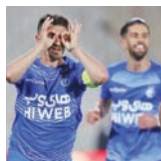




Raisi urges support for brave, revolutionary managers **2**



Esteghlal victorious in Iran league opener **3**



TCCIMA to hold online Iran-Russia business forum on Tuesday **4**



Benefactors donate \$182m to counter COVID-19 **7**

Hope brought to central Iran

See page 4

Persian Gulf water transfer project inaugurated

© File photo

By **Faranak Bakhtiari**
Tehran Times journalist

Water transfer projects: beneficial or detrimental to environment?

Iran inaugurated the first phase of a major water desalination and transfer project on Thursday aiming at alleviating and even meeting the urgent need of central arid areas to water, however, is it really beneficial, or is going to incur irreparable losses to the environment?

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.

The project is aimed at desalinating Persian Gulf water and transferring it to Hormozgan and Kerman provinces.

In the first phase of this project, 305 kilometers 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.

A number of countries have made attempts to transfer water and have achieved benefits. However, redistribution of water resources is inevitably involved in changes in the ecological environment and endangering nature.

Changes are divided into two negative and positive impacts, including water supply in water-deficient areas, facilitating the water cycle, improving meteorological conditions in the recipient basins, mitigating ecological water shortage, repairing the damaged ecological system, and preserving the endangered wild fauna and flora.

The negative impacts include salinization and acidification of the donor basins, damage to the ecological environment of the donor basins, and both sides of the conveying channel system, an increase of water consumption in the recipient basins, and spread of diseases, etc.

In Iran, two water transfer projects also have been proposed by the government to ensure water supplies for the provinces of Semnan and Sistan-Baluchestan suffering severe water shortages, which have been controversial over the past years. ➔7

Azerbaijan hails Iran's support for territorial integrity amid lawmaker's controversy

TEHRAN – Azerbaijan once again expressed gratitude and appreciation for Iran's expressions of support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan amid a deadly war with neighboring Armenia over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Indeed our countries [are] based on mutual respect [and] enjoy friendly relations. President Ilham Aliyev attaches great importance to our ties. We appreciate Iran's support to our territorial integrity as it was expressed at Highest Levels. Views of MP in no way official position," Hikmet Hajiyev, an assistant to the president of Azerbaijan, said in a tweet on Saturday.

The assistant's tweet came after an Azerbaijani lawmaker criticized Iran's stance on the war in Nagorno-Karabakh. The lawmaker, Behruz Maharramov, implicitly accused Iran of deploying terrorists in the disputed region. However, the Azerbaijani leadership was quick to distance itself from the lawmaker's controversial remarks.

Hajiyev spoke by phone with the Iranian am-

bassador to Azerbaijan, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, hours after the remarks of the MP went viral on social media platforms in Iran. Hajiyev told the ambassador that Maharramov has been admonished for his remarks, according to a statement issued by the Iranian embassy in Baku.

"This person has received serious and necessary admonition and the position of the Republic of Azerbaijan is to appreciate the sincere and just support and positions of the friend, brother, and neighbor of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the crisis and the Karabakh war," the statement said. "As we have previously stated, all high-ranking officials of Azerbaijan are satisfied with the constructive and just position of the Supreme Leader of Iran, his eminence Ayatollah Khamenei, and consider it to be in good faith and constructive. The remarks of this lawmaker are by no means reflective of the position of the government and officials of the Republic of Azerbaijan." ➔3

Tea party-linked activists protest against 'election fraud' in U.S. cities

The same rightwing activists that helped grow the Tea party movement and spread protests against coronavirus lockdowns are now organizing demonstrations alleging fraud outside vote-counting locations in Democratic cities.

Amplifying Donald Trump's baseless claims that Democrats are trying to steal the election, established conservative players are encouraging citizens to show up to protest in person at locations where ballots are being counted, prompting concerns about intimidation of poll workers, Guardian reported.

FreedomWorks, a conservative advocacy group backed by wealthy donors that played an influential role in the Tea Party movement, touted the appearance of protesters with their preprinted FreedomWorks signs in Detroit and Philadelphia on Thursday.

The group was advertising more protests in Michigan and Pennsylvania on Friday, as well

as a "solidarity" protest in Oklahoma, a solidly red state whose votes for Trump are not being contested.

Stop the Steal, a Facebook group alleging election fraud by Democrats, grew by more than 350,000 members in one day. The group's moderators and administrations included Amy Kremer, a Tea party activist who went on to co-found Women for Trump, as well as two activists linked to the "We Build the Wall" campaign, a fundraising effort that led to arrest of former Trump adviser Steve Bannon and three other men for allegedly defrauding hundreds of thousands of pro-Trump donors.

Facebook took down "Stop the Steal" on Thursday, saying that the group was "organized around the delegitimization of the election process" and that it had seen "worrying calls for violence from some members of the group".

Ex-forward Bezik lauds Persepolis' performance

By **Farrokhesab**

TEHRAN – Former Persepolis forward Edmond Bezik believes that the Reds had a good performance in their first game of the 2020/21 Iran Professional League (IPL).

The IPL holders were held to a goalless draw by Saipa in the opening match of the new season on Friday.

Bezik, who was well-known for his impressive finishing skills as a striker, explained his views regarding the game in an exclusive interview

with Tehran Times.

"It was a good game both teams played. Considering that it was the first game of the teams, they performed well. The game was intensive and fast. Persepolis were a bit unlucky as they failed to take their chances against a grimly determined Saipa. That was the only thing missing from their performance."

The former striker of Persepolis lauds the harmony of Yahya Golmohammadi's

side in their first match.

"The important point about Persepolis is that the new players of the team are well suited to the tactic of the team's head coach and have adapted to the system. They dominated the game and had a greater share of the ball during the match, creating five or six chances in front of the goal but failed to score. They need to generate cohesion and understanding between themselves on the pitch for things to work better," Bezik said. ➔3



© ISNA/ Ahmad Zohrabi

The winter of Kaswa village

Kaswa is a village in Khalajistan, 80 km from Qom. It is located in the foothills of the west of the city and these days, with the early cooling of the weather in the mountainous areas, it has also taken on a beautiful autumn face.

This village, with its suitable water resources, feeds the river that flows to the villages of Nevis and Qahan downstream.

Archaeologists to unravel enigma of Achaemenid dams, water management systems

TEHRAN – A team of Iranian archaeologists, cultural heritage experts, and engineers has resumed research to discover the secrets of dams and relevant water management systems constructed during the Achaemenid era (c.550-330) in Iran, some of which still inspiring modern architects and engineers.

Hamidreza Karami, who leads an extensive survey on the ancient Bostan Khani Dam, on Saturday announced their efforts will be continuing to find out more about the secrets, methods, and techniques of dam construction in the times of Achaemenians.

"Considering pivotal needs of the Achaemenid government in supplying water to various sectors of agriculture, horticulture, public and residential uses, as well as water supply in Pasargadae gardens, several dams, and water supply canals were created to supply water, which according to the results of [our] excavations, the most water supply projects were implemented in Pasargadae and its surroundings," Karami was quoted by ISNA as saying.

The plains of Pasargadae, morqab, Khorrambid, and Kamin embrace the most number of water structures being constructed during the Achaemenid era, the archaeologist said.

"Tapping into the water capacities of the Polvar River, controlling seasonal floods, preventing river floods and storing water for consumption in hot and dry months [of the year], were among goals being pursued at that time." ➔6

South Pars phase 11 drilling operations begin

TEHRAN – The drilling operations have been started in Phase 11 of Iran's giant South Pars gas field in the Persian Gulf waters, the operator of the phase's development project said.

According to Mohsen Rezaei, the offshore drilling rig was settled at the mentioned phase's SPD-11B platform and the drilling operations for temporary wells

of this phase were started on Saturday, Shana reported.

The official noted that the said drilling rig, belonging to Mapna Drilling Company, is going to dig 12 wells in the mentioned phase for extracting about one billion cubic feet of gas per day.

The drilling operations will be carried out in two stages, the official said. ➔4

200 seismic accelerometers to be installed in Tehran

TEHRAN – Some 200 accelerometers will be installed in quake-prone areas of the capital, Pirooz Hanachi, the mayor of Tehran, said.

He made the remarks in a ceremony held in Tehran on Saturday for unveiling an earthquake warning system with 22 seismic accelerometer stations, the second phase of flood warning forecasting system, and glacier forecasting system with four snow gauge stations were inaugurated.

Hanachi said that so far, 26 accelerometers have been installed, expressing hope that with the help of other institutions and the provision of facilities, we will be able to install 200 others in earthquake-prone areas around Tehran.

To Tehran, earthquake is the main threat, followed by floods, he stated, highlighting, there is an urgent need to raise preparedness, IIRB news agency reported. ➔7

Culture ministry announces themes for Iran Book Week 2020

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has announced seven themes to be discussed during the 28th edition of the Iran Book Week, which will be held from November 14 to 20.

Among the themes are "Books, Library, Librarian, Book Capital", "Books, Socialization with Reading Promoters" and "Books, Knowledge and Ability".

"Books, Lifestyle and Safe Society",

"Books, Social Asset and Virtual Space", "Dynamism with Books and Bookstores" and "Books, Religious Belief and Self-Improvement" are other themes of the book week.

"Knowledge; Eternity" is the motto of the Iran Book Week this year.

The 7th edition of the Reading Promoters Awards is part of the programs arranged to be implemented during the weeklong event. ➔8

Nuclear deal was not just between Tehran, Washington: Zarif

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday that Washington decided to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal on its own will and predicted it would seek certain concessions at the negotiation table if it decides to return to it.

“The important point is that the JCPOA was not a deal just between Iran and the U.S.,” Zarif told the Telesur television network, IRNA reported.



Zarif, who is on a Latin American tour, said since the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is part of a UNSC resolution, the U.S. was never entitled to withdraw from it.

Therefore, he continued, if the U.S. basically wanted to free itself from the deal, it had to exit the United Nations as well.

In order to address the commotion created by the United States and its allies over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, after nearly 12 years of talks Tehran signed the nuclear deal with six world powers in July 2015. Under the deal, Iran agreed to limit its nuclear activities in exchange for a termination of sanctions.

However, in May 2018, Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and restored the sanctions on Iran and added new harsh ones. Trump's move drew worldwide criticism.

Commenting on the French government's so-called support for freedom of expression, Zarif said attacking others in the name of freedom of expression is vividly a hypocritical approach at a time that France's administration does not allow its citizens to make the smallest criticism over certain issues.

He doubted the truth of freedom of expression in France when Muslim women in the country are not allowed to wear hijab at schools.

On his three-nation tour to Latin America, Zarif has already visited Venezuela and Cuba. Bolivia is his next destination.

Zarif was also asked about the U.S. assassination of top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani on January 3 this year and Iran's promise of vengeance, to which he said Iran in a military move targeted the U.S. base from which the assassination was directed.

But the important issue is that the U.S. has committed a serious crime, consequences of which hit the U.S. and will continue to do so, as seen in the funeral ceremony of General Soleimani in Iran and Iraq, he said.

Zarif added that another consequence of the crime was the adoption of a legislation by the Iraqi parliament which asks the U.S. to pull out its forces from the country, which will be very costly for the U.S.

Regarding the recent terrorist attacks in France and some other European countries, Zarif said Islam has nothing to do with terrorism and a president of a civilized country should not try to connect Islam with terrorism.

Raisi urges support for brave, revolutionary managers

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi has urged support for courageous and revolutionary managers so that they thrive in the era of sanctions.



“We should provide brave and revolutionary managers with risk-taking power, so that they feel during the sanctions era that the Judiciary and other sections of the establishment are supporting them,” Raisi said in remarks on Saturday, Tabnak reported.

Intelligence Ministry dismantles foreign currency disruptors

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran's Intelligence Ministry announced on Saturday that it has identified and dismantled four networks of economic disruptors in Yazd Province.

According to the statement, 50 offenders have been arrested and handed to the Judiciary and over 30 different kinds of currencies worth 450 billion rials have been confiscated in the operations, IRNA reported.

Iran has undertaken a series of massive moves to counter individuals, gangs, and groups that disrupt the economy in pursuit of personal over-night gains.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has permitted the Judiciary to take special measures in order to confront economic corruption and called for “swift and just” legal action against financial crimes.

The Leader has described the “outright and unequivocal” approach toward economic corruption as one of the Judiciary's major duties, stressing that confronting the corrupt must be decisive and effective.

Ayatollah Khamenei has also said that the campaign against corruption is at its height and it must continue.

Rouhani advises next U.S. admin to return to its commitments

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani has advised the next U.S. administration to return to its commitments and respect the rule of law, and to realize that their approach toward Iran has been wrong all along.

“Our people faced economic terrorism in the last three years, and in this regard, they showed remarkable resistance, patience and endurance,” Rouhani said on Saturday.

He was referring to the sanctions the U.S. government slapped on Iran after the Trump administration withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal in May 2018. Trump has called the sanctions his “maximum pressure” campaign aimed at forcing Iran to renegotiate the nuclear deal.

“The decision of our nation has always been clear, and whatever the circumstances, our nation continues its patience until the other side bows before the rule of law,” Rouhani said.

The president expressed hopes the U.S. would realize that its sanctions have failed to achieve their goals.

“We hope that the next U.S. administration surrenders to the rule of law and returns to all of its commitments, and our dear people would see and enjoy the reward of their patience, endurance and perseverance,” Rouhani pointed out.

Last month, U.S. National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said the U.S. has little opportunity left to impose new sanctions against Iran, as there are already many of them.

“One of the problems that we have faced with both Iran and Russia is that we now have so many sanctions against



these countries that we have very little (opportunity) to do anything about it,” O'Brien said.

In remarks on Thursday, Rouhani 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.

He also said 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,” the president said, adding that the U.S. has no option but to submit

to the rule of law and the Iranian nation's patience and resistance.

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

The Trump administration imposed new sanctions on Iran last month. The sanctions targeted Iran's financial sector in defiance of Washington's European allies who warned of the humanitarian consequences of the sanctions on Iran's fight against the coronavirus.

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

In a tweet, U.S. State Secretary Mike

Araghchi says Iran's principled policies won't change by U.S. election

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran's principled policies, which are based on countering dominance, will not be influenced by the U.S. election, says Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

“The results of the U.S. presidential election will not impact the principled policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Mehr on Saturday quoted Araghchi as saying, citing Radio Tehran.

He said the United States' bullying of other countries will not change with a change of its president but the methods and approaches can change in the White House with new presidents.

“It is natural that if new circumstances arise, the Islamic Republic too will adopt new, appropriate solutions commensurate with those circumstances in order to protect its interests and counter any possible pressure or threat,” the senior Iranian diplomat said.

Relations between Tehran and Washington have been on a precipitous downslide since 2018, when President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the multilateral nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Since the withdrawal, the U.S. has been imposing a steady stream of sanctions that have devastated Iran's economy. Iran has retaliated by exceeding limits for heavy water and uranium enrichment it agreed to, but it has not walked away from the JCPOA.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, who is on his path to become the next president of the U.S., has so far promised that “if Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal, the U.S. would rejoin the agreement as a starting point for follow-on negotiations.”

“It is still too soon to talk about this,” Araghchi said about the prospects of a U.S. return to the JCPOA.

“There are many challenges ahead ... We should wait and see what new policies the U.S. would adopt,” he added.

In recent weeks, Iran has strongly denied any preference in the U.S. presidential race.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei announced on November 3 that the Islamic Republic's policy towards America will not be affected by who wins the U.S. election.

“Our policy towards the United States is clearly set and does not change with the change of individuals. It does not matter to us who comes and goes,” Ayatollah Khamenei said in a speech aired live on TV.

The Leader has also mocked the rancorous aftermath of Election Day in the U.S., saying the vote has exposed the reality of its democracy.

It came after Trump caused widespread disquiet, even among leaders of his own Republican Party, by flatly alleging fraud in the election.

Biden's campaign team, on the other hand, accused Trump of seeking to deny the electoral rights of tens of thousands of postal voters.

“What a spectacle!” Ayatollah Khamenei tweeted late on Wednesday. “One says this is the most fraudulent election in US history. Who says that? The president who is currently in office.

“His rival says Trump intends to rig the election! This is how #USElections & US democracy are.”

Government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on Saturday that the new U.S. administration will have no sanctions choices to worsen the situation for Iranian people.

Rabiei said in a note that Washington's “maximum pressure” policy has come to its end and the next government in the U.S. no longer has new sanctions to worsen the situation in Iran.

The U.S. can return to a wise policy by respecting the rights of Iranians to welfare, health, and security and at the same time distancing itself from the current belligerent policies of the White House, government spokesman Rabiei suggests.



“At the time of writing this note when the outcome of U.S. 2020 presidential election has not yet been decided, apart from who will take over the presidency in the United States, one can review once again the origins of its principled policies that both the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian president laid out last week,” he stated.

“The Leader noted that whoever becomes president of the United States will not affect our policies. President Rouhani also reminded that we do not care who is elected in the U.S., but the behavior of the United States is important for us,” the spokesman added.

Rabiei said the Trump administration has withdrawn from the JCPOA, incited a number of countries in the region and imposed unilateral and illegal sanctions on the Iranian people.

In spite of all the hardships created for the Iranian nation and government, Iran has shown that it will adhere to its principled policy in defending security concurrent with people's livelihood, and will continue to stand by that principle and treaty firmly, the government spokesman noted.

The U.S. can return to a wise policy by respecting the rights of Iranians to welfare, health, and security and at the same time distancing itself from the current belligerent policies of the White House, Rabiei suggested, adding that such approach will also benefit the world peace and security and people of the region.

General: Iran not to tolerate Israeli spy bases, Takfiri terrorists near northwestern borders

TEHRAN (FNA) — Spokesman for the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi warned the warring sides of Azerbaijan and Armenia that his country will not tolerate setting up Israeli spy bases and presence of the Takfiri terrorists near its Northwestern borders.

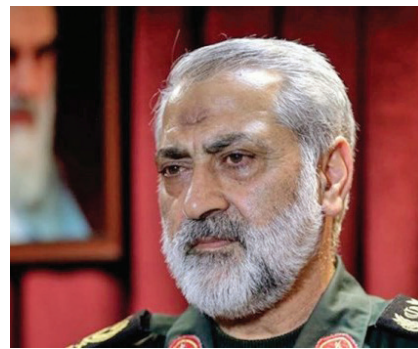
“We demand the conflicting sides in Karabakh that the Takfiris should not enter this region at all. Presence of Takfiri terrorists is unbearable to Iran and certainly, the Islamic Republic will not tolerate this presence at all,” General Shekarchi said in an interview with Persian-language Mizan news agency

on Saturday.

He also cautioned about the presence of Israeli spy bases in the region, and said, “We do not at all allow the regime's bases to be set up near our borders and in the disputed and conflicted region.”

General Shekarchi warned that any country which does not meet the two demands should account for its consequences, adding, “The Islamic Republic will firmly confront these two ominous phenomena.”

General Shekarchi had also last month warned Armenia and the Azerbaijan Republic to avoid crossing Iran's red lines, stressing



that their dispute can be resolved through dialogue.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran, while reinforcing the defensive measures at border areas, stresses that the security of border areas and Iranian people is the country's red line,” Shekarchi said, adding that a number of shells have hit the Iranian territory following the military conflict between the Caucasian states.

He urged Yerevan and Baku to settle their issues through political means, be alert against external interference, and not violate Iran's territorial integrity.

Terror attacks not to affect Afghans' will for building peace

TEHRAN (MNA) — The Iranian parliament speaker has condemned the terrorist attack at Kabul University, noting that the path to build a peaceful Afghanistan will continue.

In a letter to his Afghan counterpart Mir Rahman Rahmani, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf strongly condemned Monday's terrorist attack that claimed at least 22 lives while leaving some 40 others injured.

Ghalibaf said the terror attack will not disrupt the will of the resilient nation of Afghanistan in the path of establishing security, prosperity, and stability.

Unity and cooperation between regional countries can uproot terrorism and extremism in the region and prevent the reoccurrence of such crimes, he added.

The speaker expressed condolences to the government,

parliament, and nation of Afghanistan, wishing a speedy recovery for those injured and patience for the families of victims.

On Monday, at least 22 people were killed and over 40 others were wounded after two gunmen attacked Kabul University which was ended after six hours of clashes. ISIL terrorist group later claimed responsibility for the attack.

SPORTS

Ex-forward Bezik lauds Persepolis’ performance

1→ The former player of Ararat, Persepolis, Sepahan and Iran national team, also talked about the effects of the departure of some of Persepolis’ key players, such as Shoja Khalilzadeh, Mehdi Torabi, and Ali Alipour.

“When a player is a member of a big team like Persepolis for several years and wins different trophies with this team, it proves the quality of that player. So, the departure of such players will certainly affect a team’s performance, at least in the short term. For those players who replace them in the squad, it takes time to adapt themselves to the situation of a great club like Persepolis because the new players usually come from teams that have a lower level than Persepolis, both in terms of the number of the fans and the honors and history,” the retired Armenian-Iranian added.

Esteghlal victorious in Iran league opener

S P O R T S T E H R A N — Esteghlal football team defeated newly-promoted Mes Rafsanjan 2-0 in the opening match of the 2020/21 Iran Professional League (IPL) on Saturday.

Vouria Ghafouri gave the hosts the lead in the 58th minute and Arsanan Motahari made it 2-0 in the 66th minute.

In Sirjan, Gol Gohar defeated Sepahan 3-1 and it’s a dream start for Amir Ghalenoei’s side. Mohammadreza Hosseini put the visiting team into the lead in the 13th minute but Saied Sadeghi equalized the match in the 30th minute.

Gol Gohar Nigerian forward Godwin Mensha headed home in the 55th minute and Younes Shakeri made it 3-1 three minutes later.

In Mashhad, Shahr Khodro defeated Machine Sazi 3-0 thanks to a brace from Amin Ghaseminejad in the first half and a goal from Hassan Jafari in the added time.

Happy birthday the Iranian wizard

S P O R T S T E H R A N — Ex-Iran and Persepolis midfielder Ali Karimi turned 42 today. No one forgets his skills onto the field, however he did not get the respect he deserved.

Karimi definitely could have played for the great clubs but just played in German giants Bayern Munich and maybe it was his own fault, since he made some pretty weird decisions in his football career. Karimi had to stay in Bundesliga but left the Bavarians after two seasons in 2007 to join Qatar SC.

He was a player who simply didn’t care about anything because he had been linked with La Liga team Atlético Madrid, but opted not to join the Spanish team. It could be a turning point in his career but Karimi didn’t use the golden chance.

Karimi played mesmerizing football which no one else could. He dribbled past more than half of AS Roma players in a friendly match with Iran national football team in 1998 and scored an amazing goal in a Bundesliga match between Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich at the Signal Iduna Park on Dec.17, 2005.

Karimi started his football with Tehran based football team Fath but joined Persepolis after two years and won two league titles and one Hazfi Cup with the Reds.

The Magician made his Iran debut on Oct. 13, 1998, at the age of 19. He made 127 career appearances in total, appearing at five major tournaments including 1998 Asian Games, 2000, 2004, and 2007 Asian Cups and 2006 FIFA World Cup. Renowned for his on-the-ball skill, dribbling runs and playmaking ability, he was often referred to as the Asian Maradona.

Karimi completed a shock move from Iranian club Steel Azin to Schalke 04 in 2011 and represented the Royal Blues against Inter Milan in the UEFA Champions League quarter final. He also won the DFB-Pokal with Schalke 04.

Karimi had not good coaching spell in football. He was appointed as Carlos Queiroz assistant in 2014 but stepped down from his role and also failed to save Sepidrood from relegation in the Iranian league in the 2018/19 season.

Karimi, who was named Asian Footballer of the Year in 2004, announced his retirement from football in 2013 but the Iranian football fans will never forget “Wizard of Tehran”.

Bosnia captain Edin Dzeko absent against Iran

S P O R T S T E H R A N — AS Roma football club have announced that Edin Dzeko has tested positive for the coronavirus. The captain of Bosnia and Herzegovina national football team will miss the friendly match against Iran, slated for Nov. 12.

He will also miss match against the Netherlands on Nov. 15. The 34-year-old player opened Iran’s goal in the 2014 FIFA World Cup, where the Dragons beat Iran 3-1.

Iran will play Bosnia at the Asim Ferhatovic Hase Stadium as part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

Dragan Skocic names Iran team for Bosnia friendly

S P O R T S T E H R A N — Iran national football team coach Dragan Skocic has named his 23-man squad for friendly match against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Iran will play the European team on Nov. 12 at the Asim Ferhatovic Hase Stadium as part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

The ‘Persian Leopards’ defeated Uzbekistan national football team 2-1 on Oct. 8 in Tashkent.

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

Goalkeepers:

Amir Abedzadeh (Maritimo), Payam Niazmand (Sepahan), Rashid Mazaheri (Esteghlal)

Defenders:

Majid Hosseini (Trabzonspor), Hossein Kanaani (Persepolis), Shoja Khalilzadeh (Al Rayyan), Aref Gholami (Esteghlal), Sadegh Moharami (Dinamo), Milad Mohammadi (Gent), Mojtaba Najarian (Foolad), Morteza Pouraliganji (Shenzhen)

Midfielders:

Ehsan Haji Safi (Tractor), Ahmad Nourollahi (Persepolis), Omid Noorafkan (Sepahan), Ali Gholizadeh (Charleroi), Vahid Amiri (Persepolis), Siamak Nemati (Persepolis), Akbar Imani (Tractor), Saied Ezatolahi (Vejle Boldklub)

Forwards:

Kaveh Rezaei (Charleroi), Mehdi Ghaedi (Esteghlal), Karim Ansarifard (AEK Athens), Sasan Ansari (Foolad)

Azerbaijan hails Iran’s support for territorial integrity amid lawmaker’s controversy

1→ For his part, Mousavi described Maharramov’s remarks as “empty, superficial, and unfounded.”

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, has recently supported Azerbaijan’s right to liberate its occupied territories, saying all occupied lands should be given back to Azerbaijan.

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

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



These remarks were quickly welcomed by Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that Baku highly values Tehran’s efforts to achieve peace in the south Caucasus region.

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

and will serve to ensure peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.”

Araghchi recently embarked on a tour of four countries involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to present an Iranian peace initiative. He set off his tour by visiting neighboring Azerbaijan. In Baku, he met with several Azerbaijani officials including President Aliyev, Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, and Hikmet Hajiyev. Araghchi has said that his talks with the Azerbaijani leadership were constructive and positive.

“Introduced Iran’s Regional Initiative to Help in Ending the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict to H. E. Ilham Aliyev, President of

Azerbaijan, in a positive and constructive long meeting,” the deputy foreign minister said in a tweet, following his talks in Baku.

The Iranian peace initiative was designed to establish a ceasefire and permanently resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through dialogue. It is still under consideration.

Maharramov’s remarks raised eyebrows in Iran and Azerbaijan alike because Iran has made efforts to resolve the crisis through shuttle diplomacy while preserving the rights of both sides of the war. This may be the reason why the Azerbaijani leadership was quick to castigate Maharramov for his controversial remarks. The Azerbaijani parliament also moved to reprimand the MP.

On Saturday, the Disciplinary Commission of the Azerbaijani parliament took disciplinary action against Maharramov. The members of the commission noted that the views expressed by Maharramov about Iran at the plenary session of the parliament on November 6, 2020, contradict the spirit of friendly and good neighborly relations between Azerbaijan and Iran. They also said these views did not reflect the position of the parliament.

Azerbaijani news media outlets also criticized the lawmaker for his reckless remarks. Azerbaijani newspaper Musavat railed against Maharramov for his remarks. It said the MP’s remarks put the country’s national interests at risk.

Iran’s ambassador offers condolences to family of murdered Yemeni minister

P O L I T I C A L T E H R A N — The Iranian ambassador to Yemen, Hassan Irlou, has in-person visited the family of a Yemeni minister who was assassinated in late October.

Hassan Zeid, the minister of sports and the youth, was assassinated on October 27 by elements of the Saudi-American aggression in Sanaa, according to the Yemeni news channel al-Masirah. Zeid was also the secretary-general of the al-Haq party.

During the visit, the Iranian ambassador offered condolences to the family of Zeid on behalf of himself and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Irlou also once again condemned the assassination crime, expressing the solidarity of the Iranian people with the people of Yemen. He highlighted the Iran-Yemen relations which date back to hundreds of years.

The Iranian ambassador denounced the aggression against Yemen. Irlou was received by Mohammad and Ahmad, the assassinated minister’s two sons, Ebrahim al-Mansour, the newly-appointed secretary-general of the al-Haq party, and Ali Mohammad al-Shari, the head of the political bureau of the party. The family of Zeid and al-Haq’s leadership thanked the Iranian ambassador for this visit and the great moral and ethical value it represents.

Irlou has been recently appointed as Iran’s new ambas-

sador to Yemen in what appeared to be a 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.

Following his appointment, Irlou said 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.

The appointment of Irlou seems to have caught some parties in the region by surprise. The newly appointed ambassador opened a Twitter account shortly after beginning his new job but Twitter removed the ambassador’s account without providing any explanation. Irlou said he did not make any remarks in violation of Twitter rules, adding that Twitter moved to delete his account under the pressure of the Saudi lobby. The ambassador created a new account on Twitter after his previous account was deleted.

“Unfortunately, my first Twitter account was blocked without any justification, and while I did not make any mistake. According to the threats and information that I received from Saudi Arabia, the Saudi lobby has bought Twitter to suppress the voice of righteousness and the voice of their opponents,” tweeted Irlou, using his new Twitter account.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has recently given details about why Iran has appointed Irlou as its ambassador to Yemen, saying the country 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, we had an ambassador in Sanaa,” the chief Iranian diplomat said last week.

Irlou himself accused the enemies of using their media to undermine the Iran-Yemen relations and strip him of his diplomatic status.

“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 the enemies without naming them. “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.”

Zarif holds high-level talks in Cuba

P O L I T I C A L T E H R A N — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif held talks with several high-ranking Cuban officials, including President Miguel Diaz-Canel.

During his virtual talks with the Cuban president, the chief Iranian diplomat discussed bilateral issues such as Iran-Cuba cooperation in international arena.

The Cuban president stressed his country’s opposition to U.S. sanctions and actions against the Iranian nation.

The Cuban leader also said Iran is entitled to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The statement added that Zarif, in turn, expressed his gratitude for Cuba’s support at the UN General Assembly.

The foreign minister, who was on an official visit, once again conveyed to the Cuban president an invitation from his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani to visit Iran. “The two sides also praised good political

ties between Tehran and Havana while touching upon the existing potential to enhance reciprocal economic relations and cooperation. They also expressed their readiness to work together in the production of vaccines, including one for COVID-19. The issues of energy and oil cooperation were among other topics on the agenda of the talks between the two officials,” the statement said.

The top Iranian diplomat also met with his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez on Friday to discuss the promotion of mutual cooperation in political and economic cooperation. They also exchanged views on international cooperation between Tehran and Havana.

During the talks, the two officials also discussed Iran and Cuba’s support for the cause of Palestine, reciprocal cooperation in the domains of energy, nanotechnology, and biotechnology as well as coordination between Tehran and Havana on issues pertaining to Latin America and West Asia, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.



In addition, Zarif met with Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Cuba Ricardo. The two officials hailed good Tehran-Havana relations on the political front as well as mutual cooperation and coordination in international circles, calling for closer cooperation in the fields of economy, energy, and trade.

They also agreed to draw on one another’s experience in the domains of medicine, nanotechnology, science, and energy as well as in the pharmaceutical industry, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

Zarif’s visit to Cuba was part of a regional tour that included three Latin American

countries. Zarif said in a tweet on Saturday that his talks in Havana were focused on issues such as global solidarity especially against U.S. “economic terrorism”, and bilateral cooperation particularly on health, science, and energy.

Zarif also said that he was impressed by Cuba’s Nano and Covid-19 achievements, after paying a visit to two Cuban scientific research centers.

The chief Iranian diplomat is also expected to travel to Bolivia in continuation of his tour. In Bolivia, Zarif will attend the inauguration of the country’s new president, Luis Arce, whose recent victory in Bolivia’s presidential election created a new opportunity for Iran and Bolivia to resume their diplomatic relations.

Arce has expressed willingness to resume diplomatic relations with Iran as well as other countries such as Venezuela.

“We are going to re-establish all relations,” said Arce, shortly after winning the presidential election in Bolivia.

Iran is also making efforts to facilitate the Afghan peace talks. Taherian-Atmar talks were the latest in a series of talks between Iranian and Afghan and international officials.

Bahador Aminian, Iran’s ambassador to Afghanistan, recently met with Deborah Lyons, the UN secretary-general’s Special Representative for Afghanistan, to discuss the latest developments in Afghanistan before she pays a visit to Iran. Lyons is expected to travel to Iran soon to hold talks with Iranian officials about the developments in Afghanistan. His expected visit comes after a chief Afghan peace negotiator traveled to Tehran to seek Iran’s support for the Afghan peace talks.

The negotiator, Abdullah Abdullah, said Iran comprehensively supports the peace talks and considers the success of peace in Afghanistan to be in the interests of the region and the world.

Iranian, Afghan diplomats hold phone talks

P O L I T I C A L T E H R A N — Two senior Iranian and Afghan diplomats held a telephone conversation on Friday to discuss the latest developments in Afghanistan.

“Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian, the special representative of the Iranian foreign minister, held a phone conversation with Mohammad Haneef Atmar, the acting foreign minister of Afghanistan on Friday,” the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“In the conversation, the Iranian official condemned the recent deadly terrorist attack on Kabul University in the Afghan capital and condoled with the Afghan government and people on the tragic event. The two sides also discussed the outcome of a meeting of Iranian, Russian, and Indian envoys for Afghanistan recently held in Moscow,” the statement said. “The Iranian official further emphasized Tehran’s support for the establishment of peace and security in Afghanistan.”

The statement was referring to the terrorist attack on Kabul University. At least 35 people, mostly students, were killed in the attack, which the Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for. Several gunmen attacked Kabul University on Monday, shooting at the students in their classroom and clashing with security forces for hours. The attack came at a time when intra-Afghanistan peace talks are still ongoing and far from yielding concrete results.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, has strongly condemned the attack.

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

U.S. should reconsider its Iran policy: MP

P O L I T I C A L T E H R A N — Esmail Hossein Zehi, an Iranian lawmaker, has urged the United States to reconsider its policy toward Iran.

“It does not matter to the Iranian people whether Biden becomes president of the United States or Trump wins the election. All of them pursue a grand and hostile pol-

icy against the Iranian nation. American statesmen must learn from the past,” the lawmaker told the Iranian Students’ News Agency (ISNA).

He added, “The Iranian people cannot trust them unless the American government learns from the past and apologize to the great Iranian nation. The U.S. government imposed

harsh sanctions on the Iranian people and pursued hostile policies.”

“Whether Biden would be the next U.S. president or Trump, they should learn from the past and reconsider their hostile policies. The Iranian nation has been brilliant in history and cannot be compared to other nations,” said Zehi.

The lawmaker also pointed out that the outcome of the U.S. presidential election will not affect Iran’s policies.

“The results of the U.S. election do not affect the policies of Iran. It is the grand policies of American statesmen that need to change. Then the Iranian people will decide how to deal with the Americans,” Zehi pointed out.

Sweet, chocolate exports reach \$250m in H1

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran has exported \$250 million worth of sweets and chocolates during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21). Neighboring countries, Persian Gulf states, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and some European countries were the major export destinations of these products during the mentioned period of time.

Iran's sweet and chocolate exports stood at about half a million dollars in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19). Sweet and chocolate industry is currently the second largest industry in Iran's food sector, after the dairy industry.

Iran has exported 46.318 million tons of commodities worth over \$17 billion during the first half of this year.

The country's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were China with over \$3.709 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$2.971 billion, the United Arab Emirates with over \$1.933 billion, and Afghanistan with \$1.103 billion as well as Turkey with \$731 million.

China accounted for over 27 percent of Iran's total exports, followed by Iraq, UAE, Afghanistan, and Turkey with 21.9 percent, 14.2 percent, 8.1 percent, and 45.3 percent respectively.

Polyethylene, natural gas, liquefied propane, and other light oils and products were Iran's major exported items.

TEDPIX loses 28,000 points on Saturday

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 28,067 points on Saturday, which is the first day of the Iranian calendar week. The index stood at 1.262 million points at the end of the Saturday trades.

Over 6.13 billion securities worth 39.391 trillion rials (about \$937.88 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index fell 24,651 points and the second market's index dropped 40,274 points.

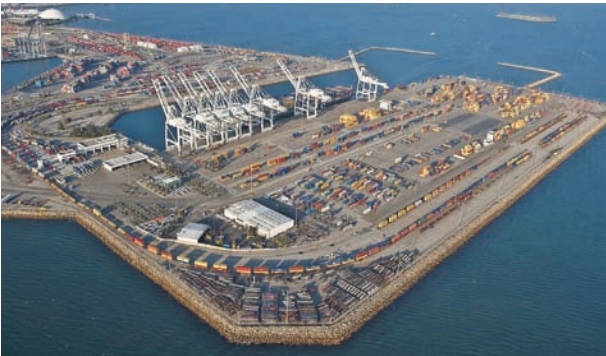
‘Chabahar capable of competing internationally as a logistic hub’

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The managing director of Chabahar Free Zone Organization says that Chabahar port city can compete in the international level just when its infrastructures are completed to make the port a logistic hub.

Making the remarks in a recent meeting with Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami, Abdol-Karim Kordi has said, “We have already contracts worth 12.4 trillion rials (about \$295.2 million) signed on some projects to develop infrastructures in Chabahar and also memorandums of understanding worth 25 trillion rials (about \$595.2 million) in this field.”

Fortunately, the laws and regulations in Chabahar Free Zone can expedite and facilitate investment making and financing the projects in this zone, the official has underlined.

The government's will for the development of infrastructures in Chabahar has led to attraction of investors to the zone, in a way that over the past three years, besides some large petrochemical and steel projects, contracts have been signed on investment making for over 500 projects, Kordi further announced.



Lying on the coast of the Gulf of Oman in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Chabahar is the country's only oceanic port and given its strategic location in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) development of the port is of high significance for Iran, so the government has some major projects to create multi-dimensional transportation facilities in this port.

The port has two significant docks, namely Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari, which are mostly referred to as ports, i.e. Shahid Beheshti Port and Shahid Kalantari Port.

Development of Shahid Beheshti Port, construction of Chabahar International Airport, and building Chabahar-Zahedan (center of Sistan-Baluchestan Province) railway are three of the major projects to make Chabahar a complete logistics platform.

In addition, Chabahar Free Zone has been suggested as a transit and logistic gateway for Iran's domestic market which, while reducing the cost and time of transportation it has also provided profitable economic opportunities in development of logistics facilities.

Chabahar Free Zone is a multi-purpose zone with educational, industrial, tourism and transportation sectors.

Chabahar Free Zone Organization has a plan for development of specialized industrial parks with participation of private sector in the fields of industry, logistics, education, healthcare, tourism, etc., which the establishment of logistics industrial park is followed in the framework of upstream programs and documents.

At present Chabahar Free Zone is considered as a transit gateway in eastern Iran and based on national plans and also the interest shown by international parties, it is noteworthy as a center for providing logistics support, transportation and transit services.

Chabahar Free Zone with the aim of facilitating trade and minimizing transportation costs and focusing on services, has allocated 150 hectares of land to create a logistics industrial park. This industrial park will be assigned to the international investors and or Iran-foreign joint venture.

Considering the geographical location, this industrial park can be connected to Chabahar railway and will be established to have full support services. Centers such as public warehouses, cold storages, special warehouses for storing liquid and bulk goods, container warehouses, required laboratories, as well as personnel service facilities have been predicted.

Chabahar-Zahedan railway is going to go operational in the next Iranian calendar year (begins in March 2021).

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

Hope brought to central Iran

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN — In recent years, due to increasing water consumption for the drinking, industrial and agricultural purposes and sometimes consecutive droughts, the central plateau of Iran has been experiencing severe water shortages, especially in big cities like Isfahan, Kerman, Yazd, and Hormozgan.

These shortages caused many rivers and wetlands in these areas to dry up continuously and consequently, some agricultural plains are not cultivated anymore. This has created significant problems for the rural population in these regions whose main source of income is farming and it is also threatening the country's food security.

The agriculture sector is not the only area that is affected by the water problems in the mentioned regions since most of the cities located in the said areas like Isfahan and Yazd are industrial centers and water shortage is severely impacting the production efficiency of the industrial units in the mentioned cities.

■ Solutions for the problem

Some of the solutions nowadays used to solve the problem of water shortage all around the world are: supplying water from rivers and natural water resources around the dry areas, inter-basin transfer, and finally increasing the transfer and consumption efficiency.

In Iran, all the above-mentioned solutions are already being implemented depending on the conditions of the dried regions. For instance, the Agriculture Ministry has been implementing a comprehensive program for promoting the use of modern irrigation systems in dry provinces to increase the efficiency of the country's farmlands, and several tunnels are also being constructed to transfer water from rivers or water sources in regions with more rainfall to dry areas.

But in some cases, the mentioned solutions cannot be applied or their application



is not going to be enough for meeting the water demand.

For instance, in the city of Isfahan since the main river flowing in the area, namely Zayanderoud, has gone dry due to drought in the past few years, using it as a source for agricultural purposes is not an option anymore, or in Kerman which is located in a severely dry area, natural water sources are not simply enough to meet the demand of the drinking and industrial sectors.

Another solution that has been used for several decades in many dried countries all around the world is the desalination of water from various sources that cannot be normally used like seawater, brackish water, and wastewater from treatment facilities.

The desalination of water is the process of removing salts, minerals and other contaminating substances from the water. This process is used to make sources of water that would not ordinarily be used as fresh water sources into potable drinking water.

■ Desalination plants around the world

There are around 15,000 major desalination plants worldwide that produce 71.7 million cubic meters per day (26.2 billion cubic meters per year) of freshwater, which contributes around 0.6 percent of the global water supply.

Of the 15,000 desalination plants, 60 percent draw their water from seawater, and two-thirds of them are thermal processes. The majority of desalination plants can be found surrounding the Persian Gulf.

There are about 850 desalination plants in the Persian Gulf region, of which 25 are large-scale plants with capacities over 100,000 cubic meters per day.

Like the mentioned countries in the region, Iran has also started to implement projects for using this technology to provide its more-dried regions with fresh water to keep agriculture, industry, and production afloat in these areas.

■ Iran's major desalination plant

President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday inaugurated the first phase of Iran's major water desalination and transfer project which is aimed at supplying Persian Gulf water to central Iran through pipelines.

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.

Three of the country's major industrial units namely, Golgozar Company, National Iranian Copper Industries Company, and Chadormalu Industries are also the main investors of this project.

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

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, and in the other two phases, 400,000 will be added to the plant's capacity.

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

Maintaining the country's food security and creating new job opportunities and also maintaining the already existing jobs in industrial and production units are also other merits of the mentioned project.

South Pars phase 11 drilling operations begin

1 → “In the first phase, by drilling and completing five descriptive-development wells and installing the SPD11B platform, the initial production capacity of this phase will reach 500 million cubic feet per day, then seven more development wells will be drilled in the second stage,” he added.

Engineering and technical monitoring and supervision of all the mentioned operations will be carried out by Iranian experts and engineers.

Development of the South Pars phase 11 was officially

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

In November 2016, Iran signed a \$4.8 billion agreement with a consortium including France's Total, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and Petropars, a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on development of phase 11, however Total and CNPCI, pulled out of the project in 2019 due to the U.S. sanctions.

Currently, Petropars is developing the phase 11 project after its partners left the contract.

The South Pars phase 11 project will have a production capacity of 2 billion cubic feet per day or 370 000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. The produced gas will be fed into Iran's gas network.

South Pars is the world's largest gas field, covering an area of 3,700 square kilometers of Iran's territorial waters.

The giant 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. The field is divided into 24 standard phases.

30MW to be added to Iran's wind power generation capacity by Mar. 2021

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Mohammad Satakin, who heads Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), has said that 30 megawatts (MW) will be added to the country's wind power generation capacity by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

The capacity of the country's wind power plants reached 302.82 MW in the previous Iranian calendar month (ended on October 21), Satakin told IRNA on Saturday.

According to the official, the mentioned capacity is going to be provided by Zabol Power plant in southeastern Sistan-Ba-

luchestan province.

The mentioned wind farm has a total capacity of 50 MW, of which 30 MW will come on stream by the yearend, he said.

Back in October, SATBA announced that 28 new renewable power plants are going to be inaugurated across Iran by the end of the current Iranian calendar year.

According to the organization, 54 companies are constructing renewable power plants, including solar, wind, hydroelectric, etc. with a total capacity of 229.39 MW across Iran.

Over 44 percent of Iran's renewable power plants are solar farms, while 34 percent are

wind farms and 12 percent are hydroelectric power plants and the rest are other types.

Renewables, including hydropower, account for just seven percent of the country's total energy generation, versus natural gas' 90 percent share.

Overall, in the next five years, Iran is aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

According to SATBA, the number of small-scale solar power plants across the country which are used by households or small industries is also increasing noticeably



as Iranian households and small industries are embracing the new technology with open arms and investors also seem eager for more contribution in this area.

TCCIMA to hold online Iran-Russia business forum on Tuesday

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) is going to hold an Iran-Russia business forum via video conference on Tuesday (November 10), the portal of TCCIMA announced.

Representatives of the Iranian private sector, businessmen from both sides, as well as representatives of Russia's Energy and Industry and Trade ministries will be attending this online event that is organized in collaboration with the Russian Export Center (REC).

The forum will be also attended by representatives of 35 Russian companies in the field of oil and gas, and bilateral talks will be continued between the two sides until December 10.

In late September, TCCIMA held an online trade conference on Iran-Russia trade which attended by officials and businessmen from the two sides.

Another business forum was also held between the two sides on October 3 through video conference. The virtual event was attended by officials and businessmen from the two sides.

Iran and Russia have been expanding trade and economic ties over the past few years despite the pressures imposed by the U.S. sanctions on both nations.

Russia is providing a \$5 billion loan to Iran for implementing joint infrastructure projects; in this regard, Russian companies are currently engaging in major Iranian projects in a variety of areas including the construction of a 1400 megawatts (MW) power plant in the southern Hormozgan province, and also the electrification of Garmsar-Inche Boroun railway that links the city of Garmsar, in the north of the Iranian capital Tehran, with the Iranian city of Inche-Boroun, on the border with Turkmenistan.

Operation permits issued for 29 industrial units in Bushehr in 7 months

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Operation permits have been issued for 29 industrial units in the southwestern Bushehr Province during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), according to a provincial official.

Hossein Hosseini, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said 2.457 trillion rials (about \$58.5 million) of investment has made for the mentioned units to start activity.

The official further mentioned the trend of implementing industrial-production projects in the country and said completion of



the units with physical progress of over 60 percent is attached priority.

He also announced that through the planning and some special support, the idle industrial-production units in the province's industrial parks will be revived.

The acting head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) has announced that 819 idle industrial units have been revived in the country during the first seven months of the current year.

Asghar Mosaheb said that reviving the mentioned units has created jobs for 14,458 persons.

The official also announced that ISIPO

plans to revive 2,000 idle industrial units throughout the country by the end of the current Iranian year (March 19, 2021).

He said the targeted figure for the mentioned seven-month period was 1,500 units, but the figure was increased in line with the objectives of “Surge in Production”, which is the motto of this year.

Preventing the inactive status of the industrial units is another major plan of ISIPO, the official reiterated and mentioned lack of liquidity, problems in terms of supplying raw materials and machinery, and the absence of market as the main reasons making the units inactive.

Biden faces tough task in bridging divides and advancing policies, Hunter predicts

Georgetown University professor says “Trump’s personal behavior is certainly an aberration”

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — Shireen Tahmaash Hunter, a professor of political science at Georgetown University, says Joe Biden will face a “tough task in bridging the divides” in the American society, noting that “economic, cultural, and racial divisions in America have widened.”

Hunter also predicts that with a Republican dominated Senate, Biden will face difficulties to advance his campaign policies.

“Republicans have kept the Senate, which would make the task of affecting economic and other changes more difficult,” Hunter tells the Tehran Times.

The following is the text of the interview:

■ It seems that the November 3 election has turned into a controversial issue. Why does this election call into question whether America can preserve its democracy?

A: Every time an election is close, as is the case with the 2020 elections, the likelihood of controversy increases. In such an election, every single vote count and a few votes can determine the fate of the elections. This is why Biden wants all votes counted, and Trump, where he is ahead, wants counting to stop. So far, the Supreme Court has not expressed any judgment on this matter.

■ How do you read Trump’s behavior when he questions the vote-counting process? Is he an exception in America’s history?

A: Trump’s personal behavior is certainly an aberration. However, some of his policies, like a desire to put American interests ahead of internationalist goals, prevent America’s trading partners from taking advantage of it. His nationalistic discourse is not aberrations and reflects deeper trends.

■ Regardless of who will win the election, how will the U.S. heal the rifts in



which the society has been divided into two opposite groups?

A: Clearly, in recent years, economic, cultural, and racial divisions in America have widened. However, the perception of such a divide is stronger than its reality. The media generally focuses on the extremists in each camp and ignores the moderates. Nevertheless, Biden faces a tough task in bridging these divides. Republicans have kept the Senate, which would make the task of affecting economic and other changes more difficult. However, it also seems that both parties’ extreme wings have realized that they need to make some concessions. Therefore, there might be a chance to reach a middle

ground on many issues.

Also, Biden is a professional politician with long experience as a senator and would be better able to reach compromises with the Republicans.

■ Do you agree that the Supreme Court has an outsized role in elections because it has become politicized? Is there any guarantee that the members of the Supreme Court be unbiased?

A: The president nominates and does not appoint Supreme Court judges. Their appointment requires Senate’s approval. As to being political, everything in life, to some degree, is political because people compete for power and privilege. There is no guaran-

tee that judges would vote in a non-partisan spirit. Burt judges, too, must keep their own reputation in mind and contend with public opinion. They cannot vote in ways that go completely against evidence. Such behavior would discredit them.

■ It seems that the president in the American political structure has vast authority that may tempt him to exploit the power to serve his interests. The president nominates Supreme Court members, which has a key role in the elections in controversial cases. What is your comment?

A: The president has great constitutional powers. However, many of his/her decisions must be approved by Congress. There is the risk of abuse, but not to the extent of threatening democracy. Many of the comments made in this regard in the media derive from partisan politics. Nevertheless, democracy needs vigilance. Trump’s defeat shows that, at least for now, Americans reject any abuse of presidential powers.

■ Don’t you think that electoral system is threatening democracy in the United States as there have been candidates who have won popular votes but lost in the Electoral College.

A: The Electoral College was established so that states with smaller populations could also have a role in deciding who should be president. Otherwise, always states like New York, California, Texas, and Florida would determine elections’ results. Given demographic and economic disparities among states, the Electoral College is a balancing mechanism. For instance, without the Electoral College, rural areas and small towns would have no say in deciding elections’ results. There is a difference between democracy and majority rule.

Judges vote according to politics rather than law: American author

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — While the votes are still being counted, the Trump campaign has claimed «the election is not over». Trump is also tweeting that the results from some states, including Philadelphia, can’t be trusted.

On the other side, his rival Joe Biden calls for patience and vows to steer U.S. out of a “terrible” situation.

In general, it seems that the situation surrounding the presidential election is getting complicated.

In this regard, the Tehran Times interviewed Stephen Kinzer, a former New York Times correspondent, to assess Trump and Biden’s stances on the elections.

Stressing that that «the vote-counting is proceeding as expected and we can only hope that every vote is counted,» Kinzer predicts that «even if Biden wins, he will have trouble with Congress. We have polarization between reformers and hard-liners, just like in some other countries.»

However, the Supreme Court’s possible partisan approach, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, remains a major concern for American voters.

Kinzer, the author of the book «All the Shah’s Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror», points out that «for a long time, the Supreme



“For a long time, the Supreme Court was above politics and judges left their political views behind when they began serving.»

Court was above politics and judges left their political views behind when they began serving.»

«But that is no longer the case. The judges often vote according to politics rather than the law, a situation that began when the court gave George W Bush the presidency in 2000,» according to the American journalist.

Another issue that concerns Americans is antiquated and outdated systems like the Electoral College and its role in undermining ordinary people’s voices.

In the 2016 presidential election, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton garnered more national votes; however, she lost to Trump due to the Electoral College.

On views that Electoral College is not democratic, Kinzer believes that the American electoral system is “quite strange” since the person who wins the most votes is not necessarily the winner.

«It’s a system that was devised centuries ago in another era and is no longer popular, but difficult to change because it is in our constitution,» he argues.

On the authenticity of opinion polls about elections, the American author notes that «we learned again in this election that polls are not reliable, since most predicted a big win for Biden and that didn’t happen.»

Americans, desperate for change, delude selves into thinking vote matters

By Daniel Patrick Welch

Superficially the candidates seem to be very different certainly in terms of personality. You know, Trump is boorish, he’s unrefined, he’s loud, he’s not the kind of guy you want to come to your backyard cookout. He’s full of himself.

Biden is smoother. He’s that Good Old Boy, everyone’s uncle, or at least these are the personality traits that they try to project. But that in itself shows the barrenness of the whole process. There’s always a Seinfeld line for everything--and these people’re sure have built themselves up into something! They are touting this as the greatest selection, the most important election in the history of history. I just look at it and say, are these people serious?

I mean, everybody knows, or the rest of the world knows that policies don’t change, but presidents do. That’s how the rational world sees what’s going on. But there are factions, you know, and there really is something happening. I mean, there are quite a large number of people whose hatred for Trump is so visceral that they’ll even vote for Biden, and the hatred is not, is for Trump, the man but also at what they pretend he has taken from them - this notion that there is a real America that’s different than what Trump represents, and they want it back. They want smoothness. They want a sense of dignity, a sense of purpose, and respectability. The trouble is that it is a lot of pretending.

Trump is the perfect distillation of what this country represents that any candidate has ever shown. It’s like he’s a caricature of the American, the Ugly American, except that other presidents have started even more wars and dropped even more bombs.

On the other side, you have an equal

or well, even I think deeper, much deeper anger. Anger at what Trump pretends to represent--that is the people’s deep-seated fear, anxiety about the future, about the disappearance of manufacturing, the crushing of unions, the neoliberal austerity agenda, elites lying to them, corporations chipping away at their humanity, not getting the government to listen, not feeling like they’re being heard. And for a variety of reasons, Trump has manipulated this into a personality mind storm that is quite impressive.

He gives a rally (and they talk about how this is insane, people say oh how can he do that, these are super spreader events), but you can’t ignore the fact that he draws like 50,000 people in Butler County, Pennsylvania, which has a total population of only just over 180,000. I mean, it is a phenomenon, and it can’t be ignored.

Well, we’ll have to see whether that is enough to counter the enormous weight of shaming that went on with the democrats and their foisting Biden on the rest of us. It’s not the most important election in the history of history. It’s ridiculous, and it makes me really angry. When I hear it I just want to shut off the TV, the conversation. Just withdraw because it’s much ado about nothing.

Well, we can compromise and say, you know, greatest in the history of mammals, right? The dinosaurs did okay. So we’ll leave them out of it. I don’t know. I can only make jokes about it because I just don’t know how else to react. Another post that I made was that this is what they call Ground Zero Hour.

It’s when the rest of the world gets to find out who will be dropping the bombs the next time because that’s really what it means to



millions of people around the world. Also, be careful; your vote is important. If you vote for the wrong guy, US policy could fall into the hands of warmongers. That’s a joke because it’s like a trick question.

There is not going to be any of that difference. No matter what people choose, they’re deluding themselves. And this always happens. That’s the thing. It’s not a special election. This always happens every four years; people convince themselves that this time it will make a difference.

And there’s like a mass hysteria even if the famous Princeton study proved that we’re an oligarchy, not a democracy, that people have very, very little power to change the rules that govern them and that power is given mostly or asserted mostly by the elites. The trouble is that this is also how long-term change goes, but Democrats have to be cautious or at least progressives who think that getting rid of Trump will solve some big issues. It’s not.

Ultimately, the democrats strike the Grand Bargain that the DLC has been talking about for decades. Their privatizing or partial privatizing of Social Security, revamping the entitlement system, and the prosecution of an austerity agenda already have done that. They are the ones who have

ushered in austerity most effectively. And, that’s how the parties do each other’s dirty work. And the change continues. Well, it continues to not happen.

Democrats initiated the end of welfare, the biggest nail in the coffin of welfare under Clinton, which he thought was necessary to preserve the Democrat white votes. I don’t know exactly how to encapsulate it. They want everyone to forget all the things that have happened before, all the wars that the regime initiated under Obama. It’s not democracy and, in a sense, it’s not real, but it’s all we’re talking about today, and it’s all we’re supposed to care about.

And when push comes to shove tomorrow or whenever we decide--if it’s that close and we might not know for a few days--but I think it will shake out one way or the other. The interesting thing is that sway of a few million or a few points could cause the impression of quite a wide change. You could have the Senate upset, we could have Texas or Georgia flipped blue for the first time in ages, and on the other side, you can have the republicans win Pennsylvania and carry the rust belt, the old union manufacturing base that had been blue for generations.

Then what? You wake up, and you go to work. And your pay is still not quite enough to cover the bills. And you still have people being bombed by Democrat ordered planes instead of Republican ordered planes. You have police beating Black men in the street and doing it with impunity in Democrat-led cities instead of Republican-led cities and on and on and on.

The system is resilient and resistant to this kind of change. And it’s not going to be fixed by this election, no matter how they scream and shout about how important it is. (Source: Press TV)

Biden wins 2020 presidential election

Joe Biden will become the 46th president of the United States, after a victory in the state where he was born put him over the 270 electoral votes needed to win.

Joe Biden gets enough number of votes to win the presidential election as battleground state of Pennsylvania chooses the Democratic candidate, according to AP Call.

As Donald Trump and Joe Biden headed into Election Day on 3 November, pollsters had suggested the president’s Democratic opponent was registering a more comfortable lead than Hillary Clinton had four years ago against Trump. In 2016 Donald Trump had swept in to claim a stunning victory in the electoral college vote against his opponent.

The final polls before the 2020 election, released on 2 November, showed that while some states were close, Biden was ahead in enough swing states to potentially win.

Lebanon’s president seeks evidence behind U.S. sanctions on Gebran Bassil

President Michel Aoun said on Saturday that Lebanon would seek evidence and documents from the United States that led Washington to impose sanctions on his son-in-law Gebran Bassil, a prominent Christian politician.

Meanwhile, Lebanon’s Hezbollah resistance movement has lambasted the United States for imposing sanctions on Gebran Bassil, the leader of Lebanon’s largest Christian bloc, the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM), saying the move is a blatant intervention in the Arab country’s domestic affairs.

In a statement on Friday, Hezbollah said the U.S. sponsors and fully supports terrorism, extremism, corruption, corrupt leaders, and dictatorships across the globe, stressing that Washington does not have the right to preach on fighting terrorism.

The statement came hours after the U.S. Treasury Department blacklisted Bassil over accusations of corruption. Bassil, who is the son-in-law of Lebanon’s President Michel Aoun, said he was not intimidated by the U.S. sanctions.

The resistance movement also pointed out that Washington uses the said laws against any free and honorable country, party, and movement or individual that does not submit to the U.S. policies, obey its instructions and accept its schemes “aimed at sowing sedition and fragmentation and creating internal and regional conflicts.”

Syria has no chemical weapons, keeps cooperating with OPCW: UN envoy

Syria’s Ambassador to the United Nations Bashar al-Jaafari has reiterated that his country is not in possession of chemical weapons and remains committed to cooperating with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

He made the remarks during a UN Security Council session via video conference on Friday, saying Syria has managed to fulfill its obligations since the 2013 accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) despite the difficult circumstances it has passed through over the past years and the grave challenges created by terrorist groups, Press TV reported.

“This cooperation resulted in the elimination of all Syria’s stockpiles and the destruction of the relevant production facilities, which was confirmed by the Head of the Joint Mission to Eliminate Chemical Weapons in Syria Sigrid Kaag in her briefing to the Security Council in June 2014 [and] ... documents issued by the Technical Secretariat of the Prohibition Organization,” Jaafari said in a statement.

Johnson says he is confident in U.S. election checks and balances

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he had confidence in the U.S. election process, after U.S. President Donald Trump made unsubstantiated claims of fraud following Tuesday’s presidential vote.

“I have every confidence in the checks and balances of the American Constitution,” Johnson told broadcasters.

He declined to comment on what a U.S. administration led by former vice president Joe Biden would mean for Britain, Reuters reported. “If I were a voter in America I don’t think I’d want anybody in another government commenting on my election,” Johnson said. “I think while the votes are being counted we should wait and see.”

Resistance News

Hamas: Akhras imposed his will on Israel

INTERNATIONAL DESK **TEHRAN**— Hamas Movement said on Friday that the Palestinian prisoner, Maher Al-Akhras, “imposed his will on the arrogant occupier”.

Akhras suspended his open hunger strike on day 103 following an agreement with the Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) to release him on November 26 in a victory over the jailer.

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said in a statement, “Akhras provided the clearest example of the Palestinian’s ability to impose his will on the arrogant occupier, and the occupier’s inability to defeat him even under conditions of arrest and imprisonment.”

“This great case of struggle presented by Akhras is an extension of the continuous struggle that our people are waging to wrest their rights to freedom and return”, he added.

Qassem pointed out that Akhras’s hunger strike is new evidence of the criminality of the Zionist occupier and its violation of all international laws and norms especially in what is known as administrative detention.

Akhras, 49 years, from Silat Al-Dhahr town in Jenin, northern West Bank, has started his hunger strike since the first day of his arrest on July 27, 2020, protesting his administrative detention.

Ancient city of Belad Shapur to boost tourism infrastructure

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A budget of 20 billion rials (\$476,000 **d e s k** at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to boost tourism infrastructure in the ancient city of Belad Shapur, known by its current name, Dehdasht, in the southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province.

The budget is planned to be spent on restoration of the historical neighborhood of Dehdasht and the historical monuments located inside it, provincial tourism chief Majid Safai announced on Saturday.



Seven holy shrines and four mosques, located inside the city, are also planned to be restored and revived and an amusement park is also planned to be constructed, the official added.

The city was built at the time of Shapur I, also known as Shapur the Great, (reigned 241 CE–272), the second king of the Sassanid Dynasty.

Despite all the destruction that took place in this historical city in different eras, with an area of more than 45 hectares, it is currently considered as one of the largest historical structures in the country in terms of size and number of historical buildings.

Inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1985, the ancient city of Belad Shapur is one of the top tourist sites of the province.

Despite all the destruction that took place in this historical city in different eras, with an area of more than 45 hectares, it is currently considered as one of the largest historical structures in the country in terms of size and number of historical buildings.

A brief history of Persian pottery

(Part 2/8)

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A good example to demonstrate this connection is the pottery types that were unearthed at Tappeh Qabrestan in the Qazvin plain, which are comparable to those from Sialk and Tappeh Hessar near Damghan, all of the same period. The location of these three places forms a kind of triangle. One may presume that further archaeological work will produce more evidence for the close ties that existed amongst these communities.

Around the 2nd millennium BC in most parts of Iran we have evidence of local pottery manufacture. The vessels usually consist of bowls, pitchers, jugs, and jars. Most of these wares are simple, without any surface decorations. The color of these wares varies from grey to dark grey, red to buff. Some of these have burnished surfaces and are decorated with geometrical patterns.

The most beautiful wares of that period, however, are the zoomorphic vessels (humped bulls, camels, rams, etc.) or human figurines, which were mainly discovered in the Gilan region (Marlik, Amlash and Kaluraz).

The zoomorphic vessels and figurines must have had two distinct functions: some of them were utility vessels, used in everyday life, while others, probably more important, were used in religious ceremonies or in burials. Quite a wide variety of shapes is known today. Their actual function may be determined by the shape of the vessels and by the gesture of the figurines. The manufacture of these zoomorphic vessels and figurines continued until the middle of the 1st millennium BC.

Median and Achaemenid dynastic periods (728-330 BC)

Our knowledge of Median pottery is rather limited. Recent excavations, however, particularly at one of the most important Median sites, Tappeh Nush-i Jan near Malayer, produced a great variety of vessels.



These are still under study and examination. It is hoped in the near future a great deal can be learnt about the pottery of that important period. At other sites, e.g. Bisotun, in several places in Gilan and in Kordestan provinces have also been recovered. Recent excavations at the site of Ziwiyeh conducted by the Iranian center for archaeological research produced a good sampling Median pottery.

One of the most important innovations in ceramic technology appeared during the Median period, i.e. the introduction of glazed ware, although the earliest evidence for the use of glaze on bricks was the discovery of glazed bricks in the Elamite Temple at Chogha Zanbil, dated to the 13th century BC.

With the coming of the Achaemenid Dynasty in the 6th century BC great advances were made in pottery manufacture. The simple ware became more popular and widespread. It was nevertheless in the finer wares that progress is most noticeable. New shapes were introduced, e.g. the rhyton. The surfaces were now decorated with incised and molded designs. Certain prehistoric traditions have survived and continued. This is perhaps best observed in the application of animal figurines. These are attached to the handles of jars and rhytons. It is widely accepted that these figurines had iconographic significance.

Shapes and decorations of Achaemenid pottery disclose close connections between pottery-making and metalworking. Frequently metal shapes and decorations are produced, and one may add, successfully, in pottery. It is during the Achaemenid dynastic period that glazing was introduced generally into Iranian plateau. Excavations at Persepolis and Susa revealed that the walls of palaces were covered with glazed bricks, which included elaborate decorations, depicting animals and soldiers. The practice of glazing must have been introduced from Mesopotamia.

Fath-Abad Garden, a green jewel in heart of desert

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Fath-Abad **d e s k** Garden, one of the valuable and fascinating tourist attractions of Kerman province, southeastern Iran, shines like a green jewel in the heart of the desert.

Located 25 kilometers from the province's capital, Kerman, the Qajar-era (1789–1925) garden, which is one of the oldest gardens in Iran, was built during the rule of Fazl-Ali Khan Biglarbeigi, the city's governor at the time. That's why the garden is also known as Biglarbeigi Mansion.

Built around 1876 and with an area of 13 hectares, the complex includes a two-story mansion at the northern end of the garden. The building with arches on both sides and three-door and five-door rooms in the middle has a unique architecture of the European-Iranian style that has modeled the historical Shazdeh Garden in Mahan.

The building is surrounded by a pool in front and various agricultural lands and gardens around. The materials used in this building are all made of raw clay and mud and a layer of plaster is covered on it.

Exquisite plasterwork and beautiful illumination could be seen inside the rooms, which are decorated in the style of traditional Qajar rooms, the most famous of which is



the painting room.

The painting room, which was used to be the residence of the ruler of Kerman, is covered with unique paintings and murals.

Thirty meters east of the main building, there is a smaller one-story building known as Four-Season Mansion, with a central dome and columned porches. The brickwork and

plasterwork of this structure are so beautiful that make all visitors admire Iranian art.

There is also a museum inside the garden, the Museum of the Rulers, where a collection of biographies and pictures of the rulers of Kerman is kept.

A part of the complex is also dedicated to a botanical garden, which with its unique

Prehistoric city offers clues on ancient settlement in northwest Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A relatively huge prehistoric **d e s k** settlement discovered near the city of Piranshahr, northwest Iran, offers a glimpse of civilizations developed around the fourth millennium BC.

A 6,000-year-old archaeological mount, uncovered during an urban construction in the modern town of Gerd Ashvan, which is situated near Lake Urmia in West Azarbaijan province, embraces four phases of archaeology belonging to the fourth millennium BC, according to archaeologist Mahnaz Sharifi.

The [newly] unearthed cultural material, including potteries, and architectural relics, offers clues to discover the chronology of the region during the Copper, and New Stone Age, Sharifi who lead the survey announced on Saturday.

The excavations on the mount will be continuing till untouched soil is reached, Sharifi added.

One of the cultural findings at the mount relates to giant clay urns being used as human tombs in the Copper, and the New Stone Age, which was a phenomenon solely practiced in Gerd Ashvan, and the same funeral services have not been reported from other parts of northwestern Iran, she said.

“Gerd Ashvan pottery indicates that some common cultural traditions exist between northwestern regions [of Iran],

Anatolia, Caucasus, Mesopotamia, and Syria,... although the geographical position of Gerd Ashvan, which is adjacent to the Caucasus, Turkey, and Mesopotamia, has not been ineffective in this regard.”

Earlier this year, two ancient clay-jar tombs, embracing child corpses, were unearthed in Gerd Ashvan, which according to the archaeologist was a common tradition during the Copper and New Stone Ages.

“Burial of children in jars or large bowls was a widespread tradition in large areas from the Caucasus to northwestern Iran. And similar examples have been reported in Alchan Tappeh, Gara Hill in Mesopotamia, South Caucasus, amongst other places.”

Jar-burial can be traced to various regions across the globe. It is noted to have been practiced as early as 900 BC, and as recent as 15 CE-17th centuries. The origin of this practice is considered to be the different concept of death held by these cultures. In such societies, death is held to involve a slow change, a passage from the visible society of the living to the invisible one of the dead.

Types of jars and additional components vary from location to culture. Different shapes of jars can indicate the prestige or societal level of the deceased, or it can be a commonplace



jar. Funerary offerings are sometimes placed in or around the jars, thus revealing more information about the value different peoples have for certain items.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation in the Iranian plateau is in deposits from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

Archaeologists to unravel enigma of Achaemenid dams, water management systems

→ 1 Karami explained that waterways and water transmission networks are another part of their water management engineering, which is designed to bring water to the farthest possible areas of the region, adding “This way, a very large volume of satellite hills have been harvested... different parts of the rocks have been cut in the mountainous paths and excavated in the flatlands to a large extent so that the result of this great work is what the designers and implementers of



this system thought, that is, all areas related to the Achaemenid capital of Pasargadae being benefited from water.”

According to Karami, the Bostan Khani Dam, which is registered in the National Heritage list, is one of the “engineering masterpieces” the Achaemenids.

“Excavations and surveys on Bostan Khani Dam, as one of the engineering masterpieces of the Achaemenid period... can increase our knowledge and understanding of the

methods and techniques of dam construction and architectural structure that is currently being practiced.”

Located on a branch of the Polvar River, near the UNESCO-registered Pasargadae, the dam was built during the reign of Cyrus the Great. According to sources, archaeologists believe that this unique work was designed to contain floods and store large amounts of water for public use as well as use in agriculture and horticulture.

Iran submits dossier to UNESCO for listing Safavid-era Ganjali Khan Caravanserai

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Iran has recently submitted **d e s k** a dossier to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization for a possible inscription of the Safavid-era (1501–1736) Ganjali Khan Caravanserai, which is located in the southeastern Kerman province.

The documentation of the caravanserai has been completed and it is expected to gain UNESCO tag along with some other historical caravanserais, IRNA quoted deputy provincial tourism chief Mojtaba Shafiei as saying on Saturday.

The historical caravanserais across the province hold the potential to boost tourism in the region and most of them are ceded to the private sector to be protected and preserved more properly, the official added.

Ganjali Khan Caravanserai, which was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1937, is a part of a bigger historical complex that includes a mosque, school, bathhouse, bazaar, and cistern.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining “caravan” with “sara”. The first stand for a group of travelers and Sara means the building.

They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around



the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629; he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country.

Such roadside inns were originally built in various epochs

Some \$95,000 allocated to restore Qajar-era public bathhouse

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A budget **d e s k** of 4 billion rials (some \$95,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the restoration of the Qajar-era (1789–1925) Haj Reis bathhouse in Torbat-e Heydarieh, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province.

Due to the monument's historical value, it needs to be restored in collaboration with the private sector, so it could be used as a tourist attraction, museum, and traditional bath to attract more tourists to the region, Saeid Joghatai, an official with the Planning and Budget Organization, said on Thursday, CHTN reported.

Covering an area of 1,100 square meters, Haj Reis bathhouse is one of the most

beautiful and largest historical baths in Khorasan Razavi province.

The bathhouse, which was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2001, is famous for its exquisite tilework and murals. Bathhouses or ‘hammams’ in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities but they do not have their social function anymore since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses



for men and women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and women at different times of

products generates income for the complex and covers the expenses to some extent.

The complex, which was added to the National Heritage list in 2002, was gradually forgotten, abandoned, and ruined. In 2014, a restoration project was commenced in the garden, which has made it one of the unforgettable tourist attractions in the region.

Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut. The southern Lut is relatively dry and is not saline, while in the east are sand dunes and in the west, wind-carved ridges 180–240 feet (55–70 meters) high, called kalut.

The big and sprawling province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers. UNESCO describes Kerman as “one of the important locations that connect West to East, and North to South.” It is home to myriad historical sites and scenic landscapes such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Jabalieh Dome, Ganjali Khan Bathhouse, Malek Jameh Mosque, and Shahdad Desert to name a few.

Water transfer projects: beneficial or detrimental to environment?

1 → One of the projects is the water transfer from the Caspian Sea to the central province of Semnan proposed in 2012, but not proceeded at the time due to concerns raised by the department of environment, while is now back on the table and at the planning stage.

The other looked to Oman seawater quenching the thirst of the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, and Khorasan Razavi provinces, which have been allocated a budget of \$400 million by the president in March 2016.

■ A sustainable way to secure drinking water?

Although the projects are still under research, now a question remains, is the transfer of desalinized water from one geographic region to another a sustainable way to secure drinking water and provide people's source of income?

Experts believe that these projects entailing economic and environmental burden are no solution to droughts, and demanded the water transfer projects to be dismissed due to the irreparable damages to the environment namely deforestation, wildlife habitat destruction, biodiversity degradation, improper land change use, and contaminated seawater.

In a news piece published by Khabaronline, Mehdi Zare, a seismic expert, said that human intervention, speeding up climate change, is one of the major threats to today's human life and even the future. One of the threats is that transferring water to dry areas



increases the population burden in those areas while imposing unsustainable development where there is no suitable climate for such a concentration.

The disastrous consequences of such interventions have so far been appeared in the country, especially in provinces of Tehran and Isfahan located in arid areas, which have been demolished being accommodated a population of three to five times the size of their carrying capacity in the last 50 years, he lamented.

Additionally, the development of huge industries inappropriately deployed to their climatic conditions added insult to injury, he added.

He went on to note that a mix of rapid population growth, disproportionate population distribution, inefficient agricultural methods, mismanagement, and thirst for development are the main reasons behind water shortages.

This is while, some others are a staunch supporter of water transfer projects as well

as the Department of Environment (DOE) chief Issa Kalantari arguing that to provide the amount of water needed for drinking purposes and industries, there is no choice but to use seawater, the incredible and abundant resources, now and in the future.

■ Water management prevents economic, environmental risks

Once an efficient permanent solution, water supply schemes are now being considered as the main cause of environmental depletion haunting many parts of the country leading to dried up lakes and rivers, and poor water resources management resulting in excessive water withdrawal is also a major threat to the country's future.

But it is still not farfetched to implement appropriate water management strategies in order to contain water scarcity before bringing the country heavy economic and environmental risks, which mainly includes changing water consumption patterns, appropriate water billing system, giving people incentive to curb their consumption, promoting agricultural technologies and irrigation systems, capturing rain or floodwaters, recycling wastewater, water reuse and limiting groundwater withdrawal.

Taking steps to increase people's awareness of water shortage, in addition to legislating laws in this regard, considering fines for citizens or industries taking water for granted can be among the effective solution to Iran's issues with drought.

200 seismic accelerometers to be installed in Tehran

1 → Earthquake prediction technology has not yet been developed in the world, but these accelerometers can make rescue forces more prepared for a possible earthquake, and they can also make organizations like firefighting stations ready a few seconds before an earthquake, Hanachi noted.



Tehran is one of the most hazardous metropolises in the world in terms of the risk of different natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, subsidence, drought, landslide, fire following an earthquake, etc. On the other hand, Tehran has over 8,300,000-night time population with a mixture of old non-resistant structures as well as modern high-rise buildings that affect the vulnerability of this city.

The region has a history of major historical earthquakes, for instance, in 958 A.D. in Rey-Taleghan with an estimated earthquake magnitude (EEM) of 7.7; 15 June 1665 with EEM 6.5 that caused a landslide and created Taar lake in the vicinity of Damavand, actually a mountain promenade in Tehran province; 27 March 1830 EEM 7.1 in Shemiranat; 2 October 1930 EEM 5.0 in Ah-Mobarakabad; 20 January 1990 EEM 5.9 in Firouzkooh; and 9 May 2020 EEM 5.1 in Damavand, according to Mehdi Zare, a professor of engineering seismology.

Most recently, a 3.1 magnitudes quake rocked Tehran province on September 19.

On May 27, an earthquake measuring 4.0 on the Richter scale occurred. On May 8, a 5.1 quake jolted the same area, killing two and injuring 33.

Climate crisis: Europe experiences hottest October on record

Europe has just experienced its hottest October on record, new data shows.

Temperatures across Europe were 1.6C above the average from 1981-2010 last month, according to data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Unusually severe heat also swept across the Arctic region in October, the service said.

The high temperatures played a key role in preventing the Arctic Ocean from freezing over for the winter. Arctic sea ice reached its lowest level for October since satellite measurements began in 1979, the data shows.

Globally, it was the third hottest October Earth has experienced. The six hottest Octobers have all occurred within the last six years, Dr Freja Vamborg, senior scientist at the Copernicus Climate Change Service told The Independent.

"There's a well-documented increasing trend in temperatures. We've seen around 1.1C of warming in Europe. That means we're in a situation where we'd generally expect to see warmer years and warmer months," she said.

"If we take October for example, the six warmest Octobers in Europe have happened in the last six years. So it's not unusual to see a new record, and that is due to the underlying trend of warming."

Temperatures were also above average over the western US and much of southern Africa, according to the data. Other regions, including parts of South America, experienced continued heatwave conditions.

October was also the fourth month in a row with ice-free conditions along the Northern Sea Route, a shipping path running along the Russian Arctic coast to the Bering Strait, the data shows.

Every year, Arctic sea ice goes through a seasonal cycle. Its cover over the Arctic Ocean grows in area and thickness through the winter before shrinking back again in the summer, when temperatures rise.

The point at the end of summer when sea ice reaches its lowest level is called the "sea ice summer minimum".

This year, the Arctic reached its second-lowest summer minimum on record, according to data from the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC).

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 52)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

ساختار

خط فارسی

سَطرِ نَظرِ عَکسِ بَاغِ قَوهِ دَانِشگاهِ سَول

عَدَد - ده ها - کتاب کار

دَه، بیست، سی، چهل، پنجاه، شصت، هفتاد، هشتاد، نود

۱۰ - ۲۰ - ۳۰ - ۴۰ - ۵۰ - ۶۰ - ۷۰ - ۸۰ - ۹۰

Compound numerals are formed by linking the parts with the conjunction *و* /*o*/, the largest numerals coming first:

بیست و پنج / *bisto*/ ۲۵ هفتاد و یک / *haftādo*/ ۷۱

● تمرین ۱. با عدد بنویسید:

۱. شانزده	هجده
۲. بیست و هفت	سی و شش
۳. چهل و یک	پنجاه و پنج
۴. شصت و دو	هفتاد و چهار
۵. هشتاد و نه	نود و سه

Benefactors donate \$182m to counter COVID-19

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Philanthropists in Iran have made a total contribution of 7.7 trillion rials (nearly \$182 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) in the fight against COVID-19, Shahin Mohammad Sadeghi, an advisor to the health minister, has said, IRNA reported.

Although lock-downs have reduced people's income or many of them faced severe difficulties, they did not forget the underprivileged families and people were offering a wide range of volunteer services, as well as making face masks, disinfectants, or even some cooked food and distributed in deprived areas, in addition to financial assistance.

Some shop owners refused to receive monthly rent to help the tenants whose businesses were affected by the outbreak. Many also have volunteered to make up for the lack of medical staff, or help reduce the burden on the nurses and health workers.

Maryam Hazrati deputy health minister for nursing said in May that since the beginning of the epidemic, about 1,733 nurses, including faculty, graduate nursing students, retired



and volunteer nurses, have offered to care for infected patients and provide counseling and training services at hospitals.

A total of 673 volunteer nurses were offering specialized counseling, she added.

■ COVID-19 cases at a record high

In a press briefing on Saturday, Health Ministry spokesper-

son Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 9,450 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 673,250. She added that 515,153 patients have so far recovered, but 5,506 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, coronavirus daily deaths and new cases hit the record high, as 423 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 37,832, she added.

Lari noted that so far 5,185,361 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

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

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

Melting of Antarctica's Larsen C Ice Shelf at 40-year record high, study says

Antarctica's Larsen C Ice Shelf experienced its highest rate of melting since records began 40 years ago from 2019-2020, a new study has found.

The unprecedented melt at Larsen C, which is Antarctica's fourth-largest ice shelf, coincided with record-breaking summer temperatures at a weather station in the Antarctic Peninsula, the research says.

The melting was primarily driven by a series of rare weather events that brought additional heat towards the ice shelf, causing it to melt from above, the study says.

The effects of such meteorological events can combine with human-caused global heating to create a "perfect storm" for Antarctica's ice shelves, a climate scientist told The Independent.

For the research, the authors studied 40 years of satellite data able to detect the

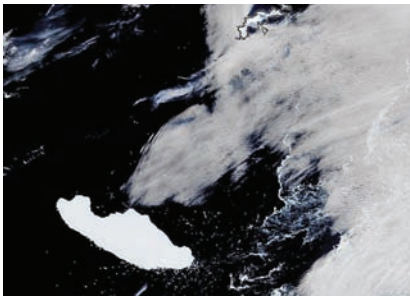
presence of water on top of snow, which is an indicator of melting.

The research comes as an iceberg the "size of Norfolk", which broke free from the Larsen C ice shelf in mid-2017, edges closer towards the British overseas territory of South Georgia in the Atlantic Ocean.

When ice shelves undergo high levels of melting for many years, large pools of water, known as "meltponds", can form on the surface of the ice.

These pools weigh down on the ice, increasing the chances of icebergs breaking off, explains Dr Suzanne Bevan, a research officer at Swansea University in Wales and lead author of the new research, which is published in the Cryosphere journal. She told The Independent:

"Repeated years of melt similar to 2019/2020 would cause melt ponds to



become widespread across the shelf. This was the scenario that led to the collapse of Larsen B in 2002.

"A collapse of Larsen C, if it occurred... would impact on sub-shelf habitat and shelf ocean circulation. And, as we have seen lately with A68 drifting towards South Georgia, large icebergs heading north can pose a

threat to wildlife."

The results of the study are "unsurprising in the context of climate change", says Dr Ella Gilbert, a researcher of Antarctica's ice shelves from the British Antarctic Survey, who was not involved in the research.

"Ongoing climate change-induced temperature rise and more frequent warm air events... suggest that we will be seeing more of this in future," she told The Independent. "This is a glimpse of things to come."

However, it is worth noting that the study combines two separate satellite datasets, meaning there is still uncertainty over whether the melting seen at Larsen C from 2019-2020 is truly a new record, says Dr Alison Banwell, an ice shelf scientist from the University of Colorado, Boulder. "They do not use continuous data from 1979 to 2020," she said.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← →

90,000 clunker taxis are plying the roads

Some 90,000 clunker taxis are plying the roads in Iran, an official with traffic police has said.

The old taxis are being used 8 times more than private cars, YJC quoted Mohammad Tarahhomi as saying on Monday.

There are 1.5 million clunker vehicles and 9 million clunker motorcycles in Iran, he regretted, adding that unfortunately scrappage of old, high-emission vehicles is linked with importation of vehicles which is now banned.

When vehicles are being manufactured in a country there should exist a scrappage scheme as well, he highlighted.

Referring to the clean air law Tarahhomi noted that the law mandates scrappage of old and polluting vehicles.

Comprising 34 articles, the law on clean air was adopted by Majlis [the Iranian parliament] in July 2017 after 6 years of continuous revisions.

۹۰ هزار تاکسی فرسوده در جاده‌های کشور تردد می‌کنند

رئیس اداره حقوقی پلیس راه گفت: ۹۰ هزار تاکسی فرسوده در ایران وجود دارد.

به گزارش باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان سرهنگ محمد ترحمی گفت: میزان تردد این تاکسی‌ها هشت برابر خودروهای عادی است. وی افزود: یک میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار خودروی فرسوده و ۹ میلیون موتورسیکلت فرسوده در کشور وجود دارد. متأسفانه حیات اسقاط به واردات گره خورده است و از آنجا که واردات ممنوع شده است، اسقاط نیز صورت نمی‌گیرد.

سرهنگ ترحمی گفت: در کشوری که خودرو و موتورسیکلت تولید می‌شود، اسقاط نیز باید هم راستا با تولید صورت گیرد و حتماً باید تمهیداتی در این زمینه اتخاذ شود.

وی راه با اشاره به ماده ۸ قانون هوای پاک ادامه داد: این ماده قانونی محدودیت‌هایی برای خودروهای فرسوده در زمینه معاینه فنی و بیمه وضع کرده و لازم است که اهتمام جدی در زمینه اسقاط موتورسیکلت‌ها و خودروهای فرسوده انجام شود.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Mohammad Shojaeian
■ Editor-in-Chief: Ali A.Jenabzadeh

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
» Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.O. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713



GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When Allah chooses to favor someone, He makes him the source of satisfying other people's needs.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Filmmakers sharing experiences during Tehran European festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — A number of filmmakers from Europe will join Iranian directors and critics to hold several online workshops arranged by the organizers of the European Film Week, which opened in Tehran on Saturday.

The workshops will stream live on the Instagram page of Iran's Art and Experience Cinema.



A poster for the European Film Week 2020.

documentarian Mehrdad Oskui will also attend join them at the review session.

Along with Iranian filmmaker Majid Barzegar, Bulgarian director Stanislav Donchev will be talking about his third feature film "Letters from Antarctica" on Wednesday.

The last workshop will be held on Saturday with Iranian director Nima Abbaspur and French filmmaker Louis Aubert discussing his short film "9.58".

A lineup of 16 films by filmmakers from different countries in Europe has been selected to go on screen during the film program.

The movies are from 14 countries, including Italy, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece and Austria.

Among the films are "The Conductor" by Maria Peters from the Netherlands, "Sister" by Ursula Meier from Switzerland, "Transit" by Christian Petzold from Germany, "Truman" by Cesc Gay from Spain and "Little Joe" by Jessica Hausner from Austria.

"The Conductor" is about a 24-year-old Dutch Willy Wolters who has immigrated to the American continent with her parents as a child. She dreams of becoming a conductor, but this is an ambition that no one takes seriously.

"Sister" centers on Simon, a 12-year-old boy. The film follows him around a busy Swiss ski resort, apparently unnoticed by everyone but Meier's camera, as he goes about his business, which involves furtively stealing ski equipment from vacationers, hauling it down the mountain in the lift and re-selling it for bargain prices below.

In "Truman", Julian, living in Madrid, receives an unexpected visit from his friend, Tomas, a professor living in Canada. Julian is an actor and has had cancer for a year, and his only companion now is Truman, his loyal dog. The friends and Truman share four days together.

Christian Petzold's "Transit" is a portrait of German refugees in Marseille during World War Two and based on Anna Seghers's 1942 novel by the same name. "Transit" is attuned to the experience of flight and exile in both the past and the present.

"Little Joe" focuses on a genetically engineered plant that scatters its seeds and seems to cause uncanny changes to living creatures.

The festival, which was held in various cities of Iran for the past three years, will go online this year in Tehran, and the movies will be available on Hashure, an Iranian platform providing video on demand (VOD) service for documentary films.

The program has been organized as a collaborative effort between Iran's Art and Experience Cinema and the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC).

The two institutions have previously organized the festival in Iran in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Movies from Iran line up for Taipei Golden Horse festival

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — Several **d e s k** works by Iranian directors have been selected to compete in the various sections of the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival, which is currently underway in the Taiwanese city.

"The Warden" by Nima Javidi is contending for a Golden Horse in the Panorama section.

The story of the film is set in 1966, when a prison in southern Iran is being evacuated because of its proximity to the city's new airport. Major Jahed, the warden, transfers the prisoners to the new prison and then soon receives a report that one prisoner, sentenced to death, is missing!

Using the concept of a frantic manhunt for an inmate in the very building meant to keep him imprisoned, Javidi nimbly reflects on notions of freedom and the fragile nature of authority.

Masud Bakhshi's acclaimed drama "Yalda, a Night for Forgiveness" is competing in the Beyond the Verdict section.

On a reality show televised on the night



A scene from "The Warden" by Nima Javidi.

of Yalda, a Persian celebration of the winter solstice, tonight's guest is Maryam, a young woman condemned to death. Maryam was living with her husband in a temporary marriage and now she stands accused of his murder. In front of the camera and millions of viewers, Maryam is supposed to beg for forgiveness and her life.

"A Hairy Tale" is an entry to the Fantastic World category.

Directed by Homayun Ghanizadeh, the film is about Danesh, who works at a small barbershop, but his true calling is to become an actor. Manfered promises to act as his agent and introduce him to a famous director, if Danesh gathers enough long hair to make a wig. At the same time, murders are being committed in the city. All the female victims' hair is cut off to the root. Detective Kiani starts to investigate whether the tracks lead to this barbershop and finds out how messy the situation really is.

The Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival will run until November 22.

"The Badger", "Rotation" named best at BangkokThai

the awards for best film in two different categories of the 6th BangkokThai International Film Festival in Thailand.

"The Badger" directed by Kazem Mollai was selected as best fiction feature.

The film has been acclaimed at numerous international events. Earlier last week, it won the grand prize for the best foreign feature at the 29th Berkeley Video and Film Festival, and the award for best narrative feature at the Austin Film Festival in the U.S.

The movie is about Sudeh, a 40-years-old woman who faces a strange incident right before her second marriage. Sudeh and her son Matiar live in an old apartment. One day, she hires a pest control company to solve the termite problems in the apartment. While the pest control company is working, Matiar is recording the procedures, as this is his hobby. The next day, Matiar gets kidnapped after school, and the kidnapper asks Sudeh to pay 10 Bitcoins for her

son. Tremendous pressure is put on Sudeh, but the truth hidden beneath will surprise everyone.

"The Rotation" directed by Hazhir As'adi received the award for best animated film at the BangkokThai festival.

The film tells the story of a country where there is a war between two tribes over claiming the sun in the sky. As a result of that war, the sun is annihilated and a volcano erupts. Those two tribes now are dead and a new sun is made, both done by the lava. Several centuries pass and the humans are still at war to claim the sun in the sky.

Marinos Kartikis from Cyprus was selected as best director for his film "Senior Citizen".

Mary Mina was named best actress for her role in "The Ashes", while the award for best actor went to Sofiene Mamdi for his role in "Spiral", which has been directed by himself.

The award for best documentary was given to "Little Big Family" directed by Oliver Kyr from Peru.

Stockholm Intl. Film Festival picks "Sun Children", "Wasteland"

A R T **TEHRAN** — "Sun Children" and **d e s k** "The Wasteland", two films by Iranian filmmakers, will be competing in the Stockholm International Film Festival, which will take place in the Swedish capital from November 11 to 22.

The child labor movie "Sun Children" by Majid Majidi 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 School, a charitable institution that tries to educate street kids and child laborers.

"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.

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



A scene from "The Wasteland" by Ahmad Bahrami.

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.

"Sun Children" will also open the 8th Ajyal Film Festival, in the Qatari capital of Doha on November 18.

"The Wasteland" by Ahmad Bahrami is about an old brick manufacturing factory that is going to be shut down, and all that matters to the factory supervisor is to keep his lover unharmed.

The film won the Orizzonti award for best film at the 77th Venice Film Festival in September, while it also received the Fai Persona Lavoro Ambiente Foundation Award of the festival.

Moreover, "The Wasteland" is an entry to the Singapore International Film Festival running from November 26 to December 6.

Leonardo Sciascia's "Sicilian Uncles" published in Persian

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation **d e s k** of Italian author Leonardo Sciascia's collection "Sicilian Uncles" has recently been published in Persian.

Qoqnus is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Sanam Qiaisi.

The expression "Sicilian uncle" has the same sense in Italian as "Dutch uncle" does in English, but with sinister overtones of betrayal and inconstancy. The four novellas in "Sicilian Uncles", originally published in 1958, are political thrillers of a kind - the first fruits of Sciascia's maturity.

In these stories, illusions about ideology and history are lost in mirth, suffering and abandoned innocence. Each novella has its historical moment: the Allied invasion of Sicily, the Spanish Civil War, the death of

Stalin, the "events" of 1948. These occasions and their consequences are registered in the lives of Sciascia's wonderfully drawn characters. Each has voice, wit and a private history, which opens out onto the wider circumstances of his time.

Sciascia was born in Sicily in 1912 and died there in 1989. Like Joseph Roth, Sciascia worked with deceptively simple forms, books about crime, historical novels, political thrillers, and was a master of lucid and accessible prose.

This polished surface conceals great depths of sophistication and an intense engagement with the moral and historical problems of modern Italy, especially of his native Sicily. His books are rooted in a particular culture; they speak to anyone who has ever wondered how people can endure unbearable injustice.



Front cover of the Persian translation of by Italian author Leonardo Sciascia's "Sicilian Uncles".



A scene from "The American Bull" directed by Fatemeh Tusi.

"The American Bull" picked as best short at Arlington festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — "The **d e s k** American Bull" by Iranian director Fatemeh Tusi has been named best narrative short at the 10th Annual Arlington International Film Festival underway in the American city.

The story of "The American Bull" is set in a village between Iran and Iraq, where a group of inhabitants are

involved in animal husbandry. Saheb, the adolescent owner of the only American bull, is very dependent on his bull and makes a living by making it available for breeding.

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

"The Place That Makes Us" by Karla

Murthy from the U.S. was named the best film of the Arlington festival, and the award for the best narrative feature was given to "Omar and Us" by Maryna Er Gorbach and Mehmet Bahadir Er from Turkey.

The 10th Annual Arlington International Film Festival is streaming online from November 5 to 15.

Culture ministry announces themes for Iran Book Week 2020

» **1** In addition, top Iranian translators will be awarded during the National Celebration of Translators.

Last year, Mitra Farzad from Iran and Georg Asaturian from Armenia received the Iran Global Translation Awards.

A number of online book fairs are scheduled to be set up, and virtual reading workshops and meetings with writers and translators will be organized during the book week.



A poster for the Iran Book Week.

Due to the economic recession facing the Iranian publishers, the Managing director of the Association of Educational Publishers has asked the organizers of the Iran Book Week to mitigate the impact with promotional policies nationwide.

"This week provides an opportunity to help promote reading among the public and encourage people to spend more time reading as they have more spare time during the pandemic era," Amin

Asefi said in a press release on Saturday.

Iran announces a city as the book capital every year. In addition, ten villages across the country are selected as Book Loving Villages of the Year.

Shiraz, which is currently Iran's 2020 Book Capital, will also organize special programs for this week.

The city, which is the hometown of Persian poets Hafez and Sadi, has applied for the title of "World Book Capital" in 2022.