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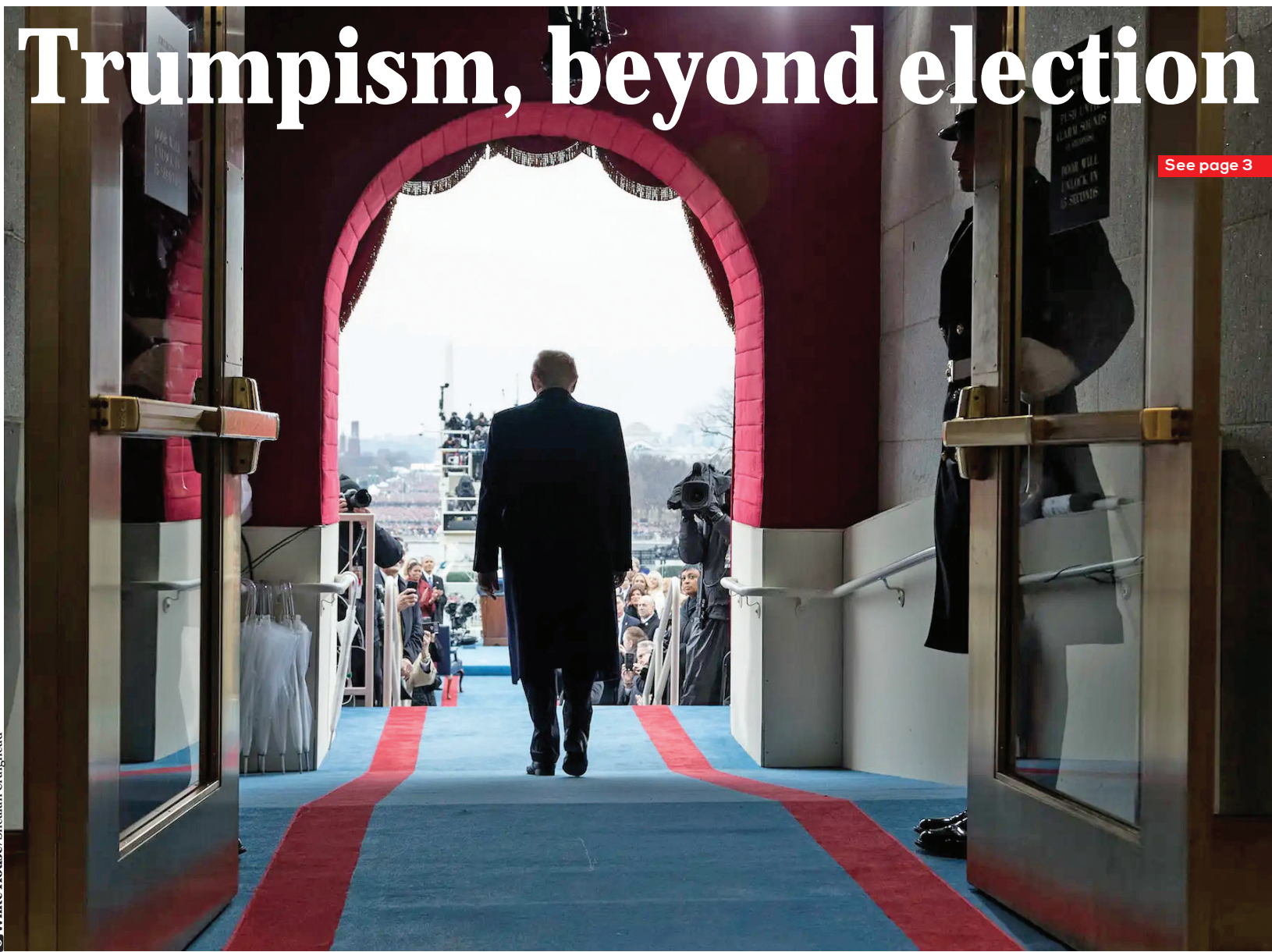
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Major water desalination, transfer project inaugurated in Iran

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday inaugurated the first phase of a major water desalination and transfer project which is aimed at supplying Persian Gulf waters to central Iran through a pipeline, IRNA reported.

The project was inaugurated through video conference as part of a government program based on which, every week a major project will be inaugurated

across the country.

Some 163 trillion rials (about \$3.88 billion) has been invested in the mentioned project which is being implemented by the Energy Ministry in collaboration with the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry.

This project is aimed at transmitting Persian Gulf water to Hormozgan and Kerman provinces after being desalinated in a modern desalination plant. **→4**

Rouhani: Next U.S. admin to succumb to Iranian nation

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani says the next U.S. administration will succumb in the face of the Iranian nation's resilience.

"Undoubtedly, the next U.S. administration will succumb in the face of the Iranian nation," Rouhani said on Thursday, adding that the U.S. has no option but to submit to the rule of law and the Iranian nation's patience and resistance.

He made the remarks while addressing an inauguration ceremony on major

water supply project.

He shrugged off the outcome of the November 3 presidential elections in the United States, saying Iran moves forward irrespective of who runs the White House.

"I'm sure that the Iranian nation will emerge victorious in the end," he added.

Tensions soared between Tehran and Washington since U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal on May 8, 2018. **→2**

Doc chronicles fuel shipments by Iranian tankers to Venezuela

TEHRAN — The Owj Arts and Media Organization has produced a documentary recounting the story of fuel shipments by Iranian tankers to Venezuela.

"Blood and Petroleum" directed by Mostafa Shoghi was reviewed during a meeting at the organization on Wednesday evening.

The documentary depicts how Iranian fuel tankers entered Venezuela's waters,

as a sign of defiance by Iran and Venezuela against the United States' sanctions on both countries.

Former Iranian oil minister Rostam Qasemi and Iran's former ambassador to Venezuela Ahmad Sobhani attended the meeting.

Iran sent oil tankers to Venezuela amid the United States sanctions against both countries. **→8**

By Mahnaz Abdi
Head of Economy Desk

Rural development, a major priority of government

Villages are often mentioned as some keys to the development of countries, and the allocation of a proper amount of budget to rural development always brings fruitful economic results.

In Iran, where villages account for generating 20-23 percent of the value added in the country, development of rural areas has been always a top agenda of the governments' activities.

Sustainable economic, social, and cultural development of the villages is one of the major priorities of the current government, and many projects implemented and underway in this regard have led to outstanding development in the rural regions.

It is while the sanctions have created many limitations and difficulties for the Iranian economy in the recent years.

One of the sectors with noticeable achievements in this field is gas supplying, while the number of villages supplied with natural gas has doubled during the past seven years, since the current government started its activity.

Based on the statistics, 18,000 villages (each week 50 villages on average) have been connected to the national gas network over the past seven years, and now about 4.8 million families in 32,000 villages enjoy natural gas in the country. It means that 82 percent of the villages are connected to the gas network.

The current government has paid 290 trillion rials (about \$6.904 billion) for supplying gas to the rural areas.

It should be noted that supplying gas to the villages has been a big help for development of infrastructures, establishment of complementary industries, and job creation in these areas.

While the rural development has been always attached priority among the government's projects, launching and inaugurating gas-supply projects in the rural areas has been expedited since the beginning of the sixth month of the current Iranian calendar year (August 22).

Of course, development of South Pars giant gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, has played a significant role in supplying gas to the villages. **→4**

Upending Trump's tumultuous legacy

By Mahmood Monshipouri

Trump's legacy and his failed policies, including failure to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, were on ballot in the recent U.S. presidential election.

The significance of Biden's victory cannot be emphasized enough both in terms of its domestic and global implications. That said, let us be clear about one larger point: the undoing of the damage done by Trump is no mean feat by any metrics and may take much longer than expected. The irreversible damage to the U.S. standing in the world cannot be undone by Biden's presidency any time soon, in large part due to the lost trust resulting from the confusion and disorderliness of the Trump administration.

Experts remind us that "It will take decades if not generations to regain the lost trust" (Paul Krugman, The New York Times, November 1,

2020) and that "America under Trump has lost the credibility and legitimacy that were cornerstones of its influence" (Roger Cohen, The New York Times, November 1, 2020).

Lifting the ban on Muslims' entry into the United States, revising immigration policies, and ending the dehumanizing policies of separating children from their parents at the border appear to be a manageable task in the short term, just as forgoing the obsession with building walls around the country's southern borders. There are, however, limits to what Biden can do to unravel Trump's destructive policies that have debilitated U.S. global standing. The populist and protectionist policies advocated by the Trump administration may not be easily reversed to resume the kind of trust and commitment that for seven decades had characterized U.S. foreign policy as the leader of the free world. **→5**

Protests over ballot tallies sweep through U.S. cities

Calling on election officials to "count every vote," protesters marched through the streets of several American cities on Wednesday in response to President Trump's aggressive effort to challenge the vote count in Tuesday's presidential election.

In Minneapolis, protesters blocked a freeway, prompting arrests. In Portland, hundreds gathered on the waterfront to protest the president's attempted interventions in the vote count as a separate group protesting the police and urging racial justice surged through downtown, smashing shop windows and confronting police officers and National Guard troops, NY Times reported.

In Phoenix, about 150 pro-Trump protesters, some of them armed, gathered outside the county recorder's office where a closely watched count of votes that could help determine the outcome of the election was being conducted.

At several points, protesters contended that Adrian Fontes, the county official who oversees elections in Maricopa County, was improperly failing to count some ballots and costing Trump votes in Arizona's most populous county — although there was no evidence that any ballots had been improperly tossed.

Keely Varvel, Fontes's chief deputy, said there were no plans to halt counting of the ballots because of the protest in front of the building. "We are still planning to finish up our scheduled ballot processing work and report out more results tonight," Ms. Varvel said.

In Detroit, another group of pro-Trump poll watchers gathered earlier in the day outside a ballot-counting center, demanding that officials "stop the count" of ballots after the Trump campaign filed suit to halt the count in Michigan.

War footprint never fades away from nature

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN — When a war occurs, casualties and destruction come to mind first, while one of the main victims of this human phenomenon is the environment because the effects of war on nature never fade away and can be seen in the food cycle and nature for a long time.

War always brings to mind the destruction of houses, deserted villages, smoky cities, and streets littered with war weapons and barricades, massive explosions, and, ultimately, misery,

homelessness, and death.

These are the obvious signs of war, but in the meantime, the part that has been out of sight and mind for years is the extent of the damage it does to nature, the environment and everything in it, from animals to plants, perhaps the catastrophe of human-caused war is so great that is no longer possible to address, while the long-term effects of environmental degradation on the quality of human life are determined and manifested over time.

Water wells have been polluted, crops torched,

forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage.

Statistics show that in the late twentieth century alone, there were 118 armed conflicts around the world that displaced 6 million people and imposed devastating consequences on people and the environment.

According to Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 1992, articles 24 and 25, warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. **→7**



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Sympathy with victims of the terrorist incident at Kabul University

The Municipality of Tehran, in order to express the sympathy of the Iranian people with the people of Afghanistan and the families of the victims of the terrorist incident at Kabul University, installed lighting on the Azadi Tower.

The lighting (video mapping) was performed on the Azadi Tower in Tehran in the presence of Abdol Ghafoor Liwal, Afghanistan's ambassador to Iran.

Trump's 'maximum pressure' campaign against Iran absolutely failed: Harvard researcher

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — Stephen Herzog, a research fellow at the Project on Managing the Atom at Harvard University, says Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" strategy to strangle Iran economically has failed as the Islamic Republic has "improved economic ties with China, Venezuela, and other states."

The research fellow at the Project on Managing the Atom at Harvard University also says, "Iran has significantly more enriched uranium than it did prior to the JCPOA."

Herzog made the remarks in an interview with the Tehran Times just as it has become clear that Joe Biden had secured enough electoral votes to win the U.S. presidential elections.

The research fellow also predicts Iran would not go to "accept Biden's word if it is possible for future U.S. presidents to exit the deal again with the stroke of a pen."

"The United States must consider how to reassure Iran, whether legally or otherwise, that the JCPOA will remain in force in the future," Herzog notes.

The following is the text of the interview:

■ In 2019, the United States withdrew from a landmark arms control treaty with Russia, claiming it undermines its national security interests. Do you think the move implies a shift in U.S. strategy or just can be considered an impulsive decision by President Trump? **→5**

Russia, Iran, Turkey working on next Astana meeting: Moscow

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has said that Russia, Iran and Turkey are working on the agenda for the next international high-level meeting on Syria in the Astana format, that was postponed amid the coronavirus pandemic.

During a briefing on Thursday, Zakharova said Russia comes out in favor of saving the Astana format to facilitate the crisis settlement in Syria that has proven its effectiveness, and gives high marks to the level of cooperation achieved by the three countries considered as guarantors of the process.



“Due to a new wave of the pandemic, the dates for the 15th international meeting on Syria on that platform have to be pushed back,” she said, according to TASS.

“We are trying to take advantage of this forced pause to think together with the partners about how to fill the Astana meetings with new concrete themes along with concrete discussion regarding the possibility of surmounting the existing problems, in order to make the subject matter of this meeting not only eventful, but also effective and constructive,” the spokeswoman said.

The guarantors will also think about giving these meetings “a new impetus, including through higher activity within the framework of the working group for the release of detainees/abductees, handover of bodies and search for the missing,” Zakharova added.

Iran, Russia, and Turkey have been leading a peace initiative to bring the Syrian crisis to an end. The initiative is known as the Astana process, because Kazakhstan’s capital, Nur-Sultan, formerly called Astana, originally hosted the meetings.

The Astana process has so far resulted in two agreements. The first deal was signed in Nur-Sultan, arranging for the creation of de-escalation zones across Syria, including in parts of Idlib.

The second deal was signed in the Russian resort city of Sochi, allowing Ankara to bring in a small number of forces to man the observation posts to reinforce de-escalation.

Under the Astana initiative, a meeting was planned for March 2020, but was postponed amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. However, the conflict has been winding down as the Syrian government reasserts control over parts formerly held by terrorist groups.

No danger threatens Iran’s northwestern borders: general

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Iranian armed forces will do their best to maintain the security and peace of border areas and no danger threatens Iran’s northwestern borders, the chief of the Army Ground Forces said on Friday.



Speaking with Mehr on Friday, Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari said Iran urges both sides of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to resolve their disputes politically.

“Preserving the geopolitics of the region is our red line, and no power is allowed to change the geography of the region, and we will not tolerate this,” the commander asserted.

He also said that Iran will not tolerate any violation of international law.

Under international law, Nagorno-Karabakh is recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

But ethnic Armenians, who make up the vast majority of the population, reject the Azerbaijani rule and have been running their own affairs with Armenia’s support since a devastating war in the 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

At least 30,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands were forced from their homes before an internationally-brokered ceasefire was agreed in 1994.

Iranian Army deploys units on border with Armenia, Azerbaijan

TEHRAN (MNA) — The commander of the Army’s headquarter in the northwestern region said that armored units have been deployed on the border area with Azerbaijan and Armenia.



Second Brigadier General Ali Hajiloo made the remarks on Friday, noting that the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran has the responsibility to defend the borders areas of the country against any aggression of the enemies.

Referring to the recent conflicts between Armenian and Azerbaijan, he maintained that Army Ground Forces in northwestern Iran has the mission to ensure the security and peace of the region.

He went on to say that Army’s headquarter in the northwestern region has already dispatched a number of forces to monitor the area and currently, armored forces in the region have also participated in this mission.

West Azerbaijan province shares borders with the three countries of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Iraq, and the regional headquarters of the Army is located in the city of Urmia.

Iran will react decisively to any border threats, IRGC chief warns

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami said on Thursday that Iran will react decisively to any threat in its border areas.

“Our red line is sustainable security and any insecurity and threat in borders that harms our dear people’s security and peace of mind is not acceptable,” Salami said as he visited border areas of Iran’s northeastern region.

He said Iran is determined to strengthen its defense and security measures to preserve security at the border areas which are close to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone.

Since late September, heavy clashes have been underway between Azerbaijani and Armenian military forces over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Both sides blame each other for initiating the fighting in the Caucasus Mountains.

It has been the worst spate of fighting between the two former Soviet republics since the 1990s.

Salami’s comments came after the Iranian Armed Forces warned the warring sides of a tough response if its border security is threatened.

Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi,



the spokesman of the Iranian Armed Forces, said in late October that “while strengthening defensive [measures] in Iran’s borderlines, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic announce that security in the border areas and of the Iranian people is their red line.”

Elsewhere in his Thursday remarks, the

IRGC’s chief commander said, “Sustainable security is our red line and any form of insecurity and threat along borders, which would harm security and peace of mind of our dear people, would be unacceptable.”

Meanwhile, Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has voiced regret over the “bitter incident” between the two

sides, suggesting that the main solution to the problem is a return of all occupied lands of Azerbaijan by Armenia and “this must be done and international borders must be respected.”

However, the security of ethnic Armenians in the occupied region of Nagorno-Karabakh must be protected, Ayatollah Khamenei said in remarks on Tuesday.

The ayatollah also warned, “Terrorists who, based on reliable reports, have entered the region should avoid approaching the Iranian border, and if they do approach the border, they will definitely be dealt with decisively.”

In response, Azerbaijan’s Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov thanked Ayatollah Khamenei for supporting Baku’s standing on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In a phone conversation with Iran’s ambassador to Baku on Tuesday, Khalaf Khalafov expressed his country’s appreciation for Ayatollah Khamenei’s “important and fair” remarks which were based on “friendship and brotherhood” between the two neighboring countries.

He also described as important the Iranian special envoy’s trip and Iran’s regional initiative to resolve the crisis.

Zarif elaborates on replacing new Iranian ambassador to Yemen

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has elaborated on replacing the Iranian ambassador to Sana’a, saying the previous envoy had become sick.

“Relations between Iran and Yemen are good and strategic. The Iranian embassy was located in Sana’a, although it was not possible to travel for a while, but we had an ambassador in Sana’a,” Zarif said on Tuesday, according to IRNA.

He said that nothing concerning has happened. Zarif made the remarks after the former ambassador returned home due to illness and Hassan Irlou went to Sana’a as Iran’s new ambassador.

Irlou held a meeting with President of Yemen’s Supreme Political Council Mahdi al-Mashat on Wednesday morning, when he submitted his credentials to the top Yemeni official.

Irlou stressed his preparedness to cooperate with the Yemeni government to establish peace and uproot terrorism last week.

“We will cooperate with the Yemeni government to establish security and peace and uproot terrorism,” Irlou wrote on his Twitter page on Sunday.

The Iranian envoy in a meeting with Foreign Minister of the Yemeni National Salvation Government Hisham

Sharaf in Sanaa last week had submitted a copy of his credentials.

Iran has said the appointment of Irlou will open a new chapter in Iran-Yemen relations.

“Yemen is not a playground for aggressors. We consider the future of Yemen to all Yemenis. The beginning of the mission of Mr. Hassan Irlou, a diplomat of good manners, expert and professional, as our country’s new ambassador in Sanaa, will be a new chapter in the constructive relations between Iran and Yemen,” Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament on international affairs, said in a tweet, shortly after the appointment of Irlou.

Irlou has said Iran will work with the Yemeni government to achieve peace in Yemen.

“We will cooperate with the Yemeni government to establish security and peace and uproot terrorism,” tweeted the new ambassador while strongly condemning the assassination of Hassan Zaid, Yemen’s minister of sports and the youth.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has outlined the main contours of Irlou’s mission in Yemen.

According to the Foreign Ministry, Irlou’s agenda in



Yemen includes strengthening national reconciliation, ending the war in Yemen through cooperation among Yemeni and international players, lifting the blockade on Yemen, and encouraging Yemeni tribes and political groups to resolve their internal problems through Yemeni-Yemeni talks.

Rouhani: Next U.S. admin to succumb to Iranian nation

1 → 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.

Rouhani described as “unprecedented in Iran’s history,” the hardship that came to face Iran during Trump’s tenure in terms of the American economic war and the outbreak of the new coronavirus.

The country has always been struggling with economic hardship but never an economic war of such scale, he added.

The Trump administration brutally escalated the economic war against Iran even as the Islamic Republic was battling an uphill struggle against the novel coronavirus, Rouhani said.

“Our nation both withstood the coronavirus and confronted sanctions and



adversities,” he added.

The president also pointed out that the Iranian people managed to stand tall notwithstanding the hard times, saying, “I’m under no illusion about the government and people’s success.”

President Rouhani had made similar

remarks a day earlier.

“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.

On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif 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 an interview with CBS News.

He made the remarks when pushed to pick one of the two U.S. presidential candidates. Zarif initially insisted that Tehran has no preference between Trump or Biden.

He emphasized that it’s not what the new administration says during the campaign that counts, but what it does in office.

“What is important for us is how the White House behaves after the election, not what promises are there, what slogans are made. The behavior of the U.S. is important. If the U.S. decides to stop its malign behavior against Iran, then it will be a different story no matter who sits in the White House,” the chief Iranian diplomat said.

Hate speech by Western politicians threatens ‘human rights’, says Iranian envoy

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A recent increase in hate speech by certain Western politicians pose a serious threat to human rights, Tehran’s representative at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly warned on Thursday.

Mohammad Zare’ian said Iran fully believes in freedom of speech but not the sort that incites hatred against others.

“Muslims, migrant communities and Africans have been the target of dangerous rhetoric, which is a flagrant abuse of freedom of expression,” the diplomat said while addressing a virtual meeting of the committee, which was held on the subject of a report by the UN Human Rights Council.

“We also express our serious concern about the increase in insults to Muslim sanctities in Western countries,” Zare’ian told the committee through video conference, according to Press TV.

In September, Macron defended the “right to blasphemy” in France after French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo republished sacrilegious cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). On October 2, he claimed in a speech that Islam was “in crisis globally” and announced his plan “to reform Islam” to bring the faith more in line with French values.

Later, Macron supported a French teacher’s displaying of cartoons insulting the Prophet in his class. “France will never renounce caricatures,” Macron declared, defending the teacher for “promoting freedom.”

Muslim states and leaders have issued condemnatory statements against Macron, and thousands-strong protests have been held worldwide to protest his remarks.

In remarks on October 28, Leader of the Islamic Rev-



olution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei issued a short message intended to the French youth in which he wanted them to ask their president that why he insults the God’s messenger and calls it “freedom of expression”.

“Does insult and sacrilege to shinning and sacred figures mean freedom of expression?” the Leader asked. Ayatollah Khamenei said the next question is: “Why doubt about the Holocaust is a crime, and if anybody writes anything about it will be jailed but blasphemy against the Prophet is permissible?”

Rodney Shakespeare, a British professor and co-founder of the Global Justice Movement, tells the Tehran Times that Macron is just like “a pimply, juvenile boy” who has heard of the phrase “free expression” and is trying to hide French involvement in “precipitating terrorist attacks”.

Shakespeare also says, “The West is completely con-

temptuous of Islam and willing to demonize Islam because the West is arrogant, short-sighted, and determined to further Zionism.”

■ ‘Unilateral sanctions inhumane’

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zare’ian censured as “illegal and inhumane” the imposition of unilateral sanctions against countries, and said the restrictive measures “openly target the daily lives of ordinary citizens without discrimination and are designed to undermine any achievement of social development.”

The Iranian diplomat said the implementation of unilateral and coercive measures continues to fundamentally violate the human rights of all countries, and that “such sanctions, due to their extraterritorial nature and their illegal application outside national borders, also undermine human rights across the world.”

U.S. President Donald Trump, a stern critic of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, unilaterally pulled Washington out of the historic pact in May 2018 and unleashed the “toughest ever” sanctions against the Islamic Republic in defiance of global criticism in an attempt to strangle the Iranian economy

The U.S. government claims humanitarian goods are exempt from sanction. But a web of sanctions tied around Iran over years has made foreign banks and companies extremely wary of engaging in any trade with the country.

Iran has also said that the unilateral U.S. sanctions imposed on the country have seriously hampered its fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic has so far killed over 37,400 people in Iran.

SPORTS

Holders Persepolis held by Saipa in IPL opener

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran Professional League (IPL) titleholders Persepolis were held to a goalless draw by Saipa in the opening match of the 2020/21 season.

Persepolis went down to 10 men in the 79th minute after Kamal Kamyabinia received his second yellow card.

The Reds dominated the match but somehow failed to score despite having several shots on goal.

In Isfahan, Foolad earned a late 2-2 draw against Zob Ahan and Nassaji beat newly-promoted Aluminum 3-0 in Arak. Tractor were also held to a 0-0 draw by Naft Masjed Soleyman in Tabriz.

On Saturday, Esteghlal will host newly-promoted Mes Rafsanjan, Gol Gohar face Sepahan and Shahr Khodro meet Machine Sazi.

AFC rejects Persepolis' appeal on Alekasir's ban

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Appeal Committee dismissed the appeal lodged by Persepolis FC against the decision against Issa Alekasir.

The AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee banned the Persepolis forward from taking part in any kind of football-related activity for six months on Oct. 3.

The 30-year-old forward received the ban after making a slant-eyed gesture to television cameras after scoring against Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor in the quarter-finals of the 2020 AFC Champions League (West).

Alekasir was found to have violated Article 58.1 of the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code (2019 Edition).

The Appeal Committee upheld the sanction imposed in the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee decision in full.

Alekasir is banned from taking part in any kind of football-related activity (which includes, inter alia, all domestic, international, friendly and official fixtures) for six months. He is also ordered to pay a fine of USD10,000.

Alekasir cannot play in the 2020 ACL Final, where Persepolis as West champions will lock horns with the East champions on Dec. 19.

Ansarifard to represent Iran against Bosnia

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Greek media reports suggest that Karim Ansarifard will be invited to Iran national football team for the friendly match against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The 30-year-old forward, who plays for AEK Athens, will be absent in the match against Uzbekistan on Oct. 8 in Tashkent.

Now, he will reportedly play against Bosnia on Nov. 12 at the Asim Ferhatovic Hase Stadium.

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

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

Wrestlers return to competition

Iranian wrestlers, following strict protocols, have returned to competition for the first time in eight months with the return of the Iranian Premier Wrestling League.

Wrestlers, coaches, referees and organization staffs were the only people allowed in the competition hall. Everyone entering the hall was required to pass an antiseptic box and all participants received PCR tests before competitions and were placed in quarantine after testing.

Wrestling in Iran typically means excitement, sold-out arenas and thousands of cheering fans. This time the story was something else. There were no spectators at Azadi Sports Complex, which seats 12,000. Referees wore face shields and coaches wore masks.

After the United World Wrestling bureau approved existing plans to host the 2020 Senior Wrestling World Championships, the Iranian Premier Wrestling League was halted, and wrestlers were invited to the national training camp. All wrestlers and coaches were required to take PCR tests again before training. Iran's wrestling training center became a quarantine area.

"I am happy to be back again to wrestling camp," said Olympic and world champion Hassan Yazdani.

"We didn't have training camp for about seventh months because of the coronavirus and I only followed my personal trainings," said Yazdani. "Competing in the league helped us to get more prepared. The federation has provided a quarantine place for our safety and nobody is allowed to leave the camp during the trainings. I have only one goal and it is to win at world title at the 2020 World Championships."

Sports federations in Iran are not allowed to start activities without the permission of the ministry of sport, as well as the health ministry. Wrestling was the first contact sport in Iran that started its league and national team training camps.

"We tried hard to receive permission and finally we succeeded to hold league competitions and training camps under strict protocols," said 2000 Olympic champion and Iran wrestling president Alireza Dabir.

(Source: Unitedworldwrestling.org)

Who are the most supported Iranian club?

As the 2020-21 Iran Professional League season gets underway over the weekend, the-AFC.com looks at Islamic Republic of Iran's most supported football clubs in the latest part of this series.

With a population of over 80 million, Iran is West Asia's most populous nation and home to arguably the region's most passionate football fans. Tehran's Azadi Stadium boasts the record for highest attendance in AFC Asian Cup history, as 100,000 fans watched Team Melli beat Kuwait 1-0 in the 1976 final.

Surveying the club scene in the country and taking into consideration factors such as historical success and fan base, the-afc.com has selected five teams as Iran's most popular.

It is now up to the fans to go to the-afc.com and vote for their favorite Iranian club.

The teams are Persepolis, Esteghlal, Sepahan, Zob Ahan and Tractor.

(Source: the-afc)

Trumpism, beyond election

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — With the **d e s k** Trump campaign teetering on the edge of an election loss, analysts ponder over the possibility that Trumpism would outlast the presidency of a man who is unlikely to leave the public debate even after leaving office.

An expert on the United States tells the Tehran Times that President Donald Trump's years in office were so deeply divisive that they equally divided American society into two opposing sides. The expert, Mehdi Khanalizadeh, said the popular votes of Trump, which were more than his votes in 2016, were a clear sign that the U.S., after four years of Trump presidency, has become more divided than ever.

Khanalizadeh pointed to the recent reports that were published by American publications such as the New York Times and Christian Science Monitor, saying that Trumpism — or the way Trump ran the U.S. over the past four years — would likely last far beyond Trump's presidency.

In an opinion piece on November 4, the New York Times said that regardless of who will win the November 3 presidential election, "Trump will remain a powerful and disruptive force."

"If President Trump loses his bid for re-election, as looked increasingly likely on Wednesday, it would be the first defeat of an incumbent president in 28 years. But one thing seemed certain: Win or lose, he will not go quietly away," wrote the New York Times, as battleground states continued to count votes.

According to the American publication, Trump almost surely will remain a powerful and disruptive force in American life.

"He received at least 68 million votes, or five million more than he did in 2016, and commanded about 48 percent of the popular vote, meaning he retained the support of nearly half of the public despite four years of scandal, setbacks, impeachment and the brutal coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than 233,000 Americans," said



the New York Times, adding, "That gives him a power base to play a role that other defeated one-term presidents like Jimmy Carter and George Bush have not played. Mr. Trump has long toyed with starting his own television network to compete with Fox News, and in private lately he has broached the idea of running again in 2024, although he would be 78 by then. Even if his own days as a candidate are over, his 88-million-strong Twitter following gives him a bullhorn to be an influential voice on the right, potentially making him a kingmaker among rising Republicans."

The Christian Science Monitor also ran a similar story, saying "Trumpism is here to stay" even if he loses the November election.

"Win or lose, President Trump has established a political legacy that has captured the Republican Party. Why both he and 'Trumpism' will remain fixtures for years to come," said the Christian Science Monitor. "President Donald Trump may lose reelection, but if the nail-biter contest of 2020 has shown anything, it's that 'Trumpism' is here to stay."

The Christian Science Monitor defined Trumpism as part of Reagan Republicanism — lower taxes, less government regulation, cultural conservatism — plus a pivot toward a hard line on immigration and an "America First" approach to foreign policy.

According to the American newspaper, Trump has greatly influenced the Republican Party and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The newspaper also said, "The president's continuing popularity within the Republican base means that he still holds the party in his thrall, regardless of how GOP leaders feel."

Trump is still fighting legally to remain in office for four more years. It remains to be seen whether he would succeed in clinching victory. But regardless of who will win the election, Trumpism will continue to influence GOP and in general American politics. Trump has reportedly been planning to launch a television channel to compete with Fox News. In addition, as the election results showed Trump trailing Joe Biden in many battleground states, some news media outlets broke the news that Trump

is considering the idea to run for president in 2024, a move that no one-term American presidents have ever taken in American history. Aside from his plans for the 2024 election, analyst believe that Trump will continue to play a crucial role in American politics even if he is forced to vacate the White House. It is possible that no Republicans will be able to run for office without Trump's endorsement in the coming years. The next midterms will be a stark test for Trump in terms of the continuation of his popularity among the Republican voters.

But Trump's popularity has been seen as deeply divisive factor inside the U.S. Khanalizadeh described Trump as the president of the "Divided States", referring to a phrase used by the Time magazine in 2016, when the magazine chose Trump as Person of the Year.

Khanlaizaded said Trump has deeply divided American society over the past four years while adding more people to his supporters, who are more infatuated with his ideas than his personality.

"Trump's ideas, not his personality, has certainly taken hold among 50% of American people. Half of the American people do want to expel the immigrants and separate children from their immigrant parents. On the other hand, half of American people oppose the ideas of Trump," Khanalizadeh told the Tehran Times.

He was referring to a Trump controversial immigration policy that led to the separation of children from their immigrant parents at the borders during Trump's immigration crackdown at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The expert also pointed to a recent Foreign Affairs article written by Francis Fukuyama. According to Khanalizadeh, in the article, Fukuyama has said that liberal democracy has been brought to its knees.

"This article is important because 30 years ago, Fukuyama expounded the End of History theory but now he is saying that liberal democracy has been brought to its knees," the expert said.

Iran-Yemen ties based on respect: ambassador

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Hassan Irlou, Iran's newly appointed ambassador to Yemen, has said Tehran-Sanaa relations are based on respect and equality.

"They [enemies] do not like that relations between Iran and Yemen are based on respect and equality," the ambassador said in an interview with the Beirut-based al-Mayadeen news channel.

Irlou has recently been appointed as Iran's ambassador to Yemen. On Wednesday, he submitted his credentials to Mahdi al-Mashat, the president of the Supreme Political Council of Yemen.

The appointment of Irlou sparked a wave of speculation among some regional players who have seen the appointment of the new ambassador as a step toward strengthening ties between Tehran and Sanaa.

"The [Iranian] ambassador's return [To Yemen] posed a strong challenge to them that they could not justify, but rather failed to do so," the ambassador said of these players without naming them.

He added, "They are trying, through their media, to strip the ambassador of his diplomatic status. They use disinformation and lies, and they say that Sanaa is Iran's tool."

Irlou said they have spent their money to promote extremist



projects. The ambassador also pointed to the United States presidential election and its impact on the war in Yemen.

According to the ambassador, if Donald Trump loses the election, the enemies will become orphan.

"If Trump is defeated, they will become orphans, especially since the new ruler spoke of stopping the war in Yemen," pointed out Irlou, who recently said that he will cooperate with the Yemeni government to establish peace and uproot terrorism last week.

"We will cooperate with the Yemeni government to establish security and peace and uproot terrorism," Irlou wrote on his Twitter page on Sunday.

Foreign Minister Mohamad Javad Zarif has elaborated on the appointment of Irlou, saying Iran has already had an embassy in the Yemeni Capital, and Iran has appointed a new ambassador to Yemen because Iran's former ambassador there had become sick.

"Relations between Iran and Yemen are good and strategic. The Iranian embassy was located in Sanaa, although it was not possible to travel for a while, but we had an ambassador in Sanaa," the chief Iranian diplomat said on Tuesday.

Iranian officials described Irlou's appointment as opening new chapter in Tehran-Sanaa relations.

"Yemen is not a playground for aggressors. We consider the future of Yemen to all Yemenis. The beginning of the mission of Mr. Hassan Irlou, a diplomat of good manners, expert and professional, as our country's new ambassador in Sanaa, will be a new chapter in the constructive relations between Iran and Yemen," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament on international affairs, said in a tweet, shortly after the appointment of Irlou.

Zarif visits Cuba

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign **d e s k** Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arrived on Friday in Havana to hold talks with Cuban officials, according to Iran's Foreign Ministry.

"During the trip, in addition to meeting with his Cuban counterpart, the foreign minister will also meet with other high-ranking officials of the country and discuss the development of bilateral cooperation and other issues of mutual interest," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on

Friday Morning.

The chief Iranian diplomat's visit to Cuba is the second leg of a regional tour that includes Venezuela, Cuba, and Bolivia.

Zarif began his tour by paying a visit to Venezuela, where he met with several high-ranking Venezuelan officials, including President Nicholas Maduro, Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, and Vice President Delcy Rodriguez.

"In Venezuela meeting with President Nicholas Maduro, VP Rodriguez, FM Arreaza and other ministers on expansion of



bilateral ties. Lectured today at the Samuel Robinson Institute on US/ Western terror tactics in attempts to halt the course of history toward a post-Western world," Zarif tweeted on Friday after concluding his visit to Venezuela.

Zarif will also visit Bolivia and take part in the inauguration of the country's new president, Luis Arce, who recently expressed willingness to resume diplomatic relations with Iran after securing a landslide victory in Bolivia's presidential election.

Venezuela's Maduro hails Zarif visit

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Venezuelan President **d e s k** Nicholas Maduro hailed the "strategic relations" between Iran and Venezuela following a visit by Iran's top diplomat to the Latin American country.

"Today 5 November, I had the pleasure of receiving the visit of the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif. A visit that underlines the unwavering spirit of the strategic relations of cooperation and solidarity between Iran and Venezuela," the Venezuelan

president said in a tweet, according to the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA).

The chief Iranian diplomat began a regional tour on Wednesday that included three Latin American countries. In Venezuela, Zarif met with President Maduro, Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, and Vice President Delcy Rodriguez.

Zarif said these meetings were aimed at expanding bilateral ties. On Thursday, Zarif had a meeting with his Venezuelan

counterpart in Caracas. During the Thursday meeting, the two sides conferred on bilateral, regional, and international issues, according to a statement published by the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Zarif also met with the Latin American country's vice-president on Thursday. During the meeting, the two sides discussed various issues related to bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest.

Arreaza appreciated Iran's support for Venezuela in times of difficulty, adding that the Venezuelan people love Iran.

Iranian, UN envoys hold talks over Afghanistan

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Bahador **d e s k** Aminian, Iran's ambassador to Afghanistan, met with Deborah Lyons, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, to discuss the latest developments in Afghanistan before she pays a visit to Iran.

During the meeting, the two officials held "constructive" talks about the situation in Afghanistan, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Deborah Lyons was appointed as the Secretary-General's Special Representative

for Afghanistan and Head of United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in March 2020 and took up responsibilities in April 2020.

She is expected to visit Iran soon. Iran has strongly supported the Intra-Afghan talks. Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, traveled to Iran last month to hold talks with Iran's officials over the Afghan peace process.

"The leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the success of peace in Afghanistan to be in the interest of the region and the world and they comprehensively

support a peace process that is led and managed by Afghanistan," the Afghan official said during his visit to Iran.

During his two-day visit, the chief Afghan peace negotiator held meetings with several Iranian officials including the president, foreign minister, Parliament speaker, energy minister, and secretary of Supreme National Security Council. Abdullah appreciated Iran's support for the Afghan peace process and the continuation of cooperation between Tehran and Kabul.

Abdullah met with Lyons on Tuesday to

exchange views on the Afghan peace process. "Pleased to meet HE Deborah Lyons, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of UNAMA news. We exchanged views on Afghan Peace Process, talks in Doha, high level of violence, regional diplomacy for peace, and the upcoming Geneva Conference on Afghanistan," tweeted the chief peace negotiator following the meeting with the UN envoy to Afghanistan.

Lyons is also expected to hold talks over the efforts to achieve peace in Afghanistan during her upcoming visit to Iran.

Rouhani inaugurates major water desalination, transfer project

1 → As reported, with the implementation of this project, the country's desalination capacity is going to increase by 50 percent.

In the first phase of this project, 305 kilometers (km) of pipelines, seven water pumping stations, and 10 electricity substations as well as 150 km of power transmission lines were designed and implemented in addition to constructing several balance tanks and storages.

This project has so far created job opportunities for 1,200 people.

In the first phase, the plan will desalinate 200,000 liters of water a day which will be transmitted to Kerman and Bandar Abbas cities for drinking and industrial purposes.

According to Iran's Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian the Government has earmarked the budget for desalination of 8.2 billion liters of water a year and the operational work for 760 million liters of the mentioned figure has already been started.

This project aims to promote production, industry, and agriculture, as well as provide potable water to residents in arid areas.

A slight growth for TEDPIX after several weeks of dropping

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), finally experienced a weekly growth in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday) after several weeks of falling.

The index increased 2,000 points (less than one percent) to stand at 1.29 million points in the previous week.

The indices of Iran Khodro Group, Behsaz Kashaneh Tehran Company, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Bandar-Abbas Oil Refinery, Tamin Cement Investment Company, and Abadan Power Generation Company were the most traded indices during the past week.

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

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

Units of 2nd ETF still not tradable

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The deputy head of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) said that the director of the second exchange-traded fund (ETF) has not still submitted the request to the TSE for making the fund's units tradable.

In terms of the time when trading the units will start, Mohammad Goudarzi said that once the necessary measures are taken in the Central Securities Depository of Iran (CSDI) and the legal procedures are passed, the director of fund will submit the request to the TSE.

Then after one or two days since the request is received, the units will be tradable, and TSE will announce it through a statement, he added.



The second ETF's director had announced in late October that the time when the fund's units would be tradable was unclear.

Davood Razaqi said, "As two of the four refineries, whose shares are due to be offered via this fund, have increased their capital, but the capital boosting has not been considered in the ETF's asset, the fund's index cannot be opened yet."

As he said, the capital boosting has occurred at Tehran Oil Refining Company and Isfahan Oil Refining Company.

In May, the Iranian government sold shares in three banks and two insurance companies via the first exchange-traded fund (dubbed Dara First).

The bank-based ETF holds 17 percent of government stake in Tejarat Bank, 17 percent in Bank Mellat, 18.32 percent in Bank Saderat Iran, 17.34 percent in Alborz Insurance Company and 11.44 percent in Amin Reinsurance Company.

Dara First, listed on Tehran Stock Exchange, which is Iran's major stock exchange, was the first fund from a series of three ETFs, through them shares of some state-owned organizations and companies are planned to be offered.

The shares to be offered via the mentioned Iranian ETFs belong to those governmental bodies defined in Iran's privatization program, a comprehensive plan seriously followed up by the government to downsize and reduce its role in the economy.

The second ETF (dubbed First Refinery, or Dara Second), which holds government shares in four major oil refining companies, namely Tehran Oil Refining Company, Isfahan Oil Refining Company, Tabriz Oil Refining Company and Bandar Abbas Oil Refining Company, was offered on August 26.

The government owns 20 percent of shares in each refinery.

It has also a plan to divest shares in giant auto and metal companies through a third ETF (dubbed Dara Third). The third fund is expected to hold 12.05 percent of government stakes in the National Iranian Copper Industry Company, 17.2 percent in Mobarakeh Steel Company, 14.04 percent in Iran Khodro, and 23 percent in SAIPA (the two main domestic carmakers).

Meanwhile, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand said on September 7 that the government's remaining shares in three aforementioned banks will be offered via the third ETF.

An ETF is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges, much like stocks. An ETF holds assets such as stocks, commodities, or bonds and generally operates with an arbitrage mechanism designed to keep it trading close to its net asset value, although deviations can occasionally occur.

Gasoline consumption falling significantly a year after rationing plan

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN — Gasoline consumption in Iran has been decreasing significantly since the implementation of a rationing plan nearly a year ago.

In mid-November 2019, the Iranian government started rationing subsidized gasoline and increased fuel prices as it plans to use the revenue for supporting underprivileged families.

According to the Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, curbing consumption and increasing export capacity were the main goals of the gasoline rationing plan.

After the implementation of the rationing program average daily gasoline consumption fell to 75 million liters in December and later the outbreak of coronavirus in early March and April led to even further decline in consumption so that in some days of April the figure even fell to about 22 million liters.

The average daily gasoline consumption since the beginning of the previous Iranian



calendar year (March 21, 2019) up to the implementation of the rationing scheme on November 15, was about 95 million lit-

ers, which showed a 6.1-percent increase compared to the average daily consumption for the preceding year.

Rural development, a major priority of government

1 → Supply of drinking water to the villages has been also expedited by the current government, especially since the last Iranian calendar year (March 2019-March 2020).

Under the framework of a program titled A-B-Iran, the Energy Ministry has inaugurated many projects to supply drinking water to the rural areas.

A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the

previous Iranian year, during which the energy minister made 31 trips to various provinces for inaugurating over 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion).

This program has supplied drinking water to 1.7 million people in the rural areas.

The government has also initiated a plan for constructing and renovating roads in the rural areas, through which 3,000 kilometers of roads have been

built, and 4,000 kilometers have been renovated in the villages with over 20 families in the past two years.

As planned, 2,500 kilometers of roads will be built or renovated in the mentioned areas by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2021).

All such programs and projects are hoped to bring sustainable development to the country's villages, and lead to boosting production, which is now seriously pursued in the country.

Farzad-B gas field development deal to be signed with domestic company

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The managing director of Iran's Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of developing the country's giant South Pars gas field, said the deal for the development of Farzad B gas field (in the Persian Gulf) is going to be signed with a domestic company by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021).

"The initial part of the contract which includes engineering studies has been implemented and preliminary work is currently underway," Mohammad Meshkinfam stated.

Following the completion of the project, the extracted gas from Farzad B field will be transferred to the refineries of the South Pars complex and will be distributed among five refineries, according to the official.

He did not provide any information about the details of the mentioned deal, saying: "Additional information about this project and the deal will be announced at the time of official signing of the contract."

Back in July, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Managing Director Masoud Karbasian had said that the operator for Farzad-B gas field was determined and the deal for the development of the field was going to be signed in the near future.

Farzad-B, with estimated reserves of 12.8 trillion cubic feet of gas, was opened in 2008 by a consortium of three Indian companies: ONGC, Oil India Limited, and Indian Oil Corporation.



India was supposed to develop the field after its exploration, but they stopped their activities after the West intensified sanctions on the Islamic Republic in 2012.

With the lifting of the sanctions, India once again called for the development of Farzad-B by ONGC Videsh which is the overseas investment arm of the country's biggest energy exploration firm.

In May 2019, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said the Oil Ministry had prepared a plan for financing the project and the framework of the contract was going through final editions.

NIOC asked the Indian side to submit a technical plan and then a financial proposal for the development of the field, however, after submission Iran did not agree with the other side's financial proposals.

Later in August 2019, Karbasian announced that Iran was not going to wait for India on developing Farzad-B gas field, and soon the project would know its operator.

South Pars phase 14 refinery operational by Mar. 2021

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The first train of the South Pars Phase 14 refinery is going to go operational by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2021), the managing director of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) said.

As reported by Shana, in a visit to the project's site, Mohammad Meshkinfam said: "Phase 14 refinery is the last refinery of the South Pars, the development of which was delayed due to lack of financial resources, but the executive operations of this project have been started and are currently underway."

The official put the physical progress of this refinery's project at 85 percent, saying that due to the conditions and limitations caused by the coronavirus outbreak, the first train of this refinery may be put into operation later this year or early next year with a delay of one month.

According to Meshkinfam, out of 13 South Pars refineries, 12 refineries have gone operational so far and Phase 14 refinery is the last onshore processing facility belonging to the massive joint gas field that is being developed by POGC.

The official further said that the offshore section of the phase was fully operational with 56 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) of production capacity. The last platform of the project came online on March 19 with a production capacity of 14.2 mcm/d.

The offshore section of the phase is comprised of four platforms including two satellite platforms and two main platforms each with 14.2 mcm/d of production capacity.



Phase 14 development is aimed at producing 56.6 million cubic meters per day of rich gas, 75,000 barrels/day of gas condensate and 400 tons/day of sulfur, and 1 million tons/year of liquefied petroleum gas and one million tons/year of ethane to be fed to petrochemical plants.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulfwater, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

Over 5.47b Kwh of electricity generated from renewable sources in a month

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — According to the data released by Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA), the country's renewable power plants generated over 5.47 billion kilowatt-hours (Kwh) of electricity in the previous Iranian calendar month (September 22-October 21), IRNA reported.

Electricity generation from renewables in the said period has led to economizing on the consumption of fossil fuels by 1.554 million tons while saving 1,203 million liters of water, and also prevented the emission of 3.0693 million tons of Green House Gases (GHG).

The capacity of Iran's renewable power plants reached 838.19 megawatts (MW) in the mentioned month, among which solar power plants with 405.56 MW or 48 percent had the biggest share.

Wind power plants with 302.82 MW of energy produc-



tion and with a share of 36 percent stood in second place, followed by small hydropower plants with a generation of 105.65 MW and a share of 13 percent.

Issuance of industrial unit establishment permits rises 50% in Zanjan Province

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The head of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of Iran's northwestern Zanjan Province announced that 665 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).

Naser Faghfoury said the figure shows a 50-percent growth compared to that of the same period of time in the past year.

The official said these units are expected to create jobs for 15,296 persons.

According to the data released by Iran's Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, dur-

ing the first half of the current year, 18,766 permits have been issued for establishing new industrial units in the country, which mark a 47-percent increase year on year.

As previously announced by the ministry, the issuance of permits for setting up industrial units in the country increased 16 percent in the past Iranian calendar year.

Most of the issued permits were related to the food industries; and Semnan, Qom, and Khorasan Razavi were the provinces receiving the highest number of permits.

Meanwhile, the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has announced that 32.312 trillion rials (about \$769.3 million) of loans

has been paid to the industrial units throughout the country during the first half of the present year.

According to the ministry's data, under the framework of a production and employment program, 2,010 units applied for the mentioned facilities in the mentioned six months, of which 1,087 units received facilities.

The mentioned program has been defined by the government to support small and medium-sized entrepreneurs (SMEs) and also to help completion of semi-finished projects with over 60 percent of physical progress.



The government is obliged to create 11,000 job opportunities in the current Iranian calendar year by supporting industrial units and completing semi-finished projects.

Trump’s ‘maximum pressure’ campaign against Iran absolutely failed: Harvard researcher

“Iran isn’t just going to accept Biden’s word if it’s possible for future U.S. presidents to exit the deal again with the stroke of a pen”

1 → A: It’s true, in August last year, the Trump administration withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty of 1987. It prohibited the United States and Russia from maintaining nuclear- and conventionally-armed ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500–5500 kilometers that destabilized Europe during the Cold War.

While the administration correctly pointed to Russian missile tests violating the treaty, they made no attempt to save the agreement. This was a grave mistake, as the treaty had numerous benefits for international security, and disagreements could have been addressed.

However, I wouldn’t say withdrawal necessarily indicates shifting U.S. arms control strategy in the long run. Instead, it highlights stark differences between Trump and his election opponent, former Vice President Joe Biden. Trump also left the Open Skies Treaty and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)—known as the Iran Nuclear Deal—and removed U.S. signature from the Arms Trade Treaty. If reelected, it’s likely Trump will allow the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) with Russia to expire. It’s the last remaining agreement limiting the world’s two largest nuclear arsenals. But in my view, Trump isn’t necessarily opposed to arms control, so much as he mistakenly believes only deals he makes are worthwhile. His diplomacy with North Korea that has achieved no progress toward denuclearization is one striking example.

On the other hand, Biden would attempt to return to these agreements and restore predictability and normalcy to U.S. foreign policy. On a practical level, this means that U.S. back to international deals is much more likely if Biden defeats Trump in the election.

As Vice President under Barack Obama, when the JCPOA was negotiated, Biden strongly supports the deal, which is part of his campaign platform.

■ Why does Israel oppose creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in West Asia but at the same time accuses Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons?

A: The consensus in open sources, as you suggest, is that Israel maintains an arsenal of approximately 90 nuclear weapons despite refusing to confirm or deny its nuclear status. Israel has also never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and agreed to forego developing such weapons. My understanding is that the Israeli government states that it would be willing to participate in a Middle East (West Asia) nuclear-weapon-free zone only as part of a broader regional peace deal that resolves its perceived security threats. Whether it is



true or not, the Israeli perception seems to be that Iran and other states’ proposals to establish a zone aren’t serious and are just an effort to stigmatize Israel. Israel wants to link Iran, Egypt, and other proponents of regional nuclear disarmament to wide-ranging peace negotiations. Likewise, further participation in the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) would be productive steps forward.

Regarding Israeli accusations about Iran’s pursuit of nuclear weapons, the administration of Benjamin Netanyahu’s so-called “atomic archive” disclosures was deeply unpersuasive. All they did was confirm what the international community knew long ago: there is currently no ongoing military nuclear activity in the Islamic Republic.

I do not believe that Iranian leaders are seeking nuclear weapons, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has recently determined that Tehran does not have the fissile material to make even a single nuclear bomb. Yet, Iran has taken a number of steps away from the JCPOA in the aftermath of the Trump administration’s withdrawal. My sense is that Iran is trying to show Washington the costs of leaving the deal by pursuing reversible actions such as increasing the number of centrifuges at the Fordow and Natanz facilities and enriching uranium above 3.67% content of isotope uranium-235.

But unfortunately, Iran’s signaling was not being assessed by the Trump administration as a reason to return to the deal. Instead, it’s persistently seen as evidence that Tehran cannot be trusted and must be targeted with

further sanctions and military threats.

■ Iranians were showered with missiles during Saddam Hussein’s war against Iran in the 1980s, but Tehran was not given weapons to defend itself. Now, why is Iran’s defensive missile program being demonized?

A: What happened to Iranians at the hands of Saddam Hussein’s missiles, chemical weapons, and landmines was a tragedy. So many civilians suffered in inexcusable violations of human rights. Iraq’s use of missiles against Iranian cities in the 1980s shows that these are deadly, offensive weapons.

Today, Iran continues to test and improve a great diversity of ballistic and cruise missiles with various ranges. The Islamic Republic has used its missiles in recent years in attacks across Iraq and Syria (against ISIS). There are also questions raised by Europe and the U.S. about why, if Iran needs missiles purely for its regional defense, it has built delivery systems that are now capable of reaching much of Europe.

Iranian government, to prove that its missile program as defensive, should publish a “white paper” strategy document informing interested parties around the world about its conceptions of deterrence and defense, as well as the circumstances under which Iran would consider using missiles. Transparency of this nature would help to avoid misperception and inadvertent escalation. It would also provide a clearer understanding of Iranian views that might tailor future international dialogue to achieve peace.

■ Is the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, “the worst deal ever negotiated” as Trump described it?

No, it is very far from “the worst deal ever negotiated.” The JCPOA is a historic deal that provides Iran with a pathway toward integration into the global economy and the pursuit of civilian nuclear energy. Meanwhile, it contains an intrusive layered verification regime under IAEA oversight that ensures Iran isn’t developing nuclear weapons. The Iran nuclear deal was a victory for all parties involved and a step toward peace in the Middle East (West Asia) and beyond.

Trump’s desire to destroy the deal because of its association with Obama is well-known. In fact, Trump’s efforts to “stop Iran from getting the bomb” have been abject failures. Iran has significantly more enriched uranium than it did prior to the JCPOA and a reduced breakout time. Meanwhile, the “maximum pressure” campaign to economically isolate Iran hasn’t worked, as the Islamic Republic has improved economic ties with China, Venezuela, and other states. Attempts to reinstate the conventional arms embargo and snapback sanctions have also failed.

I believe a Biden presidency will revitalize the JCPOA.

But this is far from guaranteed, as it will be difficult for any U.S. leader to return to the deal so long as Iran is qualitatively and quantitatively expanding its centrifuge enrichment program. If Iran can step back from these advancements, I expect the JCPOA to return in full force. However, Iran isn’t just going to accept Biden’s word if it’s possible for future U.S. presidents to exit the deal again with the stroke of a pen. It will be essential for the United States to consider how to reassure Iran, whether legally or otherwise, that the JCPOA will remain in force in the future. Iranian officials should clearly explain what would be acceptable as reassurance.

If Trump is reelected, I expect a continuation of the failed policy of “maximum pressure,” perhaps through increased U.S. secondary sanctions on foreign firms transacting with Iran. To make a deal with Trump, Iran will need to negotiate over the nuclear and missile programs, as well as its support of groups the United States has labeled as terrorist organizations. But Trump and his advisors will have to end “maximum pressure” and treat Iran as an equal partner at the bargaining table. Obviously, under a second Trump presidency, the survival of the JCPOA will be in question. Until a new agreement can be reached, it will be incumbent on Iran and its European parties to maintain the JCPOA. This would require Iran to scale back its nuclear developments. Adherence to the JCPOA offers the best path to peace.

Trump’s administration advancing plans to sell armed MQ-9B drones to UAE

The U.S. State Department has reportedly notified Congress of plans to sell more than a dozen state-of-the-art armed MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicles to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), less than two months after the Persian Gulf country signed a U.S.-brokered deal to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Sources familiar with the matter told Reuters news agency that President Donald Trump’s administration had informally sent a required notification on the sale of 18 MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones to the UAE, in a deal worth as much as \$2.9 billion.

The U.S. State Department may wait to formally notify Congress once staff and members are briefed on the potential sale, one of the sources said. The formal notification gives Congress 30 days to object to any sales.

HRW: Sudanese workers in UAE hired to fight in Libya’s civil war

Human Rights Watch (HRW) says hundreds of Sudanese men reportedly recruited by an Emirati security firm as guards in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been tricked into fighting in Libya for renegade military commander General Khalifa Haftar.

The New York-based organization announced in a report that Black Shield Security Services hired more than 390 Sudanese men, who thought they were coming to work as security guards in the wealthy Persian Gulf country.

They expected to be posted in malls, hospitals, hotels, or at the entrance of embassies or government buildings.

Upon arrival at Abu Dhabi International Airport, a group of more than 40 Sudanese men were met by two Emirati men, who introduced themselves as representatives of Black Shield Security Services, according to Human Rights Watch.

The company representatives immediately confiscated the men’s passports – a pervasive practice in the UAE despite official prohibition since 2002. The men then boarded buses and were taken to a compound in the city of Ghiyathi, situated about 300 kilometers (186 miles) to the east.

Tusk says Trump, Kaczynski behave like ‘bad-tempered brats’

Former European Council President Donald Tusk has compared both Donald Trump and the leader of Poland’s ruling party to “bad-tempered brats” who use lies and conflict to stay in power.

Tusk, a former Polish prime minister who now heads the main centre-right grouping in the European Parliament, said Kaczynski and Trump used similar strategies of dividing society and using propaganda to keep their hold on power, Reuters reported.

Known for his no-holds-barred comments, Tusk said Trump’s attempts to halt ballot counting after Tuesday’s presidential election were a blow to U.S. democracy, and also said that if he were not against corporal punishment he would “spank” Kaczynski, his longtime arch rival in Polish politics.

“This is characteristic of the rules of the radical right,” Tusk told private television broadcaster TVN24, commenting on the actions of both Trump and Kaczynski.

“If we look at Trump’s behavior, especially in the recent hours... or at Jaroslaw Kaczynski, then their common feature is that they behave like the most bad-tempered brats in a sandpit ... Conflict, unjustified aggression, is their element,” said Tusk.

‘Put their heads on pikes’: Steve Bannon calls for beheading of Fauci and FBI director if Trump wins

Steve Bannon said a second term for Donald Trump should start by displaying the severed heads of Dr Anthony Fauci and FBI director Christopher Wray on the White House “as a warning”.

Speaking on his podcast The War Room, Bannon - the president’s former campaign strategist and senior counsellor - said putting their heads on pikes would be more suitable than a simple firing, Independent reported.

“Second term kicks off with firing Wray, firing Fauci, no I actually want to go a step farther but the president is a kind-hearted man and a good man,” Bannon said.

“I’d actually like to go back to the old times of Tudor England. I’d put their heads on pikes, right, I’d put them at the two corners of the White House as a warning to federal bureaucrats, you either get with the programme or you’re gone.”

The Twitter account of the podcast @WarRoomPandemic was suspended after the podcast went live on Thursday. The account of Kathy Griffin, who posted an effigy of Trump’s severed head on to the platform on Wednesday, remains active.

Resistance News

Akhras enters day 103 of hunger strike

Palestinian detainee Maher Al-Akhras continues his hunger strike protesting his administrative detention for the 103rd consecutive day Friday, amid the intransigence of the Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) on his release and their insistence on completing his detention period.

Qadri Abu Bakr, the head of the Prisoners and Ex-prisoners Affairs Authority, in cooperation with the Negotiations Affairs Department of the PLO, called on the international community to carry out its legal and humanitarian responsibilities towards the administrative detainees and to immediately intervene to pressure the IOA to release Akhras.

Abu Bakr addressed a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Foreign Ministers of Russia, China and the European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Secretary-General of the Arab League and the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to find deterrent mechanisms to stop the Israeli policy of administrative detention and to hold the occupation accountable for its deliberate violations of the provisions of international law and human rights.

The Authority warned of the seriousness of Akhras’s health condition and his possible martyrdom at any moment.

In a press release, the Authority warned that the health condition of Akhras is still very difficult, as he suffers from severe fatigue and exhaustion and his senses of hearing and speaking have also been affected negatively. Furthermore, he suffers from seizures, severe pain in all his body and severe headache.

Akhras was arrested on July 27, 2020, and transferred to Hawara detention center in which he began his open hunger strike. Later, he was transferred to Ofer prison and the IOA ordered his administrative detention for four months.

You’re fired or ‘Biden wins stolen election’

By Myles Hoenig

We won’t likely know for days, or even a week or more who will win tonight’s showcase of American democracy (sarcasm alert). If Biden should pull out a stunning victory, I’m sure the liberal media will lead with ‘You’re Fired’. If it should go to Trump, they’ll say, “Chaos Reigns!”.

The right-wing media will say “Biden Wins Stolen Election,” while for Trump, it just might say “Four More Years!”.

The oldest political cliché in the U.S. is ‘This is the most important election in our lifetime.’ For once, I almost agree. The election of Ronald Reagan gave us the Bushes, Clinton, Obama, and now Trump. Presidential subservience to Wall Street was indelibly cemented during this time, not that Wall Street never had control of our elections. But this time, Trump is different and will and has taken us onto a different but a corollary path.

Wall Street will continue to dominate all aspects of governing, as it will clearly and enthusiastically under a Biden administration.

Trump’s approach is unique in American history and politics. We’ve had incredibly evil racists in the White House before. Andrew Jackson, Trump’s hero, and Woodrow Wilson were probably the most overt of all. But Jackson’s support of genocide against the native population and Wilson’s support of oppressing black citizens were targeted against people already on American life’s bottom stratum.

Today, with a future President Trump, his four years of attacking the average citizen will become an outright war on such people. Today, the only marginalized people that the attacks are the ultra-left, which has been dormant in American since maybe the 60s. But lumping nearly all

Americans who ARE Antifa into a small group is tactically smart for carrying out a campaign of repression and war on America itself, creating his own SA, but to what end is left for the fortune-tellers.

What is normal about this election is the nomination of Joe Biden. Racist, misogynist, warmonger, bank servant, just your normal, everyday candidate for president. He’ll take America back from the 1930s and bring it up to at least the 1970s.

■ **Costing more and more to buy a federal office**
In 1875 Mark Twain said, “I think I can say, and say with pride, that we have some legislatures that bring higher prices than any in the world.” He also said, “We have the best government that money can buy.” Every election cycles, the cost to buy Congress and the White House increases, and this year it’s almost exponential. \$14 billion to buy a position of political power is the new normal, and next time around, it’s likely to double.

Where does all the money come from? It certainly doesn’t come from Uncle George breaking open his piggy bank to give his favorite candidate a few dollars. Multi-national corporations are, by far, the near-exclusive purchasers of raw power. Since Citizens United, where money was equated with free speech, the obscenity of money in politics has been on steroids. As it was in 1875, so too today, but even by our standards, that is a lot of money.

It’s rare for a politician to raise enormous money on small, individual donations. Bernie Sanders was one. His average contribution was \$27, but he had such a great appeal to the public that he even out-raised his competitors. But like Sanders, a candidate also loses with that kind of money raised. A billion-dollar campaign often loses to the 2-billion-dollar



campaign. Yet in more local races, money doesn’t always equate with one’s success.

This shows that the average person has virtually no say in who is elected or really selected. As the Princeton/Northwestern study showed, we are an oligarchy, not that we needed a study to know that. There should be no more pretense that we are a representative democracy. We are not represented. Giving the price of an aircraft to a campaign guarantees a bit more of an audience with whom they purchased than one giving \$27.

If ever there were to be real electoral reform, addressing the need for money needs to be the highest priority. Rank choice voting, even the issue of preventing voter suppression by both parties, cannot be fully addressed until the money is neutralized, whereas the most credible but loneliest candidate can compete with the Boeings, the Walmarts, the General Electrics of the world.

(Source: Press TV)

Upending Trump’s tumultuous legacy

1 → Yet, it is possible—and even necessary—to do damage control by going back to the rules-based international order and repair relations with U.S. allies. Well before the United States was overwhelmed by the coronavirus, it was clear that the gradual U.S. retreat from leading the global liberal order was the hallmark of its waning global role. There is little evidence for or optimism in the ability of the United States to take the lead in contemporary global affairs.

These difficulties aside, managing international relations can and should start with respecting and working with the international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, the Paris agreement on the climate change, returning to the Iran nuclear deal, and moving back to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement that President

Obama so painstakingly pursued. There can be no doubt that U.S. competence will likely be disputed and its global influence questioned in the coming years. Domestically, containing the surge of the coronavirus pandemic is the appropriate place to start.

Some experts, such as Paul Wiseman (US News, October 27, 2020), remind us that tensions between the world’s two biggest economies—China and the United States) which have intensified since Trump blamed Beijing for unleashing the “China virus,” will likely linger in the post-Trump era. Regardless, Biden may choose to prioritize ratcheting down the rhetoric of a trade war with China while also seeking mutually beneficial transactions over any other foreign policy issues. Rethinking relations with Beijing

is likely to present a monumental challenge to the Biden administration, one that requires adopting a new approach.

The threat and intimidation of using sanction policies against those countries that pursue foreign policies different from—if not hostile to—the United States deserves serious consideration. Four years of losing credibility and the retrenchment of international obligations under the Trump administration have undermined U.S. global reputation. To undo the damage inflicted may not be easy given a Republican-controlled Senate, but this should not dissuade the Biden administration from trying.

Mahmood Monshipouri, PhD, is professor of international relations at San Francisco State University and lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley.

Confiscated smuggled relics up fourfold in Mazandaran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Police in the northern province of Mazandaran have seized 2,044 historical objects from smugglers during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), showing a fourfold rise compared to the same period last year.

A total of 244 culprits were detained in this regard and surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, Mohammadreza Kordan, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Thursday, IRNA reported.



Moreover, 52 gangs of illegal diggers and antique dealers were busted during the aforementioned time, which shows a 200-percent increase year on year, the official added.

Although most of the historical sites were closed due to the coronavirus outbreak and the police have faced problems protecting and preserving them, local people participated more in controlling and monitoring the sites, he explained.

A brief history of Persian pottery

(Part 1/8)

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Pottery is perhaps the earliest and the most important invention made by man. For historians and archaeologists it is the most significant of the artistic manifestations. Ceramic production presents a continuous history from prehistorical times until the present day.

For historians and archaeologists pottery of a certain period manifests the contemporary social organization, economic conditions and cultural stage of that particular region. By studying pottery, according to the Circle of Ancient Iranian Studies, one may form impressions about the life, the religion of people and their history, about their social relationships, their attitude towards their neighbors, to their own world and even to their interpretation of the universe as it was then known to them.

The history of the art of pottery in Iran goes back into ancient time. When agriculture came into existence and cultivation started on Iran's plateau by primitive races of this land, people made utensils of baked clay in order to meet their needs.

■ Prehistoric period



One of the earliest known and excavated prehistoric sites that produced pottery is Ganj Darreh Tappeh in the Kermanshah region, dating back to the 8th millennium BC. Another great discovery was made south of the Caspian Sea in a cave, in the so-called Kamarband, (Belt cave) near present day Behshahr. Here again the pottery finds date to 8000 BCE This type of pottery in known to experts as the "Kamarband Neolithic pottery". This pottery was fired at a low temperature, and its body is very soft. Not far from the above-mentioned cave there was another, called Huto. The pottery there, from a technical point of view, shows similarities to that of Cheshmeh Ali in Ray, near Tehran.

The second phase of development in pottery-making in Iran is represented by the wares that were discovered at Cheshmeh Ali, Tappeh Sialk near Kashan and at Zagheh in the Qazvin plain. The pottery of these centers is different from that of the earlier periods. Their paste is a mixture of clay, straw and small pieces of various plants, which can be found and collected in the desert. When mixed with water they stick well together and form a very hard paste. All these vessels were made by hand rather than on a wheel. As the potters were unable to control the temperature of the kilns, there was no stable color for these wares. It varied from grey and dark grey to black, occasionally even appearing with a greenish color. The type of vessels produced was limited, mainly bowls with concave bases and globular bodies. Their surfaces were painted mostly in red depicting geometrical patterns. The date of these wares is ca. the 6th and 5th millennium BC.

In the subsequent periods pottery-making became more and more refined. Although the wheel still had not been introduced, the shapes of the vessels became somewhat more varied and more carefully executed. The temperature in the kilns was better controlled and the decoration of the vessels now included animals and stylized floral designs. Numerous examples of these have been unearthed at Sialk. To achieve a finer paste, the potters added fine sand-powder to the mixture that has already been mentioned. Thus they were able to produce vessels with a very thin body.

With the invention and the introduction of the potter's wheel, ca. the 4th millennium BC, it became possible to produce better quality and symmetrically-shaped vessels; the number of pottery types made was greatly increased as well. The decoration of these objects was bearing much greater care and artistic skill, and the designs used were greatly enriched and carefully selected. By that time this more advanced type of pottery was produced in several parts of Iran.

Ramparts of ancient fort unearthed in northeast Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Ramparts and towers of an ancient fortress, believed to date from the times of Parthians (247 BC – 224 CE), have partly been unearthed in northeast Iran.

The discovery has been made during an archaeological survey in Viran-Shahr, which is situated near the city of Faruj in North Khorasan province.

Experts from the Louvre and the University of Tehran are involved in the project, ILNA reported on Friday.

"The right-angled towers with bricks measuring 42 by 42 cm with a thickness of 10 to 12 cm along with a characteristic pottery, depicting Parthian-period arts, are among the findings of this season of excavation that are comparable to the architecture and pottery found in the Parthian capital," senior Iranian archaeologist Meysam Labbaf-Khaniki said.

Recent findings suggest that this historical area was inhabited as a residential



area during the Parthian period and its structures were used until the early Sassanid period (224–651), he explained.

In the current excavation season, which marks the second, field investigation is being done by Iranian archaeologists and

research studies are conducted by French specialists, according to Labbaf-Khaniki.

The first archaeological season on the ruined Faruj came to an end last year.

Parthian Empire (247 BC – 224 CE), also known as the Arsacid Empire, largely adopted the art, architecture, religious beliefs, and royal insignia of their culturally heterogeneous empire, which encompassed Persian, Hellenistic, and regional cultures. At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to eastern Iran.

The Sassanid era (224 CE–651) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan that are amongst highlights of the ensemble.

Millennia-old relics, skeleton on show at Babol museum

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A collection of 3,000-year-old relics, tools, and utensils, as well as the skeleton of a 35-year-old woman, are on display at Babol Archeological Museum in the northern province of Mazandaran.

Dating back to Iron Age and Bronze Age, the relics have been discovered during archeological excavations at the ancient hill of Shahneh Poshti, IRNA quoted the director of excavations, Hassan Fazeli, as saying on Thursday.

No serious research has been done so far on Iron Age and Bronze Age in the province, he said, adding that the discovery of these relics is very important and could be

the beginning of more serious researches, he added.

Iron Age is in fact final technological and cultural stage in the Stone–Bronze–Iron Age sequence. The date of the full Iron Age, in which this metal, for the most part, replaced bronze in implements and weapons, varied geographically, beginning in West Asia and southeastern Europe about 1200 BC but in China not until about 600 BC, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Although in West Asia iron had limited use as a scarce and precious metal as early as 3000 BC, there is no indication that people at that time recognized its superior qualities over those of bronze.



UNESCO-registered qanat undergoes restoration

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Restoration work has begun on qanat of Ebrahim Abad, which is situated in Arak, central Iran. The monument is one of the country's aqueducts registered by UNESCO as a World Heritage.

The restoration project is aimed to make the whole structure more lightweight by removing [some traditional masonry] debris, and it will also amend the insulation, adobe bricks, etc., said Shadi Tahmasbi who presides over the site in the central province of Markazi.

Some one billion rials (around \$24,000)



has been allocated to the project, he noted, Mehr reported.

Qanats continue to provide the essential resource water sustaining Iranian settlements and gardens and remain maintained and managed through traditional communal management systems. These management systems have remained intact and been transferred from the distant past thanks to the collaboration of people and users.

To ensure the continued functionality of the qanats, the water catchment areas are included in the buffer zone and have been committed to the highest protection levels considering their essential function

in the provision of the water resources. Likewise, the agricultural areas illustrating the distribution and use of the water resources have been protected through buffer zones to allow the full long-term protection of the qanat system.

Each qanat comprises an almost horizontal tunnel collecting water from an underground water source, usually an alluvial fan, into which a mother well is sunk to the appropriate level of the aquifer. Well shafts are sunk at regular intervals along the route of the tunnel to enable removal of spoil and allow ventilation.

Six historical sites in Tehran added to National Heritage list

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A total of six historical structures and buildings, which are scattered across the Iranian capital, have recently been inscribed on the National Heritage list, ISNA reported.

Amir Eqtedar Mansion, DeSoto Building, and the remnants of Qaleh-Dokhtar castle in the village of Ahar were among the new entries.

The list also includes Sahra Cinema Theater, also known as Rivoli Cinema Theater, which was inaugurated in 1966 by screening John Huston's 1966 religious epic film "The Bible: In the Beginning...". It was considered one of the biggest cinema theaters in West Asia at the time.

Two more buildings built by popular Iranian-Armenian architect Vartan Hovanessian (1896-1982)



were also added to the National Heritage list.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Rey.

Rey, in which signs of settlement dates from 6000 BC, is often considered to be Tehran's predecessor. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

Tehran has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

Webinar to explore bird-watching in Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Known-how and hands-on experiences on bird-watching in Iran will be discussed during a webinar in the west-central province of Zanjan on November 23.

The event will mark a national day for bird-watching, which is observed this year on November 26.

"This educational webinar is also organized to empower the province's tourist guides," Zanjan province's tourism chief Amir Arjmand announced on Thursday.

The history and status of bird-watching in Iran and the world, bird-watching tools and equipment, and step-by-step

principles of bird identification are among the main topics of the webinar, the official said.

Introducing Iran's native and migratory birds, preparing a bird registration report, and do's and don'ts in bird watching tours are other themes of the one-day event, he added.

So far, 550 bird species have been sighted and registered in Iran, Arjmand said.

Bird-watching, the observation of live birds in their natural habitat, is a popular pastime and scientific sport that developed almost entirely in the 20th century.

Holding a wide range of ecosystems,



Zanjan is home to a large number of native and migratory birds. Areas to watch birds include, but are not limited to Khorjahan village, Dandi, Taham dam, Sarcham, Hessar village, Moshampa village, and Hidaj.

The south Caspian Sea retreats are amongst the most famed heavens for birdwatchers in Iran, usually being dominated by its northerly guests until about mid-May when the migration season comes to an end. In a wider scene, the mid-winter population of the migratory birds is estimated to exceed over a million in the whole southern sandy shorelines of the Caspian Sea that spans some 700km.

The northern provinces of Gilan, Golestan, and Mazandaran embrace a variety of freshwater lakes, wetlands, and lagoons, which are the main destinations for traveling pelicans, flamingos, ducks, swans, coots, and some other species.

Giant historical urn discovered in central Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A giant historical urn has been discovered in a historical site in Ebrahim-Abad Kohneh village, central Markazi province.

Following agricultural activities in the surrounding area of the site, the historical relic was found by the locals, Mostafa Marzban, the provincial tourism chief, announced on Thursday.

The pea-green urn with one meter and 20 centimeters high and about one-meter diameter, has spiral decorations and estimated to date back to the Seljuk era (1037–1194),

the official added.

He also noted that many historical objects, dating back from the Buyid dynasty (945–1055) to Safavid-era (1501–1736) have been discovered in this area in recent years.

Markazi province is considered the industrial capital of the country. It is rich in natural, historical, cultural, and religious attractions.

Hand-woven carpets and klms, made in its cities including Farahan, Sarugh, Lilivan, Senejan, and Vafs are known internationally.



Renewables cut greenhouse gases in Iran by 3.6m tons

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — The use of **d e s k** renewable energy has reduced the emission of greenhouse gases by 3.6 million tons in the country during the past calendar month (September 23-October 22), according to the latest statistics released by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization.

The amount of electricity generated from renewable energy sources reached 5.4 billion kWh during the past month.

The amount of savings in fossil fuel consumption reached 1.5 million tons, equivalent to one million cubic meters of natural gas.

Moreover, renewable energy use has saved 1,203 million liters of water.

The capacity of Iran's renewable power plants and electricity efficiency reached 838.19 MW over the last month, of which solar energy with 405.56 MW holds a share of 48 percent of the total.

Iran has in place legislation obliging the Ministry of Energy to increase the share of renewables and clean power plants to at least 5 percent of



the country's capacity until the end of 2021, according to the International Energy Agency.

In 2018, Iran's CO2 emission was 579 tons, which is 283.42 percent more than the amount generated in 1990.

The latest data show that the drastic curtailment of global economic activity and mobility during the first quarter of 2020 pushed down global energy demand by 3.8 percent relative to the first quarter of 2019.

If lockdowns last for many months and recoveries are slow across much of the world, as is increasingly likely, annual energy demand will drop by 6 percent in 2020, wiping off the last five years of demand growth.

Such a decline has not been seen for the past 70 years. If efforts to curb the spread of the virus and restart economies are more successful, the decline in energy demand could be limited to under 4 percent. However, a bumper restart, disruption to global supply chains, and the second wave of infections in the second part of the year could curtail growth even further.

War footprint never fades away from nature

1 → States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary. Peace, development, and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

Although many countries have signed the Rio Declaration, studies show that wars still cause the most damage to the environment.

Furthermore, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has found that over the last 60 years, at least 40 percent of all internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources, whether high-value resources such as timber, diamonds, gold, and oil, or scarce resources such as fertile land and water. Conflicts involving natural resources have also been found to be twice as likely to relapse.

The United Nations attaches great importance to ensuring that action on the environment is part of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding strategies because there can be no durable peace if the natural resources that sustain livelihoods and ecosystems are destroyed.

In November 2001, the UN General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

Since the devastation of war knows no boundaries, all countries must work together to reduce the destructive effects of war, for example, the Iran-Iraq war, in the process of which Iraq dried up the Hour al-Azim wetland to limit the access of Iranian fighters to the territory of Iraq, and now, years after the end of the war, the sand and dust storms have taken over Iran, which originates from the dried-up parts of Hour al-Azim wetland.

Or the Invasion of Kuwait (1990), which is another ex-



ample of this negative impact. During this war, hundreds of oil wells in the Persian Gulf were set on fire, polluting vast water and marine resources and making the air breathless. Oil and bitumen covered hundreds of kilometers of the coast of the Persian Gulf, which killed at least 30,000 seabirds.

When ISIS occupied a large part of Iraq and Syria, leaving the agricultural lands abandoned, caused the lands to become sand and dust storm hotspots.

The impact of war is not limited to these, however, its physical effects still exist, as landmines planted during World War II, some 70 years ago, still claim lives in Europe, or mines in Iraq still leaves dead in the west of the country.

■ **Armed conflicts pose serious threats to environment**

Masoud Tajrishi, the deputy chief of the Department of Environment (DOE), told IRNA that one of the biggest challenges posed by conflict and war is population displacement; putting aside the social impacts of war, the environment is the most important issue that has not received much attention.

During the eight years of the imposed war, we witnessed the displacement of large numbers of people in different

parts of the country, he stated.

Also, when the enemy entered the country, it planted numerous mines, which made these lands unusable for a long time, even after the lands were taken back, however, people could not enter them again, one of the major effects of which was sand and dust storms, as well as when ISIS controlled a large part of Iraq and Syria, he noted.

There are oil facilities in the region, which is a weakness of both sides. In fact, during the war, the two sides target oil facilities, which is a vital vessel of the countries that can strengthen the displacement, and on the other hand, these wells can be targeted as sources of funding, he lamented.

The same happened in the Iraq-Iran war, the U.S.-led invasion in Iraq and Kuwait Invasion, when a significant number of oil wells in the Persian Gulf were set on fire and smoke rose to miles in the air, after studies shown that a significant amount of soot entered our land, settled on the soil, rain washed them into groundwater, fed on plants, animals, and humans, he regretted.

Statistics at the Basra hospital, three to four years after the Americans were in Iraq, showed that many children were born with abnormalities, as well as serious complications and diseases for the residents of the area, all of which caused by the chemical weapons with huge damage to both humans and the environment, he also lamented.

However, if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to act with greater urgency and coherence to reduce the threats armed conflicts pose to our environment and ultimately our health and livelihoods.

On this International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, we have only one way forward: to up our ambition to protect our planet, even in the most complex and challenging scenarios.

Over 250,000 conscripts receive vocational training

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The comprehensive plan for vocational training of conscripts, which started in June 2017, has so far trained over 250,000 soldiers.

The plan was launched with the aim of promoting attractiveness and vitality in the military service, as well as training of conscripts in the period before, during, and after the service.

Based on a 5-year plan, approved for the comprehensive skill training, targets 100 percent coverage of soldiers through general,

basic, and specialized skills training.

The soldiers have a great role to play in maintaining security and defending the country, and therefore it is necessary to provide support to them and to improve the quality of military service, Brigadier-General Mousa Kamali, head of the human resources of the Armed Forces said, ISNA reported.

In the meantime, vocational training is a new approach according to which the soldier, in addition to performing his main mission and tasks, also learns a new skill or



specialty during his service and receives a valid certificate, he explained.

Of course, the goal is not just training, but

employment, so we will be with the conscripts after the end of military service and support them to find a suitable job and provide them with necessary facilities, he highlighted.

Stating that in this regard, agreements have been made with 33 organizations, including 9 ministries and 17 organizations, he said that "So far, a memorandum of cooperation has been signed with 26 of these 33 agencies, and the rest will be implemented soon so that they will provide the conditions for the recruitment and employment of skilled conscripts.

ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → ع

Plans on agenda to address sand and dust storms in 4 provinces

Studies to combat sand and dust storms are almost completed and next year (starting on March 21) plans will be implemented in four provinces of Khuzestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman and Hormozgan, director of the national headquarters for combatting sand and dust storms has said.

Ali Mohammad Tahmasbi-Birgani explained that the national document to fight sand and dust storms will be hammered out next week and will be implemented once it is approved.

The five-year plan will set strategies and guidelines for developing early warning systems for sand and dust storms and restoration plans for wetlands and also task responsible bodies to tackle the environmental issue, ISNA quoted Tahmasbi-Birgani as saying on Friday.

۴ استان جنوبی در اولویت مقابله با گرد و غبار

مدیر ملی ستاد مقابله با پدیده گرد و غبار از تهیه سند ملی مقابله با گرد و غبار و نهایی شدن مطالعات طوفان ماسه و گرد و غبار خبر داد و اظهار کرد: سال بعد استان‌های خوزستان، سیستان و بلوچستان، کرمان و هرمزگان در اولویت مقابله با گرد و غبار قرار می‌گیرند.

علی محمد طهماسبی بیرگانی با اشاره به تهیه سند ملی مقابله با پدیده گرد و غبار اعلام کرد: این سند هفته آینده بررسی خواهد شد و بعد از تصویب اعمال شود.

به گزارش روز جمعه خبرگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: برنامه پنج ساله مقابله با گرد و غبار برنامه‌ها و رهنمودهای کلی را در حوزه سیستم‌های پیش‌بینی هشدار گرد و غبار، عملیات اصلاحی و روش‌های احیایی را شامل می‌شود و وظایف همه دستگاه‌های اجرایی را مشخص می‌کند.

Tiny air pollution rise linked to 11% more Covid-19 deaths – study

A small rise in people's long-term exposure to air pollution is associated with an 11% increase in deaths from Covid-19, research has found. Another recent study suggests that 15% of all Covid-19 deaths around the world are attributable to dirty air.

The available data only allows correlations to be established and further work is needed to confirm the connections, but the researchers said the evidence was now strong enough that levels of dirty air must be considered a key factor in handling coronavirus outbreaks.

The new analysis is based on research reported by the Guardian in April, which has now been reviewed by independent scientists and published in a prominent journal. The consideration of additional data and more factors that may also influence Covid-19 death rates refined the rise in deaths from 15% down to 11%.

Most scientists think it is very likely that air pollution increases the number and severity of Covid-19 cases. Breathing dirty air over years is already known to cause heart and lung disease, and these illnesses make coronavirus infections worse. Short-term exposure is also known to increase the risk of acute lung infections.

The gold-standard method for confirming the link between air pollution and Covid-19 would be to assess a large number of coronavirus patients on an individual level, so their age, smoking history and other details can be taken into account.

Such data, however, is not yet available so given the urgency of the pandemic researchers have used data on groups of people. This can be strongly indicative of a link, but may hide important individual factors.

There are now hundreds of group-level studies, although most have yet to be reviewed, said Prof Francesca Dominici at Harvard University, who led the new analysis.

She said there was enough evidence to act immediately: "Absolutely. We already have an overwhelming amount of evidence of the adverse health effects of fine particle pollution, so even without Covid, we should implement more stringent regulation. But the amount of [Covid-related] evidence is also big enough now that there is absolutely nothing to lose, and only benefits, to prioritise some of the more vulnerable areas."

This could include cutting pollution and increasing health-care and PPE availability in the most polluted places, she said: "That's something that should happen and must happen. There is a lot of scientific evidence that makes us think that a virus that attacks our lungs, and kills you with viral pneumonia, might become more deadly if your lungs are compromised because you're breathing air pollution."

The new research is published in the journal Science Advances. It considered the impact of a single-unit rise in average particle pollution over 16 years before the pandemic on Covid-19 deaths in 3,089 US counties, covering 98% of the population.

It included the 116,747 deaths that occurred up to 18 June, when the study was submitted for review, and took account of more than 20 other factors, including population densities, state-level stay-at-home orders, hospital bed provision, and social and economic status.

"It is striking that only small differences in [pollution] levels are linked to significantly higher levels of Covid-19," said Mark Miller, an expert on the health impacts of air pollution at the University of Edinburgh, who was not involved in the analysis.

"While this study was carried out in the US, there is no reason to believe that a similar situation wouldn't occur in the UK, or anywhere else in the world. Overall, these findings highlight a link that urgently needs further study."

An editorial in Science Advances said the group-level method was valuable during a pandemic: "The amount of time required for rigorous, extensive studies conflicts with the swift nature of the Covid-19 pandemic. Addressing the potential impact of air pollution on Covid-19 mortality requires a more nimble approach to environmental policy decision-making."

The second study, published in the journal Cardiovascular Research, used global air pollution data and studies including the Harvard work to estimate the proportion of Covid-19 deaths attributable to long-term exposure to fine particles.

They concluded 15% of worldwide deaths may have resulted from the damage dirty air causes to the heart and lungs. This would equate to more than 180,000 deaths, given the current total of 1.2 million coronavirus deaths.

The team also made estimates for countries, suggesting 27% of coronavirus deaths in China are attributable to air pollution, 26% in Germany, 18% in the US and 14% in the UK. They said studies were needed on individuals to confirm the results, but that they "may appear too late to guide decision-making".

Prof Anna Hansell, at the University of Leicester, said: "While it is extremely likely that there is a link between air pollution and Covid-19 mortality, it is premature to attempt to precisely quantify it, given the current state of the evidence.

"However, there are plenty of other good reasons to act now to reduce air pollution, which the WHO already links to 7 million deaths worldwide per year."

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 51)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

متن
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استاد درس دستور زبان را شروع کرد. اول یک مثال روی تخته نوشت و آن را توضیح داد. او از دانشجویان سؤال کرد و آنها جواب دادند.
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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whoever delights his/her parents, has delighted Allah and the one who displeases them has displeased Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting
■ Ladan Borujerdi is showcasing her latest collection of paintings "Observant" in an exhibition at Homa Gallery. The exhibit runs until November 17 at the gallery located at No. 8, Forth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

■ Hoor Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Farshid Maleki. The exhibition will be running until November 30 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.

■ Paintings by Milad Musavi are currently on display at Dastan Basement Gallery. Dastan Basement Gallery 2 is also hanging graphic designs by Hoda Zarbaf in an exhibition titled "Honey, I'm at Home".

Both exhibits will be running until November 20 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.

■ An exhibition of paintings by Amanrh Esfandiari named "Golsha" is currently underway at Saye Gallery. The exhibit will run until November 11 at the gallery that can be found at No. 21, 13th Alley, Sanai St. off Karim Khan Ave.

■ Artibition Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Ali Rastegari. The exhibit entitled "Home Is Not Home" will continue until November 15 at the gallery located at Qandi Alley, Sasanipur St., Gohnabi St., off Shariati Ave.

■ Bahareh Didgah is currently displaying her latest collection "Saltland" in an exhibition at Idea Gallery. The exhibition will continue until November 18 at the gallery located at 26, 18th St. off Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

Persian miniature
■ Zarrin Asadpur Duraki is hanging her latest miniature paintings in an exhibition at the Atashzad Gallery. The exhibit titled "Persian Painting Passage" will run until November 10 at the gallery located at 3 North Abbaspur (Tavanir) St. near Vanak Sq.

Photo
■ Aran Gallery is currently hanging photos by Nasrollah Kasraian in an exhibition named "Women". The exhibition will run until November 23 at the gallery located at 5 Lolagar St., Neaple-le-Chateau St.

Installation
■ Sets of installation by Kolsum Salehi are on view in an exhibition named "Empty" at Vista Gallery. The exhibit will run until November 16 at the gallery that can be found at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.

Multimedia
■ Ehsan Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of artworks in various media by Parisa Chichap, Zahra Hobubati, Ainaz Zarei, Marjan Tahzibi, Farnaz Papari, Venusheh Shokri, Rashin Mazaheri, Bahramshah Mamudi, Shirin Mazaheri, Kamelia Ahmadi and Zohred Mortazavi. Samaneh Mahammadzadeh is the curator of the exhibit entitled "Paper Territory". It will run until November 11 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

Iranian investigator of Iraqi POWs publishes memoirs in "People with Red Boots"

CULTURE TEHRAN — Morteza Bashiri, an investigator of Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran during the 1980s, has published his memoirs in a book named "The People with Red Boots".

Bashiri was also the commander of the Psychological Warfare Department at the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, the unified combatant command headquarters of Iranian Armed Forces during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

"The People with Red Boots" comprises 36 chapters and the inquiry from Mohammad Reza Jaafar Abbas al-Jashaami, an Iraqi senior commander, is one of the highlights of the book published by Sureh-Mehr, a publishing house affiliated with the Art Bureau.

The book has been published based on several extensive interviews conducted by Fatemeh Behbudi with Bashiri, who gives deeper insights into his activities as a commander of psychological warfare in the POW camps in Iran.

The Psychological Warfare Department's activities encouraged many Iraq soldiers



A poster for the Persian book "The People with Red Boots".

to surrender themselves to Iranian forces during the war.

In a chapter, the book discusses "Sweet and Barbaric", a fake documentary that

Italian companies Racing Film and Titanus Film made in 1983 based on a commission from Iraq to counter Iran's psychological warfare.

The film was widely publicized for a scene, in which Iranian soldiers used two Jeeps to pull the arms off an Iraqi prisoner of war. Another scene showed a close-up of an Iraqi prisoner being executed by an Iranian soldier with a pistol shot in the neck.

Iraqi officials produced stills from the film, which were widely used by newspapers and magazines around the world, as evidence that the Iranians were maltreating their prisoners of war.

In 1984, soon after the false documentary was screened in Italy, Judge Roberto Preden of Rome, acting on a complaint by the Iranian ambassador, prohibited showings of the film, Chicago Tribune announced in a report published in January 1989.

The Italian companies were ordered to pay \$400,000 to the government of Iran after a local court found that film sequences were fakes.

Persian books published for Iranian children living in Sweden

CULTURE TEHRAN — The Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth announced on Thursday that it has prepared two Iranian writers' books, which are bilingual in Persian and Swedish, for those Iranian children living in Sweden.

The books are "Pojken som tittade ut" ("The Boy Who Looked out") and "Lille Ilia" ("Little Ilia"), both written by Jamal Akrami.

Published by Café 60 Media, "Pojken som tittade ut" is about Elika, a girl who moves with her family to a village in northern Iran. She meets Rayka, a boy who always sits at home by the window, looking out. Elika keeps asking Rayka to do a lot of fun things out with him, but he refuses to do so every time. Finally, Elika decides to meet Rayka at home, where she sees him in a wheelchair.

Katayun Keshavarzi is the translator of the book

embellished with illustrations by Azam Torshizi.

"Little Ilia" is about a cheerful boy who spends his days in the cotton field, if he is not in school, of course. He loves his grandmother so much that he tries to surprise her with unusual gifts every day when he comes home from school. One day an unknown man comes to visit. He wants to take her to an unknown land. Ilia has to come up with a solution since he does not want his grandma to go away.

Robab Moheb is the translator of the book published by Nordient with illustrations by Mahkameh Shabani.

Akrami is the writer of numerous children's books, including "The Sole and the Sea", "Malik Shamran", "The Stranger and the Sea", "Zarbal" and "Children of the Moon", a number of which have been translated into English, Spanish, Korean, Turkish and several other languages.

Majid Majidi's "Sun Children" to open Qatar filmfest

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian child labor movie "Sun Children" by Majid Majidi will open the 8th Ajyal Film Festival, which will be running in the Qatari capital of Doha from November 18 to 23.

The film tells the story of 12-year-old Ali and his three friends. Together, they work hard to survive and support their families, doing small jobs in a garage and committing petty crimes to make fast money. Everything changes, however, when Ali is entrusted to find a hidden treasure underground but must first enroll at the Sun (Khorshid) School, a charitable institution that tries to educate street kids and child laborers.

The first-ever hybrid edition of the Ajyal Film Festival, presented by the Doha Film Institute (DFI), will feature an inspiring



uhollah Zamani acts in a scene from "Sun Children" by Iranian director Majid Majidi.

selection of 80 films from 46 countries representing timeless tales of community and determination, highlighting the innocence

of youth and an enduring optimism through cinema.

Pushing the limits of creativity and paving new paths, Ajyal 2020 will feature an innovative mix of virtual and in-person film screenings, interactive discussions, and the first-ever drive-in cinema as part of a multisensory experience for all ages.

"Sun Children" has been acclaimed previously in several festivals. The film won the Crystal Simorgh for best film at the 38th Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in February.

"Sun Children" was named best film in the international competition of the 33rd International Film Festival for Children and Youth in late October. Majid was also crowned the best director.

The movie brought Ruhollah Zamani the award for best actor and Majidi the Zaven

Qukasian Golden Butterfly.

Zamani was named the best young actor at the 77th Venice Film Festival, winning the Marcello Mastroianni Award in September.

Majidi, mostly known for his Oscar-nominated "Children of Heaven", is the director of the controversial movie "Muhammad (S), the Messenger of God" about the childhood of the Prophet of Islam (S). Renowned international craftsmen and artists such as editor Roberto Peripignani, special effects designer Scott E. Anderson, makeup designer Gianetto De Rossi and Indian composer A. R. Rahman collaborated with Majidi in the production.

Majidi's other movie "Beyond the Clouds" was produced in India. The film, which is set in the slums of Mumbai, represented India at several international film festivals.

Iranian director to restage "When Hamlet Was Killed" in Tehran

A R T TEHRAN — Director Masud Tayyebi plans to restage "When Hamlet Was Killed by Macbeth's Witches" in Tehran.

"Members of the troupe Mise en Scene are doing rehearsals for the public performances and they are asked to cancel all their other unnecessary social activities to avoid any possible chance of getting infected with coronavirus and decrease the risk of the disease in the group," Tayyebi has said.

"The play is an adaptation of Shakespeare's popular plays 'Hamlet' and 'Macbeth', with a glance at modern life," he said.

Tayyebi who is also active as a theater instructor said that the formation of a mental and technical structure in an actor requires a good education.

"Before the outbreak of coronavirus, the public education of the students of theater was not satisfactory and the interest of students in university courses such as stage directing and acting were facing decline and this has become worse after the pandemic," he added.



A member of director Masud Tayyebi troupe performs "When Hamlet Was killed by Macbeth's Witches" at the Iranian Artists Forum in 2017. (Reza Javidi)

Peter Ackroyd's "Poe: A Life Cut Short" comes to Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — English writer Peter Ackroyd's book "Poe: A Life Cut Short" has recently been published in Persian in Tehran.

Published by Aftabkaran, the book has been translated into Persian by Shahab Shokravi.

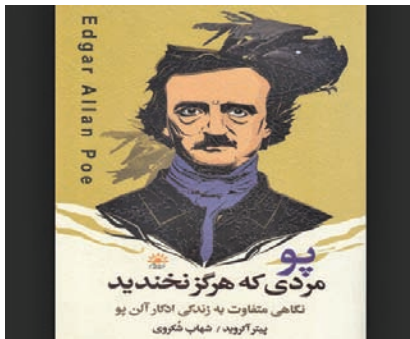
Gothic, mysterious, theatrical, fatally flawed and dazzling, the life of Edgar Allan Poe, one of America's greatest and most versatile writers, is the ideal subject for Ackroyd.

Poe wrote lyrical poetry and macabre psychological melodramas; invented the first fictional detective; and, produced pioneering works of science fiction and fantasy. His innovative style, images and

themes had a tremendous impact on European romanticism, symbolism and surrealism, and continues to influence writers today.

In this essential addition to his canon of acclaimed biographies, Ackroyd explores Poe's literary accomplishments and legacy against the background of his dramatic life. Ackroyd chronicles Poe's difficult childhood, his bumpy academic and military careers, and his marriage to his cousin.

He describes Poe's much-written-about problems with gambling and alcohol with sympathy and insight, showing their connections to Poe's childhood and the trials, as well as the triumphs, of his adult life. Ackroyd's thoughtful, perceptive examinations of some of Poe's most famous works shed new



Front cover of the Persian translation of English writer Peter Ackroyd's "Poe: A Life Cut Short".

light on these classics and on the troubled and brilliant genius who created them.

Ackroyd is an English biographer, novelist and critic with a particular interest in the history and culture of London. For his novels about English history and culture and his biographies of, among others, William Blake, Charles Dickens, T. S. Eliot and Sir Thomas More, he won the Somerset Maugham Award and two Whitbread Awards. He is noted for the volume of work he has produced, the range of styles therein, his skill at assuming different voices and the depth of his research.

He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1984 and appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2003.

Doc chronicles fuel shipments by Iranian tankers to Venezuela

→1 The first tanker from a flotilla of five loaded with cargoes of Iranian fuel reached Venezuela's exclusive economic zone on May 23.

Speaking at the ceremony, director Shoqi called the documentary a great honor for the country and said, "Two individuals had great roles in making this documentary. One was Mr. Qasmei who actually was

the real hero of the film and the second one was Ehsan Mohammad-Hassani who had the idea of making the documentary."

Sobhani also in his brief words said, "The success of Iranian fuel tankers proved that we must be powerful, and this power and authority helped the tankers accomplish their mission successfully."

Qasemi also said that Iranian tankers reached Venezuela despite threats from the U.S. president, and this great success has been portrayed in the documentary well.

A poster for the film was unveiled next and Shoqi, producer Mehdi Motahhar, editor Masud Saki and musician Mohammad-Amin Ashuri were honored at the meeting.