

Also, Iran as the first place in the registration of patients in the clinical trial study is three times above the next leading countries. As the second place, France has managed to enroll less than 1,000 patients participating in the study.

Announcing that 13 hospitals out of a total of 20 hospitals in the partner countries that had the highest rate of "patient participation" are from Iran, Malekzadeh said that Razi hospital in Rasht, Vali Asr hospital in Arak, and Masih Daneshvari hospital in Tehran are among the top active Iranian hospitals in the study.

Existence of a strong treatment network with the presence of nearly 50,000 specialist and subspecialist physicians in all parts of the country, a large number of principal investigators and physicians interested in the study, allocation of appropriate research funding, extraordinary efforts to provide the drugs needed in clinical trials, motivational factors of hospitalized patients to participate in the study, providing accurate news and information of successful clinical trials to the public are among other factors affecting the achievement of Iran.

## "Solidarity" clinical trial for COVID-19 treatments

Solidarity is an international clinical trial to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19, launched by the World Health Organization and partners. It is one of the largest international randomized trials for COVID-19 treatment, enrolling almost 12,000 patients in 500 hospital sites in



over 30 countries.

The Solidarity Trial is evaluating the effect of drugs on 3 important outcomes in COVID-19 patients: mortality, need for assisted ventilation, and duration of hospital stay.

The Solidarity Trial compares treatment options against a standard of care to assess their relative effectiveness against COVID-19. By enrolling patients in multiple countries, the Solidarity Trial aims to evaluate whether any of the drugs improve survival or reduce the need for ventilation or duration of hospital stay. Other drugs may be added based on emerging evidence.

In general, until there is sufficient evidence, WHO cautions against physicians and medical associations recommending or administering unproven treatments to patients with COVID-19 or people self-medicating with them.

The Solidarity Trial published interim results on October 15, 2020. It found that all 4 treatments evaluated (remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir, and interferon) had little or no effect on overall mortality, initiation of ventilation, and duration of hospital stay in hospitalized patients.

The Solidarity Trial is considering evaluating other treatments, to continue the search for effective COVID-19 therapeutics.

So far, only corticosteroids have been proven effective against severe and critical COVID-19, according to WHO website.

## COVID-19 mortality hit daily record in Iran

In the press briefing on Monday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 4,251 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 423,631. She added that 431,360 patients have so far recovered, but 4,771 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

In the past 24 hours, 337 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 30,712, she added.

Lari noted that so far 4,540,455 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, Kerman-shah, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, Gilan, Bushehr, Zanjan, Ilam, Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Alborz, West Azarbaijan, Markazi, Kerman, North Khorasan, Hamedan, and Yazd and Kordestan.

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

## Air pollution particles in young brains linked to Alzheimer's damage

Tiny air pollution particles have been revealed in the brain stems of young people and are intimately associated with molecular damage linked to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

If the groundbreaking discovery is confirmed by future research, it would have worldwide implications because 90% of the global population live with unsafe air. Medical experts are cautious about the findings and said that while the nanoparticles are a likely

cause of the damage, whether this leads to disease later in life remains to be seen.

There is already good statistical evidence that higher exposure to air pollution increases rates of neurodegenerative diseases, but the significance of the new study is that it shows a possible physical mechanism by which the damage is done.

The researchers found abundant pollution nanoparticles in the brainstems of 186 young people from Mexico City who

had died suddenly between the ages of 11 months and 27 years. They are likely to have reached the brain after being inhaled into the bloodstream, or via the nose or gut.

The nanoparticles were closely associated with abnormal proteins that are hallmarks of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and motor neurone disease. The aberrant proteins were not seen in the brains of age-matched people from less polluted areas, they said.

"It is terrifying because, even in the

infants, there is neuropathology in the brain stem," said Prof Barbara Maher, at Lancaster University, UK, and part of the research team. "We can't prove causality so far, but how could you expect these nanoparticles containing those metal species to sit inert and harmless inside critical cells of the brain? That's the smoking gun – it seriously looks as if those nanoparticles are firing the bullets that are causing the observed neurodegenerative damage."

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## \$1.2m donated to provide the underprivileged with warm clothing

Iran's Welfare Organization has managed to collect a contribution of 50 billion rials (nearly \$1.2 million) to provide the underprivileged with warm clothing, Tasnim news agency reported on Thursday.

Within the framework of a campaign dubbed "kindness smile" from December 10, 2018 to January 9 some \$1.2 million was solicited from the public for procuring warm clothing for the financially struggling children in underprivileged areas, an official with the Organization has said.

Mohammad Ali Kozehgar explained that some 50,000 packages of warm clothing were obtained by the money and distributed among the children.

## کمک ۵ میلیاردی برای تامین لباس زمستانی کودکان در مناطق کم برخوردار

به گزارش خبرگزاری تسنیم سازمان بهزیستی کشور با هدف تامین تهیه لباس گرم برای کودکان مناطق کم برخوردار مبلغ ۵ میلیارد تومان جمع آوری کرده است.

رئیس مرکز مشارکتهای مردمی و توانمندسازی سازمان بهزیستی کشور با اشاره به اتمام پویش لبخند مهربانی با هدف تامین تهیه لباس گرم برای کودکان مناطق کم برخوردار اظهار کرد: این پویش از ۱۹ آذر با مشارکت خیرین و نیکوکاران آغاز شد و تا ۱۹ دی ماه ادامه داشت و در این طرح یک ماه ۵ میلیارد تومان جمع آوری شده است.

محمد علی کوزه گر گفت: ۵۰ هزار بسته لباس گرم به ارزش ۵ میلیارد تومان تهیه شده است و در اختیار کودکان قرار گرفت.

## "Park of Life" created to vanish drug peddlers

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — A newly-created park was inaugurated on Monday in a neighborhood of Tehran which had long been notorious for being a place for thugs and drug peddlers in a bid to combat narcotics and boost security.



Tehran Municipality has created the park, called "Park of Life", over 24 hectares area of land, Tasnim reported. In addition to green space, a number of social, cultural, and service buildings, as well as a lake with an area of about one hectare, have been set up inside the park.

Meanwhile, measures have been taken to transfer drug addicts to care centers and the park has been fenced to prevent the entrance of drug peddlers.

A total of 2.4 trillion (nearly \$57 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been spent on the project.

## Iran ranks first worldwide in narcotics seizure

Iran seized some 1,000 tons of narcotics in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 20), putting the country in the first place in the world, Momeni said in July.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in the drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

Iran's drug control efforts led to the seizure of 266 tons of different types of drugs during the period of April-June 2020, a 20 percent increase compared to the same period in 2019.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in Iran, the drug control headquarters provided and distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other sanitary commodities among street users and NGOs working with drug users.

In the end, the anti-narcotic police and law enforcement of Iran held a burning ceremony of 90 tons of different types of drugs in provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman, and West Azarbaijan, televised through the internet.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking, Momeni announced.

Drug use is a complex health and social problem worldwide, with half a million people dying each year as a result of drug abuse, he lamented, adding, drug use has entered a critical condition, and the international community is determined to tackle the global drug problem.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 40)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

● Exercise 5. Write the other form of possession:

- این دفتر شماس.
- این خانهی دکتر نامدار است.
- این کیف کیست؟
- این اتاق مالِ ماست.
- این رستوران مالِ من است.
- آن ساعت مالِ مهدیس است؟

دُرک ← کتابِ کار

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

- ( ) احمد دیروز ساعت ده بیدار شد.
- ( ) او دیروز بعد از ناهار به دانشگاه رفت.
- ( ) احمد دیروز صبح درس داشت.
- ( ) او، بعد از ناهار، سه ساعت کلاس داشت.
- ( ) دیشب او شام خوشمزه‌ای درست کرد.
- ( ) احمد دیشب شام خورد و خندید.

نِگارِش ← کتابِ کار

● Exercise 1. Answer in complete sentences:

- احمد ساعت چند بیدار شد؟
- بعد از بیدار شدن کجا رفت؟
- کی درس فارسی داشت؟
- بعد از ناهار چه کلاسی داشت؟
- دیشب کی شام درست کرد؟
- شام آنها چطور بود؟



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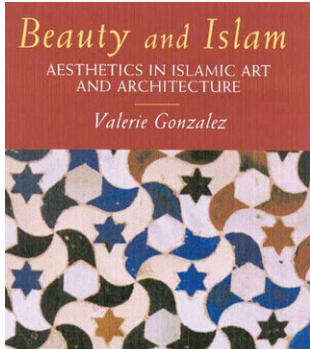
GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The most incapable person is the one who can't pray.

Imam Hussein (AS)

## Persian litterateur translates Valerie Gonzalez's "Beauty and Islam"

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — Iranian scholar Hamidreza Bos'haq said on Monday that he has recently completed the translation of Islamic art history expert Valerie Gonzalez's book "Beauty and Islam: Aesthetics in Islamic Art and Architecture".



Front cover of Valerie Gonzalez's original book "Beauty and Islam: Aesthetics in Islamic Art and Architecture".

"Ms. Valerie Gonzalez is a celebrated scholar of Islamic art and aesthetics who has visited Iran," Bos'haq told the Persian service of Honaronline. "In her book, she has referred to many reputable sources for the study of Islamic art and aesthetics, and is highly under the influence of José Miguel Puerta Vilchez, the writer of a book on aesthetics in Islam that is the most comprehensive study on the history of Islamic art and aesthetics," he added.

He noted that Gonzalez deems all studies that scrutinize Islamic art historically and sociologically incomplete, and wants to analyze Islamic artworks in architecture, painting, calligraphy and other areas based on a special scientific field named "phenomenological aesthetics". About Gonzalez's scientific honesty, Bos'haq said that she ignores herself, her nationality and religion in the analysis of issues in Islamic art.

He said that the Persian translation of "Beauty and Islam: Aesthetics in Islamic Art and Architecture" is scheduled to be published by the Cheshmeh publishing house in Tehran in the near future. The book consists of five essays about aspects of aesthetics in classical Islamic thought in light of contemporary theories, offering new perspectives on Islamic art and architecture with examples ranging from the Quran and the Alhambra to the works of present day artists and philosophers.

The original book was published by I. B. Tauris in 2001. The publisher has earlier said, "Tracing the roots of Islamic aesthetics back to the works of the philosophers of the Middle Ages such as Avicenna and Averroes, Valerie Gonzalez finds that aesthetic theory in Islam must be seen within the much wider context of parallel thinking on theology, ethics, physics and metaphysics.

"She balances her analysis of this philosophy (moral, logical and scientific) of beauty with the equally important analysis of the perceptual experience of beauty."

Gonzalez teaches Islamic studies at the Leighton House Museum, London. She was previously a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University in the USA.

Bos'haq is the translator of numerous books by western scholars, including "History of Philosophy" by William S. Sahakian.

## Iranian shorts to compete in Spanish festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — A lineup of four Iranian short movies will be competing in the international section of the Granada Film Festival in Spain.

"Driving Lessons" by Marzieh Riahi, "Human" by Mohammad Pustinduz, "The List" by Ahmad Mirhashemi and "Blue Bed" by Alireza Kazempur are the shorts selected to be screened at the festival, which will be running from October 21 to 24, the organizers have announced.



A scene from "The List" by Ahmad Mirhashemi.

The award-winning short drama "Driving Lessons" tells the story of Bahareh who, according to the laws of Iran, must have her traditional, chauvinistic husband accompany her to driving lessons so she and her male instructor will not be alone.

"Blue Bed" narrates the story of a middle-aged woman named Zahra who picks a girl named Negar on the street and insists on taking her home, leaving Negar in doubt about the middle-aged woman's motivation.

"The List" is about Hossein who is a young man who must dishonestly identify someone as a thief at the insistence of others in order to recover his stolen cellphone.

# Resistance festival to pay tribute to film expert Akbar Alemi

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The organizers of the 16th Resistance International Film Festival will pay tribute to veteran Iranian film scholar Akbar Alemi who died of COVID-19 last week.

"Alemi was one of the influential figures in cinema after the Islamic Revolution," Ahad Mikailzadeh, an official in charge of the festival has said.

"He had a great role in educating talented and committed students besides his many art and cultural activities," he said.

"He always paid due attention to the development and elevation of cinema and he was one of those great masters both in theory and in practice," he noted.

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

He helped develop academic cinema during the years it was about to fade away in the country with his TV programs "Other Side of the Coin", "Seventh Art" and "Beyond Cinema" during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Alemi was born in 1945 in Ahvaz, and was a graduate of cinema from the Dramatic



Film expert Akbar Alemi in an undated photo. (Honaronline)

Art College. He continued his studies in England and got his Ph.D. in cinema.

He has written and translated many books and was active as a jury member of

## English diplomat James Morier's novel "Adventures of Hajji Baba of Ispahan" published in Persian

Mirza Asadollah Taheri, Negah, a Tehran-based publisher, has announced.

"The Adventures of Hajji Baba" first appeared in 1824, and the book soon became known to a large part of the world as a classic to be compared with Burton's Arabian Nights.

The publishers of the book were surprised to find upon investigation that there exist in this country several "Hajji Baba" clubs, numbering hundreds of members.

"Hajji Baba" is a tale of high adventure in Persia, and it appealed to Cyrus Leroy Baldridge as exquisitely appropriate for his highly colorful illustrations and pictures.

At Baghdad, he set off with his wife to retrace the journeys of Hajji himself, and after a series of fantastic adventures (in one town a native told him calmly "the last man who sketched here, we stoned to death") brought home the sketches for this new edition.

Morier (1780-1849) served as the British ambassador to the court of Persia from 1810 to 1816.

He is also remembered for his memoir "A Journey through Persia, Armenia and Asia Minor to Constantinople" in 1808.

A Persian translation of this book by Abolghasem Sari was published in Tehran in 2007.

The book consists of two sections, the first of which describes a journey through Persia, Armenia and Asia Minor to Constantinople in 1808 and the second part narrates the details of a journey through Persia to Constantinople which took place between the years 1810 and 1816.

The book contains information about the way of life and traditions of Iranian people at that time.

Morier is mostly remembered as the author of novels about Iran. His knowledge of Eastern life and manners was wide and his works are entertaining.

## Sguardi Altrove Film Festival to screen movies from Iran

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian movies "Believe", "Elders" and "The American Bull" will be competing in the Sguardi Altrove Film Festival, an Italian women's festival.

"Believe" directed by Parnia Kazempur tells the story of Bahman, an 8-year-old boy who lives with his strict, neurotic mother in a small village. When the local school closes due to low enrollment, Bahman is forced to cross the river every day to reach the new school. However, he has to face his greatest fear: that of not knowing how to swim.

This movie will be competing in the



A poster for "The American Bull" by Fatemeh Tusi.

New Look section of the festival, which will take place in Milan from October 23 to 31.

"Elders" is about an elderly man who tries to escape from a retirement home. But after various vicissitudes, he finds the desire to return to live there. Co-directed by Parisa Sedai-Azar and Ramin Farzaneh, the film won the award for best film at the Baku International Short Film Festival in 2019.

The story of "The American Bull" directed by Fatemeh Tusi is set in a village between Iran and Iraq, where a group of inhabitants are involved in animal husbandry. Saheb, the adolescent owner of the only American bull, is very dependent on his bull and makes a living by making it available for breeding.

The short film was crowned best at the 33th International du Film Amateur de Kelibia in Tunisia in 2019.

"Elders" and "The American Bull" will be screened in the Glances (S) Confined section dedicated to films made by young international filmmakers who propose, with small films but great stories, a fresh and new to the world.

The Sguardi Altrove Film Festival celebrates its 27th edition with a high-impact program, full of screenings, meetings and appointments, to reflect together on current issues, and in particular on the female world, investigated through the gaze of women.

## Oriana Fallaci's "Letter to a Child Never Born" source of inspiration for Iranian short

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian filmmaker Kiarash Puyan plans to make a short film inspired by Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci's "Letter to a Child Never Born".

Yusef Salimi Namin is the producer of the film named "Redemption", and Behnush Sadeqi, Mehri Ale-Aqa and Mohammad-Rasul Safari are among the cast members of the movie, which is in the pre-production stage.

"Love is the feeling that appears when a mother hugs her little, defenseless child in her arms," a public relations team wrote about the synopsis of the film in a press release.

"Letter to a Child Never Born" was published in 1975, and was quickly translated and sold in twenty-seven countries worldwide, becoming an extraordinary success.

It is the tragic monologue of a woman speaking with the child she carries in her womb. This letter confronts the burning theme of abortion, and the meaning of life, by asking difficult questions: Is it fair to impose life even if it means suffering? Would it be better not



A poster for "Redemption" by Kiarash Puyan.

to be born at all?

"Letter to a Child Never Born" touches on the real

meaning of being a woman: the power to give life or not. When the book begins, the protagonist is upset after learning she is pregnant. She knows nothing about the child, except that this creature depends totally and uniquely on her own choices.

The creation of another person directly within one's own body is a very shocking thing. The sense of responsibility is huge, it is a heavy burden that gives life to endless reflections, from the origin of the existence to the shame of the selfishness.

If the child could choose, would he or she prefer to be born, to grow up and to suffer, or would he return to the joyful limbo from which he came? A woman's freedom and individuality are also challenged by a newborn—should she renounce her freedom, her job and her choice? What should she do at this point?

Fallaci earned international iconic status for her passionate, opinionated writing and for her in-depth, often adversarial interviews with such prominent world figures as Indira Gandhi and Henry Kissinger.

## Chantilly Iranian film festival to make debut in March

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The first edition of the Iranian Cinema Festival of Chantilly, dedicated to screening movies by Iranian filmmakers from around the world, will be organized in the northern French town of the same name from March 11 to 14, 2021.

The Franco-Iranian Center will organize the festival in collaboration with several Iranian art and cinema centers.

The festival, which is also dedicated to modern figures of Iranian cinema, will be held in two competitive and non-competitive categories.

A lineup of seven features will go on screen in the competitive section with their directors in attendance, and six short films will go on screen in the non-competitive section.

A panel of jury members, including Iranian filmmaker Abolfazl Jalili and four French cineastes, will judge the entries.

The Franco-Iranian Center organized the first edition of the New Images of Iran

(Nouvelles Images d'Iran) in the northwestern French town of Vitry in December last year.

The festival was organized in collaboration with Aurore Cinema, House of World Cultures, Ouest France, World Trade Center Rennes Bretagne and several other French centers, and Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation.

The festival helped highlight promising young Iranian filmmakers by inviting them to present their first achievements.

Six films by Abolfazl Jalili were reviewed during the festival. Iranian-Armenian filmmaker Anahid Abad's acclaimed drama "Yeva" won the first prize at the 1st edition of the New Images of Iran.

Produced by Farabi and the National Cinema Center of Armenia, the film tells the story of Yeva, a young woman who escapes her influential in-laws with her daughter Nareh after her husband's tragic death, and takes refuge in one of the villages in the Karabakh



A poster for the Iranian Cinema Festival of Chantilly.

region. She is a complete stranger in this ballgame and is obliged to live her daily life in disguise.

"Yeva" was Armenia's submission to the 90th Academy Awards, but it did not make the shortlist.

"A House on 41st Street" by Hamidreza Qorbani and "Villa Dwellers" by Monir Qeidi took second and third prizes respectively.

"Villa Dwellers" is about the wives of the Iranian army commanders, who live in residential villas for army forces in southern Iran during the Iran-Iraq war.

"A House on 41st Street" is about a middle-class family in Tehran that falls apart when one brother kills another brother over a bounced check.

A lineup of 12 Iranian short and feature films was screened at the festival.

The movies were selected by a committee composed of Iranian filmmaker Abolfazl Jalili, Vitry Mayor Pierre Méhaignerie, Franco-Iranian Center director Alireza Khalili, member of the editorial board of Paris-Tehran Magazine Fatemeh Shadman, founder of the Garromedia Cultural Association Laurent Garreau, French literature expert Vahid Yaghoubi and French art historian Jean-Claude Voisin.