



**Araghchi holds talks with Turkish counterpart over Nagorno-Karabakh war** **3**



**Iran holds 13th National Paralympic Day** **3**



**Russia to begin working on Iranian power plant soon** **4**



**Writer Moradi Kermani's house to be converted into story house** **8**

# Gear up, storm is coming

Police is bracing for potential unrest in days before, after Nov. 3



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## 15% increase in non-oil exports on agenda for H2

**TEHRAN** – Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said the government is planning to boost the country's non-oil exports by 15 percent in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021).

"Although following the outbreak of the coronavirus, world foreign trade decreased by 15 percent and naturally our foreign trade was also affected in the first half of

this year, with the restructuring of export processes, we expect non-oil exports to grow by 15 percent in the second half of the year," Hamid Zadboum stated.

The increase in exports in the second half of this year will offset part of the 34-percent decrease in non-oil exports in the first six months (March 20-September 21) compared to the figure for the previous year, Zadboum said. **→4**

## It's essential to protect key infrastructure against cyber war: civil defense chief

**TEHRAN** – Since the enemies, including the U.S., have realized that they are not able to confront counter Iran militarily, they are seeking a cyber-war against Iran's primary infrastructure, including power generation, chief of Iran's civilian defense announced on Saturday.

Gholamreza Jalali made the remarks in a maneuver held on power outage and assessing readiness to use uninterruptible power supply (UPS).

"Since the enemy has become dis-appointed of military confrontation with Islamic Iran due to high defense and deterrence capability and firm determination" they have changed the tact and are seeking cyber war on the country's primary infrastructure, Jalali said at the presence of TAVANIR managing director Hossein Motavallizadeh and some other power industry managers. **→2**

## Iranian students win 8 medals at IOAA 2020

**TEHRAN** — Iranian students grabbed 8 colorful medals at the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA), according to the National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents.

Hosted by Slovakia, the IOAA was held virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The medals included two gold, two

silver, and four bronze medals as well as two honorary diplomas, ranking Iranian students fifth in the world.

Kasra Hajian and Parshan Javanroud won the gold medals, Ali Raz Ghandi and Matin Mohammadi Sarai grabbed the silvers ones, Amir Hossein Haji Mohammad Rezaei, Fatemeh Ali Moradi, Hossein Mohammadi, and Mohammad Mehdi Vahedi were the bronze medal winners. **→7**

By Farrokh Hesabi  
Tehran Times journalist

## Iran football threatened by players exodus to Qatar

Iran has seen an increasing number of football players going to the Qatar Stars League (QSL) in recent years.

The statistics show eight Iranian stars will play in the new season of the Qatari leagues.

The destination of the most Iranian players is the wealthy Qatari teams. The majority of elite players ply their trade in Qatar, and this is a trend that is increasing year by year.

It is followed by leagues such as Belgium, Russia, England, Portugal, Turkey, the Netherlands, Denmark, Turkey, Greece, Croatia, Ukraine, and China who have seen Iranian stars in their leagues.

Iran iconic forward Sardar Azmoun, who plays for Russian club Zenit Saint Petersburg, has been valued around €20m by Transfer Market. The other Iran national player Alireza Jahanbakhsh joined the English side Brighton & Hove Albion from Dutch club AZ Alkmaar for an undisclosed club-record fee, reported to be £17m.

But most of the other Iranian players who have gone abroad in recent years, preferred to sign with the teams of the lower European leagues such as Portugal and Belgium with not very considerable contract fees.

However, many experts believe that playing in Europe – even in the lower European leagues – is far better for Iranian players than in the leagues of countries like Qatar. They say that playing in such Asian leagues will not help the Iranian talents to improve their career.

Ali Karimi, former Esteghlal midfielder, was the latest one who opted to go to the QSL as he joined Qatar SC on Friday. He has joined other players such as Rouzbeh Cheshmi (Umm Salal), Shoja Khalilzadeh (Al-Rayyan), and Mehdi Torabi and Mehrdad Mohammadi (Al-Arabi) in leaving the IPL.

The Iranian Professional League (IPL) does not have the needed facilities to keep the Iranian football talents for a long time.

The Iranian clubs' financial problems and the unexpected drop of Iran's currency value are the reasons behind the move for the player exodus.

For many Iranian clubs' directors, it is inevitable to let their stars leave the team and play abroad. These transfers can help the Iranian teams to benefit financially, but the problem is that most of the players join the foreign clubs as free agents and their former Iranian clubs gain nothing!

## America possibly on verge of chaos

**TEHRAN** – As the United State November 3rd presidential election approaches, a U.S. expert tells the Tehran Times that America is standing on the verge of a social and political chaos that could erupt after the election.

"Four years ago when Mr. Trump became president, he came to office with the support of some special groups such as White Supremacists, gun lobbies, and neoconservatives who still overwhelmingly support him," Abouzar Gohari, a U.S. expert, told the Tehran Times. "The point is that if, for any reason, the U.S. election bears results that are different from what Trump wants – i.e. his victory -, these groups will be likely to take to the streets and use their arms. Trump has already rallied his supporters to monitor polling places."

According to Gohari, mail-in voting could trigger a discord between Democrats and Republicans. Trump has long railed against voting by mail, saying

this form of voting pave the way for "massive" voter fraud in favor of his Democratic rival Joe Biden. "Mail-In Ballots will lead to massive electoral fraud and a rigged 2020 Election. Look at all of the cases and examples that are out there right now, with the Patterson, N.J., being the most recent example. Republicans, in particular, cannot let this happen!" Trump tweeted on July 3.

In late July, Trump repeated his claim that the U.S. election will be rigged.

"This election will be the most rigged election in history" if mail-in voting happens, Trump said in a White House press conference.

"Because of MAIL-IN BALLOTS, 2020 will be the most RIGGED Election in our nation's history - unless this stupidity is ended. We voted during World War One & World War Two with no problem, but now they are using Covid in order to cheat by using Mail-Ins!" Trump said in tweet on June 22. **→3**

## U.S. protests: Feds go after protesters with rarely used civil disorder law enacted in 1960s

When announcing federal charges against four men accused of torching police cars in Philadelphia during a protest in May, U.S. Attorney William McSwain gave a stark warning: He would use the full force of the federal government against others who cause mayhem.

"If you engage in violent civil unrest and commit a federal crime in this district, we will come after you as hard as we can," McSwain, of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, said at a news conference Thursday. "You will go to jail."

In addition to the arson charges, federal prosecutors said a grand jury had charged the men with one count each of "obstructing law enforcement in the commission of their duties during a civil disorder."

The statue, which dates back to 1968 and was enacted during a tumultuous period of civil rights and anti-war protests, has rarely been used following the Nixon administration, legal

scholars say. But this year, in the aftermath of nationwide unrest set off by the killing of George Floyd, a Black man in Minneapolis who died after being pinned by a police officer's knee, federal prosecutors have leveled the civil discourse-related charge in at least two dozen cases across the country, a review by NBC News has found.

While Philadelphia is now the latest city where the charge has come up, U.S. attorneys have included them in cases in Houston; in Boston; in Chicago; in Delaware; in South Carolina; in Mobile, Alabama; in Rochester, New York; in Erie, Pennsylvania; and in Portland, Oregon, where there has been no fewer than seven cases of protest-related civil disorder charges.

"It was almost never used until this current administration," said Stephen Kanter, an attorney and dean emeritus at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland.

## \$8b of import items on domestic production list

By Ebrahim Fallahi

**TEHRAN** — Strengthening domestic production has become a major focus of the Iranian government in the past few years, as the country is determined to nullify the U.S. sanction on its economy through boosting production to reach more and more self-reliance.

The current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20) is named the year of "Surge in Production" by the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, while the Leader had named

the previous year as the year of "Pick up in Production", something that came true in all economic and industrial sectors through cooperation between the state-run bodies and private sector.

In this regard, all ministries besides the private sector have been outlining their programs and strategies for realizing this year's motto.

Having the most effective role in the country's economic and industrial development, the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has been among the first government bodies that started

the movement toward the mentioned goal.

Indigenizing the knowledge for the production of various industrial sectors' necessary equipment and machinery has been a very significant and positive step that the mentioned ministry has taken in this regard.

On Friday, Deputy Industry Minister Saeed Zarendi said that his ministry plans to save the country over \$8 billion by indigenizing the knowledge for the production of more than 210 products that are currently being imported into the country. **→4**



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## Air sports in Yazd

Autumn is the best season for Paragliding in the city of Yazd in central of Iran, and the sportspersons have gathered in the city for the air sport.

Paragliding is the most popular air sport and climatic conditions are the most important factor for any air sports.

Air sports are governed internationally by Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) and at the national level by aero clubs such as the National Aeronautics Association and the Royal Aero Club.

## Support package approved for corona-affected tourism businesses

**TEHRAN** – Iran's National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control has approved a new support package to pay loans to businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Depending on the type and activity of the businesses, they could benefit from at least 160 million rials (\$3,800 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to nine billion rials (\$214,000) of bank loans with a 12-percent interest rate, deputy tourism chief Vali Teymouri said on Saturday.

The loans will be allocated to tourist guides, travel agencies, tourism transport companies, tourism educational institutions, eco-lodges and traditional accommodations, hotels, apartment hotels, motels, and guesthouses as well as traditional accommodation centers, tourism complexes, and recreational centers, the official added.

In September, Teymouri pointed to the 1.3 million tourism workers in the country, who are facing several issues due to the coronavirus crisis and said "This number, in addition to their households, includes a significant population that makes a living through tourism, who are needed to be considered in ministry's decisions."

Back in August, Teymouri announced that the tourism ministry has approved a total budget of 4,920 billion rials (over \$117 million) to support corona-affected tourism businesses.

Over 8,300 applications for receiving financial facilities have been registered and sent to the banking system and some 380 billion rials (about \$9 million) has been paid in loans so far, he explained. **→6**



## Pakistan PM says cannot force dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — In an interview with the German magazine Der Spiegel published on Friday, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that he cannot "force" dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Iran is fierce critic of the Saudi-led war on Yemen and has urged the Riyadh rulers to end the war on the fellow Arab country.



"When I came to power, I immediately offered to mediate in Yemen. Such a colossal human rights disaster is going on there. I spoke to Iran and then I spoke with Mohammad bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia. But you can't force anybody to agree on peace talks if they don't want to," Khan said when he was asked have you seen any progress in mediation efforts.

The United Nations has described human suffering in Yemen the worst in the modern history. A large percentage of the population are facing starvation.

Since Saudi Arabia launched war on Yemen in March 2015, Iran put forward a four-point plan for ceasing the war. However, the Saudi kingdom did not heed it. Iran called for an inclusive government in Yemen.

The new leadership in Saudi Arabia has been pursuing a hostile policy against Iran since King Abdullah died.

Saudi Arabia along with Israel were also influential in prompting U.S. President Donald Trump to ditch the 2015 nuclear deal and impose sanctions against Iran. Riyadh has welcomed every anti-Iran move by the Trump administration.

Despite all these hostile moves, Iran has said it is open to dialogue with Saudi Arabia.

The Pakistan prime minister also said a direct war between Iran and Saudi Arabia would be a "disaster" which will affect the entire world.

"It would be a disaster. It would be devastating for countries all over the world, especially the poor, and the price of oil would shoot up," Khan warned.

## It's essential to protect key infrastructure against cyber war: civil defense chief

**"Enemy has resorted to cyber war as it is unable to face Iran militarily"**

**1 →** The civil defense chief said Iran's military capability was best exemplified when Iran shot down the U.S. RQ-4A Global Hawk drone over the Persian Gulf in June 2019.



Jalali said attacks in cyberspace are frequent since the attacker is ambiguous.

He said since electricity is a key industry and all major things are dependent on it, it is necessary to protect it from cyberattacks.

The policy of the Civil Defense Organization is preventing cyberattacks and identifying possible vulnerabilities, Jalali explained.

He went to say, "Lack of disruptions in the country's electricity infrastructure shows its resistance as well as the ability of the country's electricity industry and this is admirable."

Jalali suggested that holding cyber war exercises in the electricity field should be held regularly so that vulnerabilities are identified and promote the resistance of the power network.

In mid-October Iran announced large cyberattacks on two Iranian government institutions. One of the targets was the electronic infrastructure of the country's ports.

On the sidelines of the cyber war maneuver, a cooperation document was also signed between the Civil Defense Organization and TAVANIR to supply uninterruptible power for key and sensitive centers.

Tavanir stands for Iran's Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Management Company.

## Senior officer says Iran to give 'crushing' response to any threat

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A senior officer has said that the enemies will receive a firm response if they do any military adventure against Iran.



Brigadier-General Ahmadreza Pourdastan, the head of the Army's Strategic Studies, also said all air, land and marine equipment of the armed forces are being manufactured by Iranian experts.

Pourdastan went on to say that the armed forces have created the necessary defense capability in proportion to the threats.

He assured the Iranian nation that armed forces in the Army, Islamic Republic Guard Corps (IRGC) and the police are highly prepared and are

closely monitoring any threat posed by the enemies, according to al-manar.com.

# 130 MPs want France to apologize to Muslims over profane remarks

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — In a statement issued on Saturday, 130 Iranian MPs asked the French officials to apologize Muslim nations for using sacrilegious language against Muslims and the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

"French statesmen should openly repent of this flagrant and inhumane move and appease and apologize to Muslim nations in the world," part of the statement said.

The MPs warned if the French officials refuse to do so they will face reaction by the all monotheists in the world.

The lawmakers also asked the Iranian Foreign Ministry to summon the French ambassador in Tehran over the blasphemous remarks by French President Emmanuel Macron.

The head of a United Nations anti-extremism body has expressed "deep concern" over growing tensions over satirical cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, urging "mutual respect" between people of different faiths and political views.

The statement on Wednesday by Miguel Angel Moratinos — who heads the UN Alliance of Civilizations — follows growing anger in the Muslim world over France's response to the beheading of a teacher who had shown his pupils the images as part of a class on free speech.



Macron has vigorously defended the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet on free speech grounds, sparking angry protests across swathes of the Muslim world and campaigns to boycott French products.

"The inflammatory caricatures have also provoked acts of violence against

innocent civilians who were attacked for their sheer religion, belief or ethnicity," Moratinos said in the statement, without explicitly referring to Macron's defense of the images.

"Insulting religions and sacred religious symbols provokes hatred and violent extremism leading to polarization and frag-

## Army chief blames foreign powers as chief culprit for regional crises

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Army Chief said on Saturday that foreign powers are the chief causes of crises in the region, citing calamities in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and Palestine as examples.

"A major portion of factors behind formation of these crises is due to the role of foreign powers. Unfortunately, some factors are also the result of divergent policies and behaviors within the Islamic world, which are far from rational and religious principles," Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said, according to the English version of the Mehr news agency.

Given the strategies of arrogant powers and wrong policies of some Islamic countries, today the Islamic world is facing serious crises, the senior general lamented.

"Palestine, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Kashmir and Caucasus regions are struggling with unrest and violence," the top general regretted while addressing an international Islamic unity conference through video conference.

General Mousavi said that the Islamic world has spread over vast geography and extends from the shores of the Atlantic Ocean to Southeast Asia, and from Northeast

Central Asia to the Southeast of the ancient continent.

Evil powers have occupied a part of the Islamic land with their Zionist extremists and are committing the most heinous crimes against Islamic lands and territories, the major general stated.

The Army commander said other important reasons behind the spread of crises in the Islamic world are lack of consensus in the move towards proximity of Islamic religions and lack of sufficient attention to unity, amity and solidarity between Muslims.

He adding, "Thus, unity, amity and empathy as well as convergence in the world of Islam is more essential than ever in the contemporary world."

According to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the issue of unity today is at the top of Islamic issues and strengthening the movement towards Islamic convergence is the first necessity of Islamic world in the current situation, he added.

He went on to say that Iran, which is considered the core of resistance movement, has faced political pressure, military threats as well as cruel economic sanctions.



Iran has come under the harshest sanctions in history by the U.S. administration. The sanctions, which has been introduced under the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign have even disrupted the flow of medicines and medical equipment to the country.

## RUSI analyzes scenarios in case Trump or Biden wins presidency in regard to Iran

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — In a commentary on October 30, the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) envisions possible scenarios in relations between Iran and the U.S. in case Donald Trump is reelected or Joe Biden wins the presidency.

The commentary, titled Iran and the U.S.: The Long and Arduous diplomatic road, is as follows:

U.S.-Iran relations are at a standstill. Washington's push in September to finally break up the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — the nuclear deal concluded under President Barack Obama in 2015 — through an extension of the UN arms embargo on Iran was the last hurrah for the 'maximum pressure' strategy of the Trump presidency. With European persuasion, Tehran has adopted a posture of 'strategic patience', which consists of neither engaging with nor reacting to U.S. moves, and which is assumed to be valid at least until the presidential elections next week.

**■ Scenarios after a potential Trump victory**

There is a chance President Donald Trump will win a second term. In that case, Iran could face one of two scenarios. First, Trump could continue with his maximum pressure policies. But there is also the possibility that, relieved of re-election concerns and focused on his legacy, he will adopt a credible diplomatic strategy to engage Tehran. The first course could lead to open conflict between the two countries.

Trump will want direct talks and a large deal, but he will have to settle — at least at the outset — for indirect talks through an intermediary in order to get over the overhang of maximum pressure and the killing of Major General Qassem Soleimani earlier this year. In Tehran, many think only Russian President Vladimir Putin has the trust of both Trump and the Iranian Supreme Leader to perform that role. Assuming that Trump has an aversion to going to war, Iran will likely threaten conflict and nuclear breakout to compel him to make serious concessions.

**■ Choices facing a Biden presidency**

If Joe Biden wins the U.S. elections next week, his administration is expected to follow the course laid out in his September CNN opinion article and interview: a U.S. return to the JCPOA deal, coupled with the expectation that Iran will resume its own full

compliance with that agreement. The U.S. would then seek further talks on expanding the scope of the JCPOA, and also address broader regional security issues. Many in Washington see this as too optimistic, expecting that Congress and the U.S. Middle East allies will object, or demand that Washington uses the leverage built up by Trump to extract immediate concessions from Tehran. These arguments have already soured the mood in Tehran: Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Iran's UN Ambassador Majid Takht-Ravanchi have said that Iran expects compensation for the economic damage it has suffered since the U.S. departure from the JCPOA.

An important factor will be the size of a Biden victory. A narrow victory — and if Republicans make gains in the House of Representatives or hold on to the Senate — followed by a contentious interregnum between 3 November and 20 January will significantly limit the new president's ability to make bold foreign policy moves. The White House would then be inclined to revert to a safe policy position on Iran, although the offer of 'compliance for compliance' will then be a slow process, the JCPOA will continue to teeter on the edge, and the prospects for expanding it or addressing wider missile and regional issues will be remote. The result would likely be a U.S. reliance on sanctions, and Iran may continue skirting Washington's 'red lines' and exerting pressure on the US in the region to gain leverage.

If, on the other hand, Biden wins decisively — and Democrats make gains in the House and even in the Senate — then the new president will have significant room to maneuver from the outset. Biden would be in a position to push back against congressional resistance and pressure from allies to return the US to the JCPOA, precisely as he has pledged during the electoral campaign. Returning to the JCPOA is a powerful signal that Biden will restore Obama's legacy. He could even announce the return to the JCPOA and the Paris Climate Accord at the same time.

**■ The 'clean' break?**

**Although a potential Biden presidency has been explicit about how it wishes to engage with Iran, its choices are far from straightforward.**

This outcome, dubbed in Washington as a 'clean' return to the deal by both sides, is the most positive scenario for restoring the JCPOA and laying the groundwork for expanding its scope. The quicker 'compliance for compliance' happens, the more Biden will be able to overcome resistance and set U.S.-Iran relations on a constructive course. It is important to note that the course Biden adopts will likely shape the Iranian presidential elections of June 2021, which will in turn be important to Iran's future posture.

There are important hurdles to consider. The 'compliance for compliance' approach assumes rapid Iranian compliance with the JCPOA, but a slow dismantling of U.S. sanctions and designations. This would at best return the sanctions regime to its 2017 status, when Trump came to power. Iran, however, expects Biden to use executive orders to remove sanctions Trump put in place after leaving the JCPOA. Tehran may even resist fully complying with the JCPOA without economic concessions that go beyond where things stood in 2017.

The current state of debate in Tehran would suggest even more reticence. First, and although under severe economic pressure, Iran is not about to collapse. To the contrary, having survived the worst of the U.S. maximum pressure attempts, it is showing a certain degree of confidence in its own resilience. Economic pressure is devastating in the long run, but Iran can live with it in the short term. Furthermore, Iran now sees China and Russia as providing it with a broader strategic option, a prop to rely on at the UN, and a counterbalance to U.S. and European pressure. That translates into greater reluctance to quickly acquiesce.

It is true that Iran has remained in the JCPOA in the hope of fully restoring it, and its strategic patience suggests it expects a positive shift in U.S. policy. Still, there is a faction in Tehran — which is quite vocal in the parliament — that wants Iran to leave the JCPOA and even the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Furthermore, even among those who support the JCPOA, there is still significant

mentation of the society," he warned.

The statement said freedom of religion and freedom of expression are "interdependent, interrelated and mutually re-enforcing rights" rooted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Upholding and protecting these fundamental rights is the primary responsibility of member states," the statement read.

Many activists have criticized France for attacking sacred symbols of minorities in the name of freedom of speech.

On Friday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defended free speech, but added that it was "not without limits" and should not "arbitrarily and needlessly hurt" certain communities.

"We will always defend freedom of expression," Trudeau said in response to a question about the right to show a caricature of the Prophet Mohammed, as France's Charlie Hebdo magazine did.

In a post on its Twitter page, the AFP news agency said, "French President Emmanuel Macron expressed understanding that cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed could shock Muslims, but said that this could never be used to justify violence."

AFP said Macron made the remarks in an interview with Al-Jazeera that was to be broadcast in full on Saturday.



# America possibly on verge of chaos

**1→** On the other hand, Biden's supporters view Trump's claim about voter fraud as a ploy to prevent a higher voter turnout because, they say, the only way for Republicans to win November 3rd elections is to keep prevent people from voting.

"The once-proud Republican Party has determined, correctly, that its only way to prevail in this election is to keep people from voting. Republicans and their allies have devoted some \$20 million to wage more than 300 court fights across the country either to strike down election rules that encourage higher voter turnout or to fight lawsuits aimed at easing voting, according to the Center for Public Integrity," the Washington Post columnist, Dana Milbank, said in an opinion piece published on October 29.

Milbank added, "Republicans have won the popular vote for the presidency only once since 1988, and the Senate Republican majority has for years represented a minority of the population. But they have used this minority rule to stack the judiciary, including six of the nine Supreme Court justices. Now Republican billionaires are financing a legal war to block voting rights — and the judges the minority Republicans installed on the courts are trying to shield Republican power from the will of the people."

But aside from the will of the people, this election's methods of voting could shake the U.S., given the current polarization in American society.

Gohari believes that Trump will likely



to declare himself winner based on votes that are cast in-person in polling places on Election Day, refusing to accept any change in the results even if mail-in ballots prove — in a later time — that he did not win the election.

"If on the election night, Trump secures more votes among the in-person votes and consequently declares victory and then, after counting mail-in ballots it turns out that Biden won the election, Trump will likely announce the election was rigged," pointed out Gohari, adding that in this scenario Trump's supporters

will likely take to the streets under the pretext of electoral fraud, a move that would plunge the U.S. into chaos.

The expert added, "American society is now chaos-stricken due to structural discrimination. This chaos has spread to nearly 400 cities. It's like fire under the ashes."

According to Gohari, the U.S. is now suffering from many crises such as racial discrimination and the identity crisis and if Trump or even Democrats exacerbate these crises through allegations of voter fraud, the U.S. will be stricken with chaos.

Responding to a question on whether Trump and Biden would accept the results, the expert noted that Biden has made it clear that he will accept them but Trump has refused to clearly say whether he will accept the result, though his aides have suggested that he will accept the outcome of the November election.

"This election is not clear and will be a challenging one due to the method of voting and other factors. No one can predict who will win and whether the loser will accept the results."

It seems that American officials are preparing for a wave of riots and violent protests after the November election. In Washington DC, authorities are taking precautionary measures in anticipation of "violent demonstrations," according to an ABC News report.

"As you walk around America's capital Washington DC, the city looks like it's preparing more for a riot than election parties. Shops are boarding up their windows, authorities are readying their defenses against violent demonstrations, and an 'anti-climb' wall is being built around the White House. Tourists, once able to stand outside the White House fence for a clear view of the historic residence, have been pushed back to surrounding streets, and the view is blocked by barricades and a heavy police presence," ABC News said.

According to the report, city and law enforcement officials are bracing for two anxiety-inducing scenarios: clashes on the streets and at polling stations.

## Iran condemns U.S. for 'bragging about stealing' oil

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, denounced on Friday a U.S. decision to sell an oil shipment allegedly seized from Iran, calling it an act of theft.

"The Pirates of the Caribbean openly boasting about their booty," Khatibzadeh said in a tweet after news media outlets reported that the United States has sold alleged Iranian oil that was seized in August on its way to Venezuela.

According to an AFP report, the oil was sold for more than \$40 million.

In mid-August, the U.S. Justice Department claimed in a statement that the U.S. has seized Iranian fuel from four tankers bound for Venezuela.

"On July 2, 2020, the United States filed a complaint seeking to forfeit all petroleum-product cargo aboard four foreign-flagged oil tankers, including the M/T Bella with international maritime organization (IMO) number 9208124, the M/T Bering with IMO number 9149225, the M/T Pandi with IMO number 9105073, and the M/T Luna with IMO number 9208100. A seizure order for the cargo from all four vessels was issued by U.S. District Court Judge Jeb Boasberg of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia," said the statement, adding, "The government announced today that it has successfully executed the seizure order



and confiscated the cargo from all four vessels, totaling approximately 1.116 million barrels of petroleum. With the assistance of foreign partners, this seized property is now in U.S. custody."

But Iran denied at the time that the U.S. has seized fuel from Iranian tankers. An informed Iranian source had told Press TV that the report that the U.S. has seized Iranian fuel cargoes aboard ships bound for Venezuela was false.

According to the Source, the fuel shipments in question had already been purchased and paid for, and that neither the vessels carrying them nor the shipments themselves were related to Iran.

Khatibzadeh reiterated that the oil that the U.S. has sold did not belong to Iran. "Only, as we said before: it wasn't ours. But somebody else's oil has certainly been stolen. No one civilized brags about stealing," the spokesman asserted.

He also took a jab at U.S. National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien who recently implied that the U.S. has exhausted its sanctions option toward Iran.

"To U.S. rogue regime: your toolbox, unlike ours, is shrinking by the day. Ask Robert O'Brien," Khatibzadeh noted.

O'Brien has admittedly said, "One of the problems that we have faced with both Iran and Russia is that we now have so many sanctions against these countries that we have very little (opportunity) to do anything about it."

In response, Iran said the U.S. O'Brien's remarks are yet another proof that the U.S. has exhausted its sanctions option on Iran and that it has resorted to more economic warfare against Iran.

"NSA Robert O'Brien just admitted that U.S. has out-sanctioned its ability to inflict more pain on Iranian people. Time for the U.S. to finally admit it is a sanction addict. Kick the habit. More economic warfare against Iran will bring the U.S. less—and not more—influence," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet recently, shortly after the U.S. Treasury Department announced new sanctions on Iran's oil sector.

## Iran sympathizes with Turkey over earthquake

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Senior Iranian officials, including President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, have expressed sympathy with Turkey over the earthquake that rocked the country's third-largest city, killing at least 25 people and injuring more than 800 others.

In a message to his Turkish counterpart, President Rouhani expressed his condolences to the Turkish government and people for the loss and injury of a number of Turkish people in the devastating earthquake in Izmir Province, and the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to send any kind of relief and medical aid to the people of earthquake-stricken areas, according to the official website of the Iranian president.

"The occurrence of a devastating earthquake in Izmir province and the loss and injury of some of the dear people of that country caused great grief and sorrow. On behalf of the government and the people of

the Islamic Republic of Iran, I offer my condolences to His Excellency and the friendly and brotherly people of Turkey, and I ask the Almighty Allah patience for the bereaved families and swift recovery to the injured," Rouhani said in his message.

He added, "The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran declares its readiness to send any kind of relief and medical aid and assistance to the people of the earthquake-stricken areas and hopes to see the return of safe conditions in the affected areas as soon as possible."

Zarif also sent a message of solidarity to his Turkish counterpart.

"Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in a message to his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu, expressed deep sympathy over the tragic earthquake that struck Turkey's Izmir," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement late on Friday.

The statement added, "In the Friday message, Foreign Minister Zarif wished



speedy recovery for the injured, and informed his Turkish counterpart of Iran's preparedness for providing any kind of assistance in that regard."

Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, also echoed Iran's readiness to help Turkey.

"Following the harrowing earthquake in Turkey, we remain in close contact with our Turkish friends and stand ready to provide any possible assistance. On 'World Cities Day', we wish Izmir's full recovery and send our heartfelt sympathies to all its residents," the spokesman said in a

tweet on Saturday.

Saeed Namaki, Iran's health minister, also sent a similar message to his Turkish counterpart, expressing sympathy with Turkey and voicing Iran's readiness to help.

On Friday, a powerful earthquake hit Turkey's Western city of Izmir and north of the Greek island of Samos. The earthquake had a magnitude of 6.9 and its epicenter was in the Aegean northeast of Samos. The earthquake, which was felt across the eastern Greek islands and as far as Athens and Bulgaria, brought about the collapse of several buildings in Izmir, causing a mini-tsunami that struck some streets. Videos circulating on social media platforms showed waters rising from the nearby sea and flowing into houses in the vicinity.

Rescue teams rushed to the collapsed buildings to rescue people from the wreckage, moments after the earthquake, which caused more than 400 aftershocks.



the Iranian initiative is no easy task.

"Immediately implementing the initiative is not easy but we are not disappointed and will move forward with our efforts," Araghchi remarked.

The deputy minister described his talks in Ankara as "frank and productive."

"Frank and productive discussion with Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Onal in Ankara. Iran and Turkey are two major players with undeniable role in peace and stability of the region," he tweeted following a meeting with Onal.

## Araghchi holds talks with Turkish counterpart over Nagorno-Karabakh war

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — At the end of his regional tour, which included several countries, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the deputy foreign minister of Iran for political affairs, arrived in Ankara late on Friday to hold talks over the ongoing war between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In Ankara, the deputy minister met with his Turkish counterpart, Sedat Onal. Following the meeting, Araghchi described the position of countries involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict toward Iran's peace initiative as "positive."

During his tour, Araghchi presented Iran's initiative to establish peace in the conflict zone. He held discussions with officials in Baku, Moscow, Yerevan, and finally in Ankara.

"Given the capacities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and its close relations with the countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia, it is capable of having an effective presence to resolve this crisis, and it, after conducting detailed studies, has presented an initiative to achieve a lasting peace in the Caucasus region, which is important to all regional countries," pointed out Araghchi, adding that the regional approach of Iran's initiative is a prominent feature that engages the main players in the region to resolve this crisis.

The Iranian diplomat added, "We do not reject other mechanisms such as the Minsk Group, our initiative is not a substitute for the Minsk initiatives but a complement to it, and we seek to contribute to the current efforts of the

Minsk Group through a regional approach and engaging all effective regional players to resolve this crisis."

Araghchi gave more details about the Iran peace initiative, describing it as "realistic" and based on the principles of international law.

According to the deputy foreign minister, these principles include respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, the need to end occupation, the need to respect the rights of minorities, the return of refugees, non-interference, and the withdrawal of foreign agents from the region.

"We expect these principles to be initially agreed upon, followed by a ceasefire and the start of negotiations," said Araghchi, noting that all of the four countries involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh war — Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, and Turkey — have viewed the Iranian peace initiative as positive.

The Iranian diplomat, who embarked on the regional tour as the special representative of the Iranian president, pointed out that Iran is waiting for its initiative to be reviewed by the four countries.

"We are waiting for a response from the four countries in a short time to complete it [initiative] in a way that is accepted by all and paves the way for resolving the crisis," Araghchi said.

However, the Iranian diplomat stated that implementing

## SPORTS

### Iran holds 13th National Paralympic Day

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran celebrated the 13th National Paralympic Day at the National Olympic and Paralympic Academy in Tehran on Saturday.

In light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, this edition was held virtually.



Head of Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa, NPC Secretary General Mohammad Tabe and head of Iran Sports Federation for the Disabled Mohammad Shervin Asbaghian attended the ceremony.

Iran first celebrated the National Paralympic Day in 2003 and was included in the National Calendar by a Presidential order in 2016.

The main goals of the National Paralympic Committee are to introduce the Paralympic Movement to the Iranian society, contribute to the inclusion of people with disabilities, change attitudes towards people with disabilities and provide them with social opportunities.

### Persepolis complete signing of Mohammad Sharifi

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football club completed the signing of Saipa rising star Mohammad Sharifi.

The Iranian club signed the 20-year-player after FIFA lifted their transfer ban on Friday.

Sharifi was on the list of 60 best young talents in football world issued by The Guardian under the title of 'Next Generation 2017'.

The midfielder made his professional debut for Esteghlal Khuzestan in the Iranian league as well as the Asian Champions League.

Sharifi has penned a two-year contract deal with Persepolis for an undisclosed fee.

Persepolis will meet Saipa on Friday in Tehran in the opening match of the Iran professional League.

### Persepolis emerge victorious over Gol Gohar: friendly

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team beat Gol Gohar Sirjan in a friendly match on Saturday.

Persepolis, who are prepare to win Iran Professional League (IPL) title for the fifth time in a row, defeated the Sirjan-based football club 3-2 in Tehran's Shahid Kazemi Stadium.

Mehdi Abdi and Vahid Amiri (two goals) were on target for Persepolis and Godwin Mensha scored Gol Gohar's two goals.

The new edition of the Iran Professional League will kick off on Nov. 6.

IPL titleholders Persepolis will meet Saipa on November 6 and Gol Gohar host Sepahan in Sirjan on Nov. 7.

### Tavakoli changes mind to join Tractor

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian-Norwegian David Tavakoli forward has changed his mind to join Iranian club Tractor.

The 28-year-old forward, who currently plays at KFUM-Kamateratene Oslo, had been linked with a move to Tractor.

Tractor, who won Iran's Hazfi Cup in September, want to strengthen for the Iran Professional League new season.

The Tabriz-based football team will also take part in the 2021 AFC Champions League.

Tavakoli has said he would not join Tractor due to the personal problems.

The new edition of IPL will kick off on Nov. 6.

Tractor will host the new season with a match against Naft Masjed Soleyman on Friday.

### Two Iranian defenders in best 2020 ACL (West) Team

Two Iranian defenders Siamak Nemati and Saeid Aghaei have been chosen in the Best XI from the West Asia stage.

Nemati was chosen the best right-back with 79 percent of the votes.

Injuries to others forced Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi to move midfielder Nemati to right-back ahead of the tournament's resumption in Qatar and, such were his performances, he made the position his own. The Tehran native was part of a backline so tight it didn't concede from open play in seven games in Doha while he was also a constant threat going forward.

Aghaei was picked as the best left-back with 85 percent of votes.

It's no surprise that every member of Persepolis' regular back four made the cut with Aghaei, who joined from Sepahan prior to the resumption, slotting in seamlessly. The only game Persepolis lost in Doha was the only one in which he didn't play, while he was a superb addition going forward, delivering more crosses from open play than any other defender and assisting his side's second goal in the quarter-final win over Pakhtakor.

(Source: the-afc.com)



## Nearly 200,000 houses to be included in vacancy tax law

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami said that the ministry has referred a list of 194,000 vacant housing units to Iran National Tax Administration (INTA) to be taxed under the new vacancy tax law.

The minister said that the owners of these houses have been informed in this regard via receiving SMSs.

Last month, Deputy Transport Minister for Housing and Construction Affairs Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh had said that in the first stage of the implementation of the program for collecting tax from the country's vacant housing units, only units belonging to natural persons are targeted.

Back on July 12, Iranian parliament (Majlis) had approved the double-urgency plan of the vacancy tax law.



The mentioned plan is mainly aimed at lowering the housing rental rate in the country.

Expressing his agreement over the approval of the mentioned plan, Hossein Hossein-Zadeh Bahraini, a member of the Majlis Economic Committee, said, "Our problem in the housing sector is not the demand higher than the supply, while the number of residential units is more than required."

This plan is vital, as many families are struggling for renting the homes, while there are many empty units, the MP further reiterated.

The vacancy tax law, as part of Direct Tax Reform Law, was put on the agenda in the Iranian calendar year ending March 2016 and was enforceable from the year ending March 2017, but there was little data on the number of vacant units then, according to Mahmoud Alizadeh, a senior official with Iran National Tax Administration (INTA).

Alizadeh said, "As per Clause 54 of Direct Tax Law if a home remains vacant for more than a year, it will be subject to Vacancy Tax. Homes with a floor area of 150-odd square meters will be subject to tax at the rate of 20 percent of the property's rent value," Eghtesad Online published on June 20.

Elaborating on the vacancy tax, INTA Head Omid-Ali Parsa said in June, "Empty homes will not be taxed in the first year but they will be taxed at the rate of 50 percent of the property's assessed rent in the second year and in the third year, they will be levied tax at the rate of 100 percent of the assessed rent".

According to Mahmoudzadeh, a total of 6.6 million households or 30.7 percent of the country's 18.1 million urban households live in rented homes.

## Commodities transited via South Khorasan Province up 23% in 7 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The weight of commodities transited via South Khorasan Province in east of Iran has increased 23 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), according to a provincial official.

Moshir-ul-Haq Abedi, the deputy governor-general of South Khorasan for economic affairs, announced that 4,009 trucks have transited 129,389 tons of commodities from the province to Afghanistan in the seven-month period, indicating a 19 percent rise in the number of trucks as well.

The official said that the commodities from Indonesia, China, Turkmenistan, India, United Arab Emirates, Russia, and Turkey were transited to Afghanistan via Mahiroud Border Terminal in South Khorasan Province.



In early July, an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration had said that the transit of commodities through Iran is expected to fall 30 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021).

According to Mostafa Ayati, the director-general of IRICA's Transit Bureau, the volume of transit also decreased by 26 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year to 7.15 million tons.

The official expressed concerns over the condition of the transit sector in Iran and said necessary measures should be taken to revive this sector.

"The volume of transit in 1399 [the current Iranian calendar year] will decrease by 30 percent in the most optimistic scenario, which indicates the existence of various problems in this sector which beg serious attention," he said.

One of the main reasons for the decline in the transit of goods via Iran has been the outbreak of coronavirus and the consequent closure of the country's borders with its neighboring countries.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due. To benefit from its location for transit, the country has many plans underway and on the agenda to boost its transit capacity.

Some of these plans include developing Iran's largest container port, Shahid Rajaei Port in the southern province of Hormozgan, and also Chabahar Port in the southeast of the country, connecting the ports to the railway network, development of transit via railway, and also some customs measures such as improving transit procedures in the customs offices.

# 15% increase in non-oil exports on agenda for H2

**1 →** According to the official, the government is going to be mainly focused on exports to the markets of 15 neighboring countries plus India and China because these 17 countries accounted for 89 percent of Iran's non-oil exports in the first six months of this year.

"Considering the upward trend of production in different sectors, the growth of exports is also evident, especially in the field of agriculture and food industry, so that in the first six months of this year despite the decrease in oil exports, the exports of the agriculture and food industry grew by 16 percent," he stressed.

Regarding the TPO's import priorities the official added: "According to the methods specified by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) for allocating foreign currency, the priority of imports will be for basic goods, raw materials, intermediate items for production units, machinery, and equipment."

Iran's 15 neighboring countries have been the destinations for 70 percent of Iranian non-oil exports during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), according to the TPO head.

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

According to the official, Iran is capable



of doubling non-oil exports to its neighbors in two years.

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

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

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

Iran shares borders with fifteen countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Oman, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia whose total value of annual imports exceed \$1000 billion.

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

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

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

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

## \$8b of import items on domestic production list

**1 →** Zarandi noted that to introduce the products required by various sectors a website has been established in which investors can find all the information they would need regarding the sectors, the products, and the companies already working on indigenizing the required products.

According to the official, the ministry is also planning on reviving more than 2,200 idle industrial units across the country, of which so far 760 units have been put back into operation.

He said another step taken in the movement for boosting domestic production has been supporting knowledge-based companies.

"We have already paid over 2 trillion rials (over \$47 million) of facilities to more than 137 knowledge-based companies that had contracts signed with the country's industrial sector," he said.

Back in 2019, the deputy industry, mining, and trade minister for industry affairs announced that the ministry defined 40 trillion rials (about \$952 million) worth of projects to be awarded to the knowledge-based companies for indigenization of the auto industry equipment and machinery.

According to Mehdi Sadeghi Niaraki, aimed at boosting the domestic production of auto parts and equipment, these projects are defined to be implemented by companies and institutes that are on the cutting edge of knowledge and technology.

As for the programs in the current year, the Industry Ministry has announced the setting up of four domestic production promotion desks in the fields of petrochemicals, refining, auto, and home appliance industries in which deals will be signed for indigenizing \$245 million worth of equipment in the said sectors.

Of the mentioned figure, €60 million is related to the petrochemical industry, €80 million is pertaining to the refining industry, €63 million is related to the home appliance industry and €42 million is for the automotive industry.

According to the Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry data, relying on domestic production has saved Iran \$1.045 billion since the implementation of the ministry's program in this regard, in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) during which 11 desks had been set up on the matter.

The mentioned program for establishing domestic production promotion desks was defined by the government to supply products, equipment, and machinery needed in various industrial fields using the capacities of the domestic producers and to increase self-sufficiency in the mentioned areas.

## Bosnia welcomes all-out expansion of ties with Iran

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — In a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina Reza Qelichkhan, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina Zoran Tegeltija described Iran as a great and historic country and said that his country welcomes expansion of ties with Iran in all fields.

Putting emphasis on the significance of developing relations between the two countries, the Bosnian official said, "We hope that we will see the presence of the Iranian traders and businessmen in Bosnia-Herzegovina as soon as the coronavirus pandemic restrictions are lifted", IRNA

reported.

Iranian ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina for his part emphasized the role of the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the expansion of ties between the two sides, and said, "The two countries have a good relationship and I hope that we will witness the exchange of political and economic delegations between the two sides like before as soon as the pandemic restrictions are eased."

He said, "Laying the ground by the two countries' governments for the facilitation of the two sides' private sectors' cooperation is a necessity, and we hope that we can do this through mutual cooperation".

## TEDPIX rises 17,000 points on Saturday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 17,456 points to 1.305 million on Saturday, which is the first day of the Iranian calendar week.

Over 7.257 billion securities worth 68.525 trillion rials (about \$1.631 billion) were traded at the TSE on Saturday.

The first market's index rose 24,580 points and the second market's index climbed 10,850 points.

TEDPIX fell 124,000 points, or 9.5 percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.288 million points at the end of the previous week.

The indices of Abadan Power Generation

Company, Iran Khodro Group, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Mobarakheh Steel Company, Bandar-Abbas Oil Refinery, and Tamin Cement Investment Company were the most traded indices during the past week.

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

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

## Russia to begin working on Iranian power plant soon

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The Russian contractor approved for the implementation of Iran's Sirik Power Plant project in southern Hormozgan Province is going to begin working on the project in near future, an official with the Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH) said.

"The project will soon start using a government loan from the Russian Federation," Iran's Energy Ministry portal (Paven) quoted Director of TPPH Steam Power Plant Projects Behnam Khaefi-Nejad as saying.

Following the introduction of a new contractor by the Russian Ministry of Energy for the construction of the 1400 MW Sirik power plant, contract negotiations with the company began at the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 19) and after holding 90 meetings between the two sides finally the deal was signed, Khaefi-Nejad explained.

According to the official, after the finalization of the

contract with the presence of representatives of the employer, consultant, and representatives of the Ministry of Energy of Russia and Iran, the project site with an area of approximately 200 hectares was handed over to the new contractor.

Emphasizing that the first phase of the project's studies is currently completed and the second phase of studies is on the agenda, he said: "According to the plan, after obtaining the final approval from the Russian Ministry of Finance and subsequently opening the project LC, executive operations of the project will begin."

The funding required for the implementation of this project amounts to 1.4 billion euros, which will be provided from a loan granted by the Government of the Russian Federation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Khaefi-Nejad added.

In the end, he noted that all the executive operations

of this project will be done by Iranian contractors, and in the equipment supply section, the contractor will also benefit from domestic manufacturers.

Back in September, Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said Russia has changed the contractor that was supposed to work on the Sirik power plant and the new contractor is going to start working on the project in the coming weeks.

Iran had signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Russian Company Technopromexport for implementing the 1,400-megawatt power plant project in August 2016, and the Russian side pledged to invest up to \$1.2 billion in the project.

The construction of the mentioned thermal power plant started in February 2017, however, it came to a halt due to some administrative and funding problems from the Russian side.

## Iran capable of exporting \$40b of technical, engineering services

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran has the potential and capability to export technical and engineering services worth \$40 billion in a year, representatives of the country's private sector active in this field say, the portal of Tehran Chamber of Commerce Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) reported.

Representatives of the private sector in the construction industry attended a meeting at the TCCIMA place on Saturday to discuss ways to expand the export of technical and engineering services.

In the meeting, the attendees called on the government to facilitate the conditions

for the activities of the mentioned sector and to ease the export processes.

Speaking at this event, the head of the Technical and Engineering Services Export Committee of Tehran Mass Housing Builders Association presented a brief report on the committee's plans to identify target markets and specified that in this regard several meetings have been held with Iranian ambassadors and trade advisers in the mentioned countries.

The TCCIMA Secretary-General Bahman Eshqi also pointed to the high capacity of the country's construction industry and added: "The export potential of this sector can be



significantly expanded."

Eshqi reminded that in order to increase the export of technical and engineering services, an efficient triangle should be formed

among the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Tehran Mass Builders Association, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen economic diplomacy and open the construction market of other countries to Iranian companies and engineers.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Ahmad Khoram, the head of the country's Construction Engineering Organization emphasized his organization's efforts in this regard and said: "If Iran's exports of technical and engineering services are on the path of prosperity, we will see a leap which will consequently lead to the increase in employment in the country."



# Americans will re-elect President Trump: American writer

BY Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** — An American writer says that the 2020 contest is between a builder and a bungler and “Americans will, in the end, choose jobs over mobs and re-elect President Trump.”

Charles Ortel, investor and writer interested in lasting peace, tells the Tehran Times that “independent voices” in American elections will spur Trump to make achievements worldwide, even in places where other presidents have failed.

This is the text of the interview:

■ Does it matter to the American people who win the elections? Will it be a real change?

A: It matters enormously. The far left is economically illiterate and beholden to a group of billionaires and other vested interests that seek to keep voters down in the muck so they will remain desperate and dependent. I refer to this approach as being “merchants in misery.” These are supposed “experts” who seek virtually despotic rule.

In contrast, Trump supporters understand that big government, like big bureaucracy, fails most of us. Instead, much can be gained slimming down public sector operations, always remembering here that it is we, the people, who expect our elected officials to serve our best interests.

Trump supporters also see “unregulated globalism” for the disaster that it surely is. Just look at how many jobs have disappeared under the needlessly complex approach that multinational companies took from 1988 forward. Investors may have done well, but much of this is because interest rates fell, not because profits and wages rose.

Should Biden win? The global economy may collapse in an economic depression. Alternatively, the world economy and the American economy will boom again under President Trump.

■ Is there any difference between Democrats and Republicans in waging endless wars?

The United States entered a period in the 1990s where voters started to think more independently than leaders did in either an established political party. This evolved into the 2015/6 cycle when the presidential campaigns with enthusiastic support were led by outsiders: Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.

In this cycle, we now have a clear frontrunner in President Trump, who has convincingly demonstrated with fewer than five full years of political experience that he will tackle and actually solve tough problems that others have preferred to let fester. And we have a non-campaign



for Joe Biden.

In simple terms, the 2020 contest is between a builder and a bungler. Americans will, in the end, choose jobs over mobs and re-elect President Trump.

Independent voices will make the decisive difference and then spur President Trump to make great achievements worldwide, even in places where other Presidents have failed.

■ How do you assess the influence of AIPAC and Israeli lobbies in American election and decision making?

A: I believe American voters are primarily concerned about our jobs and after-tax incomes, about our health and personal safety, and not that aware or interested in foreign policy issues. After all, our territory is large, and our internal market for consumption and investment is vast, compared to foreign opportunities that are much tougher to pursue.

Certainly, AIPAC lobbyists are influential in Washington, DC, but I do not see their voices swaying voters one way or another in this presidential election. If anything, I believe pro-Israel Democrats are more likely to support Trump than Biden, having supported Clinton in 2016.

■ How may Trump exploit Amy Coney Barrett's position in the Supreme Court to use it in possible disputes over election results?

A: Amy Coney Barrett is another superb selection by President who will scrupulously apply the law to the facts in any controversy that may reach the Supreme Court. Based upon her long record, she is a clear thinker who, under our system, cannot be exploited as she is appointed

to serve for the balance of her life.

Elections do have consequences—President Obama (thankfully) failed his supporters by leaving so many judgeships open at the end of his tenure as President. President Trump ran and is running on a promise kept to appoint law and order Constitution followers to the bench.

This will likely be an important part of his legacy.

■ Do you believe in Russia and China's intervention in U.S. elections?

Many nations, including allies such as Britain, do try to interfere in our elections. Today, the news is more evidence that Ukraine likely tried to interfere in the 2016 election and has a stake in the 2020 election.

That said, I also believe that Americans view the political system with disdain and are most interested in seeing President Trump succeed in “Draining the Swamp”, whether from a left or right-leaning perspective.

Russia likely bemoans the breakup of the Soviet Union, while China risks much from certain decisions under Trump to decouple and to encourage American multinationals to repatriate jobs and capital inside our borders.

Of the two, I suspect China will be much more active in any possible meddling but that no foreign actor will prevail.

Besides, isn't the biggest story regarding election interference that the Obama Administration and its holdovers likely interfered to support Hillary Clinton by using U.S. government resources to spread false tales about Donald Trump in and after 2016?

■ What is your comment on new American sanctions on 18 Iranian banks? Experts say that these sanctions will hamper Iran's access to medicine and medical equipment.

A: People in the United States must wonder why it has proven impossible, under Democrat or Republican administrations, to restore mutually beneficial and amicable relations with people in Iran and between our respective governments for more than four decades. After all, this is more time than a typical generation in the human lifespan.

Surely, it must be in the true interests of both large nations to trade, travel, learn from one another, and invest and live in peace. Sadly, that is not our recent history.

■ Who is served by these persistent hostilities?

A: I believe the Trump administration is determined to achieve lasting peace where previous administrations have failed.

But if leaders in nations are neither willing to negotiate nor, worse, to fight against peace, then America will use tools available, including sanctions, regrettably.

## Gear up, storm is coming

### Police bracing for potential unrest in days before and after Nov. 3 elections

Activist groups across the United State are already planning potential protests and demonstrations before after Election Day, anticipating foul play at the polls or in the ballot counting room.

In Philadelphia, progressive groups are banding together to ensure a fair election process, and will stage protests if there appears to be any foul play, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

The stakes are high, as the winner of the election will set the course for the U.S. recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and guide the country's reopening, as 12.6 million Americans remain unemployed.

An influx of mail-in ballots this election cycle will likely delay the announcement of a winner on election night. That departure from Election Day norms is also setting up the country for uncertainty in the days following as the prospect of a contest election lingers and both parties prepare for a 2000-esque showdown to declare a winner.

■ **Walmart puts guns back on sales floor**

Walmart reversed a decision to remove firearms from its sales floors amid civil unrest less than one day after the policy was implemented, Business Insider's Mary Meisenzahl reported.

The original announcement on Thursday to remove the weapons from stores followed the looting of a Philadelphia Walmart after protests in the city turned violent. The protests began after the death of Walter Wallace Jr., a 27-year-old Black man who police shot

multiple times after responding to a call about a man with a knife.

Following the initial announcement, a Walmart spokesperson in a statement to Business Insider cited previous instances of civil unrest in justifying the policy change. Walmart had previously pulled guns from its shelves over the summer as protests gripped the nation following the police killing of George Floyd.

Walmart sells firearms in around 2,350 stores nationwide, and those seeking to purchase one could still do so under the new policy. Stores would shift to an on-request system instead of displaying the merchandise on the sales floor, Meisenzahl said.

■ **Conflict experts see rising warning signs**

Members of a Quaker congregation in Maryland are so concerned that President Trump will prematurely declare victory when states are still counting ballots — a process that could take days — that they are ready to take to the streets in nonviolent resistance.

They say such a scenario would amount to a “coup” — even if it involves legal fights and not military action.

“To use the word ‘coup’ in the United States just seems like such a foreign concept when we're supposed to be this beacon of democracy,” said Elaine Duncan, an acupuncturist and Quaker who lives just outside Washington, D.C. “But it doesn't seem like we're being a beacon of democracy right now.”

With Election Day just three days away, anxiety, distrust and suspicion are running high. Activists and extremists on both the

right and left are worried the other side will somehow steal the election, and they're making plans for what to do if they believe that's happening.

Experts in global conflict warn that this is a toxic brew and that conditions are ripe for conflict and maybe even violence in the U.S. There's a good chance that no clear winner will emerge on election night, and experts are concerned about what will happen after that — especially if protesters and counter-protesters collide in the streets.

■ **Possibility for unrest is strong**

Walt Madsen, the head of a group that calls itself the U.S. Northern Militia, says he has been talking to other militia leaders, and many feel the same as he does.

“If Joe Biden does win the election. I'm not going to sit there and scream, ‘He's not my president.’ OK?” said Madsen, an Iraq War veteran who's now a county supervisor in northern Wisconsin.

“I'm not going to go and take my militia and threaten the lives of other Americans,” he said.

In fact, some militia leaders say they are afraid of the protesters on the left.

“No matter what way the election goes, there's going to be people dissatisfied with the result, and the possibility for unrest is quite strong,” said Michael Lackomar, a team leader with the Southeast Michigan Volunteer Militia.

Lackomar said members of his group are preparing to protect their communities if there's rioting or violent unrest, like during protests earlier this year in Seattle and

Portland, Ore.

Meanwhile, police departments — many of which saw days, weeks and even months-long anti-police brutality protests and riots this summer — said they are hoping for the best when voters hit the polls on Nov. 3, but are also preparing for the worst in the days before and after.

“There is no secret that this election is more contentious than in years' past,” said New York Police Department's Chief Terence Monahan during a press conference covering election preparedness.



## Macron says can ‘understand’ shock of cartoons

Emmanuel Macron said that he could understand if Muslims were shocked by cartoons of the prophet Mohammed, as French authorities on Saturday sought to ascertain if a young Tunisian suspected of killing three people in a knife rampage inside a Nice church had outside help.

Macron sparked protests in the Muslim world after the murder earlier this month of teacher Samuel Paty — who had shown his class a cartoon

of Mohammed — by saying France would never renounce its right to caricature.

But in an apparent bid to reach out to Muslims, Macron gave a long interview setting out his vision to Qatar-based TV channel Al-Jazeera, seeking to strike a softer tone.

“I can understand that people could be shocked by the caricatures but I will never accept that violence can be justified,” he said.



## Sign of the times: Biden, Trump fans steal, damage placards

The millions of signs that Americans place on their lawns during election season are increasingly being vandalized or removed by disgruntled neighbors, a sign of the acutely hostile political climate.

After signs expressing support for Democratic candidate Joe Biden disappeared twice from a road outside Newtown, Pennsylvania, Gayle Share-Raab covered the next one in vaseline and glitter to try to deter the thief, but to no avail, AFP reported.

Jack Worthington was fed up with his big, plastic Donald Trump signs vanishing. So he built his own, with plywood and screws as reinforcements. They are still up, for now.

Across the country, there are reports that signs are being stolen or damaged at an unprecedented rate.

The phenomenon is common every election year but appears to have taken off in 2016 before accelerating this year.

## Biden is the clear favorite to win the election: professor

BY Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** — An American academic says that “at this point, Biden is the clear favorite to win the election,” adding the polls have been consistently showing Biden has a better chance to win the elections.

Paul Poast, associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago, tells the Tehran Times that unlike 2016, when “Clinton's lead over Trump in the polls was smaller and more tenuous,” Biden is leading over Trump strongly.

The following is the text of the interview:

■ As we are nearing the November 3 elections, chances of which candidate are higher to win the presidential votes?

A: At this point, Biden is the clear favorite to win the election. While this does not guarantee that he will be elected, the polls have been consistently showing Biden as having a strong lead over Trump. This is unlike 2016, while Clinton's lead over Trump in the polls was smaller and more tenuous.



■ What are Trump's achievements that may improve his chances of reelection?

A: Trump's primary achievement is the appointment of 2, and possibly three justices to the U.S. Supreme court (I will refer to others to comment on whether these three nominees would help him in a potential legal dispute over the election). That is a huge impact for a President in one term and will be his presidency's key legacy. With respect to foreign policy, his accomplishments are less clear. Some positive outcomes, such as the treaty between Israel and UAE, likely would have happened with or without him in office. Other potential accomplishments, such as trying to reset the terms of trade arrangements with China, have not to be followed with the discipline necessary to see them through. Instead, his primary “accomplishment” has been dismantling prior policies and international commitments, from the JCPOA with Iran to the Paris Accord, without offering a plan forward or alternative.

■ How do you assess the influence of Israeli lobbies on American policies and decision making?

A: The impact of American partners in the Middle East (West Asia) and the Persian Gulf region has been mixed. On the one hand, the U.S. acknowledges Jerusalem as Israel's capital is an obvious benefit to Israel, at least symbolically. On the other hand, one could also say that concern over potential U.S. disengagement from the region is what is driving Israel to formalize ties with Arab states. Similarly, while the U.S. essentially turned a blind eye to Saudi Arabia's role in Yemen, Saudi Arabia must also be concerned about the future of U.S. engagement in the region.

This leads to the big foreign policy challenge for whoever is president starting in January 2021: managing China's rise. From my perspective, both Biden and Trump will continue to take a hardline towards China. This could accelerate a “pivot” towards East Asia, away from Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia. Mind you; the U.S. can't completely abandon its commitment to those regions, as it appears that China is seeking to be a global player that also has influence in those regions. But the primary point of tension between the U.S. and China going forward will be in East Asia and South Asia.

 <b>Call for public tender (First/Second publish)</b> <b>Two Stages (semi compressed) tender</b> <b>Subject of Tender: (CASING PIPES 13-5/8")</b>				 <b>National Iranian Drilling Company</b>								
<b>* Tender descriptions:</b>												
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## ‘Head’ of Achaemenid soldier found in passenger’s baggage

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A prehistorical bas-relief carving, depicting the head of an Achaemenid soldier, has recently been found in the baggage of a passenger during a routine police investigation near the city of Na’in, central Iran. Police officers of an intercity checkpoint, near the city of Na’in, were made suspicious about a passenger bus and stopped it, ILNA quoted Na’in police commander Hadi Kianmehr as saying on Friday.



“During the inspection of the passenger’s bag, a stone statue of an Achaemenid soldier was discovered.... The object then was handed over to Na’in’s cultural heritage department,” the police official explained.

The relic dates back [over] 2,000 years ago and an individual (the bearer) has been detained in that regard, he added.

Achaemenian Dynasty, also called Achaemenid, Persian Hakhamanishiya, (c. 550–330 BC), was the largest and most durable empire of its time, stretching from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, to Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia, and to India.

Building activity was extensive during the height of the empire, and of the several Achaemenian capitals, the ruins at Pasargadae and at Persepolis are probably the most outstanding. Achaemenian sculptured reliefs and a great number of smaller art objects present a remarkably unified style for the period. Metalwork, especially in gold, was highly developed, and a variety of carefully executed examples survive.

## Rasht museum documents 5,000 historical coins

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A total of 5,000 historical coins being kept at Rasht Museum of Anthropology in northern Gilan province have been documented.

“5,000 coins dating back to different historical epochs including Achaemenid, Parthian, Elamite, Sassanid, Umayyad, Al-Buwayh, Seljuks and Mongol ilkhans, and Elymais, have been documented,” the provincial tourism chief Masoud Hallajpour announced on Saturday.



According to Encyclopedia Iranica, coins and coinage, standardized units of metal used as a medium of exchange, were first introduced into Persia by the Achaemenid Darius I (521-486 BC).

Before modern times the Persian economy consisted of a conglomeration of regional economies, each with a mint and a currency system geared to local commerce, rather than an integrated national economy. For this reason, it is more sensible to study changes in the output (weight, fineness) of a single mint over time, rather than trying to arrive at an estimation of a non-existent national norm.

## UNESCO-tagged Golestan Palace to digitize archives into books

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Hundreds of historical manuscripts, dating back to the Qajar (1789-1925) and Pahlavi (1925-1979) eras, which are being kept at the UNESCO-registered Golestan Palace, are to be digitized and then republished as exquisite books.



“Exquisite manuscripts of the Qajar and Pahlavi periods, which are being kept at the treasure troves of the Golestan Palace, will be digitalized and being printed in the form of exquisite books for easier access by searchers,” Afarin Emami, director of the World Heritage site, announced on Saturday.

A destination for domestic and international travelers, Golestan Palace is located in the heart and historic core of Tehran. The palace complex is one of the oldest in the Iranian capital, originally built during the Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) in the historic walled city.

At present, Golestan Palace complex consists of eight key palace structures mostly used as museums and the eponymous gardens, a green shared center of the complex, surrounded by an outer wall with gates. UNESCO has it that the complex exemplifies architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar era including the introduction of European motifs and styles into Persian arts.

# Hormuz Island: a stunning mix of golden beaches, awesome bluffs

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — With its colorful soils, salt caves and mountains, and ocher-stained streams and beaches, Iran’s Hormuz Island in the Persian Gulf packs a big punch. It resembles a salt dome—a teardrop-shaped mound of rock salt, gypsum, anhydrite, and other evaporites that have risen upward through overlying layers of rock.

Most of its visitors are day-trippers, who come from Bandar Abbas or Qeshm Island, so even the only settlement. Some say that Hormuz is a sleepy little village that kicks off its shoes each evening and relaxes into mellow contemplation of the setting sun!

There is only one road and virtually no cars, just motorbikes and tuk-tuks, and the rest of the 42-sq-km island are virtually uninhabited. The rugged interior is a scenic geological wonderland of different-colored volcanic rocks and soils, while the coastline is a stunning mix of golden beaches and awesome bluffs.

The rising mass is not purely made of salt. Embedded within it are layers of clay, carbonates, shale, and iron-rich volcanic rocks, some of which have taken on vivid shades of red, yellow, and orange as they moved upward and interacted with water and minerals from other rock layers.

The ocher soils on the island have proven appealing to cooks, artists, and miners alike. Locals reportedly use the red soil to season a certain type of bread. Groups of artists have used it to create expansive sand carpets. Sand from a



mine in the northern part of the island has also been used in paints, cosmetics, ceramic tiles, and for the exteriors of buildings.

One nongeological feature of the island stands out in the image: At the northern end, a small inlet hosts

a concentrated patch of mangroves that appear green. Known locally as a hara forest, the area serves as a habitat for numerous types of fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and migratory birds.

The island also features ruins of Portuguese ramparts with clusters of

**Most of its visitors are day-trippers, who come from Bandar Abbas or Qeshm Island, so even the only settlement. Some say that Hormuz is a sleepy little village that kicks off its shoes each evening and relaxes into mellow contemplation of the setting sun!**

## Support package approved for corona-affected tourism businesses

**→ 1** He also noted that the applications cover businesses with as much as 36,000 people working in the tourism sector across the country.

Last week, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan warned that Iran’s cultural heritage and tourism will be in a critical situation if the crises caused by the outbreak of the coronavirus continue.

In August, Mounesan said that Iran’s tourism has suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

He also noted that the coronavirus pandemic should not bring traveling to a complete standstill. “Corona is a fact, but can the virus stop tourism? Certainly not. For us, the coronavirus is a new experience in dealing with crises that teaches tourism experts around the world how to deal with such a disaster, and thankfully

governments are turning this into an opportunity for better planning.”

Back in April, the government announced it will support those which are grappling with fiscal problems by offering loans with a 12-percent interest rate. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts also suggested a rescue package for tourism businesses.

The government has also allocated a 750-trillion-rial (about \$18 billion) package to help low-income households and small- and medium-sized enterprises suffered by the coronavirus concerns.

Optimistic forecasts, however, expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after coronavirus contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

The latest available data show eight million tourists



Vali Teymour

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

## New recreational piers being built in Kish Island

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Three new recreational piers are being built in the Persian Gulf island of Kish to create new attractions for tourists and locals.

Three breakwaters, which were built to protect the island from the effects of weather and longshore drift, are being turned into recreational piers to increase the motivation to travel to the island, ILNA quoted the CEO of Kish Civil, Water, and Urban Services Abolfazl Tayyebi as saying on Saturday.

Kish Island holds the potential to be a platform for economic prosperity and sus-



tainable urban development even in difficult economic times, he added.

Such projects will also increase income and create job opportunities for people who live on the island as well as provide better living conditions, he explained.

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

Tourists can enjoy the natural sights

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

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

## Qajar-era caravanserais in northeast Iran to turn into tourism complexes

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Two Qajar-era (1789–1925) caravanserais in Sharif Abad village near Mashhad, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, are being revived and restored in a bid to turn into tourism complexes, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The restoration project of Nezam al-Doleh and Es’haqkhani caravanserais, which have been ceded to the private sector, involves repairing walls and rooftops, landscaping, and flooring, Abolfazl Mokaramifar announced on Saturday.

Built in 1806, Es’haqkhani caravanserai was used as a Chapar Khaneh, an old Persian term used for postal service, with a large courtyard and an indoor winter space.

The historical structure was built using the materials of a Safavid-era (1501–1736) caravanserai and has been inscribed on the National Heritage list.

Nezam al-Doleh caravanserai was built in 1875 with



a rectangular plan, four circular towers in the corners, and two semi-cylindrical towers between the two sides.

## Attar’s mausoleum being restored

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The tile-work of the dome of the mausoleum of the classical Persian poet Farid ud-Din Attar (c. 1145-1221) in the northeastern city of Neyshabur has undergone some rehabilitation works.

A budget of four billion rials (about \$95,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the project, Neyshabur’s tourism chief Mohammad-Esmail Etemadi Moqaddam said on Saturday.

The project aims at repairing the tilework, which has been damaged by the heavy rains

over the past few years, the official added. The historical structure has been inscribed on the National Heritage list.

Abu Hamid bin Abu Bakr Ibrahim, also known as Farid ud-Din, was born in the city of Nishpur (Neyshabur) and is known for his magnificent work “The Conference of the Birds”.

Attar is one of the most famous mystic poets of Iran, whose works were the inspiration of Rumi, Hafez, Jami, and many other mystic poets.

Attar means ‘apothecary’ and this nick-

name was given to him due to his profession. He was probably the son of a prosperous chemist, receiving an excellent education in various fields, but he abandoned his profession and traveled extensively, seeking wisdom in Baghdad, Basra, Kufa, Mecca, Medina, Damascus, Kharazm, Turkistan, and India, before finally returning to his birthplace Neyshabur.

Located on the Silk Road, Neyshabur is one of the ancient cities in Iran, which houses several religious, historical, and cultural monuments.





# Coronavirus lockdowns expanded to 46 more cities

SOCIETY

**TEHRAN** — The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control has approved to impose strict restrictions for 10 days as of Wednesday in 46 cities that have the highest rate of COVID-19 infection in the country.

In today's meeting of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, important decisions were made to set lockdowns in infected cities, which will be implemented for 25 provincial centers and 46 cities with different conditions, ISNA quoted President Hassan Rouhani as saying.

Previously, 43 cities had underwent restrictions, but decisions were made to set new limitations on highly-affected areas, which will be applied for 10 days, he noted.

Rouhani said that under these restrictions, educational and gathering places, are prohibited for 10 days.

Our statistics show that 88 percent of the deaths are from the elderly or people with underlying diseases, he lamented.

The infected person must be quarantined, controlled, and intercepted, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Communications, he said, adding, neighborhoods must meet the quarantined patient needs and to be provided with insurance support.

Under the restrictions, shopping malls,



gyms, mosques, salons, universities, schools, libraries, kindergartens, cinemas, museums, cafes, zoos, and amusement parks will be closed.

Three weeks ago, the government set fines for people who endanger the whole society due to non-observance of health protocols or not using face masks.

The violators will be forced to work in hospitals to provide services to coronavirus patients, Reza Asgari, the governor of Zanjan said.

"To prevent the incidence of COVID-19 in Zanjan, a plan called "alternative punishment to imprisonment" approved by the judiciary to punish those who do not follow the health

guidelines by working in hospitals to serve COVID-19 patients," he said.

**■ COVID-19 cases at record high**

In a press briefing on Saturday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 7,820 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 612,772. She added that 481,930 patients have so far recovered, but 5,185 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, coronavirus daily deaths and new cases hit the record high, as 386 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 34,864, she added.

Lari noted that so far 4,929,005 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

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

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

## Iranian expatriates participate in technology development

SOCIETY

**TEHRAN** — Under the plan on cooperation with Iranian specialists and entrepreneurs abroad, about 140 startup projects have been registered over the past four years.

Cooperation program with Iranian specialists and entrepreneurs abroad is one of the plans designed and implemented by the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology to cooperate with Iranian elites abroad.

One of the basic programs is to create suitable conditions for the attraction of Iranians abroad, including specialists, elites, investors, and entrepreneurs in various businesses since four years ago, but the scope in accordance with the requirements of the time and necessities has become more widespread.

The program attracted 150 people to the technology and innovation ecosystem in the first 6 months of this year (March 21-September 22).

This program is being implemented with the aim of using the scientific and professional capacity of Iranian researchers and specialists and establishing relations with selected scientific, technological, and industrial centers of the country.

This program has been developed by creating an extensive network of specialized databases including the best universities, research institutes, and knowledge-based companies in the country.

According to the latest statistics, more than 120 specialized partner sites have joined the program so far.

Also, over 6,500 successful collaborations have been registered, including, study opportunity, company establishment, and employment in technology companies.

Research and technological projects such as postdoctoral, technology start-ups, and holding lectures and specialized



workshops to help Iranian experts abroad communicate effectively with selected science and technology centers, are among the goals of this program.

The government also does not impose special conditions and strictures on the cooperation of Iranians abroad and how they cooperate with knowledge-based companies, so they can cooperate in their country of residence with Iranian universities, research institutes, and knowledge-based companies and take advantage of the incentives provided.

Specialists, investors, or owners of foreign knowledge-based companies in Iran, will be awarded 1.5 billion rials (about \$35,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) in the first step.

**■ 1700 knowledge-based companies operating in Iran**

Currently, there are 43 science and technology parks in the country, in addition to 195 growth centers, in which over 7,000 companies are active, among all, 1,700 are knowl-

edge-based companies.

Sourena Sattari, vice president for the science and technology told the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview that Iran is playing the leading role in the region in the fields of fintech, ICT, stem cell, aerospace, and is unrivaled in artificial intelligence.

Fortunately, last year, companies achieved a record sale of 1.2 quadrillion rials (nearly \$28.5 billion), which is expected to increase by 40 percent this year.

To date, 42 knowledge-based companies with a total value of 2.8 quadrillion rials (nearly \$66.6 billion) have been listed on the stock exchange and they will soon turn into the biggest businesses in the county," he said.

Sattari said that U.S. sanctions caused exports of knowledge-based companies to decline three years ago, however, it has returned to growth and is projected to reach the pre-sanctions level of more than \$1 billion by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 20, 2021).

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

Production of more than one million face masks per day, production of more than 1.5 liters of disinfectants per day, diagnostic kits, non-contact thermometers, protective clothing, ventilator are among the produces manufactured by these companies, he added.

Iranian-made innovative products in the field of diagnosis, screening, and fighting coronavirus were also unveiled to combat the disease, namely, ozone generator, nanotechnology face shields, disinfection gate, and molecular COVID-19 diagnostic kits.

## Iranian students win 8 medals at IOAA 2020

**1 →** Amir Reza Ghadyani and Mohammad Amin Soraya also received honorary diplomas.

IOAA is an annual astronomy and astrophysics competition for high school students. It is one of the international science Olympiads.

IOAA 2019 was held in Hungary on August 2-10.

Iranian students came in first by winning 9 gold and silver medals at the IOAA 2018.

The first IOAA was held in the city of Chiang Mai, Thailand, from November 30 to December 9 of 2007.

The third IOAA was held in 2009, October

17 to 27, in Tehran. The observational exam was held in the desert, in the Caravanse-rai of Deh Namak, Semnan Province. 20 countries participated in the competition including the first time participation for Kazakhstan and Serbia.

According to its official website, the main goal of IOAA is to promote the growing interest in Astronomy and related subjects, especially through the general education of young people, and enhancing the development of international contacts among different countries in promoting Astronomy and Astrophysics in schools. It is expected through the event like IOAA more bright



high school students will be eager to study astronomy at the university level to become the next generation astronomers.

**■ More success at international Olympiads 2020**

Iranian students grabbed four medals at the 31st International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2020) which took place in Nagasaki, Japan on July 3-11.

The team of Iranian students won six colorful medals at the 61st International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO 2020), putting the country at 18th place. Held on September 21-22, IMO 2020 was hosted by Saint Petersburg, Russia.

The country's team also snatched 4 medals at the 52nd International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO 2020) held in Turkey on July 6 to 15.

## Water drenches 18,000 ha of Hamoun-e Sabori wetland

Hamoun-e Sabori wetland on the Iran-Afghanistan border has been saturated, as rainwater flowed over 18,000 hectares of the wetland, Mohammad Reza Alimoradi, head of marine affairs at the Sistan-Baluchestan provincial department of environment has announced.

"Water entered 18,000 hectares of the wetland in the country, after the afghan part has been soaked in water," Alimoradi said, IRNA reported on Saturday.

## ۱۸ هزار هکتار از بستر هامون صابوری آبگیری شد

رئیس اداره دریایی اداره کل حفاظت محیط زیست سیستان و بلوچستان گفت: ۱۸ هزار هکتار از بستر هامون صابوری ایران در جریان بارش های اخیر آبگیری شد.

محمد رضا علیمرادی روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اظهار داشت: این اتفاق پس از آبگیری کامل هامون صابوری افغانستان به سمت صابوری ایران صورت گرفته است.

## Protecting nature is vital to escape 'era of pandemics' – report

The world is in an "era of pandemics" and unless the destruction of the natural world is halted they will emerge more often, spread more rapidly, kill more people and affect the global economy with more devastating impact than ever before, according to a report from some of the world's leading scientists.



The emergence of diseases such as Covid-19, bird flu and HIV from animals was entirely driven by the razing of wild places for farming and the trade in wild species, which brought people into contact with the dangerous microbes, the experts said.

"The risk of pandemics is increasing rapidly, with more than five new diseases emerging in people every year, any one of which has the potential to become pandemic," the report says.

It estimates there are more than 500,000 unknown viruses in mammals and birds that could infect humans, the Guardian reported.

The current approach to disease outbreaks is trying to contain them and develop treatments or vaccines, which the scientists say is a "slow and uncertain path". Instead the root causes must be tackled, including stopping the demolition of forests to produce meat, palm oil, metals and other commodities for richer countries.

The costs of such a transformative change would be "trivial", the experts found, compared with the trillions of dollars of damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic alone. Their proposed solutions include a global surveillance network, taxing damaging meat production and ending taxpayer subsidies that ravage the natural world.

"There is no great mystery about the cause of the Covid-19 pandemic, or of any modern pandemic," said Peter Daszak, the chair of the group convened by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, (Ipbes) to produce the report. "The same human activities that drive climate change and biodiversity loss also drive pandemic risk through their impacts on our environment."

"We're seeing pandemics every 20-30 years," said Daszak, who is also the president of EcoHealth Alliance, and they were getting more frequent and damaging. "We can escape the era of pandemics, but this requires a much greater focus on prevention, in addition to reaction."

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, the UN, World Health Organization and others have warned that the world must tackle the cause of these outbreaks and not just the health and economic symptoms. In June, leading experts called the pandemic an "SOS signal for the human enterprise", but little government action has been taken.

The report was produced by 22 experts in fields including zoology, public health, economics and law, and representing every continent. It cites more than 600 studies, a third of which were published since 2019. "It's really state of the art in terms of its scientific basis," said Anne Larigauderie, the executive secretary of Ipbes.

The report says the rise in emerging diseases is driven by "the recent exponential rise in consumption and trade, driven by demand in developed countries and emerging economies, as well as by [rising population] pressure".

Daszak added: "Clearly, in the face of Covid-19, with more than one million human deaths, and huge economic impacts, [the current] reactive approach is inadequate. There is enough science that shows a way forward and would involve transformative change that rethinks our relationship with nature."

The scientists call for a high-level intergovernmental council on pandemic prevention to provide decision-makers with the best evidence, predict high-risk areas and coordinate the design of a global disease surveillance system.

High-risk species, such as bats, rodents, primates and water birds should be removed from the \$100bn a year legal wildlife trade, they said, and there must be a crackdown on the illegal wildlife trade.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 47)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

متن

امروز دوشنبه است. دانشجویان درس فارسی

دارند و همه در کلاس حاضرند. استاد به

کلاس می آید و سلام می کند.

دانشجویان اول متن درس را می خوانند و به

سؤال های استاد جواب می دهند. کمی هم

به توار گوش می کنند و متن را تکرار می کنند.

بعد استاد درباره مکالمه فارسی توضیح

می دهد و دانشجویان شروع به مکالمه

می کنند. استاد می گوید: "خواهش می کنم بلند

جواب بدهید و بلند تکرار کنید."

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Be childlike with children.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

## WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

### Painting



■ Delgosha Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Niaz Babatabar.

The exhibit entitled "Seyyed Mostafa Garden" will run until November 30 at the gallery, which can be found at 30 Mohajer Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.



■ Sutan Esmailinajmi is hanging her latest collection "Infinity" in an exhibition at the Atashzad Gallery. The exhibit will continue until November 3 at the gallery located at 3 North Abbaspur (Tavanir) St. near Vanak Sq.



■ An exhibition of paintings by a group of artists, including Yasaman Alipur, Maryam Isania, Negar Haqqani, Arefeh Ahmadi, Sepideh Salehi and Zahra Vahmeni, is currently underway at Ayrik Gallery.



The exhibition will run until November 4 at the gallery located at Ayrik Center on East Ferdows Blvd.



■ Salé Sharfi is displaying his latest collection in an exhibition at Soo Gallery.

The exhibition named "Bygone Glory" will run until November 16 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St.

■ Paintings by a group of young and veteran artists, including Farhad Moshiri, Amir Kamand, Qasem Hajizadeh, Sina Chupani, Tala Madani and Hoda Zarbaf, are on view in an exhibition at the Tarrahan-e Azad Gallery.

The exhibition entitled "Distribution of the Sensible" will be running until November 10 at the gallery located at No. 41 Salmas Square off Fatemi St.

### Photo



■ Ehsan Gallery is hosting an exhibition of photos by Nilufar Darvish, Mahtab Suri, Farima SEifi, Siavash Ehsani, Ali Masudimanesh, Mahsa Saki and several other photographers.

The exhibit will run until November 4 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

### Installation



■ Sets of installation by Vahid Danaifar are on display in an exhibition at O Gallery.

The exhibit named "Offside Trap" will run until November 9 at the gallery located at 18 Shahn St., Sanai St.

## Manuscripts of Hafez embellish world's major collections of rare books

### Part 4

Mahdavi concludes that at the time the 807 (Dushanbe), 811 (Koprulu), and 813 (Aya Sofya) manuscripts were copied "the compilation of Hafez's poems in the form of a divan had not yet reached a complete and final stage."

Alphabetical ordering by rhyme may or may not be observed; and none of the early manuscripts are organized in the "familiar" form of modern editions. Moreover, the first ghazal in the Divan as we know it today is found in only thirteen of the manuscripts, and is the first only in twelve of these.

Mahdavi argues that, on the basis of the 807 manuscript, "we can assume that the original [asli] manuscripts of Hafez's ghazals had not yet accepted the present first ghazal as the first"; but we should note that the manuscript is an anthology and the ghazals are arranged non-alphabetically.) While several manuscripts appear to be related, it is difficult to divide even such a small sample into groups on the basis of filiation; and, given the large number of extant early manuscripts, there would appear to be little hope of establishing meaningful relationships among them.

(Source: Encyclopedia Iranica)

Concluded

# Writer Moradi Kermani's house to be converted into story house

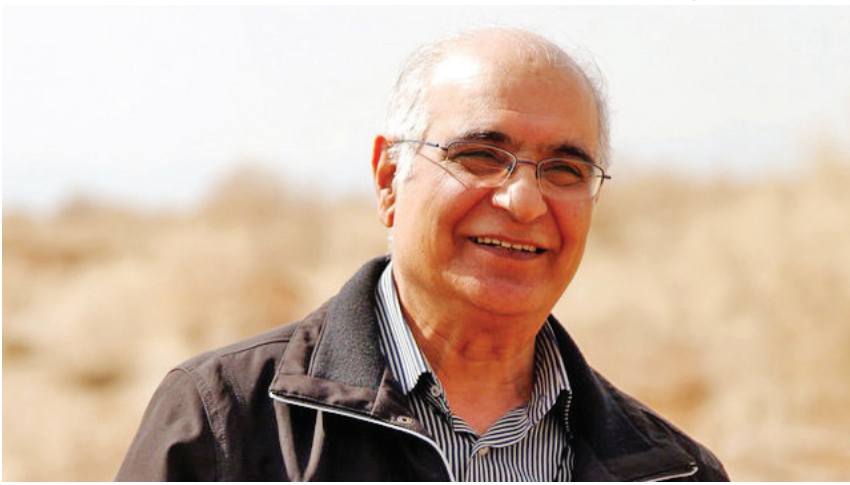
**A R T TEHRAN** — Tehran Municipality's District 12 has announced that the house of Iranian children's book writer Hushang Moradi Kermani will be converted into a story house.

The house, in which the writer lived for over 20 years, is located on Javidi Street near the Mirza Mahmud Passage, a historical alley in the Sar Cheshmeh neighborhood.

The writer's three children were born in this house and a number of his books, including "The Stories of Majid", were also created in this house.

"Most of my books were written in this house. The officials have promised to preserve the house. This house was built about 80 years ago," Moradi Kermani said earlier.

"Most of my writing career was spent at this house. I have a cousin who tells me here is where Majid was born and grew up," he added.



Writer Hushang Moradi Kermani in an undated photo.

"This house is supposed to act like a library and a story house. I think the Municipality's District 12 has done a great job. They have tried to preserve the house

while as I'm still alive. The district is an old one in the city, and many famous characters such as filmmaker Masud Kimiai, actor Daudv Rashidi and Nosrat Karimi were living there," he noted.

The 75-year-old Moradi Kermani is mostly known as a children's writer, but his works also appeal to adults.

He is the author of numerous bestsellers such as "You're No Stranger Here" and "A Sweet Jam". Most of his works have been translated into English, German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Arabic, Armenian, Turkish and several other languages.

"The Stories of Majid" tells the story of an ambitious teenage boy, Majid, who lives with his grandma Bibi in the central Iranian city of Isfahan.

Iranian filmmaker Kiumars Puraahmad directed a TV-series of the same title based on the book during the 1990s. The serial gained popularity among the audience and film critics.

## "Drowning in Holy Water", "Slaughterhouse" win Kim Jiseok Award at Busan film festival



A combination photo show scenes from the Iranian films "Drowning in Holy Water" and "The Slaughterhouse".

**A R T TEHRAN** — Iranian films "Drowning in Holy Water" and "The Slaughterhouse" won the Kim Jiseok Award at the 25th Busan International Film Festival, the organizers announced on Friday.

The award was established in memory of Kim Ji-seok, the deputy director and executive programmer of the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) who died of a heart attack in May 2017.

He devoted his whole life to discovering young Asian directors and supporting the growth of Asian cinema. This prize worth \$10,000 is awarded to two films.

Directed by Tehran-based Afghan filmmaker Navid Mahmudi, "Drowning in Holy Water", also known as "To Die in the Pure Water", is a co-production between Iran and Afghanistan.

It is about Rona and Hamed, two young Afghans who are in love with each other. Searching for a better life, they have decided to immigrate to Europe but they have to make a big decision to make it happen, a decision that relates to their religion and beliefs.

"The Slaughterhouse" directed by Abbas Amini tells the story of Amir, who has recently been released from jail and finds himself in a difficult situation when his father, who works at a slaughterhouse, calls him to help him cover up

a crime which has happened there.

In addition "The Art of Living in Danger", a co-production between Iran and Germany, and "Sister J" by Lee Soojung from Korea received the BIFF Mecenat Award.

The BIFF Mecenat Award is granted to the best documentary from Korea and Asia in the Wide Angle competitive section.

In "The Art of Living in Danger", director Mina Keshavarz recently discovered a family secret about her grandmother's death. Her grandmother, forced to marry at a young age, gave birth to seven children and took her own life at the age of 35 during her eighth pregnancy.

The New Currents Award went to "A Balance" by Harumoto Yujiro from Japan and "Three", a co-production of Kazakhstan, Korea and Uzbekistan by Pak Ruslan.

"Georgia" by Jayil Pak from Korea and "Mountain Cat", a co-production between Mongolia and the UK by Lkhagvadulam Purev-Ochir was presented with the Sonje Award, which is given to the best Korean and Asian short films in the Wide Angle section.

## Italy's Medfilm to honor Babak Karimi with lifetime achievement award

**A R T TEHRAN** — The Medfilm Festival in the Italian capital of Rome will be honoring the Italy-based Iranian actor Babak Karimi, known for his roles in Asghar Farhadi's "Separation" and Shahram Mokri's "Careless Crime", with a lifetime achievement award this year.

Karimi will also take part in a masterclass in collaboration with the Italian Institute for Oriental Studies of the Sapienza University set for November 13.

Mokri's "Careless Crime" along with a number of movies from different countries will be competing in the official section of the event.



Babak Karimi acts in a scene from "Careless Crime".

The selection includes "Lift Like a Girl" by Mayye Zayed from Egypt "Last Days of Spring" by Isabel Lamberti from Spain, "Ghosts" by Azra Deniz Okyay from Turkey, "Sandlines" by Francis Alys from Iraq, "A l'abordage" by Guillaume Brac from France and "Mon Amour" by Tarzan and Arab Nasser from Palestine.

"Careless Crime" won the best original screenplay of the Venice festival in September.

"Careless Crime" goes back to forty years ago, during the uprising to overthrow the Shah's regime in Iran, when protestors set fire to movie theaters as a way of showing opposition to Western culture. Many cinemas

were burned down. In one tragic case, a theater was set on fire with four hundred people inside, most of whom were burned alive. Forty years have passed and, in contemporary Iran, four individuals also decide to burn down a cinema. Their intended target is a theater showing a film about an unearthed, unexploded missile.

The film also won the Silver Hugo of the jury at the Chicago International Film Festival.

Due to the pandemic, all the films will be available on the MYmovies platform from November 9 to November 15 under President Ginella Vocca.

## DOK Leipzig screens Iran's "Autumn Winds, Spring Winds"

**A R T TEHRAN** — Iranian director Sadeq Javadi-Nikjeh's short animated movie "Autumn Winds, Spring Winds and Two Doves" has been screened at the 63rd DOK Leipzig, a German festival for documentary and animated films.

The movie produced at the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) is about a boy who sets out on an arduous journey to his friend. A dove and a horse help him reach his destination. The film is based on an Iranian children's book.

The DOK Leipzig opened on October 26 and comes to an end today by announcing the winners.

The short animated and documentary films in the International Competition are being judged by a jury that includes the Moroccan director, Randa Maroufi. Her documentary film "Ceuta's Gate" was shown in this section at the DOK Leipzig in 2019.

Annegret Richter, the managing director of AG animated film, is another member of the jury.

An IIDCYA platform is currently screening "Autumn

Winds, Spring Winds and Two Doves" online. The screening program has been underway since October 28 and will run until November 11.

"Am I a Wolf?" by Iranian director Amir-Hushang Moin won the Golden Dove for best animated film at the 62nd DOK Leipzig in 2019. The movie was also produced at the IIDCYA.

The Switzerland-based Iranian filmmaker Majid Movasaghi was a member of the jury for the Interreligious Section of the 62nd DOK Leipzig.

## 14th National Festival of Youth Music wraps up

**A R T TEHRAN** — Winners of the 14th National Festival of Youth Music were announced during a closing ceremony, which went online at Vahdat Hall in Tehran on Friday.

The ceremony began with a message from Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi, read by host Abbas Salehi and streamed online at the Instagram account of the Iran Music Association.

About 2400 musicians and singers competed in the three sections of classics, regional and dastgah.

The word dastgah in the Persian language means "system", as well as "equipment". The suffix "-gah" signifies a place of doing something. Here, dastgah is used in two different senses: First, dastgah signifies the totality of melodies of a certain musical system, e.g. dastgah-e Shur consists of Shur, Abuata, Bayat-e Tork, Afshari, Dashti and

their related gushahs. Second, the word refers to the frets on a stringed instrument. Dast means "hand", hence dastgah literally denotes "the place of the hand."

Next, the message of the veteran tar virtuoso Hossein Alizadeh, who is also a jury member, went on stream.

Alizadeh expressed thanks to the Iran Music Association, which made efforts to hold the festival despite the hard days of the battle with the coronavirus.

"I am happy that the competitors had made good progress for the final stage in a short period of time, and that is why we selected more than three winners in some of the sections because of the good number of performers," he said.

"I also believe those musicians who found ways into the final stage are winners. The main goal behind this festival is encouraging the youth to take part and gain experience.



This picture shows the trophies being awarded at the National Festival of Youth Music.

I also noticed that in the creativity section, there were good competitors and I believe we need to develop this section," he remarked.

The secretary of the festival Hooman Asa'di also present at the closing ceremony, said that this year the organizers received

more submissions compared to the previous editions of the festival, indicating more hope to life and the future.

According to the Iran Music Association director Ali Sabetnia, the festival covered 140 different branches of music, and the judges watched numerous performances submitted by the young musicians from different cities.

Jury member Azin Movahhednia had already said that the young musicians made their best efforts to have more concentration on their works during the pandemic, something that could be considered a good achievement for the festival.

Alizadeh also had already said that that Iranian music has not experienced good growth compared with the classics. "In Iran, there is still a lack of good cooperation between academies and universities in the field of Iranian music. We need to make better use of Iranian music with good education."

## Viktor Frankl's "Man's Search for Meaning" appears in Persian

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl's "Man's Search for Meaning" has recently been published by the Sang Publications in Tehran.

The book has been rendered into Persian by Maryam Hosseinejad.

The book contains Frankl's memoirs with descriptions of life in the Nazi death camps and the lessons for spiritual survival.

Between 1942 and 1945, Frankl labored in four different camps, including Auschwitz, while his parents, brother and pregnant wife perished.

Based on his own experience and the experiences of

others he treated later in his practice, Frankl argues that man cannot avoid suffering but he/she can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose.

Frankl's theory, known as logotherapy from the Greek word logos ("meaning"), holds that our primary drive in life is not pleasure, as Freud maintained, but the discovery and pursuit of what we personally find meaningful.

At the time of Frankl's death in 1997, "Man's Search for Meaning" had sold more than 10 million copies in twenty-four languages. A 1991 reader survey for the Library of Congress that asked readers to name a "book that made a difference

in your life" found "Man's Search for Meaning" among the ten most influential books in America.

Frankl developed the psychological approach known as logotherapy, widely recognized as the "third school" of Viennese psychotherapy, after the "first school" of Sigmund Freud and the "second school" of Alfred Adler.

The basis of Frankl's theory was that the primary motivation of an individual is the search for meaning in life and that the primary purpose of psychotherapy should be to help the individual find that meaning.

His twenty-nine books have been translated into twenty-one languages.