



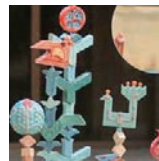
**Iraqi parliament set to probe Soleimani assassination case** **2**



**In commemoration of legend Mansour Pourheydari** **3**



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**Tehran hosts National Biennial of Contemporary Iranian Ceramic Art** **8**

## Iran's peace initiative on Nagorno-Karabakh gains steam



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## Track-laying of Chabahar-Zahedan railway begins

By Ebrahim Fallahi

**TEHRAN** — The track-laying operation of Chabahar-Zahedan railroad from the Chabahar side was started on Wednesday in a ceremony attended by Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami.

The project was inaugurated during a visit of the minister to the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province in which he inaugurated several other port and

maritime projects as well.

This railway project which is aimed to connect Chabahar to Zahedan (the capital city of Sistan-Baluchestan Province) is planned to be completed by the end of the Iranian calendar year of 1400 (March 2022).

To further accelerate the project, the track-laying operations are being conducted from both ends of the line that is from both Chabahar port and Zahedan. ➔ **4**

## IRGC chief: Missile power guarantees enemy's retreat

**TEHRAN** — The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the country's missile power guarantees that the enemies back off from launching military attack on Iran.

"So far, this power has shown its benefits in different stages, such as fighting Daesh (ISIS) and the enemy's retreat from threatening the Iranian establishment and nation," Major General Hossein Salami said on Wednesday.

He made the remarks at a ceremony to unveil a homegrown multiple ballistic missile launcher.

The automated and smart system, used for launching multiple long-range ballistic missiles, has been manufactured by the IRGC Aerospace Force.

"The launching of our missiles scares the enemy. Our missile power guarantees the withdrawal of enemies," Salami said at the ceremony. ➔ **2**

## Iranian artists organize events celebrating birthday of Prophet Muhammad (S)

**TEHRAN** — Iranian artists are organizing several exhibitions and festivals celebrating the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (S).

An exhibition displaying a variety of artworks at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran is one of the events.

Entitled "The Name of Ahmad" (Ahmad is a nickname for the Prophet Muhammad

[S]), the exhibition offers a selection of paintings, calligraphy works, illustrations, photos, sculptures, ceramics, and graphic designs.

The artworks have been selected from the collections offered by the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art and Iran's Institute for Development of Contemporary Visual Arts. ➔ **8**

By Afshin Majlesi  
Tehran Times journalist

## Tribe tourism gaining momentum in Iran

Tribe tourism, also known as ethno-tourism or ethnic tourism, lays the ground for you to feel indigenous people by living with a nomad or rural family or enjoying an independent stay.

However, as the name implies, it's a trip for recreational purposes rather than being an expedition for anthropological research.

Over the past couple of years, this branch of tourism has gained a lot of support and attention in the country by both the government and the private sector, as well as sightseers and local communities.

Each month, several tribal festivals are held across the country. Moreover, tens of collective tours bring visitors to experience life among the tribespeople.

Many tour operators believe that tribal regions could be deemed as the legacy of human authenticity in its novel cultural and human aspects. In Iranian culture, literature, and public opinion, nomads have always been a proud part of the nation.

Iranian nomads surprise visitors with the dignity in their rough and overworked hands, and integrity in their compassionate eyes at first sight.

You can see real satisfaction in their children's sunburned but happy faces and pride in their unshackled spirits. The glowing colors of nomads' sparkling clothing are in contrast to the dull mode of our modern fashion.

### ■ Nomad tours

According to Let's Visit Persia, there are several nomad tours in Iran offering different types of activities. Living in the tent beside the nomads starts from one night to a week, trekking and following them during their migration. During your stay with the family, you will experience their daily life, sleeping, eating, and living as they live. You can trek in the beautiful Zagros Mountain and experience the nomadic culture. Milk the goats, bake bread, learn how to make handicrafts, and play with the kids.

The tours' prices vary according to the type of program you choose. They normally include all the food, accommodation, transport, local guide, and translator. Some of the money you pay goes to the nomad family that hosts you, so they continue doing this lifestyle. ➔ **6**

## No infrastructure, no growth: Iran football league

By Masoud Hossein

**TEHRAN** — The Iranian football organizers want to show the Persian Gulf League is better than what it seems, but it's not true.

The 20th edition of Iran Professional League (IPL), known as Persian Gulf Pro League, will kick off on Friday but the expectations have not been met so far.

The poor-quality infrastructure has harmed the league during the previous editions.

Almost all of the professional leagues, have been equipped with Video Assistant Referee (VAR), however there will be no VAR in the new IPL edition.

The training facilities and stadiums are not of the highest possible standard as the AFC and FIFA have requested and the League's organizers have not so far made the serious efforts to solve the problems.

Furthermore, TV rights are essential for development but it's worth mentioning that the Iranian clubs are deprived of that.

For example, the French football's financial

authorities say that TV rights counted for a third of revenue for Ligue 1 clubs in 2018/19 and it shows that how important the broadcast rights are.

The Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) is managing by an acting president since last year's December and the draft statutes of the federation has not been yet approved by FIFA.

It's a pity, because Iran national football team are among the Asian top teams and Persepolis club have recently qualified for the 2020 AFC Champions league final as the West region champions. It shows that the country's football has significant potential to improve but the organizers must meet minimum requirements.

The most of the Iranian teams are owned by the government organizations and the supporters and the experts are asking for privatization for many years but often feel nobody cares for them.

Iran football should solve the problems as soon as possible to get back on track.

## U.S. protests: 'Whose streets! our streets!' hundreds march on White House

More than 1000 people protesting US President Donald Trump descended on Black Lives Matter Plaza on Tuesday night, just a block from the White House, while hundreds more marched through parts of downtown Washington, sometimes blocking traffic and setting off fireworks.

Scattered protests also took place from Seattle to New York City, but across the U.S. there were no signs of serious violence or widespread unrest in the hours immediately after the polls closed, 9news reported.

The demonstrations in Washington were largely peaceful, with people shouting, "Whose streets? Our streets!" and "If we don't get no justice, they don't get no peace!"

Groups of teenagers danced in the street as onlookers cheered. Large banners, including one reading "Trump lies all the time," were unfurled.

At one point, the marchers stabbed the tires of a parked police van to flatten them.

There were some arrests made, with footage also showing protesters clashing with each other.

Hundreds of businesses in cities across the U.S. boarded up their doors and windows ahead of the election, fearing violence.

"Some people would like to cause mayhem and trouble," Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser said earlier in the day.

The protests follow months of rising tensions in the U.S., sparked by the death of Black citizen George Floyd during a police arrest in Minneapolis on May 25. Waves of protest have swept the country since, re-prompted with unfortunate regularity by the deaths of other people of colour at police hands.

The protests became a flashpoint issue in the Presidential contest.

Incumbent Donald Trump has blamed "Antifa" and the "far left" for the violence, and has taken a law-and-order stance.

## Candidates for federal office asked to put interests of Israel ahead: philosopher

By Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** — An American philosopher says candidates for federal office are asked "to sign a pledge to put the interests of Israel" even ahead of the U.S.

James Fetzer, a retired professor of philosophy at the University of Minnesota, likens the U.S. Congress to the Syrian Golan Heights occupied by Israel.

"Candidates for federal office are asked to sign a pledge to put the interests of Israel ahead of those (even) of the United States, where those who

refuse to sign (which are few) find their funding dries up and they lack the resources to campaign or, once in office," Fetzer tells the Tehran Times. The following is the text of the interview:

■ Do you think the American political-economic structure allows radical changes or does it allow a person out of power circle to assume power?

A: Donald Trump's election in 2016 was as unexpected as it was unwelcomed to the Establishment and to Globalists world-wide, includ-

ing the Rothschild's banking empire. A move is afoot using a wildly exaggerated viral pandemic to wipe out small businesses and the middle class in order to make the people—not just in America but throughout the world—dependent upon their governments, which the Rothschilds control through the financial system. Key players in this humongous scheme appear to include Henry Kissinger, Ted Turner, Bill Gates, Anthony Fauci, and other miscreants who want to reduce the world's population by some 95%. ➔ **5**



© IRNA / Kazem Yousefi

## Duathlon competition held in Tabriz

Duathlon competition was held in Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbaijan province, on Tuesday.

The event brought a total of 51 athletes across the country in the city.

Duathlon is an athletic event that consists of a running leg, followed by a cycling leg and then another running leg in a format similar to triathlons.

The International Triathlon Union governs the sport internationally.

## Majlis draws up plan to encourage childbearing

**TEHRAN** — The Majlis (Iranian parliament) has developed a support plan to encourage families to increase childbearing.

The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women, Mehr quoted Fatemeh Ghasempour, head of the women and family faction of the Majlis, as saying.

### ■ Population growth policies

Some 14 policies to support childbearing and the family were announced by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in [the Iranian calendar year] 1389 (March 2014-March 2015) when he stressed that social, cultural and economic development should be done in accordance with these general policies to support families.

The policies address the need to increase the population and the various dimensions of it, including childbearing, facilitating marriage and strengthening the family, reproductive health, promoting the Iranian-Islamic lifestyle, empowering young people, honoring the elderly, and the environment, which can lead to an increase in the quantity and quality of the population if it is timely and continuous implemented.

Kimia Mohammadzadeh, a member of the working group for women's and family at the independent association of the University of Tehran, told Mehr news agency that thus, instead of considering family support and youth marriage, policymakers adopt policies that lead to delays in marriage and family formation. ➔ **7**



## Tehran dismisses suspension of partnership talks with China over U.S. polls

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has dismissed reports that Tehran and Beijing have halted talks over a 25-year partnership pending the U.S. presidential polls.



Khatibzadeh said on Tuesday that Iran and China are still engaged in talks on the details of the partnership, adding that the results of the talks would be made public soon, Tasnim reported. Such untrue claims are raised by the hostile media outlets, he said of the rumors.

"The talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and China about the 25-year deal are going on seriously, and have nothing to do with the elections of any country, especially the United States of America," he added.

Iran and China are negotiating over the 25-year partnership that, if finalized, would raise the cooperation between Tehran and Beijing to an unprecedented level, especially in the oil and gas sector. According to the plan's details that have been leaked to the press so far, China will invest a whopping \$400 billion in various Iranian sectors including oil and gas. In exchange, Iran will ensure steady energy supplies to China for a period of 25 years at a discounted rate.

A draft of the plan was approved by the government of Hassan Rouhani in June. Since then, Zarif intensified talks with the Chinese side to finalize the partnership as soon as possible.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited the southern Chinese province of Yunnan last month. He traveled to China at the invitation of Wang. Zarif held talks with his Chinese counterpart.

Following the talks, the chief Iranian diplomat said he held "fruitful" talks with Wang Yi.

"Fruitful talks in beautiful Tengchong with my friend Wang Yi on Iran-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Zarif said in a tweet, adding that Iran and China "rejected U.S. unilateralism and U.S. attempts to create unipolar world."

Zarif also said that they agreed on strengthening the bilateral ties including the partnership, preserving a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and moving forward with collaboration on the Covid-19 vaccine and regional cooperation.

Wang and Zarif also reiterated their commitment to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018, reimposing sweeping economic sanctions on Iran. All remaining parties to the JCPOA, including China, have strongly opposed the U.S. sanction while underlining the need to preserve the nuclear deal.

## Those behind Soleimani assassination to blame for new Daesh terror attacks: envoy

**TEHRAN (Press TV)** — Iran's ambassador to Baku says those involved in the "cowardly" assassination of top Iranian anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani are liable for the recent Daesh terrorist attacks in the Afghan and Austrian capital cities.

"Daesh terrorism rages from Kabul to Vienna," Abbas Mousavi said in a tweet on Tuesday, which featured pictures of the victims of a terrorist assault on Kabul University by Daesh gunmen.



"Earlier, I said in an interview that the world will be no safer without General Soleimani, and that the responsibility for this insecurity lies with those who ordered and committed the cowardly assassination of the person who bravely fought Daesh and brought security to the region and even to Europe and the United States."

At least 22 people were killed and 27 others wounded in the attack on Kabul University on Monday, according to the Afghan Interior Ministry, but two government sources told Reuters that the death toll had risen to at least 35.

On the same day, a shooting spree near Vienna's main synagogue left at least five dead, including a gunman, and injured 24 others. Daesh claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement from the group's Amaq propaganda outlet posted on Telegram.

U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the fatal drone strike on General Soleimani's vehicle upon his arrival in Baghdad International Airport on January 3 at the invitation of the Iraqi government.

The attack also killed Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), as well as eight other Iranian and Iraqi people.

The two commanders were highly popular because of the key role they played in eliminating the U.S.-sponsored Daesh terror outfit in the region, particularly in Iraq and Syria.

The United Nations slammed General Soleimani's assassination as "unlawful" and an "arbitrary killing" that violated the UN charter.

Trump and a number of officials were sued by Iran for their involvement in the crime.

# Rouhani says U.S. policies important, not who runs White House

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani says it doesn't matter who becomes the president of the United States, noting what matters is that the U.S. returns to all its international and multilateral commitments.

"Our economic decisions in the last few weeks were made without regarding who will be elected in the U.S.," Rouhani said at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday morning.

"We don't care what would happen in the U.S. and who would be elected. However, their election was a lesson-teaching moment from several perspectives," he said.

The president said Iran wants the U.S. to return to international law and respect the Iranian nation. "We want respect to replace sanctions," he said.

He said if the U.S. chooses the path to respect Iran instead of imposing sanctions, the situation will change.

Tensions soared between Tehran and Washington since Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal on May 8, 2018. The U.S. president not only exited the deal but has since targeted Iran with a series of harsh economic bans. Trump has called the sanctions his "maximum pressure" campaign aimed at forcing Iran to renegotiate the nuclear deal.

As the American people were preparing to cast their votes on Tuesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei outlined Iran's strategy to make the country impervious to any change in the U.S. leadership.



In a televised speech, the Leader said Iran's policies will not change with a change in U.S. leadership, thus rebuffing any speculation that Tehran and Washington could repair the damage the Trump presidency has done to Iran-U.S. relations over the past four years.

"Some imagine that if a government succumbs to U.S. demands and policies, it will benefit from that. This is while governments that have surrendered to the U.S. bullying, have borne the brunt the most and their troubles have increased,"

said the Leader, warning that the U.S. hostilities toward the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue regardless of who will win the U.S. presidential election.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said the statements by Joe Biden with regard to Iran have been more promising than those of the incumbent Donald Trump.

"The statements by the Biden camp have been more promising, but we will have to wait and see," Zarif said in a recent interview with CBS News.

## U.S. should await harsh vengeance for Soleimani, Muhandis assassinations: general

The Armed Forces chief of staff says "the arrogant should await a vengeance at the level of the great name of Soleimani"

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri has warned the global arrogance (the U.S.) to await the assassination of top Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU).

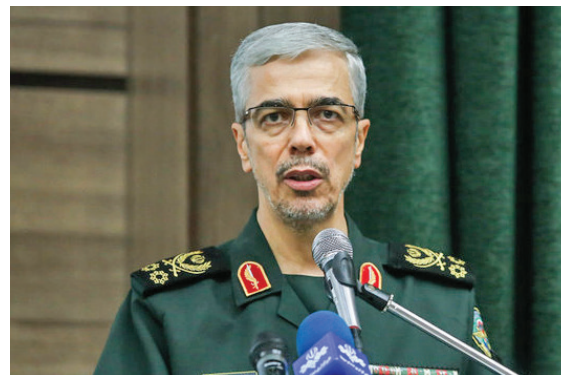
In remarks on Tuesday, Bagheri said the barbaric assassination of Soleimani and Muhandis in the darkness of the night by the criminal U.S. regime is a clear example of state terrorism.

"Martyr Soleimani and his comrades proved that the power of the U.S. and the Zionist regime is empty and they are not able to fight the warriors of the Resistance Front," Bagheri said, according to Mehr.

On January 3, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered strikes that martyred General Soleimani, chief of the IRGC Quds Force, and al-Muhandis.

In the early hours of January 8, the IRGC attacked Ain al-Assad airbase in Anbar province in western Iraq as part of its promised "tough revenge" for the U.S. terror attack. Iran notified the Iraqi government beforehand so as to avoid casualties.

**Bagheri describes General Soleimani as a courageous, wise and kind person who was against sectarianism.**



In June, Tehran said 36 individuals have been identified in connection with the Soleimani assassination.

"36 individuals who cooperated, collaborated, and participated in the assassination of Hajj Qassem, including political and military authorities of the U.S. and other countries, have been identified," Tehran Prosecutor General Ali Alqasi-Mehr said.

Alqasi-Mehr named Trump as the key individual at

the top of the list, saying his pursuit will continue even after his tenure as U.S. president.

Bagheri described General Soleimani as a courageous, wise and kind person who was against sectarianism.

"The arrogant should await a vengeance at the level of the great name of Soleimani," he stressed.

Bagheri also said that the peak of the U.S.'s savagery is manifested in its sanctions on Iran amid the spread of the coronavirus, which has hit Iran very hard.

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

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

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the United States is seeking to blow up Iran's remaining channels to pay for food and medicine.

"Amid Covid19 pandemic, U.S. regime wants to blow up our remaining channels to pay for food & medicine," Zarif wrote in a tweet. "Iranians WILL survive this latest of cruelties."

He described conspiring to starve the Iranian population as a "crime against humanity," adding, "Culprits & enablers—who block our money—WILL face justice."

## Velayati condemns Kabul University attack as a cowardly act

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Velayati, a top foreign policy adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has strongly denounced a deadly terror attack on Kabul University.

"Targeting a university and murdering people who move along the path of knowledge and science shows the cowardliness of the criminals who have targeted Afghanistan's peace and security," Velayati said in a message on Tuesday, Mehr reported.

He offered his deepest condolences to

the people and government of Afghanistan on the martyrdom of a group of professors and students in the unfortunate incident.

Velayati also wished those injured in the terrorist attack a speedy recovery, and hoped that through unity and empathy "we would witness the uprooting of terrorism and establishment of peace and stability in the region and the world."

Gunmen stormed Kabul University on Monday, killing students in their classrooms and firing on others as they fled, in the second attack on an educational



institution in the city in over a week.

Tens of people, including students, were killed before Afghan security forces shot the gunmen dead, authorities said.

"They were shooting at every student they saw ... they even shot at the students who were running away," witness Fathullah Moradi told Reuters.

The Taliban said their fighters were not involved in the assault.

Last week, an SUV rigged with explosives blew up in a different part of the city, injuring three civilians.

## Iraqi parliament set to probe Soleimani assassination case

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The Iraqi parliament is set to investigate next week, the case of the assassination of the "Commanders of Victory", namely top Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), according to an Iraqi lawmaker.

"The case of the government investigation into the assassination of the 'Commanders of Victory' near Baghdad airport will be presented to the Iraqi parliament next week," ISNA on Wednesday quoted Badr al-Ziyadi, a member of the Parliamentary Security and Defense Committee, as saying, citing Iraqi media.

Al-Ziyadi added that the Iraqi parliament has asked the lawmakers to set a time for the attendance of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi in parliament to discuss im-

portant issues including the assassination and the presence of U.S. forces in Iraq.

On January 3, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered strikes that martyred General Soleimani, chief of the IRGC Quds Force, and al-Muhandis.

In the early hours of January 8, the IRGC attacked Ain al-Assad airbase in Anbar province in western Iraq as part of its promised "tough revenge" for the U.S. terror attack. Iran notified the Iraqi government beforehand so as to avoid casualties.

In September, Iran called on Iraq to pursue the case of the cowardly assassination.

"Serious pursuit of the cowardly assassination of martyrs Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis through international bodies is the least measure that the Iraqi government



is expected to do," said Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC).



## IRGC chief: Missile power guarantees enemy's retreat

**1 →** Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great headways in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in the arms sphere.

In February 2018, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed

Ali Khamenei called for efforts to maintain and boost Iran's defense capabilities, hitting back at the enemies for disputing the country's missile program.

"Without a moment of hesitation, the country must move to acquire whatever is necessary for defense, even

if the whole world is opposed to it," Ayatollah Khamenei said at the time.

In his Wednesday remarks, Salami said Iran's enemies are facing the decline of their power and such decline is accelerating each day.

"However, the enemy's threats are still ongoing," he added.



## SPORTS

## In commemoration of legend Mansour Pourheydari

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian football fans remember legendary coach Mansour Pourheydari on his fourth death anniversary.

Pourheydari died on Nov. 4, 2016 after a one-year battle with lung disease in Tehran's Iranmehr Hospital.



He began his football career at the age of 17 in Daraei but joined Taj (now Esteghlal) in 1965 and played as a right defender for 10 years and won the Asian Championship in 1970 with the Blues.

Pourheydari also played for Iran national football team and made three caps for Team Melli. He announced his retirement in 1977.

He began his managerial career in 1980 as assistant coach to Abbas Razavi and Asghar Sharafi in Esteghlal and took charge of the team in 1983 as Shahrafi's replacement.

Pourheydari led Esteghlal to their second Asian trophy in 1991. Under guidance of the gentleman, Esteghlal football team were crowned Iran league titles in 1990 and 2001 as well as two Hazfi Cups in 1996 and 2000.

He has also coached Fajr Sepasi and Sanat Naft in Iranian football league.

Pourheydari became head coach of Iran national football team in 1998 and inspired the team to win the Asian Games in Bangkok.

Pourheydari will be remembered forever as a true gentleman.

## Esteghlal defender Zakipour signs for Gol Gohar

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal left winger Milad Zakipour joined Gol Gohar on Wednesday.

The 25-year-old player left Esteghlal by mutual consent and joined the Sirjan-based club.

Esteghlal have recently signed Persepolis left winger Mohammad Naderi and Zakipour opted to leave the Blues due to lack of playing time.

Croatian defender Hrvoje Milic also plays in the position. The new edition of the Iran Professional League will kick off on Nov. 6.

Gol Gohar will host Sepahan on Nov. 7.

## Alex Samizadeh linked with Tractor

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian football club Tractor want to sign Iranian-English forward Alex Samizadeh.

Samizadeh started his career with Bolton Wanderers at the age of 17, progressing through their youth teams. He made his first team debut on 5 April 2016, coming on as a substitute for Kaiyne Woolery at Brentford in the Football League Championship.

Samizadeh, 21, has also played for English clubs Bolton Chorley and Kilmarnock.

Tractor have previously wanted to sign Iranian-Norwegian forward David Tavakoli but he opted not to join Tractor.

Now, the local media reports suggest that Tractor wants to sign Samizadeh.

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

Tractor will start the league with a match against Naft Masjed Soleyman in the opening day.

## Mehdi Tartar appointed Paykan coach

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Mehdi Tartar was appointed as new head coach of Paykan football team on Wednesday.

The 48-year-old coach replaced Abdollah Veisi who parted ways with the Tehran based football club last week.

Tartar stepped down as Naft Majed Soleyman coach at the end of the last Iran Professional League (IPL) season.

Ex-Iran U23 coach Hamid Estili was among the candidates to take charge of the team.

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

Paykan will meet Sanat Naft on Nov. 7.

## Ex-Persepolis midfielder linked with Esteghlal

**Persianfootball.com** — Former Persepolis midfielder Mohsen Mosalman has been linked with a move to Esteghlal.

Persepolis' archrivals Esteghlal have already signed Persepolis winger Mohammad Naderi and want to sign Mosalman as well.

Mosalman played in Sepahan last season but has recently left the team.

Esteghlal coach Mahmoud Fakri have confirmed that Mosalman is their target for the new season.

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

Esteghlal, who became runners-up last season, will host newly-promoted Mes Rafsanjan in Tehran on Nov. 7.

## Iran's peace initiative on Nagorno-Karabakh gains steam

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Following a speech delivered by the

Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Azerbaijan welcomed an Iranian peace initiative that was presented earlier with the purpose of ending the Azerbaijan-Armenia war.

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry has welcomed remarks by Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, who voiced support for the liberation of Azerbaijan's occupied territories.

"We highly appreciate the statement made by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and the support given to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan," the Press Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan said in a statement on Wednesday.

The statement added, "All the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia must be liberated and all these territories must be returned to Azerbaijan", - the Supreme Leader said, reiterating the strong support of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Azerbaijan's just position based on international law."

In a televised speech on Tuesday, the Leader expressed support for Azerbaijan, saying all Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenia should be freed.

"This war is a bitter incident and it threatens the security of the region. Of course, all Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenia should be freed. All these lands should be given back to Azerbaijan. One of the main conditions is that these lands should be returned to Azerbaijan. The Republic of Azerbaijan is entitled to be in control of these lands, and therefore, all of them should be freed," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

He added, "Of course, the safety of all Armenians living in those lands should be ensured. International borders should be respected and the two sides should not transgress against the borders of other countries. The integrity of international borders should be protected and terrorists should not be allowed to deploy their forces near the borders. According to the reports that we have received, although some people deny them while there are reliable reports confirming this, a number of terrorists from here and there have become involved in this war."

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry also welcomed Iran's efforts to resolve the cri-



sis in Nagorno-Karabakh, saying it highly values these efforts.

"We highly value the efforts of the friendly Iranian state to resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, including the visit of the Special Envoy of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi to the region and the initiative on the settlement of the conflict as soon as possible," said the statement. "We believe that the relations between our countries, built on historical roots, will continue to develop successfully and will serve to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the region."

Araghchi recently embarked on a tour of four countries involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to present an Iranian peace initiative. He set off his tour by visit neighboring Azerbaijan. In Baku, he met with several Azerbaijani officials including President Ilham Aliyev, Deputy Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, and Hikmet Hajiyev, an assistant to the Azerbaijani president. After holding talks with the Azerbaijani leadership, Araghchi left Baku for Moscow. He then visited Yerevan, where he met with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. The deputy foreign minister of Iran also paid a visit to Ankara to present the Iranian peace initiative, which is intended to establish peace and stability in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"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.

The Iranian peace initiative is still under consideration in the four mentioned countries. Russia has said that it is carefully studying the initiative. Azerbaijan was the first country to welcome Iran's diplomatic efforts to put an end to the deadly war in the volatile region of Nagorno-Karabakh which broke out on September 27.

Azerbaijan says it is fighting a war of liberation aimed at retaking territories that were "occupied" by Armenian local forces in the 1990s while the Armenian forces say they are defending their self-declared republic, which they call "Artsakh".

Iran was among the first regional countries that called on both warring countries to stop fighting and resolve their differences through dialogue. Iran even expressed readiness to facilitate such a dialogue using its equal access to both warring countries.

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

## Iran censures terrorist attack on Kabul University

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, has condemned a terrorist attack on Kabul University that killed at least 35 people, most of them students.

"The dark ideology and the bloodstained hands of terrorists and their supporters targeted the future of Afghanistan and the pure souls of its children. Iran stands by the people and government of Afghanistan in the comprehensive fight against terrorism and extremism," Khatibzadeh said in a tweet on Tuesday evening.

Several gunmen attacked Kabul University on Monday, shooting at the students in their classroom and clashing with security forces for hours. The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack. In a message on the Telegram messaging app, an account claiming to belong to ISIL said they had "killed and injured 80 Afghan judges, investigators, and security personnel" who had been gathered for an event at the Faculty of Law, according to an Al Jazeera report.

The attack came at a time when intra-Afghan peace talks are still ongoing in Doha. The Taliban were quick to disavow and denounce the attack.

"Certainly, such attacks are carried out by evil elements that were defeated in Nangarhar and Jowzjan provinces," the Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said in a statement that alluded to their rival force Daesh.

Afghanistan's first Vice President Amrullah Saleh accused the Taliban on Tuesday of orchestrating the attack, an accusation that the Taliban has rejected as an attempt by Saleh to defame the armed group, which has signed a peace deal with the United States and is in the midst of peace negotiations with the Afghan government.

In addition to Khatibzadeh, the Iranian Parliament's speaker also expressed sympathy with Afghanistan over the terrorist attack. The speaker said the United States was directly responsible for the attack because it has founded the Daesh terrorist group.

"The American and Zionist killers who created Daesh, and

the financiers of Daesh in the region and their supporters, are directly responsible for all crimes of Daesh. Any step toward empowering these criminals amounts to being enemy of peace, prosperity, and stability in the region," Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said in a tweet.

He added, "The crimes of Daesh against the treasured sons of Afghanistan have touched the hearts of all of us, but we are happy that the zealous and brave youth of Afghanistan will finally eradicate the founders, perpetrators, and supporters of terrorism and occupation in Afghanistan."

Saeed Abbas Araghchi, the deputy foreign minister of Iran, also expressed sympathy with the victims of the attack on Kabul University.

"Today I recorded my sympathy and condolences in the Afghanistan Embassy following the barbaric attack on Kabul University which claimed lives of 20+ innocent students. Takfiri terrorism has only produced bloodshed and insecurity everywhere in the region and beyond," the deputy foreign minister said in a tweet on Wednesday.

## No difference between Trump and Biden: aide

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament on international affairs, said on Wednesday that the election of Donald Trump or his Democratic rival Joe Biden is not very important to Iran.

Amir-Abdollahian also said the panacea for the economic problems lies at home.

"The election of Trump or Biden is not very important to us, and that the solution to economic problems must be sought within the country," the special aide was quoted by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) news agency as saying.

Amir-Abdollahian said American society is embellished by the media in such a way that it looks attractive, but, in reality, it faces a lot of problems such as poverty and lack of efficient healthcare.

"From the promises of the presidential

candidates, one can see the chaotic internal situation in the United States of America, and the economic situation of this country had serious challenges even before Coronavirus," Amir-Abdollahian asserted.

According to Amir-Abdollahian, the U.S. November election is very sensitive this time around.

"Part of this sensitivity has to do with Trump's behavior and treatment of his rivals. About 36 percent of American Republicans will traditionally vote for Trump. But the level of participation determines [the outcome] so that we can make realistic judgments about Democrats. But in the end, the issue of Republicans or Democrats coming to power is an internal issue and should not matter too much to us," pointed out the special aide, noting that Iran should see how this election affects its national interests.

Amir-Abdollahian added, "As diplomats and those who follow political and international developments, we must see how this election will affect our national interests and at the regional and international level. European policies are now moving towards the Democrats, but the final forecast cannot be made until the 90th minute."

The special aide said Trump is the assassin of General Qassem Soleimani and that Iran cannot negotiate with him.

"From Iran's point of view, Trump is the assassin of General Qassem Soleimani, and this issue is of special importance to the Iranian people. Some diplomats have suggested that some level of talks be held between Iran and the United States, but Trump's stupidity in ordering the assassination of Qassem Soleimani has eroded all trust in him," noted Amir-Abdollahian,

adding a Biden victory will not also mean that the Iran-U.S. relations will get better.

General Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force was assassinated by an American drone strike in early January near Baghdad's international airport. The strike was ordered by President Trump. Following the assassination of General Soleimani, Iran showered a U.S. military base in western Iraq with several ballistic missiles, causing brain injury among tens of American servicemen.

Amir-Abdollahian said, "Biden's coming to power does not mean that the situation will improve and all sanctions will be lifted. Despite the many services rendered to the United States by the Pahlavi government in the past, American policies have never been friendly with Iran."

## Zarif visits Venezuela

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who embarked on a tour of three Latin American Countries, arrived in Venezuela late on Wednesday.

The chief Iranian diplomat was welcomed by his Venezuelan counterpart Jorge Arreaza upon his arrival in the country.

The Venezuelan foreign minister said in a tweet that the meetings between the officials of Iran and Venezuela are a step toward deepening the strategic alliance and brotherhood between the two countries.

He further noted that Iran and Venezuela have shown their solidarity and courage in the face of threats, adding that Zarif will have an intensive agenda during his

stay in Venezuela. On Monday, Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, announced that Zarif will be traveling to a few Latin American countries such as Cuba, Bolivia, and Venezuela. The spokesman also said Zarif will travel to Bolivia to attend the inauguration of Bolivia's new president Luis Arce.

"Cuba and Venezuela are among the political partners of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Latin American region, which have long had extensive political cooperation in bilateral, regional and international sectors," said Khatibzadeh, adding, "Venezuela is one of our country's main destinations for the export of

technical and engineering services, and the Iranian private sector has implemented or is implementing various projects in this country."

Iran and Bolivia relations are on course to get improved after Luis Arce, an ally of former Bolivian President Evo Morales, who secured a landslide victory. Arce said he will resume bilateral relations and cooperation with Iran. He made the remarks at a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador to Bolivia, Morteza Tafreshi.

On October 24, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani sent a congratulatory message to Arce, expressing the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to revive bilateral relations and expand cooperation with the country.



## TEDPIX gains 26,000 points on Wednesday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 26,029 points to 1.29 million on Wednesday.

Over 5.867 billion securities worth 54.328 trillion rials (about \$1.293 billion) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday.

The first market's index gained 21,471 points and the second market's index climbed 43,132 points.

The index had fallen 124,000 points, or 9.5 percent, in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on October 30).

## Maritime, port projects launched, inaugurated in southeastern Iran

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami inaugurated 13 maritime and port projects worth 4.133 trillion rials (about \$98.4 million) in Chabahar Port in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan on Wednesday.

The ground was also broken for 11 port-development projects worth 15.964 trillion rials (about \$380 million), IRNA reported.

These projects included the container terminal of Shahid Beheshti port with 1.727 trillion rials (about \$411.1 million) of investment, electricity and water supply to this port with 1.425 trillion rials (about \$339.2 million), as well as the collection of wharves and the access bridge of the port.

Some office and service buildings, a multi-purpose warehouse, a refrigerated container terminal, the new building of strategic equipment repair shop, and six weighbridges and entry and exit gates of Shahid Beheshti port were also among the inaugurated projects.

Lying on the coast of the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar is the country's only oceanic port, and given its strategic location in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) development of the port is of high significance for Iran. Shahid Kalantari Port and Shahid Beheshti Port are the two main ports of Iran's port city of Chabahar.

## 8th non-oil cargo exported to Oman via Sirik Port

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran exported the eight non-oil cargo to Oman via Sirik Port in southern Hormozgan province, the governor of Sirik County announced on Wednesday.

Ahmad Jamaledдини put the weight of the eight cargo at 610 tons, including fresh fruits and vegetables, dried nuts and constructional materials, with a total value of 150 billion rials (about \$3.57 million).

The first non-oil cargo with a capacity of 120 tons, including mineral water and nuts, was dispatched to Oman on June 2, according to Jamaledдини.

In early January, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held the first meeting of its Commodity-Country Desk on trade with Oman presided by Farzad Piltan, the director-general of TPO's Office of Arabian and African Countries.

The meeting was aimed at investigating the ways for increasing exports of constructional materials to Oman and removing the barriers related to transporting these materials to the Arab country, and was participated by the related state-run and private sector officials including representatives of some exporting and marine transport companies.

Despite the U.S. reimposition of sanctions against the Islamic Republic, Oman is getting closer to Iran both politically and economically. There is also the same approach adopted by Iran, as Iranian companies now prefer to conduct trade with Oman rather than the United Arab Emirates (UAE), given that the UAE is highly complying with the sanctions.

Iran is somehow replacing some of its previous strategic trade partners such as UAE with Oman, considering the Sultanate as an economic-trade hub.

## Issuance of industrial unit establishment rises 41% in Khuzestan Province

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The head of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of Iran's southwestern Khuzestan Province announced that 694 permits for the establishment of industrial units have been issued in the province during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21).

Amir-Hossein Nazari said the figure shows a 41-percent growth compared to that of the same period of time in the past year.

The official put the estimated investment making for the establishment of the mentioned units at 168.697 billion rials (about \$4 million) and said these units are expected to create jobs for 123,077 persons.

The number of issued licenses in the first half shows 41 percent growth year on year, while the figures for estimated investment making and job creation indicate 18 percent and 21 percent rise, respectively, he added.

## Yazd Province exports commodities worth \$162m in H1

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The value of commodities exported from Iran's central Yazd Province stood at \$162 million during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), according to a provincial official.

Mohammadreza Alamdar Yazdi, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, put the weight of exported goods at 392,000 tons.

He mentioned tile and ceramic, steel products, wire and cable, pipeline, and pistachio as the major exported items, and Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan, Oman, Armenia, Turkey, and Belgium as the main export destinations.

The official also said that 23,000 tons of commodities valued at \$69 million have been imported to the province during the first half.

He mentioned machinery required by the production units, electronic parts, and chemical products as the main imported items.

# Car manufacturing planned to rise in H2

By Mahnaz Abdi

**TEHRAN** — Boosting production is seriously planned and pursued in all industrial sectors of Iran in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20), which is named the year of surge in production.

Carmaking, as one of the major industries of the country, has already achieved the mentioned goal, as based on the data released by the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry, 468,699 vehicles have been manufactured in Iran during the first half of the current year (March 20-September 21), which has been 23.4 percent higher than the figure of the same period of time in the past year.

During this period, 425,925 passenger cars were manufactured in the country, registering a growth of 21.9 percent compared to the first six months of the previous year.

The production of trucks reached 39,519 units in the said time span, which has increased by 40.4 percent compared to the last year's same period.

While the growth in output has been realized in the first half, car manufacturing is also planned to be risen in the second half.



On Sunday, Mohsen Salehinia, the new head of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO), mentioned planning for increasing car manufacturing in the second half, and said, "We are investigating and finalizing the issues in this due".

Earlier this year, Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Saeed Zarandi had said that 1.2 million vehicles were planned to be manufactured in the present year, which seems a realistic figure given the surge in production policies of this year.

## Track-laying of Chabahar-Zahedan railway begins

**1 →** To further accelerate the project, the track-laying operations are being conducted from both ends of the line that is from both Chabahar port and Zahedan.

The track-laying operations of the 628-kilometer railway had been started from the Zahedan end in early July.

The Chabahar-Zahedan railway is under construction in two parts, north and south, of which the southern part is 312 km and the northern part is 316 km long. The project will be completed in the form of eight operational sections.

Establishing an all-rail corridor in the east of the country, connecting Chabahar as the country's only oceanic port to the national railway network, developing Makran

coasts through rail transportation, connecting Central Asia and Afghanistan to open ocean waters, creating a suitable platform for development and economic growth, saving fuel consumption and reducing road accidents, creating sustainable development and security in the region and establishing permanent cooperation with countries in the region and other countries with trade and transit exchanges are reported to be some of the goals of Chabahar-Zahedan railway project.

Meanwhile, transporting 927,000 passengers and 2.8 million tons of cargoes by the Iranian calendar year 1401 (begins in March 2022) is set to be the short-term economic goal of this project.

Khatam-ul Anbiya Construction Headquarters is the contractor of this project which is being constructed using national rail tracks.

The project for the manufacturing of Iran's "national rail" was launched in November 2016 following an agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) and Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) on the production of rail tracks.

Chabahar Port in southeast Iran is the most prioritized one for railway connection as the port's exemption from the new round of the U.S. sanctions on the country is an opportunity for the development of export, transit, and also transshipment.

## Payment of bank loans up 18.8% in a month

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Loans offered by the Iranian banking system has increased by 18.8 percent in the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (August 22-September 21), data released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) showed.

As reported, interest-free facilities constituted 8.6 percent of the total facilities granted by banks and credit institutions in the said month, while loans for installment purchases with 27.7 percent and civil partnership loans with 18.8 percent accounted for the biggest share of the payments.

The Iranian banking system paid 9.749 quadrillion rials (over \$232 billion) of facilities to domestic economic sectors in the past Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19), registering a 26-percent rise from its preceding year.

The total working capital loans provided in the mentioned period increased

by 21.8 percent compared to the figure for the preceding year 1397.

During the said period, the country's mining and industry sectors received 2.167 quadrillion rials (about \$51.59 billion) in the form of working capital loans, accounting for 41.2 percent of the total such facilities.

The country's banking system offered 7.737 quadrillion rials (about \$184.2 billion) facilities to domestic economic sectors in the Iranian calendar year of 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019), 26-percent more than the figure for its previous year, according to CBI.

Working capital loans paid to different economic sectors was above 4.319 quadrillion rials (about \$102.8 billion) accounting for 55.8 percent of the total provided facilities in the said year, registering a 14-percent increase from its previous year.

## Mining companies' sales through stock market up 37% in 7 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The total sales of Iran's large mining companies through the stock market has reached 1.494 quadrillion rials (about \$35.5 billion) in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), registering a 37-percent rise year on year, according to the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

As reported by IRNA, Mobarakeh Steel Company with 340 trillion rials (about \$8.09 billion), National Iranian Copper Industry Company (NICIC) with 194 trillion rials (about \$4.61 billion), Khuzestan Steel Company with 151 trillion rials (about \$3.66 billion) and Gol Gohar Company with 122 trillion rials (about \$2.9 billion) were the top four companies in this regard, respectively.

The mentioned companies sold 304 trillion rials (about \$7.2 billion) worth

of shares in the stock exchange in the seventh month of the current Iranian calendar year (September 22-October 21), 76 percent more than the figure for the preceding month.

The companies in the mining and mineral industries sector accounted for 20 percent of the country's total non-oil exports in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

While Iran's stock market has been developed noticeably in recent years, especially since the previous Iranian calendar year, the performance of the minerals and mining industry sectors in this market has been very outstanding.

This sector's performance has been so good that IMIDRO, which is the major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in Iran, has predicted a promising future for the mining companies in the stock market.

## SMEs play significant role in realizing surge in production: ICCIMA head

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie has said that the government should put more importance on the country's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for realizing the year's motto which is "surge in production".

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, in a meeting with Asghar Mosaheb, the acting head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), Shafeie stressed the need to strengthen the interaction between the government and the private sector, saying: "Increasing government's attention to supporting SMEs is one of the requirements for materializing the surge in production."

"In the current situation in which the government must

pay more attention to domestic production and capacity building to materialize the "surge in production", it is more important to address the problems of the small and medium industries as a large chain in the country's production and employment," he stressed.

Further in the meeting, Mosaheb for his part emphasized the use of private sector capacities in formulating government's operational and development plans, saying that promoting joint cooperation between the government and the private sector will increase the productivity of small and medium enterprises and the two sides can work to make it happen.

ISIPO believes in developing joint cooperation with ICCIMA in implementing strategic plans to help develop

the country's SMEs, he said.

According to Mosaheb, implementation of cluster development programs and subcontracting exchange systems, as well as promoting new ways of financing for small and medium enterprises are among the programs that can solve some of the problems of the SMEs through cooperation with the government.

He also underlined the use of the potentials of the country's joint chambers of commerce to develop trade relations between Iranian SMEs and the private sectors of other countries and expressed hope that increasing the level of interaction and improving the production standards of the SMEs would lead to economic development for these enterprises.

## Tire production increases 25% in 7 months yr/yr

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Production of tire in Iran has risen 25 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Some 169,741 tons of tires have been produced during the seven-month period of this year.

In terms of number, 28.278 million tires have been produced, showing a 29-percent growth year on year.

Of the mentioned figure, 90,538 tons were the passenger car tires, which shows a 29-percent rise.

Some 14,153 tons of van tires were produced, indicating a 15-percent growth.

Also, 31,659 tons of truck and bus tires were produced, showing a 16-percent rise.

Production of the tires of light agricultural vehicles experienced a growth of 80 percent to stand at 2,826 tons, and that of



the heavy ones rose 23 percent to stand at 10,569 tons.

Meanwhile, 3,500 tons of road building and industrial vehicle tires were produced, with a 15-percent growth compared to the first seven months of the past year.

The bicycle tire output stood at 1,157 tons, indicating 102 percent growth, and the motorcycle tires output reached 7,749 tons, showing a 16 percent rise.

In early August, an official with Iran's Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry said

that increasing the amount of investment making for the production of the tire in the country is a necessity.

Kamran Kargar, the acting head of planning, supplying, and market regulating office of the ministry, said the consumption of tire is noticeable in Iran due to the country's big transportation fleet.

"Now the ground is properly prepared for the production of light and heavy vehicles tires in the country, and investment making will play a significant role both for the establishment of new production units and for launching development projects", the official noted.

Having an annual production capacity of 426,000 tons of tire, Iran accounts for 41 percent of tire output in the West Asian region, according to the deputy director of the non-metal industries office of the Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry.

Mohsen Safdari has said that 11 tire

production units are active in the country creating jobs for 14,500 people.

He said 426,000 tons is the nominal capacity, while the real output is less than this figure as some units are working with 60-70 percent of their capacity.

"Iranian tire industry is dependent on foreign raw materials by 40 percent, so we are self-reliant by 60 percent in this field", the official announced.

In a bid to nullify the U.S. sanctions, Iran is determined to strengthen its domestic production to achieve self-reliance.

Selecting the motto of "Pickup in Production" for the previous Iranian calendar year (March 2019-March 2020), and the slogan of "Surge in Production" for the current year indicates the Islamic Republic's determination to achieve this goal.

To this end, the Iranian ministries besides the private sector have been outlining their programs for the surge in production.



# Macron provoking Muslims to distract from his many domestic challenges, says American analyst

**TEHRAN** — Andrew Korybko, an American geopolitical analyst based in Moscow, tells the Tehran Times that the Emmanuel Macron government's Islamophobic policies, which hypocritically masquerade as defending freedom of expression, provoke discord and intend to distract minds from his domestic problems.

"Holocaust denial is banned in France so that country does indeed impose limits upon freedom of expression contrary to its support of Islamophobic hate speech which raises questions about how sincerely the government abides by the principle of free speech. This makes one wonder whether liberalism and its expression through freedom of speech are just excuses for justifying Islamophobia in French society," Korybko, a member of the expert council for the Institute of Strategic Studies and Predictions at the People's Friendship University of Russia, tells the Tehran Times.

He notes, "French policy of double standards gives credence to claims that the government is Islamophobic and might even be deliberately provoking Muslims for ulterior reasons such as distracting from its many domestic challenges."

The text of the interview with Korybko is as follows:

■ Why does Emmanuel Macron support the reprinting of blasphemous cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad?

A: Macron is either misled by his advisors or purposely seeking to provoke Muslims in his country and abroad, but either way, he's full responsible for what he's done. The first theory is that he and those around him don't have enough information about Islam and therefore didn't realize what they were doing. That would explain why they'd encourage him to make very ignorant comments without fully understanding the consequences. The second theory, which is much more likely, is that they knew very well what the consequences would be but purposely wanted to provoke them. This theory implies that his War on Islam is meant to distract from domestic challenges, which is very possible, but it might also have another motivation as well.

As I wrote in my recent analysis for the OneWorld Global Think Tank asking "Is A 'Great Social/Civilizational Reset' Upon Us?", there's an observable trend taking place which misleadingly appears to confirm the so-called "Clash of Civilizations" scenario. The argument put forth is that Western civilization (which is characterized by its extreme secularism as embodied by France) and Islamic civilization among others are reasserting their unique attributes which are contradictory in many respects such as the discussed one when it comes to the topic of free speech for instance. This gives off the optics that different civilizations are "clashing" even though pragmatic cooperation between them is still possible in areas of shared interest such as trade.

This is not at all to defend the French government's public support of blasphemous depictions of the Prophet Muhammad, but simply to explain one of the reasons why Macron is doubling down on this provocative policy. Both civilizations in this example regard the other as an existential threat to their identity. For this reason, many French defend blas-



**Holocaust denial is banned in France so that country does indeed impose limits upon freedom of expression contrary to its support of Islamophobic hate speech which raises questions about how sincerely the government abides by the principle of free speech.**

phemous cartoons as legal expressions of free speech whereas most Muslims are disgusted by this abuse of liberal ideology for Islamophobic ends. There's no middle ground and a compromise on the issue is impossible since one or the other side would have to concede on an issue that's integral to their identity, which isn't likely.

The larger dynamic taking place which has escaped a lot of discussion is that the concept of liberalism is being reconsidered all across the world. Muslims might have previously had some respect for this idea but few supports it nowadays after the French took it to its extreme by using liberalism as their justification for Islamophobic hate speech. Other societies than just the Islamic one are questioning this concept as can be seen by Poland -- also a European civilization just like France -- recently banning practically all abortions in late October. This proves that the global reconsideration of liberalism isn't exclusive to Islamic civilization but is even present within civilizations such as the European one itself as the Polish precedent proves.

■ Could the adoption of such an offensive policy be justified as freedom of expression?

A: Technically speaking, yes, it is the extreme embodiment of liberal ideology in the form of freedom of expression. That concept in its purest form enables anyone to express themselves however they'd like regardless of how offensive it may be to others. Curiously, however, Holocaust denial is banned in France so that country does indeed impose limits upon freedom of expression contrary to its support of Islamophobic hate speech which raises questions about how sincerely the government abides by the principle of free speech. This makes

one wonder whether liberalism and its expression through freedom of speech are just excuses for justifying Islamophobia in French society.

■ How do you assess the West's double standards when it comes to freedom of expression?

A: It's every country's sovereign right to make their own laws and implement them as they desire (even selectively through the use of double standards) but it's also every person's right to call out hypocrisy wherever they see it. The French government shouldn't have different standards when it comes to imposing consequences upon those who offend Jewish and Muslim sensitivities. It should either practice the extreme liberal manifestation of freedom of speech by allowing all sorts of hate speech to flourish in society or crack down whenever the feelings of religious believers are offended by various expressions of free speech. As it stands, the French policy of double standards gives credence to claims that the government is Islamophobic and might even be deliberately provoking Muslims for ulterior reasons such as distracting from its many domestic challenges.

■ In your view, what would be the appropriate responses to this offensive approach?

A: Every Muslim should protest the French government's Islamophobic policies which hypocritically masquerade as defending the extreme manifestation of liberal ideology's concept of free speech (despite holding different standards whenever it comes to offending the sensitivities of Jewish people), as should those who stand against hate speech of any sort regardless of their religion or lack thereof. Boycotting French products is also a powerful way to send a strong statement to the French government even

if it's unlikely to change their policy. That said, all those who oppose this offensive act must obey the laws of the land in which they live and must take care not to resort to hate speech of their own by getting carried away and doing the same thing that they're protesting. Any highly publicized mistakes could be exploited to "justify" the French government's anti-Islamic policies.

■ Why is Islamophobia increasing in Western countries?

A: Without intending to blame the victims, it must be universally recognized that some Muslims refuse to assimilate and integrate into the Western societies where they're either born or moved to, which fuels a nationalist (over) reaction from some of the locals. Just like Islamic civilization has its own social standards, so too does Western civilization, and it's expected that all minorities make a sincere effort to assimilate and integrate into the Western societies where they live. Again, this is not to justify Islamophobia nor any expression of hate speech against Muslims but simply to explain the mindset of those in Western societies who might at the very least feel suspicious of their Muslim neighbors. Not every Muslim refuses to assimilate and integrate into Western society but enough of them do and that in turn fuels Islamophobia.

Those in Western society who feel -- whether rightly or wrongly -- that their civilization is under threat by civilizational dissimilar people such as Muslims refusing to assimilate and integrate into their society might feel tempted to express themselves in an Islamophobic way to signal to other Westerners that people are "resisting" what they regard as an "invasion" as well as to intimidate Muslims with the expectation that they'll either leave or comply with their standards. The French government tacitly supports this trend by defending the extreme manifestation of liberalism as embodied by Islamophobic hate speech despite holding double standards when it comes to people expressing themselves in ways that offend Jewish people such as denying the Holocaust.

■ Do you see any trace of Zionists in this policy?

A: It's difficult to ascertain such a role even though speculation might abound about the interests that that ideology's adherents have in current events. Cynics might suggest that an increase in Christian-Muslim tensions could be beneficial for Zionists since it distracts from their occupation of Palestine and the many crimes that they regularly commit there while supporters might allege that they don't have any ulterior motives but instead wish that people of different religious beliefs could peacefully coexist. There's no way of knowing which interpretation is the most accurate, but it should nevertheless be said that what's happening in France is the result of preexisting tensions inevitably boiling over as was bound to happen with time and that no outside force played a role in the events that triggered the latest unrest (the French schoolteacher terrorist attack and the French government's support of the victim for sharing Islamophobic cartoons with his pupils).

## Candidates for federal office are asked to put interests of Israel ahead: philosopher

**"The U.S. Congress has been well-described as, like the Golan Heights, an occupied territory by Israel"**

1 → How do you assess the influence of Israeli lobbies on decision- and policy-making in Washington?

A: The U.S. Congress has been well-described as, like the Golan Heights, an occupied territory by Israel. As Cynthia McKinney explained on Press TV in 2011, candidates for federal office are asked to sign a pledge to put the interests of Israel ahead of those (even) of the United States, where those who refuse to sign (which are few) find their funding dries up and they lack the resources to campaign or, once in office, discover that, when they run for reelection, they are opposed by a well-financed alternative or that their district has been redrawn and they no longer have a set. Cynthia was able to overcome those obstacles, but Dennis Kucinsh was not.

■ Do you believe American policies are in consistency with rationalism?

A: The actions and policies of the United States in relation to foreign policy are rational if the objective or goal is to promote the interests of Israel, even if it comes at the cost of compromising the interests of Americans. Donald Trump has committed himself to putting America first, which means that his nationalism conflicts with the agenda of the globalist forces arrayed against him. Even though he had made many magnanimous gestures to Israel regarding Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and more, Zionists are not pacified and want more from him than he appears to be willing to provide, including bombing Iran, and for that reason they are opposing him.

■ The U.S. accuses Iran of destabilizing the region? What are the U.S. troops doing in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan?

A: The U.S., not Iran, has been greatest destabilizing force in the Middle East (West Asia) since its intervention in Afghanistan in the wake of 9/11, which was orchestrated



**The U.S., not Iran, has been greatest destabilizing force in the Middle East (West Asia) since its intervention in Afghanistan in the wake of 9/11,**

to provide a pseudo-justification for America entering the region to take out the modern Arab states that served as a counter-balance to Israel's domination of the entire region. Ehud Olmert and Bibi Netanyahu appear to be among the key players along with Zionists in the New York Port Authority who transferred the World Trade

Center to Larry Silverstein just six weeks prior, where he and Bibi have regular conversations every Sunday. It's a small world, but a nasty one.

■ Do you think that the U.S. and Israel promoting terrorism and creating terrorist groups, especially ISIS, after the 9/11 attacks?

A: ISIS was created by John Brennan, Director of the CIA, Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State, and Barack Obama, President, in 2012 as a terrorist army to put pressure on the Syrian government and eventually to confront the Persian nation of Iran. Michael Flynn, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, opposed the move, leading to Brennan's recommendation that Obama fire him, which Obama obligingly did. They had to get him away from the incoming President because he knew too much about the machinations of these evil parties and could have kept him from being amenable to their influence, so they set him up to remove him.

■ How does Israel exploit Holocaust to commit crimes against Palestinians? Don't you think that a new Holocaust is now underway in the region?

A: The crimes of Israel against the Palestinian people are legion and enormously well-documented. This has been the world's most obvious case of human rights violations--apart from those committed in South Africa--for the past 50 years, where the U.S. has repeatedly--again and again--vetoed resolutions that would otherwise have passed the UN Security Council on Israel's behalf and has provided Israel with foreign aid in violation of its own legal restrictions. As a former Israeli cabinet minister told Amy Goodman years ago, when Israel is criticized in Europe, they raise the Holocaust; in America, allegations of anti-Semitism. "It's a trick!",

## German minister fears a constitutional crisis in the U.S.

With Donald Trump falsely claiming victory in the 2020 election, warning of legal action despite millions of votes still uncounted, a top German official has warned of an "explosive situation" and a potential constitutional crisis in the U.S.

"This is a very explosive situation. This is a situation that can lead to a constitutional crisis in the U.S., as experts are rightly saying. And it is something that must cause us great concern," German Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer told German television channel ZDF early on Wednesday, according to a Reuters translation, CNBC reported.

The comments by Kramp-Karrenbauer, who at one stage was largely seen as a successor to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, came after Trump had taken to Twitter to accuse the opposition of trying to "steal" the election. Twitter attached a label over the tweet, warning that some or all of the content is disputed and might be misleading.

## Biden bats away Trump victory claim

The U.S. presidential election hung in the balance on Wednesday, with a handful of states set to decide the outcome in the coming hours or days, even as Donald Trump falsely claimed victory and made unfounded allegations of electoral fraud.

President Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden both still have possible paths to reach the needed 270 Electoral College votes to win the White House, as states keep counting mail-in ballots that surged amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Shortly after Biden said he was confident of winning the contest once the votes are counted, Trump appeared at the White House in the early hours to declare victory and said his lawyers would be taking his case to the U.S. Supreme Court, without specifying what they would claim, Reuters reported.

## Qatar's stance on independent Palestinian state unchanged: Al Thani

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has reiterated support for the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders.

Our position on the justice of the Palestinian issue and the right of the Palestinians to an independent state within the 1967 borders remains unchanged, Al Thani said on Tuesday, Al Jazeera reported.

Israel occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem al-Quds, during the Six-Day War in 1967. It later annexed East Jerusalem al-Quds in a move not recognized by the international community.

Palestinian officials say they want the resolution of the conflict with Tel Aviv based on the two-state solution along the pre-1967 boundaries. However, Israel has been building settlements deep within territory that the Palestinians want for their future state.

Tel Aviv regime officials also say they consider Jerusalem al-Quds as the "capital" of their own "state."

## No offense meant to Islam, Muslims: Macron tells Palestine's Abbas

French President Emmanuel Macron has said he did not intend to insult Islam and its followers in what could be interpreted as a retreat from his recent inflammatory Islamophobic remarks and support for a publication's incendiary cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Speaking in a telephone conversation with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Macron said he respected Islam and the Muslim world, and did not mean to offend them, Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

He added that he differentiated between terrorism and extremism on the one side, and Islam and the Muslim world on the other.

The remarks came two days after Macron told Qatar-based al-Jazeera television news network that he wanted to eliminate the misunderstandings, after his remarks triggered an outburst of anger against France among Muslim nations and leaders worldwide.

## Resistance News

## Israeli police banish Sheikh Bukairat from Aqsa for six months

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN**—The Israeli occupation police on Wednesday issued an order banning Sheikh Najeh Bukairat, deputy head of the Islamic Awqaf Administration in Jerusalem, from entering the Aqsa Mosque and its vicinity for six months.

According to the renewed order, Sheikh Bukairat is also prohibited from entering the Old City of Jerusalem and the paths leading to the Aqsa Mosque.

Last Wednesday, the Israeli police raided Sheikh Bukairat's workplace, detained him and handed him a decision banning his entry to the Aqsa Mosque for one week and ordering him to come today for another interview by the Shin Bet.

## Israeli forces kill Palestinian over alleged shooting attack in West Bank

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN**—Israeli forces have shot and killed a young Palestinian man, whom they alleged to have carried

out a shooting attack in the northern part of the occupied West Bank. The Israeli military, in a statement released on Wednesday, alleged that the Palestinian was armed with a pistol, arrived from the direction of Nablus, situated north of Jerusalem al-Quds, and shot at soldiers who were at a military post near the southern exit of the city.

The statement added that the man was "neutralized" in the purported assault, and there were no casualties on the Israeli side.

Palestinian news outlets identified the man as 29-year-old Bilal Adnan Rawajbeh.

They said the young Palestinian was killed when Israeli forces fired shots at his white Hyundai vehicle near the Hawara checkpoint.



## Turkey ready for joint tourism programs with Iranian province

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – The Turkish consul general in the **d e s k** city of Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi province, has said that his country is ready to hold joint programs such as cultural weeks and exhibitions with Khorasan Razavi’s cultural heritage department.

Fatih Topçu made the remarks during a meeting with Khorasan Razavi province’s tourism chief Abolfazl Mokarramifar on Wednesday, CHTN reported.



Mokarramifar, for his part, welcomed the idea, saying that holding such events could boost tourism between Turkey and the Iranian northeastern province.

Referring to the documentary on the tourist attractions and cultural heritage of Khorasan Razavi, which was broadcast on Turkey’s Channel 7, he also noted that the province’s cultural heritage department is eager to cooperate on producing more documentaries for Turkish TV channels.

Before the coronavirus puts everything on lockdown, the province’s capital city, Mashhad, played host to thousands of travelers and pilgrims who come from various Iranian cities, neighboring countries, and even across the globe to visit the imposing, massive holy shrine complex of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Imam of the Shia Muslims.

Almost 40 million Iranian pilgrims and travelers visited the city during the last Iranian calendar year (ended March 19).

Dozens of five-star hotels and hostels are dotted around the holy shrine. The city has also the highest concentration of water parks in the country, and it also embraces a variety of cultural and historical sites that are generally crowded.

## More natural properties added to National Heritage list

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Eight old plane, juniper, walnut, **d e s k** olive, and honeyberry trees in the northwestern province of Qazvin have recently been inscribed on the National Heritage list.



The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism announced the inscription on Tuesday in a letter to the governor-general of the province, CHTN reported.

Plane trees have always been symbols of fertility and greenery of nature in Iranian culture. It was believed that the tree could prevent the spread of fever and infectious diseases.

They have been mostly planted in sacred areas such as churches and holy shrines.

Juniper is a very valuable and long-lasting species that grows in mountainous and high areas and has a special place in the legends and myths of Iranian people.

It has long been a symbol of immortality in Iranian culture and it can be seen in historical Iranian miniatures.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 24 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

## Antique coins, swords, dagger and pistol confiscated from smuggler

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – Iranian authorities have seized 12 **d e s k** antique objects, including coins, two swords, a dagger, and a pistol, from a smuggler in Quchan, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province.



A pistol, two swords, a small dagger, two medals, and six coins have been recovered and surrendered to the provincial cultural heritage department for further investigation, police official Mohammad-Ali Modir announced on Wednesday.

Quchan is home to 147 natural, historical sites and monuments of notable values, 50 of which being inscribed on the national heritage list.

# Tribe tourism gaining momentum in Iran

### ➔1 ■ Inhabitants decline

According to data compiled by the Nomads Affairs Organization of Iran, the nomadic inhabitants of the country have been decreased from 38.6 percent of the whole Iranian population in the Iranian year 1245 (1866) to 9.6 percent in the year 1345 (1966) and around one percent currently. And nomads and tribes are be found in all Iranian provinces except Kordestan.

The data suggests that Iran’s nomads are fading away in the course of time. But why? A brief answer might be that modern life lures the newest generations to big cities for a more relaxed lifestyle and even higher education. Many younger people have left behind struggles with backbreaking works of the nomadic life which is sometimes mingled with drought and dust storms.

However, some Iranian nomads had long resisted modernity through isolation, which was the result of their lifestyle, deep traditions, and patriarchy. However, nowadays traces of modern life is undeniable in the lives of the remaining ones across the ancient land.

The majority of the Iranian nomads use mobile internet, cell phones, etc as they still set up their tents on the flanks of the snow-capped mountains. And these days cars and rented trucks, rather than domestic animals, bring them, their flocks to pastures high up



on the highlands and vice versa.

### ■ Diverse society

Iran has a culturally-diverse society dominated by wide ranges of interethnic relations. Native speakers of Persian (Farsi language) are considered as the predominant ethnic generally of mixed ancestry, and the country has important Turkic, Kurd, Arab elements in

addition to the Lurs, Baloch, Bakhtiari, and other smaller minorities such as Armenians, Assyrians, and Jews.

Persians, Kurds, and speakers of other Indo-European languages in Iran are descendants of the Aryan tribes who began migrating from Central Asia into what is now Iran in the second millennium BC.

### ■ Migration for millennia

Apart from modern roads, highways, and bridges that are ubiquitous in modern Iran, there are still arduous paths, flattened by the feet of nomads and the hooves of their livestock in the ever-repeating movement of migration for millennia.

Migration is a way of life for nomads because herding cattle is their main source of income. In spring they with their all their belongings head for the cooler pastures usually in mountain hillsides where the grass is abundant for their flocks of sheep and goats. And in autumn they return to previous tropic plains as their well-fed livestock getting stronger to bear the winter.

Accompanying nomads during their migration, even for a day or two, maybe a lifetime experience. As a traveler, one has the chance to visit, live, eat, and sleep in a nomadic camp with a real nomad family. Colorful dresses, vast black tents, colored-eyed children with rosy cheeks, modest lifestyle, scenic landscape, and local dishes are probably among the delights of such visits.

Language, music, indigenous cuisine, clothing, songs, anecdotes, crafts, live performances, and local rituals such as celebrations and wedding ceremonies have always spurred many to experience life among the tribes.

## Support package for corona-affected tourism businesses takes effect

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – A package of plans, approved **d e s k** by the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control in late October, has taken effect to support businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic across the country.

The tourism sector has been facing several problems since the outbreak of the coronavirus and when it failed to overcome the problems, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts asked the government for more support for the tourism sector, deputy tourism chief Vali Teymouri said on Tuesday.

The new support package has been declared to all 31 provinces as well as the banking system and related organizations, the official added.

In late October, the official announced that depending on the type and activity of the businesses, they could benefit from at least 160 million rials (\$3,800 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to nine billion rials (\$214,000) of bank loans with a 12-percent interest rate.

The loans will be allocated to tourist guides, travel agencies, tourism transport companies, tourism educational institutions, eco-lodges and traditional accommodations, hotels, apartment hotels, motels, and guesthouses as well

as traditional accommodation centers, tourism complexes, and recreational centers, the official explained.

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

Back in August, Teymouri announced that the tourism ministry has approved a total budget of 4,920 billion rials (over \$117 million) to support corona-affected tourism businesses, covering as much as 36,000 people working in the tourism sector.

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

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

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



Vali Teymouri

navirus concerns.

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

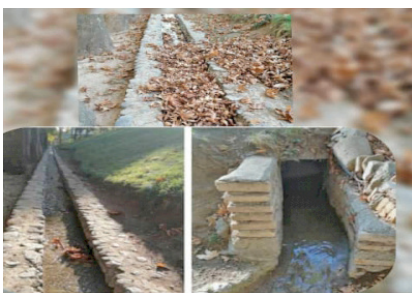
The latest available data show eight million tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2019).

## Qanats of Sa’dabad historical complex revived

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Four old **d e s k** qanats in the Sa’dabad Cultural-Historical Complex in northern Tehran that had dried up over time, have recently been revived.

The project, which was completed over a period of more than three months, involved cleaning, dredging, removing blocked parts, strengthening the body and flow path, repairing damaged parts, and securing qanats, Kia Parsa, the director of the Sa’ dabad Cultural-Historical Complex announced on Wednesday.

The qanats were built in the late Qajar era (1789–1925) and early Pahlavi period (1925–1979) to irrigate the garden and yard



of the complex, he added.

For thousands of years, qanat systems have supplied water to agricultural and permanent settlements in arid regions of

Iran, tapping alluvial aquifers at the heads of valleys and conducting the water along underground tunnels by gravity, often over many kilometers.

According to UNESCO, The qanats provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

The qanat system relies on snow-fed streams, which flow down the foothills of surrounding mountains channeling through sloping aqueducts, often over far distances to discharge into the city’s underground reservoirs or ab-anbars. Such constructions are still in practice, many of which were made from the 13th century onwards.

## Neyshabour labyrinthine, historical bazaar to be restored

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – The labyrinthine and historical bazaar of the city of Neyshabour, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, is to be restored to regain its former glory.

Four billion rials (some \$95,000) have been allocated for the project, Neyshabour tourism chief announced on Sunday, CHTN reported.

“This historical bazaar stretches about one kilometer and it’s the sole vaulted historical bazaar in Khorasan, which its antiquity dates back to the time of Safavids (1501–1736),” the official stated.

The most important elements of the bazaar are a number of Hojreh (shops), Timches (domed halls or arcaded centers of a single trade, such as carpet vendors or coppersmiths), marketplaces, a caravanserai, Hammam (public bathhouse), mosque, Tekkiyeh (a staying place for pilgrims and mourners) and an Ab-anbar (cistern), he explained.



Cool in summer and warm in winter, it’s easy to lose half a day wandering the bustling lanes of an Iranian

## Persian handicrafts: Sofreh of North Khorasan

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The Kurd **d e s k** people who inhabit northern regions of North Khorasan makes versatile products such as carpets, kilims and jajims with elegant and original designs which have roots in their traditions and religious beliefs.

Amongst the weaves of North Khorasan, “sofreh” or blankets are regarded highly. These products are Kilims with unique unmatched decorations. It can be said that based on their design, these kilims are one of the most different types of this handicraft.

Sofreh of Kurd is a kind of needle Kilim that is weaved by Picheshi technique. This means

that there are two weft yarns weaved into it. One weft is the basic and unicolor, and the second weft is colorful that creates the patterns. The most important motif of sofreh are “angosht” or finger, “angosht e arus” or finger of the bride and “bijak,” and this is the reason these weaves are also known as angoshti or pishandaz kilims.

In the past, the sofreh were usually used in ceremonies, festivals and were laid in front of the guests at the lunch or dinner time when they were welcomed with kinds of local dishes. The weavers also tell that these weaves were laid on the ground before the bride when she

was entering her tent as a symbol of union and blessing. The motifs that are used in these Kilims represent the traditions and respect that Iranians showed to the divine blessings such as bread, and caused these products to be regarded as holy objects.

The sofreh was also used as a cover for the time of baking and making the paste. A nomadic family should have had three pieces of sofreh, one for making and kneading of the paste, one for baked breads, and one for serving the meals. Today due to dramatic changes of their lifestyle, the nomads use them only as floor coverings.

The villagers and Kurd nomads of North Khorasan, weaved these products in fifteen days. The patterns and designs of this Kilim are inspired by their surroundings and natural habitat. The motif of peacock next to the tree of life is the most notable one. Tree of life is one of the oldest motifs of decorative arts of Iran and Mesopotamia. Most of the sofrehes are rectangular and have the width of ninety centimeters and the height of one hundred and eighty to three hundred and sixty-five centimeters. The background is mostly brown. There are motifs and paisleys in the center of the blankets that indicate where the dishes should be.



# Majlis draws up plan to encourage childbearing

**1 →** Childbearing, which should be a public issue, became an inefficient policy due to lack of follow-up, she said.

**■ Zero population growth within next century**

Nicholas Eberstadt, the Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) wrote in an article earlier in July that the fertility rate in Iran has dropped by 70 percent over the past 30 years, which has been the highest decline in human history.

Melinda Gates, an American philanthropist and co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, also wrote on her Twitter account that "The fastest decrease in the rate of childbearing per woman in the history of the world has happened in Iran!"

Seyed Hamed Barakati, deputy health minister for family and school population, said in May that Iran's population growth rate has decreased to less than one percent for the first time over the past four decades.

At the beginning of the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), the country's population grew by 2.5 percent annually, however, suddenly, population growth reached about 1.5 percent



in the 1980s, he highlighted.

According to the data released by the National Organization for Civil Registration, comparing past three years shows some

1,196,134 infants were born in the country whose births were registered last year, while 1,366,509 births occurred a year before it, and 1,487,913 births have been recorded

in the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), a difference of roughly over 120,000 per year.

**■ Iran: the world's oldest**

Mohammad Esmaeil Akbari, a senior advisor to the minister of health, has said that the world has grown about 5 years older over the past 70 years, but the population of Iran has unfortunately grown 10 years older in the past 60 years.

"Currently, the elderly constitute less than 10 percent of the population and we are considered a young country, but we are getting older every year so that in the next 20 years, we will be one of the oldest countries in the world and the oldest by the next 30 years," he explained.

Statistics show that during the past 20 years, the population ratio of children and adolescents has decreased, and, in contrast, the share of the elderly has increased.

In addition, the average age of the Iranian population has been increasing over the past 40 years, and the population on average is 8.7 years older. Statistics show that this upward trend has had a similar growth rate for men and women.

## Golestan wetlands hosting first flocks of migratory birds

**ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN** — The **d e s k** international wetlands in northern Golestan province are playing host to the first batch of migratory birds which traveled thousands of kilometers through the cold regions of Russian Siberia to winter in the country.

Migratory birds are now observed in groups of 10 and 20 by rangers and local people in the wetlands and ponds of Gonbad-e Kavous city; other flocks will also wing their way to the area during the next few days.

Various species of migratory birds, including different species of ducks, pelicans, swans, greylag goose, vultures, flamingos, coots, and cormorants, landed in the three international lagoons of Almagol, Alagol, and Ajigol every year from mid-autumn for wintering, IRNA quoted Mohammad Dardi, the head of the Gonbad-e Kavous department of environment, as saying on Wednesday.

On average, 30,000 to 40,000 migratory birds of different species come to these wetlands and reservoirs every year, and if the cold weather intensifies in Siberia, their population in the region will increase, he noted.

He went on to say that due to the amount of precipitation the city received over the last year and this year, the condition for the breeding of migra-



tory birds in the city's wetlands and reservoirs is suitable.

Alagol, Ulmagol, and Ajigol Lakes are located in northern Mazandaran province with an area of 1,400 hectares; added to the Montreux Record, in 1993. Ulmagol and Ajigol are seasonally-filled freshwater lakes, fed by autumn and winter rains, which become desiccated in drought periods. Alagol is slightly saline and fringed by extensive reed and grass marshes.

Ulmagol is sparsely vegetated. There are several human settlements. The site supports Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.), flamingos, and nesting White-tailed Plover. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 due to high levels of disturbance from wildfowl hunters and the extraction of water for irrigation purposes, which has lowered lake levels considerably, especially during summer.

## National congress on university, COVID-19 to be held

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — The first **d e s k** national congress with the theme of university and COVID-19 will be held on January 6-7, 2021.

The event will be held with the aim of discussing the psychological, social, and health effects of this disease on the health of individuals, especially the university community, IRNA reported.

Lifestyle, psychological, educational, social, family consequences, post-coronavirus university, prevention, and health behaviors, safe and healthy environment, and COVID-19 are major topics of this congress.

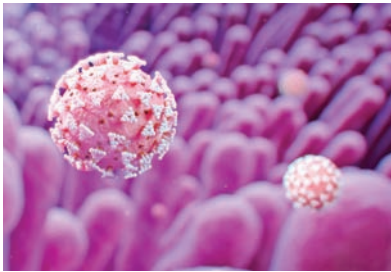
COVID-19 is surging globally with 47.9 million infections and over 1.2 million mortalities, haunting countries that had apparent success in suppressing initial outbreaks.

With over 238,000 fatalities, the U.S. has recorded the world's highest official death toll. It is also fast reaching ten million confirmed cases.

The second-highest official death toll in the world is related to India with over eight million confirmed cases and 123,000 deaths.

In Brazil, the cases have been rising steadily, with the country has recorded more than 5.5 million cases with 160,000 deaths.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 8,452 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total



number of infections to 646,164. She added that 500,400 patients have so far recovered, but 5,426 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, 419 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 36,579, she added.

Lari noted that so far 5,073,034 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

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

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

## Researchers pioneer more effective way to block malaria transmission in mosquitoes

Employing a strategy known as "population modification," which involves using a CRISPR-Cas9 gene drive system to introduce genes preventing parasite transmission into mosquito chromosomes, University of California researchers have made a major advance in the use of genetic technologies to control the transmission of malaria parasites.

University of California, Irvine postdoctoral researcher Adriana Adolfi, in collaboration with colleagues at UCI, UC Berkeley and UC San Diego, followed up on the group's pioneering effort to develop CRISPR-based gene drive systems for making mosquito vectors resistant to transmitting malaria parasites by increasing gene drive effectiveness in female mosquito progeny.

"This work mitigates a big issue with the first gene drive

systems, which is the accumulation of drive-resistant mosquitoes that could still transmit malaria parasites," said UCI vector biologist Anthony James, the Donald Bren Professor of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics and Molecular Biology & Biochemistry, who was a co-primary investigator on the study, according to Science Daily.

"The second-generation gene drive system described in this paper can be applied to any of the several thousand genes that are essential for insects to survive or reproduce," said UC San Diego Distinguished Professor Ethan Bier, a co-author of the study and science director at the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society. "While it was developed in fruit flies, this system is readily transportable to a broad selection of insect species that serve as vectors for devastating disorders such as Chagas disease, sleeping disease, leishmaniasis and

arboviral diseases."

They describe a highly efficient second-generation version of the team's original gene drive, developed for the Indo-Pakistani malaria vector mosquito *Anopheles stephensi*. The 2015 work, published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, was the first demonstration of a CRISPR-based gene drive in mosquitoes.

In that first study, the gene drive was transmitted to about 99 percent of progeny when the parent in which the gene drive was inserted was a male but only 60 to 70 percent of offspring when the parent in which the gene drive was inserted was a female. A significant number of drive-resistant chromosomes are generated in females; this, in principle, could allow those females to continue to transmit parasites.

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## 500,000 policemen ready to ensure road safety during Noruz

Traffic police teams comprising 500,000 policemen will stand guard to ensure safety by monitoring road regulations during the new year holidays (Noruz, starting March 21), road traffic police chief Mohammad Hossein Hamidi has announced.

In this regard, coordination has been made with the related bodies to fully control the country's roads and prevent the probable accidents, he added.

Given that this year's holiday is longer, trips certainly increases compared to past years, so we decided to constantly monitor the highways, he stated.

## ۵۰۰ هزار پلیس نوروز ۹۸ جاده های کشور را کنترل می کنند

محمد حسین حمیدی رئیس پلیس راه راهور نیروی انتظامی کشور گفت: با هدف ارتقا هرچه بیشتر امنیت مسافران، ۵۰۰ هزار نیروی پلیس در ایام نوروز ۱۳۹۸ جاده های سطح کشور را کنترل می کنند.

سردار محمد حسین حمیدی روز دوشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار انتظامی ایرنا افزود: در این ارتباط هماهنگی های لازم با دستگاههای مربوطه نیز به انجام رسیده است و آمادگی برای کنترل هر چه بیشتر سطح جاده های کشور برای جلوگیری از تصادفات وجود دارد.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: پیش بینی امسال ما با توجه به میزان تعطیلات نوروز افزایش سفرها در مقایسه با سال گذشته است که همین امر موجب شده از همه ظرفیت ها به صورت ۲۴ ساعته بهره مند شویم.

## Cities made of wood could store huge amounts of carbon and cut construction emissions, study suggests

The construction material of choice to build a cleaner, greener future may be nothing more technical than wood, scientists have said.

Shifting away from conventional construction materials and using more wood could be an effective means of making much more environmentally-friendly buildings and reducing the emissions associated with large-scale construction projects, new research suggests.



The combined impact of construction accounts for around one-third of global greenhouse emissions, according to researchers at Aalto University in Finland, and the Finnish Environment Institute, the Independent reported.

Their research reveals that in Europe, around 190 million square metres of housing space are constructed each year, mostly in cities, and the amount being built is also going up fast - at a rate of nearly one per cent a year.

But they show that if 80 per cent of new residential buildings were made from wood - with wood used for the structure, cladding, surfaces and furnishings - altogether the new homes could store up to 55 million tons of carbon a year.

They said this figure is equivalent to nearly half (47 per cent) of the annual emissions from Europe's cement industry.

"This is the first time that the carbon storage potential of wooden building construction has been evaluated on the European level, in different scenarios," said Ali Amiri, who is completing his PhD at Aalto University.

"We hope that our model could be used as a roadmap to increase wooden construction in Europe."

The research is based on 50 case studies, and the researchers divided buildings into three groups according to how much wood they use and, as a consequence, how much carbon dioxide they were capable of storing.

The group with the least amount of wood stored 100kg of carbon dioxide per square metre, the middle group stored 200kg, and the group with the greatest amount of wood stored 300kg per square metre (CO2 kg m2).

The potential carbon storage capacity was largely unrelated to the building or wood type, or even the size of the construction project. They found carbon capacity is based on the volume of wood used as building components, from beams and columns to walls and finishings.

The researchers also looked at how Europe could achieve the enormous savings in emissions by modelling a path for reaching the level of 55 million tons of carbon stored per year by 2040.

They said the scenario demands a shift to wooden buildings that store increasing amounts of carbon dioxide.

Energy efficiency is the most frequently used instrument for measuring the environmental impact of buildings. However, energy efficiency requires more insulation, efficient recovery of heat, and better windows.

The scientists said about half of the carbon footprint of zero-energy houses occurs before anyone has even lived in them.

When the energy used in housing comes increasingly from renewable sources, the significance of the construction phase of the building's total environmental impact grows even more.

"Certificates for green buildings used around the world ... could better take the climate benefits of wood construction into account. So far, they are strongly focused on how energy is consumed during use," Mr Amiri says.

In terms of wood products, a wooden building provides longer-term storage for carbon than pulp or paper. According to the study findings, a wooden building of 100 m2 has the potential to store 10 to 30 tons of carbon dioxide. The upper storage range corresponds to an average motorist's carbon dioxide emissions over ten years.

"Wood construction is sustainable only if the wood comes from forests that are grown in a sustainable manner," said postdoctoral researcher Juudit Ottelin.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 50)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

### ■ Crossword Puzzle

### ■ جَدْوَل

۷	۶	۵	۴	۳	۲	۱	افقی
							۱. پدر، مادر، خواهر و ... ۲. دو حرف اول 'ایشان' به آن نه، ... ۳. تکرار یک حرف به کیست = ... + است ۴. من خوردم ... او نخورد ۵. بعد از پانزده ۶. این دو حرف در 'داشتن، رفتن و نشستن' هست ۷. صبحها قهوه نمی‌خورم؛ ... می‌خورم
							عمودی
							۱. مصدر 'دارم' ۲. استاد کتابش ... بست به کتاب... کتابتان، کتابشان ۳. او کیست؟ ... استاد هستند ۵. ما شما ... دوست داریم به بچه‌ی او هستم اما او مادرم نیست (+ی) ۶. ... دو، سه ۷. اینها کوچکند اما ... بزرگند به من و تو

### ● تمرین ۳. قیَم اسم‌ها را بنویسید:

ان	ها	ان	ها
۱. ایرانی	برادر	۲. بچه	تکلیف
۳. اسم	خانم	۴. خواهر	سؤال
۵. پسر	دکتر		



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There are five activities that I won't leave off till I'm alive so that they would become part of my tradition. [One of them] is greeting children.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

## Protest movie “Exodus” enters competition at Resistance film festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — “Exodus”, a protest film by the icon of Iranian war and resistance cinema – Ebrahim Hatamikia, will be screened during the 16th Resistance International Film Festival.



Faramarz Gharibian acts in a scene from director Ebrahim Hatamikia's “Exodus”.

The film had its Iranian premiere during the 38th edition of the Fajr Film Festival in February in Tehran.

The story of “Exodus” is set in a nowhere-land where peasants lodge a protest against the local authority that symbolically resembles President Hassan Rouhani's government. Critics and journalists judged the film as falling below expectations.

The critical comments made during a press conference at the festival provoked the anger of Hatamikia, whose film failed to garner any prize at Fajr, which is Iran's most significant film event.

“Exodus” tells the story of a group of cotton farmers who leave their farms to protest the local official's unfulfilled promises at the president's office in the capital.

Due to the shutdown of the movie theaters during the COVID-19 pandemic in April, the Owj Arts and Media Organization was the first Iranian company that agreed to screen its production “Exodus” online.

However, it was soon illegally uploaded on some websites and Telegram channels just hours after its first streaming.

In addition, Iran tried its first drive-in movie theater after the victory of the Islamic revolution by “Exodus” in the parking lot of Milad Tower in Tehran during April.

The Resistance festival is organized every year to observe the anniversary of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is called the Sacred Defense in Iran.

This year, the festival has been organized in two stages, the first of which took place during the Sacred Defense Week from September 21 to 28, and the second part will be held from November 21 to 27 to celebrate the anniversary of Basij Day, which falls on November 25.

## Japan decorates Iranian translator Shohreh Golparian with Order of the Rising Sun

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The Japanese government has decorated Iranian translator and film producer Shohreh Golparian with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Ray.

Over ten figures from West Asia were also honored with imperial orders, decorations and medals of various degrees for their contributions to strengthening relations between their countries and Japan in various fields.

Golparian is the president of Small Talk Inc., a cultural company in Yokohama, a city and port on Tokyo Bay, Japan.

Golparian worked as an interpreter in “Like Someone in Love” that was directed by the world-renowned Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami in Tokyo in 2012 about a young sex worker who develops an unexpected connection with a widower over a period of two days.

Earlier in 2018, she received the Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY from the Japanese government.

Golparian has also worked at the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting and the NHK – Japan Broadcasting Corporation as an interpreter.

He has held various positions such as the project assistant professor at the Global Support Center of the Tokyo University of the Arts.

“The Wind Carpet”, a co-production between Iran and Japan, was made by Iranian director Kamal Tabrizi in 2003 with contributions from Golparian at Small Talk Inc., which she founded in 1999.

# Tehran hosts National Biennial of Contemporary Iranian Ceramic Art

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The 11th d e s k National Biennial of Contemporary Iranian Ceramic Art was inaugurated at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on Saturday after a nine-year hiatus.

The exhibition opened online for the viewers, however, the Visual Arts Office director, Hadi Mozaffari, the Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs, Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini, and the director of the event, Hirbod Hemmat-Azad, made the official opening statements and visited the exhibit on the opening day.

Hosseini said that poetry and ceramics with their long background in Iranian culture and history show that they have kept people and the artisans busy in the past.

“The varied works made in the past and the colorful ceramics including those used in the houses for both everyday use and for decorations indicate the usage of this art in the lives of Iranians,” he noted.

This biennial, which has resumed after 9 years, also indicated that Iran is a great



A ceramic installation is on view in the courtyard of Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center during the 11th National Biennial of Contemporary Iranian Ceramic Art on October 31, 2020. (Honaronline)

and rich country, especially in the field of art with young artists.

“If we put the old heritage beside the ability of today we would see how useful this art of ceramics could be. Therefore valuable works will also be produced,” he remarked.

For his part, Mozaffari also noted that he is happy to see the biennial resumed after many years. He also hoped that they can provide more facilities for the artists and people to be able to visit the works while still observing health protocols.

“We all try to form more art and visual biennials in the country and help revive old ones,” he added.

Hemmat-Azad also said that the organizers believed the event would inject hope and happiness among the artists and the people despite the hard days, and hoped that the biennial would be held under better conditions next year and would have better achievements.

The exhibit will be running for one month.

## Iranian artists organize events celebrating birthday of Prophet Muhammad (S)

**→1** Mosteza Afshar, Kazem Chalipa, Nasser Seifi and Morteza Asadi are among the artists whose paintings are on view.

Among the illustrators are Hoda Haddai, Sahar Khorasani, Pejman Rahimizadeh and Hamidreza Rashidian.

Photos by Rasul Oliazadeh, Saeid Janbozorgi, Ahmad Jalilian, Jasem Ghazbanpur and several other photographers have been selected for the showcase.

Artworks by masters of miniature and calligraphic paintings including Mohammad-Baqer Aqamiri, Ziaeddin Emami, Nasrollah Afjei, Rafat Negarandeh and Mohammad Ehsai are also included.

In addition, the Art Bureau is displaying a collection of

miniature and calligraphy works on the theme of the Prophet of Islam (S) in different galleries of the forum.

Works by Masud Salehi, Hamid Ajami, Saedi Naqqashian, Hossein Emsati and Jamshid Sarhaddi are on view at the exhibit named “Image of the Sun”.

Also in honor of the Prophet Muhammad (S), the Music Center of the Art Bureau has organized a national music festival under the title “Melodies on Muhammad (S)”.

The festival has been organized to honor the musicians and producers of valuable works on Prophet Muhammad (S).

Interested applicants are asked to submit their works to the organizers of the festival before January 4.

## Book City to review Hannah Arendt’s “Eichmann in Jerusalem”

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — d e s k “Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil”, a 1963 book by German political theorist Hannah Arendt, will be reviewed during an online session at the Book City Institute in Tehran next week.

A Persian translation of the book by Zahra Shams has recently been published by the Borj Publishing House in Tehran.

Critics Naeimeh Purmohammadi and Mahmud Moqaddasi and translator Shams will attend the session, which is scheduled to start at 11 pm on November 10 on Instagram/bookcitycc.

Originally appearing as a series of articles in The New Yorker, Arendt's authoritative and stunning report on the trial of Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann sparked a flurry of debate upon its publication.

This book includes material that came to light after the trial, as well as



A poster for the Persian translation of German political theorist Hannah Arendt's book “Eichmann in Jerusalem”.

Arendt's postscript directly addressing the controversy that arose over her account.

A major journalistic triumph by an intellectual of singular influence, “Eichmann in Jerusalem” is as shocking as it is informative — an unflinching

look at one of the most unsettling and unsettled issues of the twentieth century that remains hotly debated to this day.

Another Persian translation of “Eichmann in Jerusalem” by Aziz Hakimi has been published earlier by Nebesht Press in Tehran.

Arendt was one of the most influential political philosophers of the twentieth century. Born into a German-Jewish family, she was forced to leave Germany in 1933 and lived in Paris for the next eight years, working for a number of Jewish refugee organizations.

In 1941, she immigrated to the United States and soon became part of a lively intellectual circle in New York. She held a number of academic positions at various American universities until her death in 1975.

She is best known for two works that had a major impact both within and outside the

academic community. The first, “The Origins of Totalitarianism”, published in 1951, was a study of the Nazi and Stalinist regimes that generated a wide-ranging debate on the nature and historical antecedents of the totalitarian phenomenon.

The second, “The Human Condition”, published in 1958, was an original philosophical study that investigated the fundamental categories of the vita activa (labor, work, action).

In addition to these two important works, Arendt published a number of influential essays on topics such as the nature of revolution, freedom, authority, tradition and the modern age.

At the time of her death in 1975, she had completed the first two volumes of her last major philosophical work, “The Life of the Mind”, which examined the three fundamental faculties of the vita contemplativa (thinking, willing, judging).

## Official asks Culture Minister, IRIB CEO to halt film projects as coronavirus outbreak grows

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The head of the Coronavirus d e s k Control Operations HQ in Tehran has asked Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi and IRIB Managing Director Ali Aliasgari to stop film projects due to a significant increase in the number of people infected with COVID-19.

Addressing the two officials in a letter published on Wednesday, Alireza Zali asked the organizations to halt the projects for two weeks after a number of actors tested positive for COVID-19.

Zali noted that since the actors cannot wear masks while at work, putting them at higher risk, the projects must be stopped.

He also asked for more serious observance of health protocols and proper supervision at such time when the projects resume.

Actress Fatemeh Motamed-Arya as the director of the Iranian Screen Actors Guild earlier had written a letter to Zali expressing her worries over the increasing number of actors who have tested positive with COVID-19.

“Over the past few days, several actors have tested positive



Tehran Coronavirus Control Operations HQ director Alireza Zali in an undated photo.

because of their presence on film projects, and have been under treatment either at home or at the hospitals,” wrote Motamed-Arya.

## “Everyone’s a Aliebn When Ur a Aliebn Too” comes to Iranian bookstores

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — A Persian d e s k translation of Canadian author Jonmy Sun's book “Everyone's a Aliebn When Ur a Aliebn Too” has recently been published by Afarinegan Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Nushin Soleimani.

“Everyone's a Aliebn When Ur a Aliebn Too” is the illustrated story of a lonely alien sent to observe the Earth, only to meet all sorts of creatures with all sorts of perspectives on life, love and happiness, all while learning to feel a little better about being an alien.

Here is the unforgettable story of Jonmy, a lonely alien who, for the first time ever, finds a home on the planet after learning that earthlings can feel lonely too. Jonmy finds friendship in a bear tired of other creatures

running away in fear, an egg struggling to decide what to hatch into, an owl working its way to being wise, a tree feeling stuck in one place, a tadpole coming to terms with turning into a frog, a dying ghost, a puppy unable to express itself and many more.

Through this story of a lost, lonely and confused alien finding friendship, acceptance and love among the creatures of Earth, the readers will all learn how to be a little more human.

“And for all of us earth-bound creatures here on this planet, we can all be reminded that sometimes, it takes an outsider to help us see ourselves for who we truly are,” the book adds.

Jonathan Sun is the author behind @jonmysun. When he isn't tweeting, he is an architect, designer, engineer, artist, playwright



Front cover of the Persian translation of Jonmy Sun's book “Everyone's a Aliebn When Ur a Aliebn Too”.

and comedy writer.

His work across multiple disciplines is concerned with narratives of human experience. As a playwright, Jonathan's work has been performed at the Yale School of Drama, Factory Theater in Toronto, Hart House Theater, Theater Lab in Toronto and the University of Toronto Drama Festival (where he received the President's Award for Best Production).

As an artist and illustrator, his work has been commissioned by the New Haven ArtSpace, and exhibited at MIT, the Yale School of Architecture and the University of Toronto. His comedic work has appeared in NPR, BuzzFeed, Playboy, GQ and McSweeney's. He is currently a doctoral student at MIT and a Berkman Klein Fellow at Harvard.