

### Trump: An unscrupulous president

mericans will reelect either Donald Trump or his Democratic rival Joe Biden on Tuesday, November 3.

In nearly four years of his presidency, Trump has made some remarks and behaved in a manner that have surprised the world, making him look like an abnormal person which was not fit at all for the post of president.

Possibly, his most astonishing statement was when he said global warming is a hoax invented by the Chinese, something that rattled scientists and was rejection of science. It is for that reason that Noam Chomsky makes a comparison between Trump and Adolf Hitler and believes he is more dangerous than Hitler. Trump has repeatedly dismissed the climate crisis and spent much of his term overturning environmental standards imposed by Barack Obama. He unbelievably withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Accord despite the fact that his country is second largest polluter in the world before being superseded by China with more than 1.3 billion population in just over the past few years. The U.S. is already to the blame for the warming planet. For long decades, or possibly more than a century, the U.S. was the single biggest producer of greenhouse gas emissions. This autumn, as wildfires ravaged much of the U.S. west with a scale and intensity not seen for a century, he sought to blame bad forest management. Wade Crowfoot, California's secretary for natural resources, said to Trump: "If we ignore the science and put our head in the sand and think it's all about vegetation management, we're not going to succeed together protecting Californians." Trump replied: "It'll start getting cooler. You just watch. In Chomsky's view it is true that Hitler killed about six million Jews and more than 30 million Slavs, but Trump is trying to destroy the planet Earth. "Definitely the worst one I can think of in history, Adolf Hitler was pretty hideous - [but] he wasn't trying to destroy organized human society on earth," Chomsky told the Independent.  $\rightarrow 2$ 

# election: professor

By Mohammad Mazhari TEHRAN — An American academic predicts that the Tuesday presidential election will witness a lot of "technical challenges" and "widespread accusations of fraud".

Michael Hollingsworth, A professor at the University of South Alabama, predicts that "there will be riots and some civil unrest" in the aftermath of the election "but nothing as serious as an insurgency.

'There are a lot of technical challenges to this particular election, and accusations of fraud will be widespread," Michael tells the Tehran Times.

The following is the text of the interview: Do you expect any meaningful shift in U.S. policies if Joe Biden wins the presidential election?

A: There will be large shifts in policy if Biden wins the election. Some of that depends on the

portant economic and socio-cultural phenomenon,

in non-urbanized areas such as hiking or camping

in countryside areas, national parks, forests, oasis

tourism to bring in much-needed revenue for the

local economies. However, the term is somewhat

and desert villages, and mountain areas.

Rural tourism, as its name implies, takes place

There are many destinations relying on rural

By Afshin Majlesi

seeing what is it all about?

have a majority in the Senate in addition to the house and the presidency, there will be larger policy changes. These will be on both the domestic policy and foreign policy fronts. He has not been particularly transparent regarding actual plans for foreign policy changes. I believe it is likely that Biden will embrace liberalism as a strategy regarding international relations. This is contrary to Trump's realist approach and is similar to what the Obama administration implemented. This will possibly bring a willingness to renegotiate a nuclear plan of action with Iran, significantly reduce sanctions, and negotiate agreements with other countries. Whether he wins or not, the U.S. is likely to begin withdrawing troops from Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

The New York Times reporters have obtained decades of tax information Trump has hidden from public view. What is your during protests and political unrest in 2020

At least 11 Americans have been killed while participating in political demonstrations this year and another 14 have died in other incidents linked to political unrest, according to new data from a non-profit monitoring political unrest in the United States.

Nine of the people killed during protests were demonstrators taking part in Black Lives Matter protests. Two were conservatives killed after pro-Trump "patriot rallies". All but one were killed by fellow citizens.

According to Guardian, the new data highlights the danger of the presence of guns during politically charged protests, and raises concerns about continued violence during and after election day, when many Americans anticipate delays, confusion and protests before the winner of the presidential race is confirmed.

#### Violence at U.S. protests

The new data on fatalities and violence at Amer-

Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project (ACLED), a non-profit, working in collaboration with a group of researchers at Princeton.

ACLED, a widely cited source for data on civilian casualties in Yemen, has been a non-partisan monitor of protests and violence in the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Latin America, and launched its U.S. Crisis Monitor in July, citing concerns over hate crimes and rising political violence.

ACLED found that the overwhelming majority of the more than 9.000 Black Lives Matter demonstrations that took place across the U.S. after the killing of George Floyd have been peaceful. News reports at the height of demonstrations over Floyd's killing cited dozens of deaths in connection with protests, but many of those turned out to be examples of deadly crimes carried out in the vicinity of protests, rather than directly related to the demonstrations themselves, the researchers concluded. ACLED's dataset

Why rural tourism is important?

ambiguous as there is no universally accepted definition of rural tourism. Let's have a look at rural tourism as a globally im-

For defining the term rural tourism it is primarily important to recognize what is and what isn't "rural". Merriam-Webster defines "rural" as an adjective:

"of or relating to the country, country people or life, or agriculture." Article 2 of the European Charter for Rural Areas defines a "rural area" a stretch of inland or coastal countryside, including small towns and villages, where the main part of the area is used for agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and fisheries.

It's clear that rural tourism typically requires the use of natural resources, and these environmentally-friendly forms of tourism are narrowly aligned with the concept of sustainable tourism, given that rural tourism is characteristically linked to green, pristine spaces.

Now, let's take a look at the term "tourism"; the most accepted definition recognizes a tourist as a person who travels away from their home residence for at least 24 hours for leisure or business purposes.  $\rightarrow 6$ 

### **FFIRI's amended** statutes ensures election's democracy at highest level: Barati

#### By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN — Ahmadreza Barati, head of the Legal Committee of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI), believes the FFIRI's amended statutes will recognize the independence of the different bodies of the Iranian football federation. → 3

### Invitation to inquiry

#### **BISOTON TAMIN** paper Company Tehran-Iran

**BISOTON TAMIN paper Industrial** Company intends to purchase Stock Preparation Line for its Board Grade paper production plant (225 t/day). Manufacturers who intend to participate in an aforementioned inquiry are requested to submit their.

"Intention to participate" letter including references & resume via following email address not later than 7 days after the announcement.

#### Email address: info@roninco.com

# Large-scale air drills in

central Iran TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic of Iran Army Aviation (IRIAA) has undertaken large-scale drills in central Iran, enlisting as many as seven airbases and dozens of manned and unmanned aircraft, Press TV reported on Sunday.

The drills, codenamed Fada'eeyan-e Harim-e Velayat (Devotees of the Velayat Sanctuary), began on Saturday, with the designated aircraft being scrambled to the central province of Isfahan's Shahid Babayi Airbase, which is the main location of the maneuvers.

Speaking on Sunday, the IRIAA Commander Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh said the main and operational phase of the drills would begin on Monday.  $\rightarrow$  2

#### outcome of senate control as well. Îf Democrats comment? $\rightarrow$ 5





#### S O L I T I C Ρ

**NOVEMBER 2, 2020** 

#### **Ahmad Khatami replaces** Ayatollah Yazdi in **Guardian Council**

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** – In a decree issued on Sunday, k Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed Hojatoleslam Ahmad Khatami as a member of the Guardian Council.



Following the resignation of Ayatollah Yazdi from the council due to his physical disabilities and old age, Ayatollah Khamenei appointed Ahmad Khatami as a member of the oversight body, according to the information office of the Leader.

"Considering that Ayatollah Hajj Sheikh Mohammad Yazdi has resigned from the Guardian Council due to physical disabilities and old age after a long time of valuable presence at various responsibilities in the Islamic Republic as well as membership in the Guardian Council,

I appoint you as a member of Guardian Council appreciating Ayatollah Yazdi's efforts," the Leader said in his decree.

### 'No change in U.S. Iran strategy with change of president'

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** – Chief of Iran's Civil Defense Ord e s k ganization has said that Washington's strategy toward Iran will not change no matter who sits at the White House.

"The policy of America policy against Iran will not change under any circumstances with the election of its president whether Democrat or Republican," Gholamreza Jalali said on Saturday, the Mehr news agency reported.

The remarks by the brigadier general came as the United States is set to hold presidential elections on Tuesday, November 3. Officials in Tehran have said it does not matter who will take the helm in Washington. They say just approaches change against Iran.

Jalali also answered questions why "Active Resistance, Amazing Resilience, Strong and Powerful Iran" has been selected by the Civil Defense Organization, saying, "The motto is inspired by the sublime recommendations of Leader of the Islamic Revolution. When enemy became frustrated with the military option against the country, it started a strategy of all-out pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Among all existing strategies against this all-out pressure, the strategy of active resistance was put on the agenda with the sublime instruction of Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

He also pointed to the unprecedented sanctions pressure against Iran by the United States, saying, "Under such circumstances, we could maintain the basic functions and independence of the country despite spread of coronavirus pandemic in the country."

Jalali also pointed to civil defense, saying, "Civil defense is a concept that has existed in the past and is considered as a kind of civilian part of defense in all countries.'

Also on Saturday, Jalali said 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.

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

### Large-scale air drills in central Iran

 $1 \rightarrow$  He identified the whereabouts of the drills as the province's general area and said the drilling squadrons would be flying Sukho-24 strategic bombers as well as F-4, F-5, F-7, F-14, MIG-29 and the indigenously-manufactured Sa'eqeh (Lightning) fighters during the exercise

# **Bolivian president-elect says** seeking to revive ties with Iran

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** – Luis Arce, the Bolivian president-elect, has said that his government will reactivate bilateral relations and cooperation with Iran that were stagnant during the interim government.

Arce made the remarks during a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador in Bolivia Morteza Tafreshi, Mehr reported on Saturday. The two sides discussed prospects of co-

operation between the two countries. Arce thanked the Iranian president and foreign minister for their congratulatory

messages over his victory in the election. Referring to the friendly relations between the two nations of Iran and Bolivia, he expressed hope that Iran would continue to cooperate and support the new Bolivian government in technical, scientific, and industrial fields.

Arce, the left-wing candidate of the Movement for Socialism (MAS) party, won the October 27 election with more than 55 percent of the vote and he will take power next week

According to al Jazeera, Bolivia's outgoing parliament on Thursday approved a motion recommending that ex-interim president Jeanine Anez and her ministers face justice for



responsibility over last year's unrest which left around 30 people dead.

The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, meeting in joint session, approved a parliamentary report on the "massacres of Senkata, Sacaba and Yapacani, which recommends a judgment of responsibility against Jeanine Anez for genocide and other offenses", according to the Senate's Twitter account.

Parliament also approved the criminal

indictment of 11 ministers.

A parliamentary commission, controlled by the MAS party of former President Evo Morales, spent months investigating incidents that took place in several regions of the country between October and November 2019, which left about 30 dead.

It presented its report on Tuesday, a little over a week after new socialist President Arce, the MAS candidate, took power.

An investigation by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (CIDH) found that 35 people were killed in these incidents. The unrest came after Morales won a fourth

term in an election that sparked weeks of protests and charges of fraud. Morales was forced to resign on Novem-

ber 10 before going into exile in Mexico and then Argentina. Conservative former senator Anez assumed

power as interim president after Morales fled. Senate president Eva Copa, a member of MAS, specified that the report would be submitted to the Bolivian prosecution for opening possible proceedings.

She is also counting on the fact that the report will likely be approved by the new parliament, where the MAS retains its majority and which is due to take office next week.

## Trump: An unscrupulous president

#### **1** → Envious of lifelong rulers and cronyism

Many things that he has said or done have been un-Åmerican, especially if the U.S. is considered a beacon of democracy. His leadership style looked like dictatorial and dynastic systems. Appointing his son-in-law Jared Kushner as his senior advisor is the concrete example.

Probably, if the American Constitution had not constrained him, he would have done many things alien to the American society.

Through his divisive policies, he has also polarized the American society. His repeated statements that he will win the election if there is no election fraud is a prelude to put the electorate against each other.

#### Demonizing Iran and China

During his 2016 presidential campaigns and also during his tenure as president since January 2017, he has also been working hard to demonize Iran and China. Even now he has been claiming if Biden wins the presidency China and Iran would "own America"

In his latest presidential campaign, he added an ally, Germany, to the list of countries that wish him out of office. "China wants me out. Iran wants me out. Germany wants me out.'

As a greedy person, he has also been trying to undo what his predecessor Barack Obama did.

In his interview with the Independent, Chomsky says, "He didn't create it (the Paris climate agreement), destroy it, OK.

This is also true in the case of the 2015 nuclear agreement. On May 8, 2018, he announced that the United States is withdrawing from the nuclear deal, claiming, "This was a horrible one-sided deal that should have never, ever been made.<sup>3</sup>

Sir Kim Darroch, Britain's ambassador to Washington, wrote in a memo to Downing Street revealed in July 2019 that Trump abandoned the nuclear deal as an act of 'diplomatic vandalism' to spite Obama.

Trump and his close aides are so cruel that even they did not accept to ease illegal sanctions against Iran during the coronavirus pandemic that has so far killed more than the innocent people who don't care about politics. Such merciless acts are just expected from a mad dog.

This lie that Iran is allowed to buy medicine and food can be categorized among his other numerous lies and misleading information.

The Washington Post reported in July 2020 that Trump has made 20,000 false or misleading claims while in office. The Post identified them a "tsunami of untruths" emanating from the Oval Office.

His administration is now doing whatever possible to make a return to the nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, impossible if Biden is elected president.

Sanctions are so pervasive that his national security advisor Robert O'Brien has acknowledged that little opportunity is left to impose sanctions on Iran.

"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," O'Brien told journalists.

Trump's administration has also been pushing the coun-tries in the Persian Gulf Arab region into an arms race. Immediately after it was announced that the U.S. plans to sell 50 F-35 fighter jets to the United Arab Emirates, it was announced that Saudi Arabia and Qatar are also on the line to buy F-35 jets.

Selling F-35 to the Persian Gulf Arab states, especially at a time that rulers in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi are trying to make Qatar surrender to their demands is a misuse of the situation to sell more arms.

Selling such advanced fighter jets to the regional countries are primarily intended to empty the pockets of the rich Arab countries.

Also, such advanced weapons have proven to be ineffective. In 1990, when the Saddam army invaded Kuwait, those advanced weapons that Kuwait had bought from Western countries, especially the U.S, proved irrelevant and useless

If it is claimed that these weapons are being sold to these countries to create a kind of balance against Iran, again these weapons are irrelevant. Military strategists are of the opinion that such countries cannot threaten Iran because of their geographical size and their high vulnerabilities. And this is something that Riyadh and Abu Dhabi are well aware of. Moreover, despite hostile policies by the Saudi kingdom, Iran does not seek tensions with neighbors. Even though most Arab countries in the region and beyond helped Saddam Hussein financially and militarily it his war against Iran. the Islamic Republic never sought revenge and it was among the first countries that strongly condemned Saddam's invasion of Kuwait.



ministration cares about the security of Persian Gulf Arab states. If it was so it would not turn the region into a powder keg. His administration also neither cares about human rights nor democracy.

Saudi Arabia butchered Jamal Ahmad Khashoggi but his government shrugged off the crime. The \$400 billion business deal, including 100 billion arms deal, that the King Salam family has signed with the U.S. stands above anything principles.

#### Money just matters.

High egoism That Trump has proven to be highly selfish is an open

secret. A 2017 book titled "The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump" and edited by Bandy X. Lee, a forensic psychiatrist, contains essays from 27 psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health professionals which describe the "clear and present danger" that Trump's mental health poses to the "nation and individual wellbeing".

Authors say that Trump's mental health was affecting the mental health of the American people and that he places the country at grave risk of involving it in a war, and of undermining democracy itself due to his dangerous pathology.

His egoism was best captured by cameras when he



The airpower would be backed by Boeing-707 and -747 tanker planes, and C-130 military transport aircraft as well as the domestically-built Karrar (Striker), Ababil (Bird Flock), Arash, and Kaman (Bow) unmanned aerial vehicles that are equipped with long-range smart bombs, precision-guided missiles, and radar jamming devices, Press TV wrote on its website.

The maneuvers, Nasirzadeh said, are aimed at "practicing the implementation of operation plans and establishing the right model that would suit real-life battle."

#### High points

He said "modern warfare operations that are aimed at confronting the enemies' emerging threats" will be practiced during the event.

The engaged fighters, the commander said, would also be sent on "long-range operations outside their defensive spheres," while precision ammunition would be tested in surgical strikes and air-to-air missiles fired to test their high destructive power.

The maneuvers come on the 40th anniversary of the Imposed War, the name given to Iraq's 1980-88 warfare against the Islamic Republic under the Arab country's former dictator Saddam Hussein.

The commander said young servicemen would be fielding their prowess during the exercise under the directions of the eight-year war's veterans.

Nasirzadeh, meanwhile, hailed that the country was undertaking the maneuvers in the face of the enemies' efforts to adversely affect its operations, including in the defensive area.

"This readiness and capability bespeaks the ineffectuality of the sanctions in the military area. We have been experiencing these sanctions for years and have managed to stand on our own feet," Nasirzadeh said, noting that it would make no difference for the Islamic Republic's defensive capability whether the bans were to be lifted or retained.

35,000 people in Iran.

Even during a war the warring sides are obliged to observe rules, but Trump and his team are closing all the routes so that that Iran would not be able to import medicine and medical equipment at this time of health crisis. At the same times, his administration hypocritically claims that delivery of humanitarian items are not subject to sanctions.

The long queues to get medicines for diabetes patients just about 400 meters from the Tehran Times office in Villa Street is a concrete example that the U.S. is lying that Iran is not banned to buy medicine.

It cannot be called nothing except an act of war crime. Through illegal sanctions, the U.S. is purposefully killing

#### Trump has no principles

Trump has no principles. It is a lie that the Trump ad-

pushed to get in front of the pack at a NATO summit in Brussels in May 2017. He put his right hand on the right arm of Montenegro Prime Minister Dusko Markovic and pushed himself ahead as NATO leaders walked inside the alliance's new headquarters and prepared for a group photo.

Most importantly, Trump does not care about international law. The scrap of the 2015 nuclear deal which is endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the movement of U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in violation of UN resolutions 242 and 338, and recognizing the occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights as part of Israel mean that Trump is promoting the law of jungle in the world and that he has no respect for moral values.

### Has Iran nabbed terrorist ringleader behind 2018 Ahvaz attack?

Unconfirmed media reports suggest the former ringleader of the Al-Ahwaziya terrorist group, a Saudi-sponsored outfit that carried out the 2018 deadly terrorist attack in the city of Ahvaz, has been arrested in Turkey and handed over to Iran.

A spokesperson for the terrorist group claims Habib Chaab, also known as Habib Eseywed, a former leader and the current vice-president of the Al-Ahwaziya group, has been detained in Turkey and handed over to Iranian intelligence forces on Friday evening.

According to a statement released by the terrorist group, a Persian Gulf littoral state has contributed to the arrest of Chaab.

The statement, quoted by the Saudi news agency Al Arabiya, claims the Iranian security forces have "lured" Chaab into visiting Turkey.

The terrorist group had claimed responsibility for the September 2018 terrorist attack on a military parade in Ahvaz, southwest of Iran, which killed 25 and injured 60 others.

Shortly after the attack, the London-based "Iran International" television channel funded by Saudi Arabia allowed al-Ahwaziya's spokesman to go live on air to defend the terrorist action.

No Iranian or Turkish official has confirmed the reports of Chaab's arrest, but in recent years, Iranian security forces



The photo shows a serviceman trying to protect a baby girl in the immediate aftermath of a September 2018 attack by a Saudi-backed terrorist group in the southwestern city of Ahvaz. (Photo by Mehr News Agency)

have managed to detain a number of counterrevolutionary and terrorist elements in neighboring countries and take them to Iran.

In August, the Iranian Intelligence Ministry announced it has arrested Jamshid Sharmahd, the ringleader of an anti-Iran terrorist group based in the United States.

Sharmahd directed "armed operations and acts of sab-

otage" in Iran from the U.S., according to the Intelligence Ministry.

Following a complicated operation, the ringleader of the group, named Tondar (Thunder), was arrested and he is "now in the powerful hands" of Iranian security forces, it said at the time.

Earlier in October 2019, the Intelligence Organization of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corp (IRGC) had managed to arrest Rouhollah Zam, the administrator of counterrevolutionary website Amad News, in a neighboring country.

The meticulous intelligence operation involved outmaneuvering the intelligence services of certain Western countries, especially France, which offered Zam guidance and protection for his operation.

"Întelligence forces ĥad been keeping a watchful eye on Rouhollah Zam's movements for a long time and he stepped into the intelligence trap set by IRGC some two years ago. Ultimately, we were able to arrest him through cooperation with other intelligence services," Second Brigadier General Mohammad Tavallaei, a high-ranking IRGC official, said at the time.

In June this year, Iran's Judiciary sentenced Zam to death after he was convicted of corruption on earth. (Source: Press TV)

# **Undeniable peace partner**

**POLITICAL** description of the south Caucasus region. **TEHRAN** — Iran has offered a peace initiative to put an end to the Nagorno-Karabakh war while drawing red lines for regional players that are involved in the war, a policy that could further enhance the prospect for peace and security in the south Caucasus region.

Last week, Iran stepped up the plate to help bring peace to the war-torn region of Nagorno-Karabakh by tasking a senior diplomat with holding lengthy discussions with officials in Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, and Turkey. The diplomat, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, set off a tour of these countries on Tuesday, one month after the war broke out in the volatile region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but controlled by local ethnic Armenians.

Before beginning his tour, Araghchi first paid a visit to Iran-Azerbaijan border areas to get a firsthand understanding of what is going on there. He held meetings with the security and political officials in Tabriz and Ardabil. Araghchi, who is the deputy foreign minister for political affairs, left Tabriz for Baku to present the Iranian peace initiative, according to Iran's Foreign Ministry.

"Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Seyyed Abbas Araqchi is to set off on a regional tour, as Iran's special envoy, to promote Tehran's initiative to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis and the clashes between the Azerbaijan Republic and Armenia," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement last week.

In Baku, Araghchi met with several high-ranking Azerbaijani officials including President Ilham Aliyev and his assistant Hikmet Hajiyev and Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov.

"The main purpose of the visit is to present the proposed initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to resolve this conflict and achieve a lasting peace between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan and, consequently, the region," said Araghchi, who embarked on his regional tour as the special representative of the Iranian president.

Araghchi described his talks with the Azerbaijani officials as "positive and constructive."

"Introduced Iran's Regional Initiative to Help in Ending the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict to H. E. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, in a positive and constructive long meeting," the deputy foreign minister said in a tweet, following his talks in Baku.

On the other hand, Azerbaijan also hailed the talks as "very fruitful." "Araghchi, indeed [held] very fruitful

"Araghchi, indeed [held] very fruitful meeting. Azerbaijan and Iran have strong



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Araghchi meets with Armenian PM Nikol Pashinyan (left) during his recent visit to Yerevan

ties of friendship and good neighborly relations. Thanks for your condolences to Azerbaijani martyrs who liberate our lands from occupation and civilians who become target of Armenia's War Crimes," Hajiyev said in a tweet following a meeting with the Iranian envoy.

After holding discussions with Azerbaijani leadership about the Iranian initiative, the Iranian envoy left Baku for Moscow, where he held talks over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the situation around the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"We had very intensive and fruitful talks in Baku and Moscow, and we are going to hold talks with the Armenian authorities all about finding a solution for peace," Araghchi said upon his arrival in Yerevan. "Now is a very sensitive time, and a decision must be made as soon as possible to establish peace and a path to peace must be opened."

The Iranian peace initiative was offered after it was discussed in Tehran and then approved by Iranian officials. It is the first effort by Iran since the beginning of the war in late September to resolve the crisis diplomatically and through cooperation among all countries in the region, namely Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Russia.

Araghchi and Mohammad Javad Zarif, the foreign minister of Iran, have elaborated on the Iranian initiative, saying it is intended to end the violence in Nagorno-Karabakh. According to Araghchi, Iran's initiative is realistic and based on the principles of international law, including 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 forces from the region. "We expect these principles to be initially agreed upon, followed by a ceasefire and the start of negotiations," said Araghchi, adding that all the four countries involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh war – Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, and Turkey – have viewed the Iranian peace initiative as positive.

In addition, Zarif has said ensuring the people's rights, establishing communication channels, creating a mechanism for countries of the region to monitor the implementation of the initiative are parts of the peace plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Zarif and Araghchi also said that Iran is waiting for the four countries to review and then respond to the Iranian initiative. It seems that these countries are pondering over the initiative. Up until now, no official response to the Iranian initiative has been announced. But Iranian officials clearly believe that Iran is in a position to bring peace to the south Caucasus region. Araghchi said Iran is able to play an effective role in resolving the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh due to its abilities in the region and close relations with both sides of the crisis.

"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.

Iran itself is a main player in the region

that, in addition to its diplomatic efforts, has taken military measures to maintain security and stability in its border areas with Azerbaijan and Armenia, a move that proves that Iran is an undeniable partner in any peace talks aimed to end the war. The Iranian peace initiative was presented in this context. The initiative is still under consideration in the region's countries. But Iran, through taking military and political measures such as dispatching sizable military reinforcements to areas along its borders with Azerbaijan and Armenia and presenting a peace initiative, made it clear that it cannot be excluded from the politico-military developments in the region.

Furthermore, Iran has drawn red lines for the warring sides that they must avoid being tempted to change the internationally recognized borders of the region, a warning that was clearly expressed by several high-ranking military officials in Iran.

As Araghchi visited Iran's borders with Azerbaijan on Monday, the commander of Iran's Army warned that Iran will not tolerate any change in international borders.

"Respecting the territorial integrity of countries and preserving the official international borders are among our well-known principles and we will not tolerate any changes in these borders. We have opposed these changes and will continue to do so," said Major General Seyed Abdolrahim Mousavi.

Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Ground Forces, also echoed the same red line while visiting Iran's northwestern borders.

"We will not accept change in the geopolitics of borders. This issue is the red line of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Pakpour asserted.

This hybrid strategy of military reinforcements and diplomatic efforts made Iran an undeniable partner in peace and stability in the south Caucasus region, a fact that was articulated by Araghchi during his visit to Turkey.

"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," the Iranian deputy minister said in a tweet following a meeting with his Turkish counterpart.

This role has been assumed largely due to Iran's balanced approach to the Nagorno-Karabakh war. Iran has refused to take a side in the conflict since the early days of the war. Instead, it chose to use its equal access to both sides of the war to pursue mediation efforts.

### SPORTS

### FFIRI's amended statutes ensures election's democracy at highest level: Barati

**1** $\rightarrow$  In an exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Barati explained that the process of the amendment and working through difficulties of figuring out the right legal content for the statutes.

Tehran Times: What is the current stage of the statutes' amendment process?

Barati: We are waiting for the general assembly of the federation to be held. The FFIRI's general assembly must approve the <u>a</u>mended statutes.

What were the technical and legal problems of the previous statutes? Are these issues resolved in the amended version?

Barati: It was crucial for us, as well as the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA, to bring the FFIRI's statutes in line with the latest FIFA standards. We have to observe the regulations of the world's football governing body in our statutes. So, it was done in collaboration with FIFA and the AFC.

For example, one of the amendments made to the articles of the statutes is that the independent bodies of the Iranian football federation, namely the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Appeals Committee, the election-related committees, and the Audit Committee will be elected by the general assembly. Also, the legal nature of the FFIRI is defined in such a way that both FIFA requirements and domestic laws are observed.

Regarding the conditions of the eligible candidates for the different positions in the football federation, much better conditions have been provided to ensure the election's democracy at the highest level. There are also other significant issues that will be published for the public after approval by the General Assembly.

How difficult the task of the Legal Committee was in the process of amending the statutes, and which departments provided the most assistance to your committee?

Barati: Compliance of FIFA and the AFC requirements with the domestic regulations was a very challenging process considering the sensitivity of the legal issues.

Are there any new capacities or prospects for the Iranian football created by the FFIRI's amended statutes?

Barati: To put it in a nutshell, the most important achievements of the new statutes are the independence of the different bodies of the Iranian football federation, the separation of powers, and the more democratic elections.

## **2020/21 IPL to kick off as** scheduled: official

**S P O R T S TEHRAN** — Mehdi Mohammad Nabi, the eration, said the new season of Iran Professional League (IPL) will start as scheduled.

The media reports suggest that the competition will be delayed due to COVID-10 pandemic.

The 2020/21 IPL season was originally scheduled to begin on Oct. 31 but the Iran's Sports Medicine Federation requested a six-day delay in order to cut chain of coronavirus' spread.

Now, Mohammad Nabi has said that the competition will start on Friday. "The league will surely begin on Friday behind closed the doors. The competition will be held with stringent health protocols due to a coronavirus outbreak," Mohammad Nabi said. It will be IPL's 20th edition since its foundation in 2001.

Persepolis are the most decorated team in the competition with six titles.

Iran's daily tally of coronavirus deaths hit a record high of 434 on Sunday.

The deaths, announced by Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari on state TV, take the national toll to 35,298. She said the number of confirmed coronavirus cases increased by 7,719 to 620,491.

# Castellani, Alekno nominated to take charge of Iran

**S P O R T S TEHRAN** — Daniel Castellani and Vladimir Alekno are the final candidates to take charge of Iran national volleyball team.

Daniel Castellani, Andrea Giani, Ferdinando De Giorgi, Lorenzo ernardi and Vladimir Alekno were among the five candidates in

### Araghchi held 'very good' talks during regional tour: Zarif

**POLITICAL** description de sk **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said his aide held 'very successful' talks during a regional tour that included several countries involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh war. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the deputy foreign minister for political affairs, has begun a regional tour of four capitals to help end the deadly war in the disputed region of Na-



emphasized that this is not in anyone's interest. In recent and even earlier negotiations, we have informed the authorities of Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as Russia and Turkey, that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not tolerate such a thing," said the chief Iranian diplomat, adding that these terrorists are not present at Iran's borders now, but the probability that they will be present at a distance

gorno-Karabakh. He set off the tour by paying a visit to Iran-Azerbaijan border areas. From there, he went to Baku, Moscow, Yerevan, and finally Ankara.

During his tour, the deputy foreign minister presented an Iranian peace initiative to resolve the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh through cooperation among five regional countries, namely Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Turkey, and Iran.

"Mr. Araghchi went on this trip with an initiative that was discussed in our country and approved by the relevant authorities, and after visiting the border area, he held very good talks with various officials, especially with the President in Baku; with the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Russia, with various officials, especially the Prime Minister of Armenia, in Yerevan, and with his counterpart in Turkey. He presented our country's initiative," Zarif told the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) news agency on Sunday.

According to Zarif, Iran's initiative is intended to resolve the crisis and help withdraw occupying forces from occupied territories.

"We have been pursuing this since the beginning of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis in consultation with the countries of the region, including the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Russia and Turkey," said the foreign minister, noting that Iran believes that the countries in the region will bear the brunt of this war, and these countries can have the greatest impact on ending the war in the region.

He added, "In this context, we tried to achieve these goals and hold consultations without trying to compete with other existing mechanisms such as the Minsk Group. Unfortunately, in the last 30 years, the negotiations have not been successful, and these tensions have always existed, which are along our borders where civilians and people were threatened from both sides."

The chief Iranian diplomat outlined some details of the Iranian initiative, saying it does not only seek to establish a temporary ceasefire but also seeks to resolve the conflict.

"One of the important points of our country's initiative is that it is not only seeking a temporary ceasefire but also a move towards resolving the conflicts based on a framework that begins with the declaration of commitment of both sides to a set of principles and then it continues with measures, especially the withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories," Zarif said.

Ensuring the people's rights, establishing communication channels, creating a mechanism for countries of the region to monitor the implementation of the initiative are parts of the peace plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, according to Zarif.

The foreign minister said Iran is waiting for officials of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, and Turkey to express their views on the Iranian initiative.

Zarif also said Iran is all but sure about the presence of terrorist forces in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, warning that Iran will not tolerate their presence.

"As for the terrorist forces, we are almost certain that they were present in the midst of the conflict, and we

from Iran's borders is still high, and Tehran has seriously expressed this concern to both sides.

Iran has now held discussions with all the four countries that are one way or another involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It remains to be seen whether these countries agree with the Iranian initiative.

Araghchi, who embarked on his tour as a special representative of the Iranian president, has pointed out that all the four countries involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh war – Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, and Turkey – have viewed the Iranian peace initiative as positive.

"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 deputy foreign minister stated that implementing the Iranian initiative is not an easy task.

"Immediately implementing the initiative is not easy but we are not disappointed and will move forward with our efforts," Araghchi pointed out at the end of his regional tour.

This initiative was the first serious effort by Iran to end the deadly war in Nagorno-Karabakh since the conflict erupted on September 27. In the early days of the war, Iran called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to immediately put an end to the war and resolve their differences through dialogue. Iran even voiced readiness to facilitate such a dialogue.

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

### Iran says won't tolerate terrorists in Nagorno-Karabakh

 $1 \rightarrow$  but the probability that they will be present at a distance from Iran's borders is still high, and Tehran has seriously expressed this concern to both sides.

There have been several reports in news media outlets in Iran suggesting that Takfiri groups may have been deployed in the south Caucasus region to take part in the clashes between Azerbaijan and the local ethnic Armenians in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Zarif has already expressed concern over the presence of Takfiri terrorists in the region while elaborating on a peace initiative that Iran has presented to all regional countries involved in the war to help end the conflict.

"In the active diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is based on respect for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the peaceful settlement of the conflict and the inviolability of international borders, there is a concern about the presence of Takfiri terrorists in the region and possibly other terrorists. We made it clear that it is unbearable for Iran," the foreign minister pointed out. the running to take the helm of Iran and Islamic Republic of Iran Volleyball Federation (IRIVF) narrowed down its candidates for National Team to two last week.

In a three-hour session, headed by IRIVF president Mohammadreza Davarzani, with the participation of the committee members and experts in the federation's headquarters on Sunday, the **members reached a joint agreement on Castellani and Alekno**, Iranvolleyball.com reported.

Alekno led Russia to a gold medal at the 2012 Olympic Games and Argentina seized a bronze medal at the 1988 Olympics under leadership of Castellani.

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

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

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

### Iranians nominated for best ACL 2020 (West) team

Esteghlal midfielder Mehdi Ghaedi and Kamal Kamyabinia from Persepolis have been nominated for the Best XI from the West Asia stage.

As football lovers across Asia look forward to the resumption of the 2020 AFC Champions League (East), the-AFC.com continues its quest to find out who the fans consider the best midfielder.

#### Mehdi Ghaedi – Esteghlal

Ghaedi has been highly rated in the Islamic Republic of Iran for some time and it's fair to say he is currently Esteghlal's most prized asset. The talented midfielder showed why in Doha, with excellent link-up play in an exciting forward line and a standout performance against Al-Ahli Saudi in which he scored one and created another to help the Tehran giant reach the knockout phase.

#### Kamal Kamyabinia – Persepolis

Mr. Consistency in the Persepolis engine room, Kamyabinia was reliable as ever as his side produced a string of resilient performances to reach the final for the second time in three years. Sitting in front of the back four, the Tehran native was solid in the tackle, constantly broke up opposition attacks and rarely gave the ball away – as shown by his excellent stats above.

(Source: the-afc)



**NOVEMBER 2, 2020** 

# IME's weekly worth of trades up 7%

**ECONOMY** desktronger Bast Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), IME International Affairs and Public Relations Department reported.

As reported, over 561,359 tons of commodities worth \$204 million were traded at IME during the past week, while the volume of trade also increased 40 percent.

Last week, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 204,628 tons of various products worth close to \$89 million were traded.



On this trading floor, 201,878 tons of steel, 730 tons of aluminum, 1,060 tons of copper, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrates, 840 tons of zinc ingot as well as 5 kg of gold bar were traded by customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 356,350 tons of different commodities with the total value of \$117 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 183,600 tons of VB feed stock, 57,196 tons of bitumen, 63,568 tons of polymer products, 32,216 tons of chemical products, 11,500 tons of lube cut oil, 1,100 tons of insulation, 2,678 tons of base oil, 150 tons of argon as well as 4,280 tons of sulfur were traded.

Furthermore, 378 tons of commodities were traded on the side market of the IME.

Moreover, the agricultural trading floor of the IME experienced trading of 63 kg of saffron strands.

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

In late April, IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad unveiled the market's new outlook plan, which depicts IME's development roadmap until the Iranian calendar year of 1404 (March 20205-March 2026). Materializing the slogan of this Iranian year, which is "Surge in Production" is seriously considered in the mentioned plan and it is, in fact, the strategic approach of the outlook plan.

# **Complete chain of steel to be** offered at IME soon

**ECONOMY** d e s k **TEHRAN** — The vice chairman of Iranian Parliament's Industries and Mines Committee said that the complete chain of steel will be offered at the country's mercantile exchange soon.

Ali Jedi said that this committee's plan in this due is being finalized, based on which the complete chain of steel will be offered at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), and the surplus products will be exported.



# Iran's 7-month non-oil exports stand at \$18.2b

**1** → Iraq with \$4.8 billion, China with \$4.4 billion, the UAE with \$2.2 billion, Turkey with \$1.4 billion, and Afghanistan with \$1.3 billion of imports from Iran were among the country's top export destinations during this period.

Meanwhile, China with \$5.1 billion, the UAE with \$4.7 billion, Turkey with \$2.2 billion, India with \$1.2 billion, and Germany with \$1 billion of exports to Iran were the top

exporting nations to the Islamic Republic, according to Mirashrafi.

The value of Iran's non-oil trade during the first six half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) had reached \$30.349 billion.

Based on the IRICA data, Iran imported \$16.783 billion worth of goods, while exporting \$13.566 billion in the mentioned six months. The volume of traded goods was estimated



at about 62.842 million tons, of which over 46.318 million tons were related to exports

and about 16.524 million tons were imported goods.

National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and Petropars,

a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on development of phase 11, however Total and CNPCI,

pulled out of the project in 2019 due to the U.S. sanctions.

after its partners left the contract.

Iran's gas network.

Currently, Petropars is developing the phase 11 project

The South Pars phase 11 project will have a production capacity of 2 billion cubic feet per day or 370 000 barrels

of oil equivalent per day. The produced gas will be fed into

capacity will be added to the country's extraction from South

area of 3,700 square kilometers of Iran's territorial waters.

of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the

world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of

condensate. The field is divided into 24 standard phases.

Pars which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

With phase 11 going online, 56 million cubic meters of

South Pars is the world's largest gas field, covering an

The giant field is estimated to contain a significant amount

### Drilling operations to begin soon in South Pars phase 11

**ECONOMY** desk Mapna Drilling Company said that an offshore drilling rig belonging to the company is shipped toward the Iran-Qatar territorial waters in the Persian Gulf to start drilling operations in South Pars Phase 11.

According to Fazel Jamalzadeh, Mapna Drilling has signed a contract with Petropars, which is in charge of developing Phase 11 of the giant gas field, for drilling 12 wells in the mentioned phase.

The drilling operations will be carried out in two stages, the official said.

"In the first stage five wells including one vertical and four horizontal wells will be drilled for the platform SPD-11B of this phase, and after the installation of the topside, seven more wells will be drilled in the second stage," he added.

Engineering and technical monitoring and supervision of all the mentioned operations will be carried out by local

experts and engineers, Jamalzadeh stressed. Development of the South Pars phase 11 was officially



started in May after several years of hiatus due to various financial and technical issues.

In November 2016, Iran signed a \$4.8 billion agreement with a consortium including France's Total, China

### All-Iranian distillation tower installed in country>s 1st biorefinery

**ECONOMY** d e s k first biorefinery, completely constructed

first biorefinery, completely constructed inside the country, was installed in this plant in the western Kermanshah province, Shata reported on Sunday.

Shata reported on Sunday. According to Mohammad Nouri Amiri, the deputy head of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO), with a refining capacity of 1.6 million liters per day, this power plant is going to produce 200,000 liters of ethanol and other by-products on a daily basis. All the engineering processes of con-

ince, Nouri-Amiri noted that the construction of this distillation tower by local engineers miri, has saved the country over €1.5 million.

A biorefinery is a facility that integrates biomass conversion processes and equipment to produce fuels, power, and value-added chemicals from biomass. A biorefinery is analogous to today's petroleum refinery, which produces multiple fuels and products from petroleum.

# **TEDPIX loses 25,000 points on Sunday**

**ECONOMY** desck ran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 25,997 points to 1.279 million on Sunday.

Over 5.411 billion securities worth 49.45 trillion rials (about \$1.177 billion) were traded at the TSE on Sunday.

The first market's index dropped 19,515 points and the second market's index lost 50,611 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 Gen-

eration Company, Iran Khodro Group, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Mobarakeh 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.

### Industry minister pledges to improve exports

**ECONOMY** desk **TEHRAN** – Iran's recently-appointed Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini said that improving the country's non-oil exports has been a priority of his ministry since he took office, the ministry's news portal Shata reported. In the past month, the first and most important

In the past month, the first and most important mission defined in the ministry has been to remove the barriers in the way of the country's exports, Razm Hosseini said in a meeting with the country's major exporters on Saturday.

According to the minister, the past five sessions of the Government's Economic Coordination Headquarters have been focusing on the issues related to the exports, and the supply of foreign currency earned from the exports for the imports of the country's needs, that is allowing exports in return for the imports of commodities required by the government.



(ended on March 19) can introduce an importer or be the importer themselves to be allowed to export.

The official further emphasized the need for providing necessary grounds with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate the conditions for increasing trade with neighboring countries.

Promoting this type of barter trade (allowing exports in return for imports) has been used several times over the past five decades in Iran.

For instance, a program exactly like the one recently proposed, was implemented in the Iranian calendar year 1370 (started in March 1991), in which the government

#### disstructing the distillation tower of this refinery, including the design and implementation, have been carried out by local

Nouri-Amiri noted that the construction of this distillation tower by local engineers

A small amount of steel is currently offered in the stock exchange, which is less than 40 percent of the domestic consumption, he lamented.

Last month, a member of the parliament's Industries and Mines Committee had said that the parliament would soon draft a plan based on which the complete steel chain should be offered at Iran Mercantile Exchange.

Allah-Verdi Dehqani said, "Given the nature of IME, which is transparency and real price discovery based on the supply and demand, through offering the complete steel chain in this exchange, not only is corruption and rent-seeking prevented, but the extra offered commodities can be exported under the appropriate condition."

The MP said that the parliament's plan is aimed at the supply of steel required in the domestic market through the commodity exchange and also supporting steel exports.

Iranian steel industry, which plays a significant role both in materializing the country's motto of achieving self-reliance and in boosting the non-oil exports, has been in a development route in recent years.

According to a report released by the World Steel Association (WSA), Iran's crude steel production increased by 30 percent in 2019 while the average global growth in this sector stood at 3.5 percent.

The steel sector is being noticeably developed, and through implementing different projects in recent years a good market has been formed for the steel and steel products, but there is still some controversy over the prices, and some dispute between the upstream and downstream industries in this regard.

Offering the complete steel chain at Iran Mercantile Exchange is said to be the solution to this problem.

It is believed to put an end to all the challenges in terms of price, as this strategy will let the market discover the real price, considering the benefits of upstream and downstream units.

Also as stated by the IME Managing Director Hamed Soltaninejad, the IME lays the ground for transparent competition.

He says that if the complete chain of steel is offered in this exchange, transparency will dominate trades in the whole steel sector.

"Transparency should not be just for some sectors of the industry, while the whole industry including the downstream sector should enjoy transparent condition", according to Soltaninejad. "President Rouhani is expected to instruct new policies on the process of exports in return for imports, over the next few days," he added. Razm Hosseini noted that the list of import items required by the country has been prepared, which will be provided to the exporters, and all exporters with a foreign currency commitment from the previous year allowed traders to export whatever goods they could manage but expected them to import only the commodity items specified by the government.

Also, the government has recently proposed a scheme for barter trade of oil in return for importing basic goods.

In the mentioned scheme, the government supports the traders to export crude oil in exchange for other commodities.

### Irrigation on 8,410 ha of Khorasan Razavi farmlands modernized

**ECONOMY** description **TEHRAN** — Modern irrigation systems have been established in 8,410 hectares of farmlands in Khorasan Razavi Province, northeast of Iran, since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), the director of Iranian Agriculture Ministry's modern irrigation systems development plan announced.

Abbas Zare said Khorasan Razavi stood at first place among the other provinces in terms of establishing the mentioned systems since the year start, while Kerman Province (Iran's largest province in the southeast of the country) stood at second place.

The purpose of implementing the plan of modern irrigation systems is to increase the productivity and sustainability of water and soil resources in the country to ensure the sustainable production of agricultural products. According to Zare, in the current Iranian

calendar year, nearly 16 trillion rials (about \$380.9 million) has been allocated from the annual budget and the National Development Fund (NDF) for the development of various irrigation methods.

The official has said that the implementation of this plan is going to increase the irrigation efficiency of the farmlands to 44 percent which will increase the production capacity of agricultural products by 30 percent.



### 50 idle industrial units revived in Kerman Province since late March

**ECONOMY** d e s k **TEHRAN** — Since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), 50 idle industrial units have been revived in the southeastern Kerman Province, according to a provincial official.

Alireza Rahman-Nejad, the deputy head of Kerman's Industry, Mining and Trade Department for industrial affairs, said, "Besides reviving the idle units, we also plan to help 150 production units boost their output."

Saying that 70-75 percent of the small industrial units are facing lack of liquidity, the official said, "We intend to remove this problem through offering working capital facilities to these units."

Last month, the deputy head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) had announced that 767 idle industrial units were revived throughout the country since the beginning of the current Iranian year.



Asghar Mosaheb said that reviving the mentioned units created jobs for 13,577 persons.

There are 46,000 small and medium-sized industries in the country's industrial parks for the moment, of which 9,800 units are inactive, the official said and announced that reviving 1,500 idle industrial units has been targeted for the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021).

He said through returning 767 industrial units to the production cycle since the year start, the plan for reviving the small and medium-sized industries in the present year has been materialized by 51 percent.

In terms of job creation, the plan has come true by over 50 percent as well, as creating 27,000 jobs has been targeted for this year, the official added.

Mosaheb further said that reviving 60 idle units, Tehran Province accounted for the highest number of revived units since the year start, followed by Mazandaran Province, where 51 units were revived.

# The threat of a Biden/Harris regime in power

#### **By Stephen Lendman**

Since Trump took office in January 2017, I've sharply criticized his domestic and geopolitical agenda - with ample supporting evidence to make my case. I support neither right-wing of the U.S. one-party state — nor farcical elections when held that always turn out largely the same way. The rarest of rare exceptions prove the rule.

The U.S. is a predatory belligerent state, an imperial state, a pariah state, a rogue state, a police state – a nation fostering inequality between haves and have-nots. Both right wings of the one-party state take turns running things.

While I deplore and oppose both a Trump v. Biden/Harris in power, I fear the latter more than the former over the next four years. If you loved Obama/Biden's 8-year record of shame, you'd be wild about Biden/Harris. Or will it be the latter alone because of the former's diminished ability to perform what's required of a head of state, a real possibility? Examples are numerous, including twice on the stump confusing Trump with GW Bush as his opponent.

During Obama/Biden's tenure, seven countries were terror-bombed in eight years: Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Soma-lia, Syria, and Yemen. None of the above threatened the U.S. Throughout the post-WW II period, and no nations anywhere threatened U.S. security. Yet since June 1950, Washington has been perpetually at war against one country after another – by hot and/or other means.

The Obama/Biden regime launched preemptive wars on Syria and Libya, smashing and destroying both countries, transforming them into charnel houses. Massacring hundreds of thousands of their people, displacing countless numbers more, ISIS and like-minded jihadists became U.S. ground forces in both countries and elsewhere.

Obama/Biden staged coups in Honduras, Paraguay, Brazil, and Ukraine. They supported Israeli wars on Palestine and tried replacing Venezuelan democracy with a fascist rule. They enforced puppet rule in Haiti and continued Plan Colombia aid that's been



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responsible for massacres, disappearances, and torture of regime opponents. They were militantly hostile toward Russia and China, risking confrontation with both countries. For eight years, they waged war on humanity at home and abroad, along with handing greater wealth to Wall Street, war-profiteers, and other corporate predators.

There's virtually nothing redeeming about Trump's near-four years in office – with one major exception. While continuing wars of aggression he inherited and waging it by other means on Iran, Venezuela, Cuba, China, Russia, North Korea, and other countries, he launched no new hot wars on his own.

Since Franklin Roosevelt goaded imperial Japan to attack the U.S. to get the war he wanted, few U.S. presidents served out their office time without attacking other nations. Gerald Ford was a rare exception. Although surrounded by the likes of Henry Kissinger, Donald Rumsfeld, and Dick Cheney — who never met an independent country they didn't want smashed — the only belligerent stain on Ford's record was permitting Indonesia to rape and destroy East Timor.

Jimmy Carter was another exception, at age-86 in 2011 saying: During his four years in office from January 1976 to January 2000, (w)e never dropped a bomb. We never fired a bullet. We never went to war." To his credit as well, he called Bolivarian Venezuela's election process "the best in the world" - real democracy, what's banned in the U.S. and other Western countries. On issues of war and peace, his office time was blemished by supporting an array of tyrants and drawing Soviet Russia into its Afghan quagmire in the 1980s. Yet he didn't preemptively attack another nation during his tenure, how most U.S. presidents operated post-WW II - directly and/or by waging proxy wars to replace independent governments with subservient pro-U.S. ones.

Obama/Biden's 8-year tenure was pockmarked by endless wars. Like most U.S. presidents – Trump included – Obama broke

every major pledge made, delivering betrayal, not "hope," "change," peace, "a new era of openness," universal healthcare, financial reform, ending torture, illegal spying, and detention without trial. While campaigning in 2007, he said the following: "I will promise you this, that if we have not gotten our troops out (of Afghanistan) by the time I am president, it is the first thing I will do... I will get our troops home. We will bring an end to this (and the Iraq) war(s). You can take that to the bank."

Both countries remain illegally occupied by unwanted U.S. forces. War in Afghanistan continues since October 2001 – against Iraq intermittently since March 2003, first directly, then using ISIS proxy forces; the nation unstable today because of U.S. belligerence, other hostile policies, and its presence occupying forces.

Obama also promised to close Guantanamo during his first year in office. It remains open, one of many U.S. gulag torture prisons operating globally. He vowed to "fulfill" the goal of Israel and long-suffering Palestinians "liv(ing) side by side" in two states at "peace." He pledged to end torture, illegal spying, and detention without trial. He said he'd observe "democratic values." All of the above pledges were systematically breached. Polar opposite policies were pursued throughout his time in office. Biden partnered in all of the above and much more, a record hostile to peace, equity, justice, and rule.

On Tuesday, voting-age Americans will go the polls to elect federal, state, and local officials — other than about 90 million who already voted by mail or in-person and many millions more who'll abstain because change for a nation safe and fit to live in is excluded from ballots.

Whatever the outcome, one thing is certain. I've said it many times before, and I'll say it again. When the dust settles post-election - that may take days or longer to learn if Trump or Biden/Harris won – not a damn thing worth voting for will change. That's the disturbing reality of how U.S. fantasy democracy works - for privileged interests exclusively at the expense of ordinary Americans.

### Kashmir launches general strike against controversial new land laws

Indian-administered Kashmir has launched a general strike in protest at controversial laws imposed by New Delhi that allow non-locals to buy land in the disputed region.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist government announced this week that it had granted non-locals access to purchase land and property in Kashmir. Businesses in the disputed Himalayan region observed a

complete shutdown on Saturday in the biggest act of defiance since the abrogation of Kashmir's special status last year, Press TV reported.

Most residents stayed inside their homes while shops and businesses were closed after a shutdown was called by a coalition of political and religious groups that want self-determination for the region.

Indian soldiers patrolled the nearly empty streets.

New-Delhi's latest move was criticized by all the Muslim-majority population. Even pro-India elements in Kashmir criticized the new laws, which came into effect on Tuesday.

### **Azeri leader says he will** fight 'to the end' if Karabakh talks fail

Azeri President Ilham Aliyev said Sunday his troops would "go to the end" should negotiations fail to result in an agreement by ethnic Armenian forces to withdraw from Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions.

Aliyev, speaking during a meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu in the Azeri capital Baku, also said Armenia had "no basis" to request Russian military assistance in the conflict, Reuters reported.

Further shelling was reported by Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces in and around Nagorno-Karabakh Sunday. The death toll in the region's worst fighting in more than 25 years has already surpassed 1,000 and is possibly much higher. Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognized as part of

Azerbaijan but is populated and controlled by ethnic Armenians. The conflict has brought into sharp focus the increased influence of Turkey, an ally of Azerbaijan, in a former Soviet region

considered by Russia to be within its sphere of influence. Russia also has a security alliance with Armenia.

### **Clashes in Spain as anger at** virus curbs rises

Protesters in several Spanish cities clashed with security forces for a second night running, police said Sunday, as exasperation and anger over coronavirus restrictions grow worldwide.

The unrest in Spain came as more European nations started locking down to try and stem a worrying spike in infections on the continent which has registered more than 278,000 deaths since the virus first emerged in China at the end of 2019, AFP reported.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson became the latest leader to impose a new shutdown in England that starts Thursday for at least a month, following in the steps of Austria, France and Ireland.

#### Canada: Court to hear challenge to 'religious symbols' law

A long-awaited court case gets under way this week in the Ca-nadian province of Quebec, where civil rights groups say a law that prohibits the wearing of religious garb by some public servants violates the country's constitution.

The lawsuit against Bill 21 was filed by the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) and Ichrak Nourel Hak, a Muslim woman and it will be heard in Quebec Superior Court on November 2, al Jazeera reported. The law, passed in June 2019, bars some teachers, lawyers, police officers and others in the public sphere from wearing religious symbols on the job, including the hijab worn by Muslim women, kippahs worn by Jewish men, and turbans worn by Sikhs. The applicants say the law is discriminatory and creates "second-class citizenship" in Canada.

### Fraud accusations will be widespread in U.S. election: professor

 $1 \rightarrow$  A: The New York Times reporters don't bother to report all of the details of Trump's tax returns. These returns are usually several thousand pages long and are not public records. No one's taxes are public record. The reporters also have a biased view of Trump, so that has to be taken into account. At this point in the election, with the polarization that is already present, I do not see the release of limited tax information as having a major impact on the election. The majority of the electorate has already made up their minds and simply uses information like the tax returns and reasons they were released to justify or cement their beliefs.

Don't you think that Trump's infection with COVID-19 is an evidence that he has failed to control the pandemic and this would affect his reelection bid?

A: I think it was a simple infection that will not have a drastic effect on the election outcome. He never had severe symptoms. Some media outlets tried to discredit him because he contracted the disease, but I do not think it changed many opinions regarding his presidential candidacy Don't you predict a civil war if one of the nominees refuses to accept the election results? A: I do not predict a civil war in the United States. A candidate can refuse to accept the results. There will likely be many court filings, and the widespread use of mail-in ballots might delay the election results since they have to be counted but cannot be counted until the 3rd of November. There are a lot of technical challenges to this particular election, and accusations of fraud will be widespread. Despite this, there will be a clear winner at some point. If Trump refuses to accept that he will be removed. However, the population might cause some problems, but this will not rise to anywhere near the severity of a civil war.



it does with any actual policy impact. There is something

to be said for that, though. His lack of diplomatic decorum has hurt things more than any policy shift. I do not think Trump intended to attempt to negotiate peace for the world. He worked to bring security to the United States, and for the most part, this has been the case, and progress has been made on that front regarding long-term goals. Some view his policies as more of an isolationist doctrine,

but this is really pushing the term's boundaries. There have recently been several prominent peace agreements reached that were in part brokered by the United States, but given the nature of the international system, having a single national power bring peace to the world is not really a viable goal anymore.

Regional stability is the best one can hope for.

Can Trump resort to Insurrection Act to send active-duty troops onto streets to quell possible protests over the election results?

A: Trump can use the Insurrection Act to quell riots but

This is probably more likely if Trump wins. There will be riots and some civil unrest, but nothing as serious as an insurgency.

The United States can handle anything that comes up in an appropriate manner, including Trump, if he refuses to leave office or Biden if he attempts to claim victory when official results do not support it. There is no doubt that the election is going to be nasty, though. It's really unfortunate. The court system, which will be used extensively, should not have to decide these things. How do you assess the U.S. position, especially after

Trump's withdrawal from international agreements? Could Trump bring peace and security to America and the world?

A: The U.S. position in world affairs has not suffered tremendously under Trump's policies. Foreign leaders and the United Nations have complained quite a bit, but that does not impact the United States. Iran has suffered extensively under sanctions, which is unfortunate with the U.S. withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

That agreement could have been handled better. Overall, world leaders can complain about the United States, but that has little impact on substantive power. The withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord was unfortunate, but that accord did not accomplish much. There were no enforcement mechanisms. Threatening to withdraw from NATO was not good, but that was just a threat, and the U.S. isn't going to actually do that. Withdrawing from treaties with Russia did not have a great effect either, considering they already had plenty of ground-launched cruise missiles that can violate that treaty and have had them for quite some time. The issues Trump has raised with China have probably been the most prominent with the trade issues but were not necessarily bad.

It's an attempt to reign in illegal activity. Much of the United States' criticism rests as much with Trump's personality as

will not do so, and would not order active-duty personnel to engage civilians directly. The Insurrection Act of 1807, amended in 1878 with the Posse Comitatus Act, could be used to quell any type of insurrection or even large-scale riots. Still, it will not be used to engage civilians with active-duty military forces directly. It has been used a few times in the past, mainly with riots in Los Angeles, natural disasters, and civil rights matters during the 1960s. Most of these deployments are limited and normally involved National Guard troops rather than active-duty personnel. In current times, they would most likely serve in a support role rather than actively engage civilians. There is a strong precedent against not using troops to deal with internal unrest unless it exceeds law enforcement capability. America has an extremely large and capable law enforcement apparatus. The exception to this would be an actual insurrection, which would be quickly dismantled by military forces. Riots are one thing and can be handled with conventional resources. The Insurrection Act, regarding the deployment of active-duty forces, is meant for actual insurrections. The law enforcement aspects of the act are no longer as important as they once were given police power in the United States. There would be an incredible push-back if Trump attempted to use the act to deploy troops in an aggressive fashion.

### **Resistance** News

### Abu Bakr: Akhras's life is in big danger

INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN— Qadri Abu Bakr, the head of the d e s k Prisoners and Ex-prisoners Affairs Authority, warned on Sunday of the seriousness of Akhras's health condition.

He pointed out that Akhras began to gradually lose his vision and hearing abilities and became unable to speak, other than dangers threatening his vital organs.

Bakr said that Akhras is approaching the 100th day of his hunger strike, and the Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) are still refusing and procrastinating his release and insist that Akhras must complete his current administrative detention.

He added that Akhras refused to end the strike unless IOA immediately canceled his administrative detention, or transferred him to a Palestinian hospital in West Bank. "He knows that IOA is stalling and can extend his detention again", Baker commented.

The leader clarified that the European Union and human rights organizations began to take action and demand IOA to end the suffering of Akhras. Although the demands came late, they are important at this time, he added.

He said, "Palestinian efforts have not stopped in supporting Akhras in this heroic battle by following his condition at the highest levels.

Bakr charged that the occupation courts stage mock trials, and are nothing but a tool in the hands of the Israeli Shin Bet, which is intransigent in releasing Akhras even though his life is at stake.

### Turkey extends research vessel mission in eastern Mediterranean again

Turkey has decided to extend once again the work of its seismic research vessel in disputed waters in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, despite warnings from Greece that such a move is at odds with international efforts to ease tensions between the two sides.

The Turkish navy said in a NAVTEX maritime announcement on Sunday that the Oruc Reis seismic research vessel and warships escorting it would remain in the contested waters until Nov. 14.

It had previously said the ship would remain in the area until November 4.

The latest development comes as the two sides are in search of survivors of a powerful earthquake that struck Turkey's Aegean coast

and north of the Greek island of Samos on Friday, killing at least 51 people.

Greece Foreign Ministry immediately condemned Turkey's "illegal conduct", demanding that Ankara withdraws the ship from the disputed areas.

"This (Turkish) action only increases tensions in a vulnerable region where attention is currently focused on aid and support and solidarity (after the earthquake)," the ministry said.

It further noted that Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias will inform the country's allies and partners of the latest developments.

Turkey and Greece, both of them NATO members, have been at loggerheads over oil and gas exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean. Back in August, Turkey dispatched the seismic research vessel Oruc Reis, accompanied by naval vessels, off the Greek island of Kastellorizo, where Turkey disputes Greek maritime rights.

Greece responded by sending its own military vessels to monitor the situation.

Turkey ended the mission of Oruc Reis and ordered it back to shore for maintenance in mid-September. Ankara said the move was also meant to give diplomacy a chance.

But no diplomatic breakthrough took place, and Turkey sent the ship back on October 14, reigniting the tensions.

The European Union (EU), which fully

backs Greece, has threatened Turkey with sanctions if Ankara continues with its exploration in the disputed waters.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has expressed dismay at the "unconstructive" threat, saying that the bloc has "succumbed to pressure and blackmail" from Greece.

Greece says Turkey is violating international law by prospecting for energy in "Greek waters," including near the island of Kastellorizo.

For its part, Turkey says that it is within its rights in the waters, insisting that the small island of Kastellorizo should not be a reason for the mposition of Greek sovereignty on nearby waters. (Source: Press TV)

### HERITAGE & TOURISM

**NOVEMBER 2, 2020** 



### World handicrafts cities, Iran's privilege for tourism development: minister

**TOURISM** d e s k **TEHRAN** – The development and expan-sion of the world cities of handicrafts is a privilege that can help improve the international prestige of the country, boost tourism, and promote handicrafts in the global markets, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan wrote in a note published on Saturday on the occasion of World Cities Day.



While due to the oppressive sanctions, the country's economy has been weakened and the growing need for appropriate cultural and artistic alternatives is being felt more and more, the country has appeared brilliant in this regard as it ranks first globally in the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council (WCC), he said.

Iranian handicrafts and traditional arts of different cities, villages, and regions such as pottery, wood and metal works, and carpets have always been world-renowned throughout history, even in ancient times, and these handmade products have been exported to other countries especially through the Silk Road, he added.

In late January, cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC-Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

Shiraz was named a "world city of [diverse] handicrafts". Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carvedwood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a "world city of filigree". And Qassemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer-garment for women, was, however, the main subject for the WCC assessment for the village.

Iran exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19). Of the figure, some \$273 million worth of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces, according to data provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

### **16th-century Portuguese** castle of Larak undergoes urgent restoration

HERITAGE TEHRAN — The 16th-century Portuguese Castle of Larak Island, which is one of the last surviving monuments of the colonial rule in the Persian Gulf, has undergone some urgent rehabilitation works.

A budget of 20 billion rials (\$476,000 at the official rate of 42.000 rials) has been allocated to the restoration project, which aims at debris removal and site clearance, Hormozgan province's tourism chief Reza Borumand said on Sunday.



# Why rural tourism is important?

 $\rightarrow 1$  This way an individual who travels to an area that is sparsely populated for more than 24 hours for leisure or business purposes is likely to qualify as a "rural tourist".

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), provides a little more clarity, stating that rural tourism as "a type of tourism activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle/culture, angling, and sightseeing. Rural Tourism activities take place in non-urban (rural) areas with the following characteristics: low population density, landscape and land-use dominated by agriculture and forestry, and traditional social structure and lifestyle"

There are many different types of rural areas that are popular tourism destinations. Here are some examples:

• National parks and protected areas, which are situated in clear boundaries. Nature and wildlife are protected in a national park by the means of guards/rangers and laws that make sure people can continue to benefit from nature, experience, enjoy, and learn without destroying it.

• Areas of outstanding natural beauty whose distinctive landscape characteristics are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them. Those include their flora, fauna, historical and cultural values as well as charming views.



• Special areas of conservation have been granted increased protection under international or national directive (s) to conserve the world's biodiversity. A variety of wild animals, plants, and habitats may be vital

parts of such a shield. • Wetlands are other types of rural areas such as a marsh, fen, or a peatland whether natural or non-natural, permanent or temporary. Some of which are heavens for birdwatchers.

• Coasts and coastlines that represent stretches of natural beauties and undeveloped landscapes

Why rural tourism is of high importance? Because it makes up a portion of the rural economy, it provides commercial and employment opportunities for local communities.

Without these opportunities, locals may be forced to relocate to more populated areas, often resulting in separated families and economic leakage in their hometowns.

Furthermore, rural tourism can help to disperse tourism in countries with dense population, directing holidaymakers away from some of the more well-known, busy destinations, and providing economic opportunities in alternative areas. It also lessens the wave of migration from villages to cities.

Iran enjoys a wide variety of natural terrains, unspoiled landscapes, tribes, and ethnic people, giving visitors opportunities to encounter a wide range of lifestyles, handicrafts, and cultures. Sightseers may stay with a rural or nomadic family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Here in Iran, one can see arrays of felt yurts of the Turkmen, the black tents of the Bakhtyari people, and the osier huts of the Balochi tribespeople as typical examples, as the tribespeople roams from summer to winter pastures. Mountain villages on the rocky slopes; and ones on southern areas of the Caspian Sea are among alternatives.

### Top 10 cities, islands to visit in Iran

TEHRAN – If you are drawn to desti-TOURISM nations where echoes of ancient civilizations resonate down through the ages, Iran could be your thing. Some of history's biggest names - Cyrus the Great and Darius, Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan – all left their footprints here and the regions they conquered or ruled over are now among top travel destinations of the modern country.

Walking around the awesome power and beauty of Persepolis, experiencing the remote power of Susa (Shush), and taking in the wonderfully immense Elamite ziggurat at Choqa Zanbil will carry you all the way back to the glory days of Ancient Persia. Iran is the jewel in Islam's crown, combining glorious architecture with a warm-hearted welcome. It is a treasure house for some of the most beautiful Islamic architecture on the planet.

No matter which region you go to when you travel to Iran, you can always find something to see and enjoy. That being said, there are cities in the country that are known as Iran's top tourist cities due to the higher concentration of tourist attractions in them, or their unique properties. Some of these top tourist destinations in Iran are Tehran, Isfahan, Kashan, Kerman, Yazd, Shiraz, Tabriz, Semnan, as well as Kish and Qeshm islands

Besides, there are many more cities and archeological sites, some of them off the beaten path, which should not be missed when you travel to the ancient land.

#### Tehran

Tehran, as a top tourist destination in Iran, has been a place of settlement for many millenniums. Archeological excavations have led to the discovery of nearly 7000-year-old human skeletons in the region. Tehran has been the capital city of Iran for two centuries.

The many palaces and museums scattered throughout the city are its main tourist attractions. Furthermore, it is home to the tallest mountain in the country, Damavand, which has made it an alluring destination for ski lovers.

Today, it is the most populated city in the country with a population of over 8.5 million people. It is also the biggest industrial and financial center in the country, making it the main destination for business travel to Iran.

#### Yazd

Yazd is a historical city located in the center of Iran. One of its

original form for many centuries.

This part of the city has been registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its unique properties. The Windcatcher of Dowlat'abad Garden, Jameh Mosque of Yazd, and Amir Chakhmaq Complex are among its other tourist attractions. Shiraz

Shiraz is one of the most important centers of tourism in Iran. The world-renown Persepolis, the magnificent Vakil Bazaar, Shah Cherag Mausoleum, and tomb complexes of Sa'di and Hafez, the two great Persian poets, and the spectacular Eram Garden are only a small fraction of the city's many tourist attractions that should not be missed.

Shiraz, with its many master craftsmen, is also one of the best places to buy a souvenir of Iran. No Iran tour package is complete without a visit to this grand city.

#### Isfahan

Isfahan is located in the central part of Iran. It was the capital city of the country for more than six centuries. Some of the most exquisite examples of Islamic architecture can be found in the city, including the biggest square in the world, Naqsh-e Jahan.

Among its many other tourist attractions, Si-o-se-pol, the Grand Bazaar, and Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque are the most noteworthy. For more information about these and Isfahan's many other attractions, refer to the Isfahan travel guide provided by vour Iran travel guide.

#### Kerman

Due to its central location in Iran, the oasis city of Kerman has always been one of the most important cities of the country, playing the role of a center of commerce, at times, even the seat of government.

Ganjali Khan Complex, Malik Mosque, and Shazdeh Garden are among the most popular tourist attractions in Kerman. A Kerman travel guide can guide you through your visit to the city. Kish Island

Kish is an island located in the Persian Gulf. Due to its many historical sites, its beautiful beach, and its many shopping and entertainment centers, it has become one of the most popular tourist attractions in Iran, hosting over a million visitors each year. Harireh-an 800-year-old city-and a 2500-year-old Qanat

are among the island's most visited sites.

Tabriz has been the capital of Iran in many historical periods.



throughout the city, are among its main tourist attractions. You can find a Tabriz travel guide in most shops in the city to

help you navigate through its many places of interest. Without doubt, Tabriz is also another top tourist destination in Iran. Qeshm

Qeshm is the biggest island of Iran. It is located in the Persian Gulf and is the biggest land mass of the gulf as well. Stars Valley, the Portuguese Fort, and the Qeshm Geopark are its most important tourist attractions.

The remarkable natural diversity of the island, together with its many historical sites, has made it one of the most popular tourist destinations in recent years.

#### Kashan

Kashan is a historical city near Isfahan in the central part of Iran. Its history dates back to over ten thousand years ago, and it is home to some of the most beautiful buildings featuring Islamic architecture.

The annual Golab-giri (rosewater distillation) ceremony of Kashan attracts huge crowds to the city every year. Some of the most ancient traces of civilization have been discovered near Kashan, at the Sialk archeological site.

#### Semnan

Located on the northeastern part of Iran, Semnan is among the most important centers of tourism in the country. Jameh Mosque of Semnan, Ahovan Stone Caravanserai, and Semnan Bazaar are some of the most important tourist attractions in the city. Semnan is one of the must-see destinations when you travel Iran

The Portuguese castles were built by Portuguese commander Alfonso de Albuquerque when his forces seized the islands in southern Iran in the early sixteenth century. The fact that such important places were in foreign hands was so galling to Safavid king Shah Abbas I (1587-1629) that he eventually convinced the British East India Company to allow its ships to cooperate with his land forces and wrested the islands from the Portuguese in 1622.

The Portuguese also left three other castles on the Iranian islands of Hormuz and Qeshm and in the port of Kong as legacies of their colonialism in the Persian Gulf, of which the castle on Hormuz Island is the most visited and most popular.

The castle built by the Portuguese on Hormuz Island is without doubt the most impressive colonial fortress in Iran. Constructed of reddish stone on a rocky promontory at the far north of the island, the castle was originally cut off from the rest of the island by a moat, traces of which still remain. Although most of the roof caved in long ago, much of the lower part of the very substantial outer walls is intact, with the remains lying on different levels of the site.

The Portuguese Castle of Larak has been used as a prison by the island's rulers after the end of the Portuguese Empire in the Persian Gulf, and it has also been a safe haven for Larak residents during torrential rains and the demolition of the island's homes.

The historical structure was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2003.

ain attractions is the existence of an old district in the center

The 700-year-old Arg of Tabriz, Tabriz Bazaar Complex, the of the city, which has remained untouched and has retained its Masoleum of Poets, as well as the many museums and gardens

### Kermanshah's tourism corridor to be launched

TOURISM TEHRAN — The first tourism corridor between the UNESCO-registered historical sites of Taq-e Bostan and Bisotun in western Kermanshah province is planned to be launched, a provincial tourism official has announced.

The corridor will run for 30 kilometers and is expected to boost tourism in the province and encourage more tourists to enter the region, Asghar Rashno said on Sunday.

Inscribed into the base of a towering cliff, Taq-e Bostan comprises extraordinary Sassanian bas-reliefs of ancient victorious



Tabriz

kings divide opinions. Late afternoon is the best time to visit, as the cliff turns a brilliant orange in the setting sun, which then dies poetically on the far side of the duck pond.

Bisotun is a patchwork of immense yet impressive life-size carvings depicting the king Darius I and several other figures. UN-ESCO has it that Bisotun bears outstanding testimony to the important interchange of human values on the development of monumental art and writing, reflecting ancient traditions in monumental bas-reliefs.

Temple of Anahita in the city of Kangavar is another magnificent tourist attraction in Kermanshah. The temple is believed to have been built circa 200 BC. Several

column bases and ruins of a wall remain from the magnificent Greek-style temple.

The temple was used during the Parthian era (248 BC-224) as well as the Sassanid era (224-651).

The monument was damaged as it was used for various purposes by the Seljuk, Ilkhanid, Safavid, and Qajar dynasties, which ruled in Iran over the past centuries.

The Temple of Anahita was seriously damaged by an earthquake in 1957. Afterward, people invaded the perimeter of the site, using stones from the temple to rebuild their homes at that location.

### Coronavirus causes \$42m damage to Iran's museums

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** — Iranian museums have taken 1.7 trillion rials (some \$42 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) hit from the coronavirus outbreak over the previous months.

The museums in Tehran and some other provinces across the country will remain closed for the fifth consecutive week for their extremely severe situation due to the coronavirus pandemic, ILNA quoted Mohammadreza Kargar, the director of museums and historical properties at the tourism ministry, as saying on Saturday.

It is also expected that the continued closure of museums will last at least to the end of the current Iranian month of Aban (November 20), the official added.

If the country was in normal condition, the museums would host over 25 million visitors, but now they have faced a huge loss as there is almost no visitor to the museums, he noted.

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.

With the outbreak of the coronavirus, museums were at the forefront of closures and for several months now, they have not had any revenue from the sale of tickets, Mounesan explained.

Meanwhile, the ministry is facing a shortage of funds in the field of cultural heritage, which causes problems for maintaining and preserving 34,000 National Heritage properties as well as 24 UNESCO-tagged sites, the official explained.

It was estimated that museums would earn about 300 billion rials (about \$7.1 million) in the first quarter of the year, but over the coronavirus pandemic they did not even come close to this figure, he added.

In July, Mounesan said that revenues from museums were almost eight billion rials (about \$190,000) during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20), a sharp decline compared to around 300 billion rials (over \$7 million) in the same period last year.

The minister said in August that Iran's tourism has suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

# **Comprehensive plan underway to** control obesity among students

**SOCIETY** d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Min-istry of Health and the Ministry of Education are implementing a comprehensive plan aimed at controlling obesity among students nationwide. This program is based on the national

nutrition plan for overweight and obese students, which has been developed by the office of community nutrition improvement and announced to the country's medical universities, Zahra Abdollahi, director of the community nutrition improvement office of the Ministry of Health said, IRNA reported.

Nutrition experts, in interaction with education experts, are required to provide nutrition counseling and diet adjustment services to obese students identified by school teachers and health care providers who referred to comprehensive health care centers, she explained.

With the implementation of the program, the height, weight, and body mass index of 14 million students in the country will be determined, to reduce the prevalence of obesity among students through extensive education and use of all available capacities in the field of healthy nutrition and promotion of physical activity, which are a risk factor for underlying diseases such as diabetes, fatty liver, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, and even an increased risk of developing COVID-19, she highlighted.

She went on to say that today, the problem of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents aged 5 to 18 years has be-come a common issue in the world and is increasing rapidly.

Obesity is due to a change in diet and consumption of high-energy foods with low nutritional value, snacks high in sugar, salt, and fat, insufficient consumption of fiber-rich foods, and on the other hand, reduced physical activity, and stress, she stated.

northwestern city of Urmia, IRNA reported.

Also known as bitter gourd or Momordica charantia,

it is cultivated around the world for its edible fruit, widely

grown in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. Its many varieties

differ substantially in the shape and bitterness of the fruit. This herbaceous, tendril-bearing vine grows up to 5

m (16 ft) in length. It bears simple, alternate leaves 4–12

cm (1.6-4.7 in) across, with three to seven deeply sepa-

rated lobes. Each plant bears separate yellow male and

female flowers. In the Northern Hemisphere, flowering

In addition to its sharp flavor and distinct appearance,

Bitter melon is a great source of several key nutrients,

occurs from June to July and fruiting from September

bitter melon has been associated with several impressive



Adverse effects of obesity in childhood and adolescence include an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, hyperlipidemia, fatty liver, hypertension, asthma, respiratory problems, and cardiovascular disease, she lamented.

According to the results of national surveys, about 20 percent of students are overweight and obese, and about 21 percent suffer from abdominal obesity.

A study on the non-communicable disease and its risk factors conducted in the Iranian calendar year of 1395 (March 2016- March 2017), shows that 11.9 percent of the population suffers from diabetes, 27.9 percent have high triglycerides and the prevalence of hypertension in Iran is 26.4 percent that is caused by high salt intake, Shahram Rafiei-Far, head of education and promotion affairs at the Ministry of Health said in October 2019. Some 10.4 percent of Iranians consume

a high amount of salt, which will increase hypertension, and myocardial infarction, he said, adding, by reducing salt intake to less than 5 grams a day, the risk of stroke can be reduced to one third in society, he stated.

Also, the results of the survey showed that 56.3 percent of the people are physically inactive, while 22.7 percent are suffering from obesity, he noted.

**300,000 Iranians die of NCDs** annually

In February 2019, the health ministry announced that some 300,000 Iranians die of NCDs annually in Iran, which means that one-fourth of the country's population (standing at 80 million) are overweight or obese which also results in developing NCDs.

Diabetes, non-communicable diseases, is a serious threat to people's health and is the fifth leading cause of death in the country. Diabetes prevalence is 10 percent in Iran and is high among people aging 50 or more.

Cardiovascular diseases (mainly heart disease and stroke), which were the leading cause of death in 2012, diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders (especially osteoarthritis - a highly disabling degenerative disease of the joints), and some cancers (including endometrial, breast, ovarian, prostate, liver, gallbladder, kidney, and colon) are common

health consequences of overweight and obesity, WHO warns. Having too much sugar in the blood for

long periods of time can contribute to serious health problems if it's not treated. Hyperglycemia can damage the vessels that supply blood to vital organs, which can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke, kidney disease, vision problems, and nerve problems.

Moreover, 30 percent of men and 36 percent of women aged 25 to 64 years also have high cholesterol due to overweight and obesity, consuming fast food, and insufficient physical activity.

#### NCDs, a global health threat

NCDs kill 41 million people each year, equivalent to 71% of all deaths globally. Each year, 15 million people die from an NCD between the ages of 30 and 69 years; over 85% of these "premature" deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths, or 17.9 million people annually, followed by cancers (9.0 million), respiratory diseases (3.9million), and diabetes (1.6 million). These 4 groups of diseases account for over 80% of all premature NCD deaths.

Tobacco use, physical inactivity, the harmful use of alcohol, and unhealthy diets all increase the risk of dying from an NCD. Detection, screening, and treatment of NCDs, as well as palliative care, are key components of the response to NCDs.

### 'Herbal insulin' sets foot in Iran

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – Bitter melon with unique including, vitamin A, vitamin C, potassium, zinc, and iron, e s k properties which is famous for treating and an important micronutrient involved in disease pre diabetics and fatty liver has recently been cultivated vention, bone formation, and wound healing. for the first time in the country in a greenhouse in the

Bitter melon is a good source of catechin, gallic acid, epicatechin, and chlorogenic acid, too — powerful antioxi-

dant compounds that can help protect cells against damage. Thanks to its potent medicinal properties, bitter melon has long been used by indigenous populations around the world to help treat diabetes-related conditions.

In recent years, several studies confirmed the fruit's role in blood sugar control.

A 3-month study in 24 adults with diabetes showed that taking 2,000 mg of bitter melon daily decreased blood sugar and hemoglobin A1c, a test used to measure blood sugar control over three months, according to the Healthline website.

compounds with cancer-fighting properties.



tor and the Ministry of Agriculture as a technological and knowledge-based unit, which is now producing this valuable plant in addition to generating jobs.

### Iranian professor receives COMSTECH 2019 award

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Sajjad e s k Jafari, a faculty member of the Amirkabir University of Tech-

to November.

health benefits.

nology, has won the COMSTECH 2019 award in Mathematics.



an assistant professor there (since 2013). His research interests include nonlinear and chaotic systems and signals, and mathematical biology. Also, he also works on complex networks and collective behaviors

COMSTECH was established in January 1981, to increase the capability of the Muslim countries in science and technology. The COMSTECH Executive Committee decided in its 15th meeting in 1996 to institute

### Rural-to-urban migration down to zero: official

#### $1 \rightarrow Rural development$

Many efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural development while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining). In Iran, October 6 is celebrated each year as the National

Day of Villagers and Nomads.



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

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

#### Main reasons behind migration

Shahla Kazemipour, a demographer and sociologist, said in October 2019 that over 53 percent of Iran's population was living in rural areas some four decades ago, but urbanization has influenced rural demographic trends, decreasing the rural population to 20 million, representing 25 percent of the country's population.

Referring to the three main reasons behind migration from villages to urban areas, she noted that the population in Iran was associated with high growth due to increased fertility, but since the rural economy is based on agriculture, rural areas lost attraction due to lack of farms.

Eventually, a population overflow happened in urban areas, that is, the population grew but the rural economy was not capable of attracting more villagers, so the villagers migrated to the cities, she said, adding, on the other hand, a high concentration of population in rural areas caused some populated ones to become cities.

Pointing to another factor contributing to the increased urbanization rate, she noted that in the period when cities expanded due to population growth and migration, some surrounding villages joined the urban complex, and the urbanization rate reached up to 75 percent.

About 24 percent of Iran's population is less than 15 years old, and some 6 percent is above 65 years old, while 70 percent of the population is 15-65 years old, she announced.

According to statistics, rural areas are holding a higher population of younger people, because fertility is still slightly higher than urban areas and migration from rural to urban areas generally occurs by the working population, in fact, about 27 percent of the rural population is aging less than 5 years old, she explained.

Although statistics showed that only seven percent of the rural women are working, it can be argued that in fact out of the 6.4 million women aged 15 to 65, about 40 percent are active as many of whom are involved in farming, animal husbandry, and poultry," she explained.

Referring to the healthcare among rural women, she said that the country's mortality rate is 5 per 1,000, but statistics show that the mortality rate is higher among men, with a rate of 6 per 1,000 while the figure is less than 5 per 1,000 among women.

Abolfazl Razavi, the deputy vice-president for rural development and deprived areas, has said that some 60 percent of migrations from rural to urban areas are caused by the lack of appropriate jobs and sufficient income for educated people. Measures taken to reverse migration by making people move to rural areas including providing facilities and sustainable job-generating has increased the rural population in some provinces of the country, he highlighted.

Research suggests that bitter melon contains certain

In a village located in Urmia city, a 700-square-meter

greenhouse was established with the efforts of an inves-

COMSTECH is the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Jafari was born in 1983. He received his BSc, MSc, and Ph.D. degrees in biomedical engineering in 2005, 2008, 2013 from the biomedical engineering department, Amirkabir University of Technology. He is currently

in them, such as synchronization, Chimera states, and spiral waves.

He serves as editor in the International Journal of Bifurcation and Chaos, International Journal of Electronics and Communications, and Radioengineering. He has been one of the highly cited researchers in 2019 and 2020 according to Clarivate Analytics.

awards to recognize outstanding research work carried out by scientists who are citizens of and working in, OIC member states. Each award carries a certificate, shield of honor, and cash prize.

These awards are given in four basic sciences; Biology and Chemistry alternating biennially with Mathematics and Physics. Each award carries a cash prize of \$5,000.

### LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 48)	(Sour	rce: saadifoundation.ii
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### **ENGLISH IN USE**

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### **Relief foundation creates over** 1.5m jobs for the deprived

Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation has generated over 1.5m job opportunities for those financially struggling since the past 7 years, Hojatollah Abdolmaleki, the Foundation's deputy director has announced.

Job generation for the underprivileged is among the most important and tough responsibilities of the Foundation, he stated, YJC reported on Monday.

Since Iranian calendar year of 1390 (March 2011– March 2012) to 1396 (March 2017- March 2018), the Foundation has earmarked 100 trillion rials (nearly \$2.4 billion) to open up over 1.4 million job opportunities in order to facilitate income generation for the deprived, he explained. He went on to add that last year (March 2018-March 2019), a total of 148,000 jobs were created by the Foundation's budget of 23 trillion rials (around \$547 million).

ایجاد بیش از یک میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار شغل برای محرومان در کشور

عبدالملک\_ گفت: کمیته امداد امام (ره) از سال ۹۰ تاکنون بیـش از یـک میلیـون و ۵۰۰ هـزار شـغل بـرای محرومـان کشـور ایجاد کرده است.

به گزارش خبرنگار باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، حجت الله عبدالملکی معاون كميته امداد امام خميني (ره) اظهار كرد: ايجاد اشتغال امرى سخت است، توليد اشتغال براى محرومان سختترين اقدام برای کمیته امداد است که در حال انجام است. وی افزود: از سال ۹۰، یکمیلیون و ۴۰۰ هزار شغل با تسهیلات ۱۰ هـزار میلیـاردی بـرای محرومـان ایجـاد شـده اسـت، در سـال گذشته نیز برای ۱۴۸ هزارنفر با ۲ هزار و ۳۰۰ میلیارد تومان تسهیلات توسط کمیته امداد شغل ایجاد شده است.

# TEHRANTIMES

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The one who gets married has completed half of his/her religion.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

### **Tehran art exhibit observes** occupation anniversary of "den of spies"

**TEHRAN** — An art exhibition opened at e s k the Iranian Academy of Arts in Tehran on Saturday to observe the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979, which was called by the revolutionaries "den of spies".



"Crime against Humanity" by Iranian artist Habibollah Sadeqi.

The exhibition named "Crime against Humanity" will put on view paintings by Habibollah Sadeqi, an Iranian artist who is known for his artworks representing revolutionary themes. The exhibit will run until November 15.

The title of the showcase refers to Sadeqi's triptych painting "Crime against Humanity".

The academy is organizing the exhibition in collaboration with the Revayat Cultural Foundation.

Sadeqi has a Ph.D. in art research from Tehran's Tarbiat Modarres University. He has also attended numerous courses held by Iranian art elites, including Hanibal Alkhas, Marco Grigorian, Javad Hamid, Mahmud Farshchian and Mahmud Javadipur.

On November 4, 1979, Iranian revolutionaries occupied the U.S. embassy in Tehran, which was dubbed "the den of spies" by Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

### "Slaughterhouse", "Bandar Band" to compete in Hong Kong Asian filmfest



## Maestro Ali Rahbari asks Muslim artists to return French honors to protest Macron's cartoon defense

TEHRAN Rahbari, the worldrenowned Iranian composer and conductor who has worked with more than 120 European orchestras, has asked Muslim artists around the world to give back the official honors they have received from the French government in protest over President Emmanuel Macron's defense of the insulting cartoons on the Prophet Muhammad (S).

Speaking to the Persian service of MNA on Sunday, Rahbari said, "Such a response from those Iranian artists who have received the honors could be really challenging and creative, and their actions would storm the press media around the globe." He also said, "I have worked with

numerous orchestras in nearly all large cities of France and have many friends in the country, but I was really surprised by Macron's comments, because no politician should make remarks like him.

"I know many French people and I am sure they do not think the same as Mr. Macron, because they know such an action could threaten the lives of many people. In any case, France has a large Muslim population and it's not rational to violate people's freedom



Maestro Ali Rahbari in an undated photo.

in the name of another freedom," he added. the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, also Rahbari, the former conductor of stated, "I believe that nobody should use

the concept of 'freedom of expression to insult Muslims whose population reaches over one billion people around the world. Freedom of expression is certainly desirable, but if I deliberately make comments or do something hurtful to others, this is no longer freedom of expression."

The Europe-based musician noted, "Although the European countries where I myself and many other people live enjoy freedom of expression, they have their own rules. For example, if someone does something insulting to Judaism, he/she will be treated very harshly.'

In 2014, in an open letter, Rahbari asked his fellow Iranian musician Hossein Alizadeh to reject the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor award, the highest decoration awarded by the French government.

Rahbari had called the frequent commemorations of Iranian luminaries by the French embassy "an epidemic of Chevalier" and said, "The value that the Iranian people place on Mr. Alizadeh is not comparable with any domestic or foreign medal."

Consequently, Alizadeh declined to accept the order, stating that he doesn't need decorations and that he derives satisfaction from his good name.

## "180º Rule" wins Meeting Point award at Valladolid festival



Pejman Jamshidi acts in a scene from "180° Rule".

**TEHRAN** — Three

d e s k Iranian animations

produced by the Institute for Intellectual

Development of Children and Young

Adults are competing in the Corti a Ponte Short Film Festival, which is currently

underway in Italy. "Am I a Wolf?", "The Cycling Wind"

and "The Fisherman and the Spring"

have been selected to be screened in the

Moin is about a group of students who

are performing a play called "The Wolf

and the Seven Little Goats" in which

their roles in a way that the boundary

between reality and acting can hardly be distinguished. Meanwhile, the child

The students are totally taken in by

"Am I a Wolf?" by Amir-Hushang

official competition.

everybody has a role.

ARTdeskSamadi's drama "180° Rule" won the award for best feature film in the Meeting Point section of the 65th Valladolid International Film Festival - Seminci in Spain, the organizers announced on Saturday

Argentine filmmaker and writer Enrique Gabriel, Romanian producer Razvan Lazarovici and Spanish producer Paco Poch were the members of the jury for Meeting Point, which is the festival's alternative competition for feature films and shorts.

"180° Rule" tells the story of Sara, a school teacher whom her students love and who is married to Hamed. As her family gets ready to attend a wedding in northern Iran, an unforeseen obligation falls on Hamed and derails their plans. When Sara's husband suddenly forbids her to attend the event without him,

**IIDCYA** animations competing in Italian festival

she makes a decision that sets her on the painful path of atonement.

Samadi adds one more Seminci award to her record, as she is the only filmmaker to have won two consecutive Seminci Golden Spikes: in 2016, for "The Silence" and in the following year, this time for "Gaze"

"Preparations to Be Together for an Unknown Period of Time" by Hungarian filmmaker Lili Horvát received the Golden Spike for best film at the festival this year

Horvát also was picked as best director by winning the Pilar Miró award, and the film's star Natasa Stork was named best actress.

The Meeting Point award for best international short film went to "Omelia Contadina" by JR and Alice Rohrwacher from Italy. The award for best Spanish short in this category was also presented to "Stanbrook' by Oscar Bernacer.



A scene from "The Cycling Wind" by Iranian director Nazanin Sobhan Sarbandi

who is acting as the wolf and is doomed to be defeated feels lonely and irritated. He takes his role too seriously, and there is a bit of chaos. At the end, the presence of the other children and his friends near him take him out of this atmosphere.

The movie has received awards in several Iranian and international events, including the award for best film at the 8th Canlandiranlar Film Festival in Turkey, the Grand Prix at the 12th Paris International Animation Film Festival and the Light of Asia Grand Prize at the 15th Indie-AniFest Korea Independent Animation Film Festival in September 2019.

The film also won the Golden Dove for best animated film at the 62nd DOK Leipzig in Germany in November 2019 and a prize worth 1 million yen at the 18th Hiroshima International Animation Festival in Japan in August 2020.

"The Cycling Wind" by Nazanin Sobhan Sarbandi tells the story of a young wind that comes into possession of a

bike, which helps the wind to blow even faster without expending much energy and to truly enjoy its time.

'The Fisherman and the Spring" by Seyyed Hassan Soltani is about a fisherman who is waiting for the spring to arrive. His waiting is over now and he tries to find out why spring is late. However, he cannot find an answer until he sees a beautiful blossom.

The Corti a Ponte festival has been divided into two sections, the first of which ran in May and the second began on October 31 and will be running until November 6.

"The Truth of My Life" produced at Iran's Sahar and Salman Art Workshop competed in the first section of the festival and received the 11-13 Senior Jury Special Mention.

Nikesh Shukla's "The Good

Visual point of view

filmmakers, will be competing in the Hong Kong Asian Film Festival running from November 3 to 22.

"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.



A scene from "Bandar Band" by Manijeh Hekmat.

The movie won the Kim Jiseok Award at the 25th Busan International Film Festival on Friday.

"Bandar Band" by Manijeh Hekmat is about some Iranian women singers who are going to enter an unofficial competition in a coffee shop in Tehran.

Pregnant Mahla along with the other members of Bandar Band, her husband and one of their closest friends, starts her journey to Tehran from a southern province just when they have lost all they had in a flood.

They still keep their hopes alive, however, every road they take leads to a dead-end in a flood-stricken land. They intend to go to Tehran, but they wonder if it is just another turn around a vicious circle.

This year, the festival hosts films from 16 countries, spread across its 11 sections of various sizes and themes.

Besides the regular sections, special thematic programs take the shape of Tales from the Epicentre, dedicated to stories about the crisis-stricken city of Wuhan, Bruised Youth, in which films look at how young people recover from their traumatic experiences; United, We Stand, a showcase of the power of solidarity in testing times; and, Memories and Erasure, where documentaries warn not to let go of the past even if the pain is over.

## Immigrant" published in Persian

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of "The Good Immigrant", a collection of essays by British writers of color about race and immigration, written by Nikesh Shukla has been published by Tadaei Publications.

The book has been translated into Persian by Saeid Kalati.

"How does it feel to be constantly regarded as a potential threat, searched at every airport? Or be told that, as an actress, the part you're most fitted to play is 'wife of a terrorist'?" the book asks.

"How does it feel to have words from your native language misused, misappropriated and used aggressively towards you? How does it feel to hear a child of color say in a classroom that stories can only be about white people? How does it feel to go 'home' to India when your home is really London?" the book continues.

"What is it like to feel you always have to be an ambassador for your race? How does it feel to always tick 'Other'?" it says.

Bringing together 21 exciting Black, Asian and minority ethnic voices emerging in Britain today, "The Good Immigrant" explores why immigrants come to the UK, why they stay and what it means to be an "other" in a country that doesn't seem to want them, doesn't truly accept them however many generations they've been here - but still needs them for its diversity monitoring forms.

Inspired by discussion around why society appears to deem people of color as bad immigrants, job stealers, benefit scroungers and undeserving refugees, until by winning Olympic races or baking good



Front cover of the Persian translation of British author Nikesh Shukla's "The Good Immigrant".

cakes, or being conscientious doctors, they cross over and become good immigrants. "The Good Immigrant" won the reader's

choice at the Books Are My Bag Awards. Shukla has compiled a collection of

essays that are poignant, challenging, angry, humorous, heartbreaking, polemic, weary and, most importantly, real.

Shukla's debut novel "Coconut Unlimited" was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award 2010.

Along with his second novel "Meatspace", Shukla has written for The Guardian, Esquire, Buzzfeed and LitHub.

