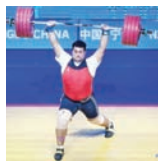




Zarif urges new U.S. leaders to change tack on Iran **3**



Super heavyweight Davoudi eyes podium at Tokyo 2020 **3**



Traditional medicine center inaugurated for COVID-19 patients **7**



Iran's Hushang Moradi Kermani nominated for Astrid Lindgren Award **8**

Afghanistan struggles for peace amid surge in violence

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TPO, Labor Ministry ink MOU to facilitate cooperatives' foreign trade

TEHRAN — Iranian Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare for cooperation in facilitating the exports of commodities produced by the country's cooperatives.

As reported by the TPO, a variety of areas were covered in this memorandum

including promotion of the capabilities of exporting cooperatives, providing technical consulting services regarding foreign trade, identifying and establishing export consortia by capable cooperatives, prioritizing areas with export potential in the country's cooperative sector and finally participation in developing the export cooperative market. **→ 4**

Tehran says Biden must compensate for Trump's wrongdoings

TEHRAN — Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh says Tehran has provided a list of the wrongdoings made by the Trump administration against Iran that the new U.S. president must compensate.

"A list of items has been made that the new U.S. president must respond to with regard to commitments toward Iran," Khatibzadeh told Al-Alam TV on Sunday, adding that the U.S. has no option but to respect the Iranian nation and return to

its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA.

He said the U.S. is in no position to set conditions for Iran, because it has illegally dealt a great blow to the Iranian economy.

"Actually, the United States of America is not in a position to set conditions for anybody. The United States of America has been the violator of the JCPOA, violator of (UN) Security Council Resolution 2231, **→ 2**

Child labor drama "Sun Children" picked to represent Iran at Oscars

TEHRAN — Majid Majidi's child labor drama "Sun Children" has been selected to represent Iran during the 93rd Academy Awards in the best foreign-language film category.

Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian's war drama "Walnut Tree" and Masud Bakhshi's drama "Yalda: A Night for Forgiveness" failed to convince the selecting committee that finally chose "Sun Children" for the Oscar race, the Farabi Cinema Foundation

announced on Sunday.

The foundation's committee has selected Iran's submission to the Academy Awards since 1992.

Directors Mohammad-Ali Najafi, Kamal Tabrizi and Narges Abyar, producer Seyyed Jamal Sadatian, cinematographer Seyyed Mohammad Davudi, screenwriter Farhad Tohidi and critic Antonio Shoraka were the members of the committee this year. **→ 8**

By **Mohammad Homaeefar**
Tehran Times journalist

Tehran celebrates Trump's fall

Iranian officials have been celebrating U.S. President Donald Trump's downfall in the presidential election without rejoicing over Joe Biden's victory, indicating that while Tehran is happy with the defeat of the "maximum pressure" person, it remains distrustful of the U.S. foreign policy even under a new Democratic leadership.

Iranian Vice President Es'haq Jahan-giri expressed hope that the U.S. would return to its international commitments and respect the rights of other countries under the new leadership.

"Finally, with the announcement of the U.S. election results, the era of Trump and his adventurous and hawkish team has come to an end," Jahan-giri tweeted on Saturday night, after Joe Biden was named the winner of the November 3 election.

"Violating international treaties, from environmental [deals] to the inhumane economic sanctions against the Iranian nation and supporting terrorism and racism, was the cornerstone of Trump's policies," he said.

Back in May 2018, Trump withdrew from the historic 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers and imposed harsh economic sanctions on Tehran which he called the "maximum pressure" policy.

In response, Tehran reduced its commitments under the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and said with its "maximum resistance" approach, it will overcome the United States' maximum pressure campaign.

Jahan-giri noted that the Iranian nation withstood the Trump administration's maximum pressure policy and will not forget the effects of sanctions on their livelihood and the assassination of top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani.

Trump on January 3 ordered strikes that martyred General Soleimani, chief of the IRGC Quds Force, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU).

In the early hours of January 8, the IRGC attacked Ain al-Assad airbase in Anbar province in western Iraq as part of its promised "tough revenge" for the U.S. terror attack. Iran notified the Iraqi government beforehand so as to avoid casualties. **→ 2**

Biden will follow Obama's legacy towards Iran: ex-French Foreign Ministry official

By **Javad Heirannia**

TEHRAN — Marc Finaud, the former French Foreign Ministry spokesman, predicts that the incoming Joe Biden administration will "follow Barack Obama's legacy based on policy change and not regime change towards Iran."

Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate, beat Donald Trump in the election. Biden was declared the victor on Saturday, November 7, four days after the November 3 elections.

Trump, who will remain in the White House until January 20, 2021, has been pursuing an illegal and extremely hostile policy toward Iran within his "maximum pressure" strategy against Iran. He abrogated the multilateral 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolu-

tion 2231. Diplomats, officials, and analysts say Trump unilaterally quit the nuclear deal because it was brokered by the Obama administration.

"Biden will certainly continue along this pragmatic approach without necessarily favoring rapid normalization," Finaud tells the Tehran Times.

Finaud, a senior member of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, also says, "If Biden fulfils his promise of returning to the JCPOA, there is no doubt that this can only be done by lifting the U.S. unilateral sanctions against Iran, since those were deemed a violation of the JCPOA commitments."

He also says, "The most important feature of Biden's announced plan is that it is based on renewed dialogue and negotiation and no longer on the 'maximum pressure' policy of Trump." **→ 2**

Trump supporters continue protesting vote count in Arizona

Outside the Maricopa County Elections Department, hundreds of supporters of President Donald Trump rallied for a fourth consecutive day, insisting the Democratic Party had stolen the election.

The demonstrators took turns addressing the crowd and kneeling to pray for Trump. At times, they broke out in chants of "four more years" and "back the blue".

Several protesters wore hats reading "Make America great again", while others had flags or T-shirts that referenced QAnon — the widespread conspiracy theory that Trump is waging a secret war on child sex traffickers.

Many in the crowd carried rifles or wore holstered firearms as the protesters taunted local media crews who stood on the other side of a fence.

"We forgive you for being traitors to our country," an armed demonstrator shouted at

the journalists.

Adel Belgaied, who held the megaphone for much of the afternoon, led the crowd in a prayer.

"Lord, a lot of us are confused why dead people's ballots were received, why it takes 600,000 votes four days to be counted — and they're still not finished," he said.

While addressing the crowd outside the election center, the protest leader also recycled a host of conspiracy theories, suggesting that the coronavirus pandemic was a hoax, that Democrats plan to implement communism in the U.S., and that social media companies had interfered in the elections against Trump and the Republican Party.

Speaking to Al Jazeera, Belgaied claimed ballots cast for Trump had been tossed out because the voters had used Sharpie felt-tip markers on them — a claim Arizona's secretary of state has dismissed as a conspiracy theory.

Neighboring countries hold 60% share of Iran's non-oil exports

By **Mahnaz Abdi**

TEHRAN — Combatting the U.S. sanctions on its oil exports, Iran is determined to boost the export of non-oil products, and has defined a number of strategies to materialize this target.

According to Mohammad-Baqer Nobakht, the head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), the country has been deprived of around \$50 billion a year in oil sales income and non-oil exports should compensate for that loss.

"Based on the targets set, we (have to) bring

the non-oil exports to \$48 billion from the \$24-billion that we currently have," Nobakht had said last year.

While increasing non-oil exports is one of the major plans that Iranian government is pursuing, the neighboring countries come under the spotlight as some major export destinations.

Last year, the PBO head had said that the government was seeking to double the value of non-oil exports to the neighboring countries in this Iranian calendar year, which started on March 20.

Iran shares border with fifteen countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Oman, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia.

According to the recent data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, neighboring countries were the destinations for more than 60 percent of Iran's non-oil exports during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21). **→ 4**



OFARS/ Mohammad Soltani

Rough hands, wool fibers and the traditional art of felt

An Iranian crafter (not pictured) rubs his rough hands against the wool fibers which are gradually being turned into a piece of felt in his workshop in Ramsar, northern Iran, November 6, 2020.

The fabric material is produced by matting, condensing and pressing fibers together, a traditional skill which is called namad-mali in Iran. Felt can be made of natural fibers such as wool or animal fur, or from synthetic fibers such as petroleum-based acrylic or acrylonitrile or wood pulp-based rayon.

The heartbroken

By **Masoud Hossein**

TEHRAN — COVID-19 is like a storm which hit the ship of sports - football in particular as the most popular sport around the world. Musa Salamat, Iranian football fan, is one of the storm-hit passengers.

Salamat, 66, has been supporting Tehran based club Persepolis for decades, since he was a child.

Lodged a bullet in his chest, Salamat is one of Persepolis' most loyal fans and has attended most of his beloved team's matches during the previous years but he is forced to stay at a war veterans sanatorium in Tehran due to coronavirus pandemic.

Despite his physical condition, the wheelchair-bound man never missed a Persepolis match in Tehran, but he suffers from depression after the football fans were forced to stay home due to the COVID-19.

"I'm very heartbroken because the doctors don't let me to go to my team's training. I miss my coaches and players," Salamat told Tehran Times.

He says that loving Persepolis is an indescribable feeling and there are not enough words to describe it. Salamat feels like an islander who lives far away from his hometown.

Iran is home to arguably the region's most passionate fans but the competitions have been affected by coronavirus and they cannot wait to see their favorite teams.

"I'm tired of being at the nursing home. I need to go out to cheer my team. No one can put himself in my shoes because I'm trapped in a cage for eight months," he said.

Persepolis have qualified for the 2020 AFC Champions League final for the second time in three years and Musa Salamat hopes the Iranian Reds win the title for the first time ever. **→ 3**

Tehran says Biden must compensate for Trump's wrongdoings

■ caused billions of dollars in losses and left the JCPOA as a participant. The day a government in the United States wants to return to the JCPOA there is a table that it must be held accountable for violation of commitments," Khatibzadeh explained.

"The United States must repent and stop its economic war against us... honor its obligations and make compensations," he said.



The spokesman added, "The difference between the Biden and Trump camps are clear but we're eyeing practical measures."

Tensions soared between Tehran and Washington since Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal on May 8, 2018. Trump not only exited the deal but has since targeted Iran with a series of unprecedented economic bans under his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

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

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

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

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

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

In remarks on Thursday, President Hassan Rouhani described as "unprecedented in Iran's history," the hardship that came to face Iran during Trump's tenure in terms of the American economic war and the outbreak of the new coronavirus.

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

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

"Our nation both withstood the coronavirus and confronted sanctions and adversities," he added.

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

Commander: Iraq seeks to buy Iranian-made night vision systems for its helicopters

TEHRAN (FNA) – Iranian Army Airborne Commander General Yousef Qorbani has announced that the Iraqi Army has demanded Iran to sell and mount its indigenous night vision systems on the Arab country's helicopters.

"The Iraqi airborne officials visited Iran recently and we also decided to pay a reciprocal visit and the Iraqi side was highly interested in purchasing (helicopter) parts from Iran and wanted the Iran-made night vision systems to be mounted on their helicopters," General Qorbani said on Sunday.



He noted that Iran is now able to produce 500 helicopter parts, adding that the first indigenously developed helicopter will be manufactured in the country soon.

"Today, the giant helicopter fleet of the Islamic Republic's Army Airborne is considered as the Middle-East's superior power in area of combat and deterrence power," General Qorbani said.

He added that the Iranian helicopters are today equipped with the most state-of-the-art parts, saying, "We do not need imports for meeting our needs to helicopter parts and we can even help the Islamic and friendly states in this regard."

General Qorbani had announced in 2018 that the country's helicopters have been equipped with night-vision systems.

"Our dear experts in the air industry have had a highly successful performance and have equipped our helicopters with night-vision systems," General Qorbani said at the time.

"We have also become fully indigenized in the field of long-range missile systems. Turning ground-based missiles to air-based missiles and enjoying the best fire-and-forget missiles are among other achievements of the Army Airborne Unit," he added.

General Qorbani underlined that Iran is among the pioneering states in developing helicopters with the capability of fighting electronic warfare, targeting guided missiles, interception of targets from distance and using cruise missiles.

Iran not dealing passively with Western countries: MP

POLITICAL DESK **TEHRAN** – An Iranian legislator has said the parliament's new strategic action plan to fight the United States' sanctions demonstrates that Iran is not passive when dealing with Western countries.

"With the new 'strategic plan' in place, we are sending a message to the 4+1 group that we no longer deal passively with the West," Mohammad Ebrahim Rezaee, a member of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, told Mehr on Sunday.

"It is logical to remain as much committed to the 2015 nuclear deal [JCPOA] as the other parties are sticking to their obligations," he insisted.

He said Iran has exerted every effort in recent years to fulfill its obligations under the nuclear deal. "However, the other side almost showed no obligation to the pact, and we saw that the Americans withdrew from the deal."

Rezaee said that the strategic action plan emphasizes the resistance strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, "and our message is that we are standing firmly on our position no matter who takes office after the U.S. presidential election."

"Besides, we will continue our path of resistance and will never fall for any miscalculations in this regard," he stressed.

The MP said announced the details of



the plan will be publicized after finalization.

Earlier in November, the Iranian parliament put forward a bill on "strategic action" for lifting the sanctions after the failure of the JCPOA's European parties to fulfill Tehran's interests under the nuclear deal and the escalation of American sanctions and hostile measures.

The Iranian lawmakers have agreed to discuss the ratification of the bill entitled "the strategic measure for the removal of sanctions."

The bill has been proposed after a phased reduction in Iran's commitments to the JCPOA and the Iranian president's warning to the E3 about their support for the constant intensification of the cruel American sanctions against Tehran.

The lawmakers have also cited the American assassination of top Iranian commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, acts of sabotage in Iran's Natanz nuclear site, the U.S.'s illegal attempts to reinstate the UN sanctions on Iran, and Washington's plots

to disrupt foreign cooperation with Iran.

According to the 9-article bill, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran will be required to produce and store at least 120 kilograms of enriched uranium with 20 percent purity level at the Fordow nuclear facility every year, and to fulfill the country's peaceful industrial demands with uranium enriched above 20%.

Based on the motion, if the European parties to the JCPOA start observing their obligations within three months following the approval of the law, the Iranian administration should submit a proposal to the parliament on Iran's reciprocal measures for restoring full implementation of its JCPOA obligations.

Back in September, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Iran suffered billions of dollars in damages because U.S. President Donald Trump did not like his predecessor Barack Obama.

"Billions upon billions of dollars of damage they have inflicted upon Iran just because somebody didn't like the previous president of the United States," Zarif told Fareed Zakaria at a virtual event sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations.

He was making a reference to Trump's motivation to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal, which many believe was due to his hatred toward Obama, under whom the deal was clinched.

Rouhani urges Biden to make up for Trump's 'destructive policies'

POLITICAL DESK **TEHRAN** – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday urged the incoming administration of Joe Biden to make up for the mistakes of Donald Trump, and return the United States to international laws and treaties.

"Now, an opportunity has opened up for the next U.S. administration to make up for the past mistakes and return to abiding by international commitments through respecting international regulations," Rouhani said in remarks on Sunday.

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

The president said the U.S. government's destructive policies over the last three years were not only rejected by the people of the world, but were also opposed by the American people in the November 3 election.

He added that the Islamic republic of Iran has always complied with its obligations as long as the other sides have done the same and regards constructive collaboration with the world as its approach.

Last month, U.S. National Security Advisor Rob-

ert 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.

Rouhani pointed to the Iranian people's resistance in the face of the Trump administration's sanctions, saying the people proved with their heroic resistance in the face of the economic war that the maximum pressure policy of the United States is doomed to failure.

"Now is the time to witness a boost in the security and development of the region through cooperation and synergy among Iran and its neighbors," he added.

In similar remarks on Saturday, Rouhani 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.

The Saturday remarks were made before Biden was named the new president of the United States.

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



"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," he added.

Tehran celebrates Trump's fall

1 → In June, Tehran said 36 individuals have been identified in connection with the Soleimani assassination, including the outgoing president, Donald Trump.

Tehran Prosecutor General Ali Alqasi-Mehr named Trump as the key individual at the top of the list, saying his pursuit will continue even after his tenure as U.S. president.

In a tweet on Sunday, Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), said Trump's downfall is not a surprise but a history's verdict.

Most of the American people rejected an ideology that regarded bullying and oppressing as a panacea, Shamkhani wrote.

He also advised the new administration to label Trump's picture at the White

House as "a lesson for posterity", instead of labeling it the forty-fifth president of the United States.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf also reacted to the result of the U.S. election by reciting verses of the Holy Quran.

In a tweet, Ghalibaf referred to verses 21 to 25 of An-Nazi'at Surah in the Holy Quran, which say, "But he [i.e., Pharaoh] denied and disobeyed. Then he turned his back, striving [i.e., plotting]."

"And he gathered [his people] and called out. And said, 'I am your most exalted lord'. So Allah seized him in exemplary punishment for the last and the first [transgression]," the verses say.

Hours before Biden was named the winner, the chairman of the Tehran City



Council, Mohsen Hashemi, said the targeted killing of General Soleimani helped cause Trump's heavy defeat.

In a video published on his Telegram channel on Saturday, Hashemi congratulated the Iranian nation and Soleimani's

family on Trump's defeat, saying the person who imagined he will be reelected for killing General Soleimani was disgraced by the American people.

"I congratulate Iranians and non-Iranians, who faced difficulties over his sometimes cruel policies, on Trump's heavy defeat," he added.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif slammed the Trump administration's "lawless bullying", and hopes that the Biden administration would put an end to that.

"The American people have spoken," Zarif said via Twitter on Sunday.

"And the world is watching whether the new leaders will abandon disastrous lawless bullying of outgoing regime—and accept multilateralism, cooperation & respect for law," the chief diplomat added.

Biden will follow Obama's legacy towards Iran: ex-French Foreign Ministry official

1 → Following is the text of the interview:

■ Writing an article in the CNN on September 13, Joe Biden proposed a three-stage plan for engagement with Iran. In addition the JCPOA, he suggested to extend the talks on human rights, Iran's regional policies and missile program. What is your assessment?

A: The most important feature of Biden's announced plan is that it is based on renewed dialogue and negotiation and no longer on the "maximum pressure" policy of Trump. He supported Obama's policy of focusing on the nuclear issue because it was then considered as a priority and he knew that the other issues (missiles, regional presence, and human rights) would be more difficult to negotiate or, if negotiations succeeded, they could pave the way for normalization for which conservatives in each camp were not ready. Now, despite his election, Biden knows that there are still obstacles to normalization and that improvement of relations can only be incremental. One advantage of multiplying the topics for discussion is that they can lend themselves to mutual concessions and gains. For instance, Iran could accept to discuss its missile program provided other countries in the region with missile programs (Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Egypt) would also be involved or accepted similar constraints. In terms of timing, though, it would seem that the first priority would be to restore implementation of the JCPOA by all parties,



including the United States.

■ Biden repeatedly spoke of returning to the JCPOA during his election campaigns. What is your analysis?

A: If Biden fulfils his promise of returning to the JCPOA, there is no doubt that this can only be done by

lifting the U.S. unilateral sanctions against Iran, since those were deemed a violation of the JCPOA commitments. There are a number of sanctions that the new president will be able to cancel himself rapidly, while for others he will need the support of Congress. That will be easy in the case of the House of Representatives where Democrats maintained a majority, but more difficult with the Senate whose majority remains in the hands of the Republicans.

■ The Democratic Party announced in a statement during the presidential campaigns that it would not seek regime change in Iran. Will the Biden administration follow this policy or was it just a propaganda?

A: The Democrats follow Obama's legacy based on policy change and not regime change towards Iran. Biden will certainly continue along this pragmatic approach without necessarily favoring rapid normalization.

■ In general, what policy shifts do you predict by the Biden administration in comparison to Trump's?

A: We can expect a more balanced policy, still supportive of Israel and Saudi Arabia including with arms transfers, but more moderate, and not at the expense of regional peace and stability, for instance more active in brokering Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, and more supportive of multilateral efforts to solve the conflicts in Syria and Yemen, including through engagement with Iran, Russia, and Turkey.

SPORTS

The heartbroken

1→ “Persepolis have a difficult task ahead but we must be together. That is what will bring the unity that we need to win the title,” the fan went on to say.

He has devoted his life to football and Persepolis but he’s very heartbroken because nobody has ever met him in person since COVID-19 lockdowns began in March.

BUT, hope is not lost. Musa Salamat is optimistic about going to the stadiums once again.

Super heavyweight Davoudi eyes podium at Tokyo 2020

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian super heavyweight weightlifter Ali Davoudi says that he has a chance to win a medal at Tokyo 2020.

A remarkable performance by the 21-year-old weightlifter at the Fajr Cup in Rasht has brightened Iran’s prospects of making the weightlifting podium at Tokyo.



His career-best effort, which would have been good enough for bronze at last year’s International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Championships, puts Davoudi in pole position for one of Iran’s two places in Tokyo.

“I’m happy to be back to training after eight months since COVID-19 lockdowns began. I was forced to practice alone to be fit. I have to confess that it was very hard to train at a hall alone. I’m very happy the training camp has started once again,” Davoudi told ISNA.

Davoudi believes that the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games created a great opportunity for athletes who want to improve themselves.

“For me, it was a good opportunity since I had participated in several tournaments and the competitions had left me exhausted,” he added.

Davoudi, who won a silver medal at the Fajr Cup by lifting 441kg in total, believes that he can win a medal at the Olympics.

“I need to train more because the best weightlifters will come to Tokyo but I think I have a chance to claim a silver medal at Tokyo. I’m not just thinking about 2020 Tokyo, I want to participate at the 2024, 2028 and 2032 Olympics,” Davoudi concluded.

Foolad Sirjan remain top of Iran league table

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Foolad Sirjan continued their winning streak at the Iran Volleyball Super League.

On Sunday, they beat Shahdab Yazd 3-1 (21-25, 25-22, 27-25, 25-22) in the Iran volleyball federation’s hall to remain top of the table.

Foolad Sirjan have won seven matches out of eight over the last eight weeks.

Iran Volleyball Super League resumed on Sunday in Tehran as a centralized venue after the league was postponed on Oct. 10 in order to limit the coronavirus spread, en.Iranvolleyball.com reported.

The first half of the season will finish on Dec. 22. The second half of the season phase was scheduled to be held in five weeks but the exact time of the matches will be announced after a meeting with the clubs’ representatives.

At the end of the preliminary round, eight teams will qualify for the final round. In this stage, the first team will take on the eighth-placed side, the second team play seventh-placed, the third-placed meet sixth-placed and the fourth-placed team take on the side lying fifth

The 14th edition of Iran volleyball league has brought a total of 14 teams together.

■ Matchweek 8

- * Labaniyat Haraz Amol 3 – o Rahyab Melel Kordestan
- * Foolad Sirjan 3 – 1 Shahdab Yazd
- * Shahrdrari Gonbad 3 – o Khatam Ardakan
- * Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan 3 – o Azar Battery Urmia
- * Shahrdrari Urmia 3 – o Hoorsun Ramsar
- * Saipa Tehran 3 – o Shahrdrari Qazvin

Skocic has full trust in his invited players

PLDC — Iran’s National Football Team head coach Dragan Skocic defended his choice of players for the friendly match against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He named a 23-man list for the encounter to be staged on Nov. 12 in Sarajevo. Like the previous list, that was announced for the friendly matches against Uzbekistan, this list also sees a host of new players.

“Iran are always ready for appropriate challenges and we will not stop even in hard days of the COVID-19 outbreak,” said the Croatian coach.

He said the team are seeking a tough rival so that it can help the team out. Iran earlier defeated Uzbekistan 2-1 while the other match against Mali was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.

“We are always seeking a match that will fulfill our needs and we do not want to waste your time with a match that will not help the team.”

“The match against Bosnia has been scheduled in line with this path and I am happy with that,” added the coach.

“We had some problems for inviting some of the players for the earlier camp that eventually led to the absence of those players,” he said.

Skocic said during this camp, too, the team could not use some players including Sardar Azmoun, Mehdi Taremi, Alireza Beiranvand, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Mehdi Torabi, and Mohammad Mohebbi despite the will to invite them.

“Despite all these, I believe we have a good team and I have full trust in players that accompany the team in Bosnia.”

Iran are preparing for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers that have been postponed for 2021. The team are standing third in Group C behind Iraq and Qatar and must win the four remaining matches for a berth to the next round.

Afghanistan struggles for peace amid surge in violence

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — As violence surged across Afghanistan in recent weeks, Afghan and Iranian diplomats intensified efforts to achieve lasting peace in Afghanistan and put an end to the country’s long-running conflict.

On November 2, Afghans were shaken by a terrorist attack on Kabul University that killed at least 35 people, including 18 students. The Monday attack started after two gunmen went on a rampage through the sprawling campus firing indiscriminately on students in classrooms. The assailants entered the two-story Law Faculty building throwing grenades and firing bullets in the classrooms.

Afghan security forces rushed to the university to stop the gun battle. After six hours of fighting, the Afghan forces succeeded in restoring peace to the university by killing the assailants. The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack. In a message on the Telegram messaging app, an account claiming to belong to ISIL said they had “killed and injured 80 Afghan judges, investigators, and security personnel” who had been gathered for an event at the Faculty of Law, according to an Aljazeera report.

The Kabul University attack was the latest in a series of terrorist attacks that targeted Afghan educational institutions. On October 24, at least 24 people were killed and 50 others were wounded after a suicide bomb attack targeted an education center in Afghanistan’s capital. The attacker detonated explosives in the street outside the Kawsar-e Danish center in Kabul. Most of the victims were students aged between 15 and 26.

Daesh terrorist group also claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on Telegram. In both attacks, the Taliban denied any involvement.

Earlier in May, a group of attackers launched a daylight attack on a maternity hospital in western Kabul that left several mothers dead.

All these attacks were strongly condemned by the international community, including Iran. Iranian embassy in Kabul described the attack on the Kawsar-e Danish center as inhumane and anti-Islamic while condemning the attack in a statement issued shortly after the attack.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, denounced the attack as “blind terrorism.”

“The dear Afghanistan once again was wounded by blind terrorism. Afghan students fell victim to ugly violence and an endless war



they had never chosen. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the heinous crime and offers condolences to the Afghan nation and government. Tonight Iran is in mourning over Afghanistan’s tragedy,” the spokesman said in a tweet.

Khatibzadeh also condemned the Kabul University 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 following the attack on Kabul University.

Attacks on civilians came at a time when the Taliban and the Afghan government are making efforts to achieve peace through negotiations. The two sides have held several rounds of negotiations but are yet to reach an understanding about the future of Afghanistan. The recent terrorist attacks have posed new challenges to the Afghan peace negotiators as the Taliban is being accused of instigating violence after almost every major attack. For example, Afghanistan’s first Vice President Amrullah Saleh accused the Taliban of orchestrating the attack on Kabul University but the Taliban quickly rejected the accusation as an attempt by Saleh to defame the armed group, which has signed a peace deal with the United States and is in the midst of peace negotiations with the Afghan government.

“Certainly, such attacks are carried out by evil elements that were defeated in Nangarhar and Jowzjan provinces,” the Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said in a statement that

alluded to their rival force Daesh.

Peace talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government have done little to stop, or at least reduce the violence in Afghanistan. The United States Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has recently said in a report to the U.S. Congress that attacks against Afghan forces and civilians were 50 percent higher in the three months to the end of September when compared to the previous quarter.

“Overall enemy-initiated attacks this quarter were also characterized as ‘above seasonal norms’,” said the report, adding that more than 870 civilians have been killed this quarter, up 43 percent from the April to June period.

The United Nations has also reported a spike in violence in the country in the first nine months of the year. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in late October that from January to September, there were 5,939 civilian casualties in the fighting – 2,117 people killed and 3,822 wounded.

“High levels of violence continue with a devastating impact on civilians, with Afghanistan remaining among the deadliest places in the world to be a civilian,” the mission said in a quarterly report.

In light of this rising violence, Iran and Afghanistan have intensified their efforts to put an end to the violence in the war-torn country. In October, Abdullah Abdullah, the head of Afghanistan’s High Council for National Reconciliation, traveled to Iran to seek support for the Afghan peace talks. He met with several high-ranking Iranian officials

including the president, foreign minister, Parliament speaker, and secretary of the Supreme National Security Council.

“The leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran consider the success of peace in Afghanistan to be in the interest of the region and the world and they comprehensively support a peace process that is led and managed by Afghanistan,” Abdullah was quoted by the Fars news agency as saying during his two-day visit to Tehran.

At the end of his talks in Tehran, the chief Afghan peace negotiator said he held good meetings with the Iranian officials and that he will “send the message of Iranian support to Kabul.”

In the weeks after Abdullah’s visit to Tehran, Iranian diplomats made efforts in collaboration with the UN to facilitate peace talks in Afghanistan. The Iranian ambassador in Afghanistan, Bahador Aminian, has 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. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) described the two diplomat’s talks as “constructive.”

Lyons was appointed as the Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in March 2020 and took up responsibilities in April 2020. She is expected to pay a visit to Iran soon.

Following her meeting with the Iranian envoy, Lyons met with Abdullah to exchange views on the Afghan peace process.

“Pleased to meet HE Deborah Lyons, Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of UNAMA news. We exchanged views on Afghan Peace Process, talks in Doha, high level of violence, regional diplomacy for peace, and the upcoming Geneva Conference on Afghanistan,” tweeted Abdullah.

On Saturday, the Iranian foreign minister’s special envoy for Afghanistan, Mohammad-Ebrahim Taherian, and his German counterpart Markus Potzel discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

“During the talks, they also weighed plans for the promotion of cooperation between Iran and Germany over the issue of Afghanistan. Taherian and Potzel also expressed concern about the spread of insecurity in Afghanistan, stressing the need for a negotiated political agreement to address the problems,” the statement said.

Zarif meets with Bolivia’s new president

FM Zarif says has visited La Paz to “celebrate with Bolivians the fruits of their struggle to restore their democracy.”

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has met with Bolivia’s president-elect to discuss issues of mutual interest.

The chief Iranian diplomat arrived in Bolivia on Saturday night and was received by the speaker of the Bolivian parliament. He is expected to attend the inauguration of the country’s new president, Luis Arce.

“Just arrived in La Paz, to celebrate with Bolivians the fruits of their struggle to restore their democracy. And honored to participate in inauguration of President Arce on Sun. Great to witness the joy people exhibit celebrating their restoration of liberty & democracy,” Zarif said in a tweet upon his arrival in the Bolivian capital.

Zarif’s visit to Bolivia was the last leg of his regional tour of Latin American countries that included Cuba, Venezuela, and Bolivia.

The top Iranian diplomat congratulated Arce on his election as the new president of Bolivia, underlining the need to boost ties and strengthen cooperation between Iran and Bolivia.

“In the meeting, the top Iranian diplomat congratulated Arce on being elected as Bolivia’s new president, saying Iran will firmly stand by the Bolivian government and nation. Arce, in turn, thanked the Iranian foreign minister for attending his swearing-in ceremony, adding his country seeks to boost ties with Iran,” the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in



a statement following Zarif’s meeting with Arce.

The Iranian foreign minister also met with the vice president of Bolivia. He said in a tweet that his meeting with the Bolivian leadership was aimed to expand the ties between Tehran and La Paz.

“Just met with President-elect Luis Arce and Vice President-elect David Choquehuanca of Bolivia. Conveyed my country’s congratulations on their victory and wished them and the nation the best. We discussed our brotherly ties—political and economic—and ways to expand them,” tweeted Zarif.

Relations between Iran and Bolivia entered a new phase after Arce, a candidate of former President Evo Morales’

Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) party, secured a landslide victory in Bolivia’s recent presidential election. Iran was quick to welcome the victory of Arce. Iranian officials congratulated the MAS party leadership on its victory, saying they are ready to expand cooperation with the new Bolivian government.

President Hassan Rouhani sent a congratulatory message to Arce in late October, describing the victory of Arce as a move toward returning the power to the people’s representatives.

“In the new era of returning power to the people’s representatives, I express support for the Your Excellency’s elected government, and express the readiness of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to revive bilateral relations and expand cooperation with the friendly country of Bolivia in all fields,” the Iranian president said in the message.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry also welcomed the election of Arce while expressing readiness to resume cooperation with the Latin American country.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran sees a good omen in the restoration of democracy and power to the real representatives of (Bolivian) people after a year of tensions, congratulates the elected president of that country Mr. Luis Arce, and expresses full support for the elected government and readiness to revive cooperation and strengthen friendship bonds with that country (Bolivia),” Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement on October 20.

Iran FM holds talks with Nicaraguan counterpart

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif held a telephone conversation with his Nicaraguan counterpart Denis Moncada Colindres to discuss bilateral relations.

Zarif held the conversation while visiting Bolivia, where met with President-elect Luis Arce and Vice President-elect David Choquehuanca.

“During the phone talk, Zarif highlighted cordial relations between the two countries, expressing hope he will travel to Nicaragua in the near future. The top

Nicaraguan diplomat, in turn, welcomed Iranian officials visiting his country. He also called for the enhancement of reciprocal ties,” the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday morning.

Zarif embarked on a regional tour last week that included three Latin American countries – Cuba, Venezuela, and Bolivia. During the tour, which lasted several days, the chief Iranian diplomat held high-level talks with the leaders of these countries.

In Caracas, Zarif met with Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro and Foreign

Minister Jorge Arreaza. The Iranian foreign minister also traveled to Cuba, where he held videoconference talks with Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

“Just met with President-elect Luis Arce and Vice President-elect David Choquehuanca of Bolivia. Conveyed my country’s congratulations on their victory and wished them and the nation the best. We discussed our brotherly ties—political and economic—and ways to expand them,” Zarif said in a tweet after meeting with the Bolivian officials.

Iran enjoys good relations with many Latin American countries. During Zarif’s visit, President Maduro described Iran-Venezuela relations as strategic.

“Today 5 November, I had the pleasure of receiving the visit of the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif. A visit that underlines the unwavering spirit of the strategic relations of cooperation and solidarity between Iran and Venezuela,” the Venezuelan president said in a tweet, according to the Iranian Students’ News Agency (ISNA).

Zarif urges new U.S. leaders to change tack on Iran

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — In his first reaction to the victory of Joe Biden in the United States presidential election, Iran’s chief diplomat urged the new leadership in the U.S. to try a different policy toward Iran.

“The American people have spoken. And the world is watching whether the new leaders will abandon disastrous lawless bullying of outgoing regime—and accept multilateralism, cooperation & respect for law,” Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet on Sunday afternoon.

The foreign minister added, “Deeds matter most. Iran’s record: dignity, interest & responsible diplomacy.”

Zarif’s tweet came after leading news media outlets in the U.S. announced that Biden has defeated Donald

Trump in the November election.

Over the past weeks, Iranian officials have said that there was no difference between Trump and Biden and that the result of the U.S. election is unlikely to change Iran’s policies.

On Saturday, Ali Rabiei, the Iranian government spokesman, reiterated this position.

“The Supreme Leader said whoever becomes U.S. president will have no bearing on our policies. Mr. Rouhani, too, echoed the same, saying who is elected as president in the United States is not important to us, but what is important is the approach that the U.S. adopts,” said Rabiei, adding, “These remarks do not mean ignorance of

potential differences in behavior that different U.S. presidents might exhibit; rather, the comments are a testament to the principles which have driven our foreign policy in recent years, especially after the eleventh [Iranian] administration took office.”

Rabiei also called on Biden to change tack and try a different policy toward Iran. He said the Trump administration pulled out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and that the next person who would take the rein at the White House can change tack and adopt an approach unlike that of Trump “who tried to associate his war on the JCPOA with Iranians’ livelihoods, health and welfare.”

TPO, Labor Ministry ink MOU to facilitate cooperatives’ foreign trade

1 → Speaking in the signing ceremony, the TPO Head Hamid Zadboum described the cooperative sector as one of the most influential sectors of the country’s economy and said: “It is necessary to facilitate the development of the cooperative-oriented markets in the target countries through the optimal use of the country’s cooperative capacity and further supporting this sector.”

He underlined the constructive interaction between the TPO and the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC), as the organization in charge of the country’s cooperative sector, and called for the continuation of such cooperation.

“Considering the current state of the country’s economy and the negative impacts of the U.S. sanctions, e-commerce could be the gateway to the development of the country’s foreign trade and in this regard, the integration of trade activities in a comprehensive trade system has been done in order to facilitate exports,” Zadboum stressed.

The official finally called on the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare to identify capable cooperatives and introduce them to the Trade Promotion Organization to support their trade activities.

Neighboring countries hold 60% share of Iran’s non-oil exports

1 → The IRICA data indicate that Iran has exported 41.818 million tons of commodities worth \$11.522 billion to its neighbors, which constituted 63 percent of the value and 64 percent of the weight of its total non-oil exports during the mentioned period of time.

Importing 17.683 million tons of commodities worth \$4.854 billion, Iraq was the top destination, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with importing 8.5 million tons of goods valued at \$2.272 billion, Turkey with 4.794 million tons worth \$1.489 billion, Afghanistan with 4.077 million tons valued at \$1.325 billion, and Pakistan with 1.257 million tons worth \$491 million.



It should be noted that Iran’s non-oil trade balance with its neighbors has been \$3.422 billion in the first seven months of this year, which is an indication of the country’s policy of boosting non-oil exports to the neighboring country.

The head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) says the country is capable of doubling non-oil exports to its neighbors in two years.

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

Copper reserves rise 500m tons in Sistan-Baluchestan Province

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN**— Recent mining explorations in Iran’s southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province have resulted in the discovery of 500 million tons of copper reserves in the province, according to a provincial official.

Davoud Shahraki, the head of the province’s Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that the new discovery has put Sistan-Baluchestan at the second place among Iran’s provinces in terms of copper reserves.

In early June, Iran’s Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Darioush Esmaili had said that the country’s Mining Investment Insurance Corporation (MIIC) was going to allocate 30 trillion rials (over \$714.2 million) for supporting mining exploration projects.

He said that the ministry has it on the agenda to increase the country’s discovered mineral reserves by 25 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021).

In late April, the official had said that the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has provisioned operational targets in the mining sector’s three major areas of exploration, extraction, and processing, for the current year.

“In the mining industry sector, we have targeted a 25-percent increase in the production of mineral products, and in the exploration sector, we will add about 20 percent to the previous reserves.”

The mining sector accounted for 25 percent of the country’s non-oil revenues in the past Iranian calendar year, he said.

In the past few years with new resilient economy strategies coming into play, the mining sector has become a major point of focus for the Iranian government and various organizations and bodies active in this sector have been tasked to implement new programs for boosting this sector.

As a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in the country, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has been playing a significant part in the mentioned planning.

The organization has been implementing several new programs in all the main fields of the mining industry including exploration, machinery development, extraction and also reviving the country’s idle mines.

According to the IMIDRO Head Khodadad Gharibpour, IMIDRO has put the development of mines and mining industries on the agenda with three main strategies: increasing exploration operations, developing infrastructure, and reviving the country’s idle small-scale mines.

According to the official, following these major axes, the organization so far has managed to expand the country’s mining exploration operations up to 650,000 square kilometers, while increasing the budget for the development of the mining infrastructure in 31 provinces.

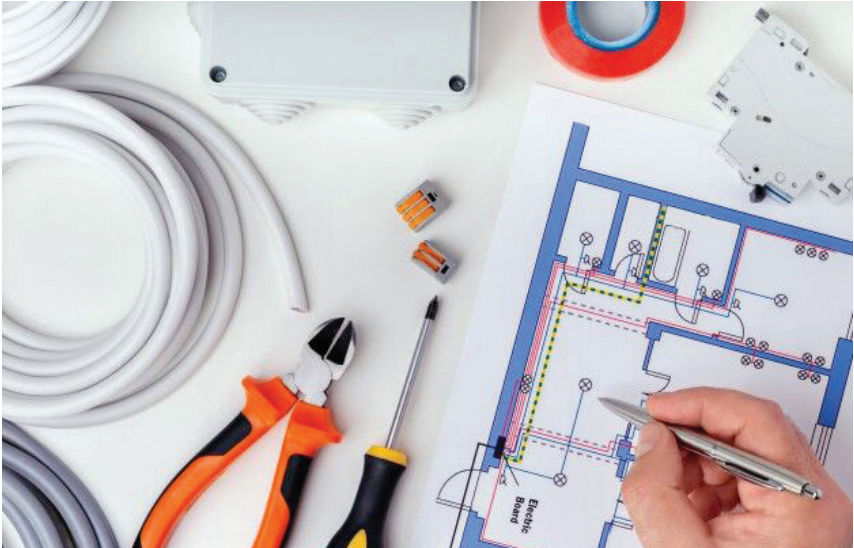
Govt. allocates over \$9.5m annually for research in electricity industry

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Deputy head of Niroo Research Institute (NRI) said that the government is allocating 400 billion rials (about \$9.52 million) every year for conducting research projects in the electricity sector, IRNA reported.

Speaking in an online event on the commercialization of the electricity industry’s research achievements on Saturday, Mostafa Marjan-Mehr noted that considering the allocated fund the country’s major universities are asked every year to conduct research projects based on the demands of power companies.

According to Marjan-Mehr, so far over 200 trillion rials (about \$4.7 million) of research studies have been awarded to the country’s universities in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20).

He referred to another online event that is scheduled to be held on Tuesday



and noted: “The research achievements of electricity companies will be presented in this event so that they can be indigenized by domestic industries.”

According to the official 10 major companies from various provinces are going to present 35 innovative products in the mentioned event.

“Nearly 100 university researchers have worked on these 35 technological products and most of them are based on the needs of the country’s power companies,” he added.

He said that this event is going to create a link between the demand, researcher, and industries, which practically establishes the connection between industry and university.

He announced a market forecast of 500 billion rials (about \$11.9 million) for three years for products that will be commercialized in the mentioned event.

SP 8th refinery produces 10bcm of gas in 7 months

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The 8th Refinery of Iran’s South Pars gas field produced over 10 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), the refinery’s operator announced.

Referring to the recording of the best performance in production and safety among all the refineries of the South Pars complex, Kambiz Sefati said: “engineers and employees of this refinery were able to take a big step toward the realization of the “surge in production” motto by the production of 10.66 billion cubic meters of gas since the beginning of the year and 77,760 man-hours of work without accidents.”

Last year, the 8th refinery had also announced that the amount of associated petroleum gas flaring in this refinery was reduced nearly to zero.

According to the refinery’s managing director, optimization of sulfur recovery and ethane cracker units in the refinery helped cut the flaring of associated gases significantly in this refinery.

With the new developments in the country’s South Pars

gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, and the increase in the gas production from this field, the Oil Ministry has been taking serious measures for the development of the country’s gas refineries to process the extracted gas.

In line with the mentioned programs, this year, the daily processing capacity of Iranian gas refineries is planned to increase 10 percent by the inauguration of new processing units or upgrading the already existing ones.

South Pars Gas Complex is comprised of 14 gas refineries in Southern Iran that are currently processing the gas extracted from the giant South Pars gas field.

The mentioned gas field is expanded over an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which, called South Pars, are in Iran’s territorial waters. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar’s territorial waters.

The field, currently divided into 24 standard phases on the Iranian side, 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.

All the offshore operations of the development project of the field, except for phase 11, were completed in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

Chicken exports banned to meet domestic demand

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry’s Market Regulation Headquarters has released a decree to ban the exports of chicken as domestic markets face shortage.

The new regulation has come into force in collaboration with the Agriculture Ministry as of the beginning of the current Iranian calendar month of Aban (October 22) and will be effective until further notice.

Earlier this year, due to the overproduction of chicken, the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRICA) temporarily reduced the duty for chicken exports from June 9 up to July 20 to facilitate the exports of the said commodity.

However, the reduction of the duty on the poultry products resulted in the flow



of most of the country’s production to the foreign export destinations and consequently the prices in the domestic market increase sharply.

Iran could be a poultry production center in the region and in the world, with Iranian poultry farmers having the potential

to boost exports to 500,000 tons of meat per year, but external factors like the U.S. sanctions and the shortage of feed remain an invincible obstacle on this path.

The sanctions have led to increased cost for imported inputs like feed ingredients and caused sharp price fluctuations on the consumer market. But the industry adapted to the new reality. When sanctions were renewed by the U.S. in 2019 the industry was much better prepared. The country is now self-sufficient in both poultry and eggs and has the highest production effectiveness in West Asia.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, Iran exported over 7,000 tons of chicken worth \$13.28 million in the first three months of the current Ira-

nian calendar year (March 20-June 20).

Most of the Iranian poultry products are exported to the neighboring countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey as well as some Persian Gulf Arab nations, but recently Venezuela also became a new destination for the exports of the mentioned commodity.

Afghanistan, Iraq, and Venezuela were the top three export destinations for the exports of the mentioned commodity in the first three months of the current year with \$8.185 million, \$3.599 million, and \$585,287 of exports, respectively.

During the said period, Iran exported 4,116 tons of chicken to Afghanistan while sending 2,523 tons to Iraq and 246 tons to Venezuela.

Commodities worth \$211m traded at IME in a week

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Over 514,047 tons of commodities worth \$211 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on November 6).

According to the report from IME International Affairs and Public Relations Department, last week, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 213,556 tons of various products worth \$102 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 212,736 tons of steel, 320 tons of aluminum, 380 tons of copper as well as 120 tons of molybdenum concentrates were traded by customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 299,776 tons of different commodities with the total value of \$109 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 79,860 tons of VB feed stock, 87,788 tons of bitumen, 60,043 tons of polymer products, 31,825 tons of chemical products, 34,500 tons of lube cut oil, 1,765 tons of insulation, 1,647 tons of base oil, 1,200 tons of slaps waxes, 150 tons of argon as well as 1,000 tons of sulfur were traded.

Furthermore, 711 tons of commodities were traded on the side market of the IME.

Moreover, the agricultural trading floor of the IME experienced trading of 460 kg of saffron strands.

As previously reported, over 2.462 million tons of commodities worth \$983 million were traded at Iran



Mercantile Exchange during October.

Last month, the oil and petrochemical trading floor of the IME played host to trading of 1.374 million tons of commodities worth more than \$439 million.

On this trading floor, more than 349,150 tons of bitumen, 269,990 tons of polymer products and 147,633 tons of chemical products, 438,060 tons of VB feed stock, 96,500 tons of lube cut oil, 56,005 tons of sulfur, 7,434 tons of insulation, 700 tons of argon as well as 9,263 tons of oil products were traded by the customers.

The metal and mineral trading floor witnessed trading

over 1.085 million tons of commodities worth more than \$541 million.

On this trading floor 991,864 tons of steel, 16,695 tons of copper, 480 tons of molybdenum concentrates, 36 tons of precious metals concentrates, 53,420 tons of zinc, 21,290 tons of aluminum, 40 tons of lead ingot, 1,500 tons of coke as well as 50 kg of gold bullion were traded by the customers.

Furthermore, in agricultural trading floor of the IME more than 1,730 kg of saffron worth over \$174,000 was traded by the customers.

The side market of the IME experienced trading of a total of 1,500 empty barrels, 70 tons of industrial soot, 504 tons of tomato paste, 58 tons of used locomotive engine oil, 852 tons of metal scrap, 750 tons of ferrosilicon as well as 280 tons of normal paraffin.

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

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

TEDPIX drops 22,000 points on Sunday

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 22,401 points to 1.24 million on Sunday.

Over 2.347 billion securities worth 22.885 trillion rials (about \$544.88 million) were traded at the TSE on Sunday.

The first market’s index fell 20,216 points, and the second market’s index dropped 30,333 points.

TEDPIX finally experienced a weekly



growth in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday) after several weeks of falling.

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

The indices of Iran Khodro Group, Behsaz Kashaneh Tehran Company, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Bandar-Abbas Oil Refinery, Tamin Cement Investment Company, and

Abadan Power Generation Company were the most traded indices during the past week.

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

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

While waiting for the American “Godot”

By Abir Bassam

The world has been following the American elections step by step. By the 8th of November the results were finally declared. A new president is elected for the United States. For the last two weeks, the world had been living in a state of anticipation.

It is a critical period for those whose faith concurs with the results; for the others, it is just another pair of shoes! As the late Fidel Castro used this metaphor to explain the difference between Democrats and the Republicans.

The world media were busy, counting the states and adding the numbers of the Electoral College members. No one can deny that Donald Trump has really brought an outstanding interest in the American elections. He initiated the belief among many that the faith of the world is now connected to one of the pair of shoes.

Certainly, no one denies that the U.S. is one of the powerful countries in the world, it has the biggest fleet in the world, the highest technology...etc. But in reality there is no difference whether the world is ruled by either of the biggest political parties in it. At the beginning of this millennium Afghanistan and Iraq were invaded. The two countries were turned into ruins, during a Republican president period, but the plans were set by Pearl Document during the Democratic period in 1996.

The same applies to the succession of neo-wars that swept away through the Arab region in the name of the Arab Spring, which started during the ruling of Barack Obama, the Democratic president. The wars destroyed the economy, the security, the culture and the families through a vicious war led by terrorist groups that were created and nurtured by the American administration and its allies



in the region. The strategy was planned by Samuel Huntington to re-divide West Asia and Northern Africa, which was approached by the deep state in America, in order to secure the American interests in the region, and eventually the Israeli security.

The elections race which was flash news all around the world, only substantiates how desperate the world is. Eventually, change will not be reached by the coming American president. Waiting for the change to come with the American elections, reminds me with the change two men Vladimir and Estragon, were waiting for once Godot would come back, in a play written by Samuel Becket, titled: “Waiting for Godot”.

In the play, the two men were sitting and discussing the things they need to do. They were desperate to make changes and run errands. However, one of them was literally beaten and the pain in his feet was about to kill him. The other was in constant move around the room. Nonetheless, the

two men till the end of the play did not leave the premises and kept on waiting.

Godot never showed up! At the end of the play two main impressions were given, the first a huge shadow appeared on the wall and the two men were about to have a heart attack. The second was the fall of the last leaf of a tree that was placed behind the chair where one of the characters sat until the end.

Basically, this is what the world should be expecting to get at the end of the U.S. elections. Whatever results are going to be, it is going to be for the best interest of the American system. Even though, he has lost the elections and no longer able to reap the fruits of his labor, Trump during his ruling has paved the way for the coming American president. He relocated the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, signed normalization and confession agreements between “Israel” and three Arab states, and he cancelled several agreements with different states.

It is not Trump who took such critical decision. Most likely, it is the deep genuine state in the U.S. that pushed towards such decisions. It is represented by the U.S. National Security Council and the international corporations. These two entities are the backbone of the deep state in the U.S. Hence, pushing towards reviving or cancelling treaties with the hope to get a better perspective is decided on a deeper level that goes beyond the president. This can be applied to the nuclear agreement with Iran or to the trade agreements with China or the World Trade Organization. For example, if the nuclear agreement with Iran was revived, it would include discussions over the ballistic missiles or the Iranian arsenal.

We should not lose compass and make a mistake; Biden is actually another Trump with a more appropriate suit. He was the vice president during Obama's ruling that created, financed, protected, and trained terrorist groups such as ISIS and Nusra. It was established to serve the best of the American interests, and might continue to do so in the further plans in the future.

Now that, this has been said, it would be stupid to think that change to our region or to the world will be a gift granted by electing Joe Biden as the new president of the United States. The American elections are only meant for the American people. It is meant to represent the American democracy for the Americans. It expresses the Americans' need for change. However, whoever the president is, he needs to represent the American interests outside the U.S., period! For America to change its priorities within its foreign policy, this requires different erudite and independent solidarity within the international policies driven by the international community to redirect the interests of the USA.

Trump supporters continue protesting vote count in Arizona

Outside the Maricopa County Elections Department, hundreds of supporters of President Donald Trump rallied for a fourth consecutive day, insisting the Democratic Party had stolen the election.

The demonstrators took turns addressing the crowd and kneeling to pray for Trump. At times, they broke out in chants of “four more years” and “back the blue”.

Several protesters wore hats reading “Make America great again”, while others had flags or T-shirts that referenced QAnon – the widespread conspiracy theory that Trump is waging a secret war on child sex traffickers.

Many in the crowd carried rifles or wore holstered firearms as the protesters taunted local media crews who stood on the other side of a fence.

“We forgive you for being traitors to our country,” an armed demonstrator shouted at the journalists.

Adel Belgaied, who held the megaphone for much of the afternoon, led the crowd in a prayer.

“Lord, a lot of us are confused why dead people's ballots were received, why it takes 600,000 votes four days to be counted – and they're still not finished,” he said.

While addressing the crowd outside the election center, the protest leader also recycled a host of conspiracy theories, suggesting that the coronavirus pandemic was a hoax, that Democrats plan to implement communism in the U.S., and that social media companies had interfered in the elections against Trump and the Republican Party.

Global uncertainty could risk World War Three: UK military chief

Current global uncertainty and anxiety amid the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic could risk another world war, the head of Britain's armed forces has warned.

According to Reuters, in an interview aired to coincide with Remembrance Sunday, the annual commemorations for those who have been killed and wounded in conflict, Nick Carter, Britain's Chief of the Defence Staff, said an escalation in regional tensions and errors of judgement could ultimately lead to widespread conflict.

Resistance News

Hamas chief urges Biden to scrap ‘deal of the century’

INTERNATIONAL DESK **TEHRAN** — Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh has called on U.S. President-elect Joe Biden to pull back outgoing President Donald Trump's so-called “deal of the century”.

In a statement, Haniyeh asked the Biden administration to abolish the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the embassy move to the holy city.

Trump's “deal of the century” refers to Jerusalem as “Israel's undivided capital” and recognizes Israeli sovereignty over large parts of the West Bank.

The plan, which has invited a storm of condemnations from the Palestinians, calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the form of an archipelago connected by bridges and tunnels.

Haniyeh urged Biden “to correct the path of U.S. unfair policies towards our [Palestinian] people which made the U.S. a partner [to Israel] in oppression and aggression”.

The Hamas leader went on to call on the new U.S. administration to “respect the will of the Palestinian people and their democratic choices...and to refrain from the policy of pressure on the peoples and countries of the region to normalize ties with the [Israeli] occupation.”

Electoral college anti-democratic aspect of U.S. democracy: American expert

By Payman Yazdani

TEHRAN — Professor Zonis believes the Electoral College established by the founders of the U.S. in order to protect the interests of the less populous states from the high population states is an anti-democratic aspect of U.S. democracy.

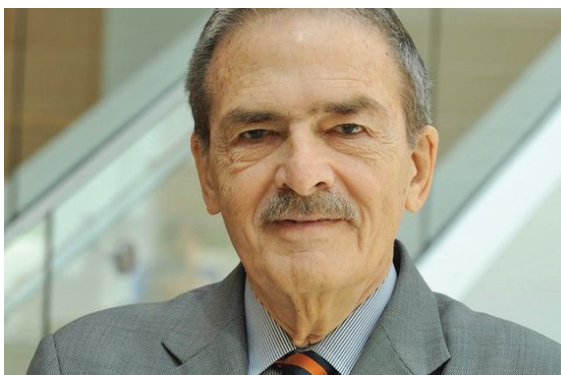
As the 2020 U.S. election campaign draws to a close, voters are more enthusiastic than in previous years and more worried about the election's outcome and whether their candidate will not win.

Recent polls suggest Joe Biden is likely to win, but Trump's behavior and rhetoric show that he will not simply intend to step down if he fails. The issue of the possibility of a violent civil war in the United States if Trump loses the presidential election has become more serious than before.

To have better insight into the U.S.'s developments, we reached out to Marvin Zonis, Professor of the international political economy and leadership at the University of Chicago.

Referring to the Electoral College and its challenge to the U.S. democracy and its possible role in determining the fate of Trump and Biden in the 2020 Presidential Election, Zonis said, “Of course the popular vote in the U.S. presidential election does not determine the winner. That is determined by the votes of the electors of the Electoral College. The founders of the U.S. established the Electoral College in order to protect the interests of the less populous states from the high population states — a decidedly anti-democratic aspect of U.S. democracy. Thus, Hillary Clinton won 3 million more votes than Trump in the 2016 election but lost the Electoral College and the presidency. Biden has been paying intense attention to this imbalance, and I do not believe it will play a role in 2020 — that is, he will win both the popular vote and the presidency.”

He also didn't reject the possibility of protests in the aftermath of the election and noted, “I do not believe this



will be significant. If anything, some local demonstrations by Trump supporters angry at his defeat and easily handled by local police or the states' National Guard.”

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National Iranian Drilling Company	25,310,517	Tender No.:FP/05-99/087 Indent No.: 08-22-9945003	26,000,000,000

• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Based on minimum scoring (50) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.
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• Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN -06134148659
	Submitting Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 190,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491(Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of “NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund” issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
Documents Receiving Method	Closing date	14Days after the last time of Purchasing.
	Address	Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

• Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	1,300,000,000 Rial / 3,848 Euro
Type of guarantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of “NIDC saving account” by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

• According to the meeting-minutes No: 138/665/98 dated: 1398-04-03 of deputy of research and technology dept. of oil ministry all the companies and participations should register and in " setadiran.ir " for all.

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تهران تایمز نوبت دوم ۹۹/۸/۱۹

Relics may hold clues to Iron Age cemetery in northern Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – The discovery of an Iron Age clay **d e s k** as well as the remnants of a human skeleton in the village of Valam, northern province of Mazandaran, has led experts to conclude that the area might be an ancient cemetery. The relics, which are estimated to date back to almost 2,500 to 2,800 years ago, were discovered during road construction in the region, Mohammadreza Kordan, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Sunday, IRNA reported.



All road construction operations in the area have been suspended, and the relics were handed over to archeologists for further researches, he added.

Iron Age is in fact final technological and cultural stage in the Stone–Bronze–Iron Age sequence. The date of the full Iron Age, in which this metal, for the most part, replaced bronze in implements and weapons, varied geographically, beginning in West Asia and southeastern Europe about 1200 BC but in China not until about 600 BC, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica. Although in West Asia iron had limited use as a scarce and precious metal as early as 3,000 BC, there is no indication that people at that time recognized its superior qualities over those of bronze.

Soaked in a vibrant history, Mazandaran (also known as Tabarestan) was a cradle of civilization since the beginning of the first millennium BC.

Iranian town exporting handicrafts to Europe, U.S. despite coronavirus restrictions

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – Export of handicrafts from Torbat-e Heydarieh, a small town in northeast Iran, is still ongoing to Europe and the U.S. despite coronavirus restrictions, which have crippled countless businesses across the globe, CHTN reported.

“Over five billion rials (some \$120,000) worth of handicrafts have been exported from this town to various countries from the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year up to the moment though the coronavirus outbreak has affected domestic and international markets,” the local tourism chief announced on Sunday.



“Over 1,500 crafters are active in various fields of handicrafts across Torbat-e Heydarieh,” the official stated.

Leatherwork, woodturning, pottery, and producing felt and personal jewelry from semi-precious stones are amongst the top fields of handicrafts being practiced here in Torbat-e Heydarieh, he explained.

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

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

A brief history of Persian pottery

(Part 3/8)
■ **Parthian era (247 BC – 224 CE)**

Until quite recently information on the arts of the Parthian period was rather meagre. At the time when the late Professor Arthur Upham Pope and his team were collecting material for the Survey of Persian Art, hardly any Parthian site was known and none was excavated.

It was only during the last fifty or sixty years that a few extremely important Parthian sites were investigated by archaeologists. Some of these are beyond the present borders of Iran, e.g. Nisa, the former Parthian capital in Central Asia, or Dura-Europos in Syria. More recently in Iran a number of Parthian sites have been located and are, at present, under excavation. These sites are Kangavar, Shahr-e Qumis, Valiran, Ecbatana and several sites in the Gorgan plain, in Gilan and Sistan.

From these new archaeological discoveries we have learnt a great deal about Parthian art and Parthian pottery. In a recent study it has been pointed out that pottery was not the same throughout the Parthian empire and the wares of Iran proper were different from those of Syria and Mesopotamia.

Even in this area several differences are recognizable. In general, Parthian pottery can be divided into two major groups: unglazed and glazed wares. The unglazed wares can be further subdivided into two categories: namely grey and red wares. The grey pottery consists of bowls, small cups and large jars, all with convex bases and without any surface decoration. Some of them, nevertheless, have a polished body. The red ware, which was perhaps the most popular, also included large jars, bowls and jugs, similar in shape to those of the grey wares. They have everted rims.

Under travelers’ eyes: Kashan and its surrounding jewels

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Many travel**d e s k** ers to the central Iranian plateau opt to bypass Kashan on their journeys between Tehran, Isfahan, and Yazd, but this delightful oasis city on the edge of the Dasht-e Kavir (aka the Great Salt Desert) is one of the most alluring destinations.

The ancient city of Kashan not only boasts a cluster of architectural wonders, an atmospheric covered bazaar, and a UNESCO-registered Persian garden, but it also offers some of central Iran’s best traditional mansions, some of which turned into boutique hotels now.

During the reign of the Seljuks (1051–1118), Kashan became famous for its textiles, pottery, and tiles, reaching high levels of accomplishment in each of these industries. Today, Kashan and its surrounding towns and villages are also widely known as a major center for the production of rose water, which is sold at outlets around the main tourist attractions and at dedicated stores in the local bazaars.

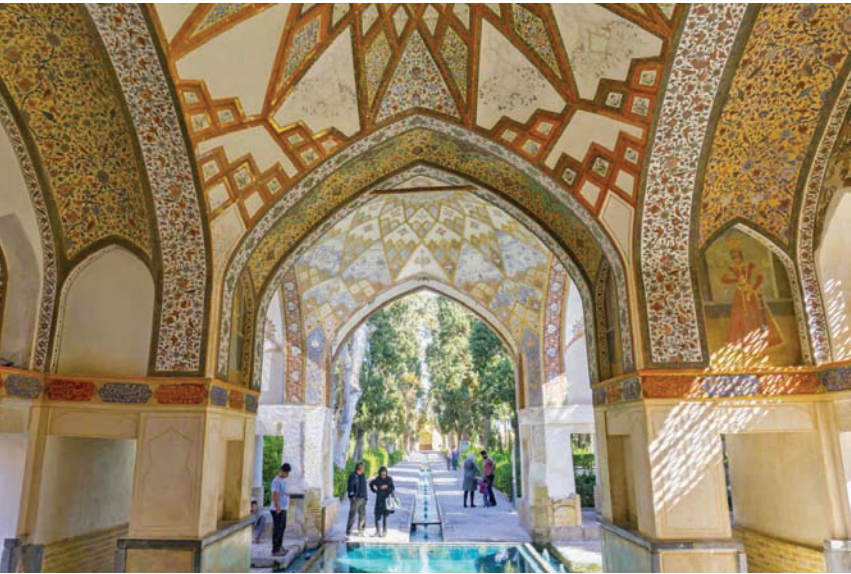
The prehistoric Tepe Sialk, which is situated near Kashan, has yielded remains of settlements dating to the 6th millennium BC. Kashan was also the center of Persian ceramics, producing decorated pottery and glazed tiles exported throughout the Near East. Its lusterwares were especially famous, while its woolen and silk carpets are among Iran’s finest.

■ Under travelers’ eyes

Here is a select of comments that visitors to the oasis city have posted to TripAdvisor, one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

■ “Day trip in Kashan”

Just a couple of hours from Tehran. Very nice place with a lot of fountains in the middle of the desert. The atmosphere



A centuries-old pavilion at the UNESCO-recognized Fin Garden, Kashan, central Iran

was amazing! Really worthy! (Pantelis A from Kavala, Greece)

■ “Great day trip”

Hossein makes the best of our day trip in the Kashan area, with our amazing driver Jafar and our guide Fatimah we had a wonderful day to the [neighboring] slat lake and desert with food and water provided. We recommend to skip the visits to Kashan city and directly go outside and enjoy around. You can visit inside Kashan on your own. (SalimosDeBilbao form Spain)

■ “Amazing one day tour of Kashan”

I booked to do a one-day city tour with them & it was fantastic! I arrived 1h later than the expected arrival time from Tehran (with no way to inform them as I hadn’t had the

chance to get a local sim card yet) & they were very gracious about it. I really enjoyed my tour with Alex, it was informative & packed with interesting historical facts. I learned a lot about Iranian architecture & culture from him. (EmG from Melbourne, Australia)

■ “Excellent tours”

We did a tour around Kashan, where we saw most highlights including the salt lake and a desert sunset, without feeling rushed....

The next day we visited Abyaneh with Ibrahim, who is also a very nice and funny guy, and then traveled to Barzok for an overnight stay in this mountain village. This was less of a sightseeing trip but more laid back talks with the nice villagers, eating with a local family, a short walk through the moun-

Some \$4m paid to support tourism businesses in Mazandaran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – The Iranian government **d e s k** has paid more than 171 billion rials (\$4 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) in loans to the tourism businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic in the northern province of Mazandaran.

The province’s tourism industry has taken 6 trillion rials (about \$143 million) hit from the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) over previous months, Mehran Hassani, the deputy provincial tourism chief said on Saturday.

He also noted that there are 4,000 active tourism units across the province, generating jobs for about 16,000 people directly.

In late October, deputy tourism chief Vali Teymouri said that a new support package to pay loans to businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic was approved by Iran’s National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control.

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

The loans will be allocated to tourist guides, travel agen-

cies, tourism transport companies, tourism educational institutions, eco-lodges and traditional accommodations, hotels, apartment hotels, motels, and guesthouses as well as traditional accommodation centers, tourism complexes, and recreational centers, the official explained.

In September, Teymouri said that around 1.3 million tourism workers in the country are facing problems due to the coronavirus crisis.

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

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

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

Optimistic forecasts, however, expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after coronavirus contained, believing its



impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

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

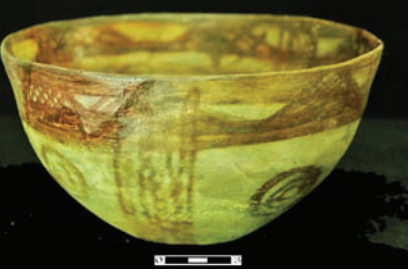
National Heritage list adds objects from Burnt City, Espidej cemetery

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Thirteen **d e s k** historical objects found at the ancient Burnt City and 5,000-year-old Espidej cemetery, both in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, have been inscribed on the National Heritage list.

Clay bowls, cups, urn, and glass are among the objects, CHTN reported on Saturday.

The historical relics can be visited at the Regional Museum of Southeastern Iran in the city of Zahedan.

Located 25 kilometers from Zabol, the Espidej cemetery, which is a part of an



ancient city, was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2002.

Sassanid fortress equipped with new lighting system

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Rayen Castle in the south-eastern province of Kerman, dating back to the times of the Sasanian dynasty (226-651) and even deeper, has been equipped with a new lighting system.

Parts of the monument had been lit up earlier, and a new lighting system for other parts, including the eastern and southern edges, its connected bazaar, and main arcade has recently been launched, ILNA quoted provincial tourism chief Mojtaba Shafiei as saying on Saturday.

“Arg-e-Rayen (the “Rayen Castle”) has been undergoing many restorations in various phases over the past years, and recently, its doors (gates) have been reinstalled after being restored and overhauled,” the official noted.

Covering an area of about 20,000 square meters, the



ISNA quoted Mohammad-Behrouz Isazehi as saying on Sunday.

Back in April, the official announced that handicrafts exports from the province surpassed \$3 million during the previous Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 20).

The handicrafts were mostly composed of needlework, traditional textiles, earthenware, and potteries exported to littoral Persian Gulf states, Iraq, Tajikistan, Germany, and other countries, the official noted.

Last August, the Sistan-Baluchestan

tourism department announced that exports from the province rose by 195 percent since one of its villages, Kalpourgan, was named a world village of pottery by the World Crafts Council - Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR).

The village is widely famous for being a living museum of potteries, where the in-house expertise has been passed down from generation to generation over the course of history.

The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural

tains, visiting an artisan carpet workshop,... Saeed guided us so well here! (Evelien B from Antwerp, Belgium)

■ “A wonderful courtyard house with a romantic history”

This [the centuries-old Borujerdi House] is another very fine courtyard house, very close to the Tabatabaei House, unique in having an extraordinary domed public salon of great beauty, but also in having a romantic past - the wealthy owner of the Tabatabaei supposedly refusing to permit her daughter to marry to the love of her life until he could provide for her a house as magnificent as that of the father. 10 years the lovers waited while the Borujerdi House was being built and then the father relented. The house was worth the wait - I hope the marriage was, too! (Peter K from Sydney, Australia)

■ “The remains of a 5,000-year-old ziggurat may not be for everyone”

For me, a history and culture nut, this place is terrific. It’s on the outskirts of Kashan and there is nothing else there but the remains of the archeological dig and a tiny museum but, wow, at 5,000 years it’s one of the oldest permanent religious buildings on the planet.

There are only a few exhibits in the one-room museum, but they are truly excellent, and some date to well before the ziggurat was built, indicating a permanent settlement maybe 6,000 to 7,000 years old. Wow. For those who like that sort of thing. (Peter K from Sydney, Australia)

■ “Beautiful and technical!!!!”

One of the beautiful gardens in Iran. It (the UNESCO-recognized Fin Garden) is not only beautiful and relaxing but also technically interesting. But you’d better go there off-peak season as there are always many tourists and local visitors and crowded. (Junojules from Braunschweig, Germany)

and separate quarters for housing, burial, and manufacture.

According to UNESCO, diversions in watercourses and climate change led to the eventual abandonment of the city in the early second millennium. The structures, burial grounds, and a large number of significant artifacts unearthed there, and their well-preserved state due to the dry desert climate, make this site a rich source of information regarding the emergence of complex societies and contacts between them in the third millennium BC.

mudbrick castle which was inhabited until some 150 years ago, is a top tourist destination in the region. It is still standing tall tolerating several earthquakes and other natural disasters, which have been flattened similar nearby structures. Marble mines, which are scattered near the city, have a worldwide reputation. Such marbles have been used to decorate the holy shrine of Imam Ali (AS) and to build the monument Taj Mahal, according to rayen.ir.

The big and sprawling Kerman province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers. 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.



attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert, parts of the latter is situated in Kerman province.

Traditional medicine center inaugurated for COVID-19 patients

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — A center offering traditional medicine services to coronavirus patients was inaugurated in Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences on Sunday.

Alireza Zali, head of coronavirus control working group in Tehran, said that self-care is not self-medication, so that traditional Iranian medicine, which is the most important document in the field of health, should come into consideration, IRIB reported.

"For about 15 years, medical universities have provided an academic background for traditional medicine, and we are proud that today the leading universities of traditional medicine and sciences in the scientific ranking are among the best universities in the country," he highlighted.

In the first phase, 100 traditional medicine physicians have been organized for face-to-face and virtual visits, and 200 experts have acquired the necessary skills in intensive courses to prepare for telephone consultations, he explained.

Mostafa Ghanei, head of the scientific committee of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control in August said that there are currently 30 projects underway nationwide in the field of traditional medicine, herbal medicine, and supplements to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

There are many herbal remedies in the country to relieve COVID-19, but have so far been used in populations of less than 100 people; therefore, announcing their effectiveness still needs time and testing to be confirmed, he explained.

■ **Iranian traditional medicine against COVID-19**

Alireza Abbassian the health ministry's director of the traditional medicine depart-



The consumption of juicy stews along with fresh vegetables, prune, barberry, zucchini, green bean, okra, and pumpkin are also helpful to boost the immune system against COVID-19. Thyme, cinnamon, fennel flower, turmeric, Stachys lavandulifolia, viper's-buglosses, chamomile, saffron, rosemary, and cloves are also beneficial to the body.

ment, said in March that Iranian traditional medicine can play an effective role in strengthening the immune system to resist the novel coronavirus infection.

Referring to the importance of health care, he explained that medical fasting, reducing

calories consumed in a day by 20 percent less than usual, can help strengthen the immune system and reduce inflammation, this method can improve the body's function against the disease.

"Pickles should be restricted and it is

essential to avoid spicy food such as red pepper, mustard, and salts in addition to salty nuts or cucumbers," he said, adding, it is also advisable to limit the consumption of yogurt, tomatoes, bananas and thick food.

On the other hand, the consumption of juicy stews along with fresh vegetables, prune, barberry, zucchini, green bean, okra, and pumpkin are also helpful to boost the immune system, he noted.

He went on to conclude that thyme, cinnamon, fennel flower, turmeric, Stachys lavandulifolia, viper's-buglosses, chamomile, saffron, rosemary, and cloves are also beneficial to the body.

■ **COVID-19 toll at a record high**

In a press briefing on Sunday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 9,236 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 682,486. She added that 520,329 patients have so far recovered, but 5,523 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, coronavirus daily deaths and new cases hit the record high, as 459 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 38,291, she added.

Lari noted that so far 5,224,252 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

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

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

Species more likely to die out with rapid climate changes

The climate seems to be getting warmer. This could be bad news for species that depend on stable and abundant access to food at certain times of the year.

"If the changes happen too fast, species can become extinct," says Emily Simmonds, an associate professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology's (NTNU) Department of Biology.

She is the first author of an article in Ecology Letters that addresses how great tits can be affected if the supply of larvae changes in the spring.

Several bird species depend on the abundance of larvae while their young are small. If the larvae supply peaks earlier in the spring than normal, there may simply be too little food for the hatchlings.

The warming climate can bring about changes like this. An earlier spring causes trees to leaf out earlier, which in turn causes the larvae that feed on the plants to hatch out earlier, according to Science Daily.

"When the climate changes, the interactions between different species changes too," Simmonds says.

She and a team of researchers at the University of Oxford used population models to calculate the consequences of different climate scenarios. They wanted to see at what point the changes would happen too fast for



the great tit to modify its behaviour quickly enough to keep up with the larvae.

Great tits have genetic variations and varying abilities to adapt to different conditions. This means that they can evolve in tandem with their prey up to a point.

An earlier larvae hatch can be advantageous for the great tits that also hatch their young earlier in the spring. This advantage can be transferred to the next generation of birds, which can in turn become early birds. And so on.

For this advantage to last, the great tits have to evolve fast enough and be flexible enough to keep up with the genetic

variation in their prey.

"Given conditions with big greenhouse gas emissions, the great tits won't always be able to keep up with the changes in the larvae supply," says Simmonds.

In the worst case scenario, whole populations of great tits will simply disappear by the year 2100 because they aren't able to procure enough food for their young.

"This could happen even if the great tits are also modifying their behaviour faster in a rapidly changing environment. The larvae might be changing even faster than the great tits," Simmonds says.

The researchers found that populations of great tits would be guaranteed to become extinct by the year 2100 if the larvae appeared about 24 days earlier than the current norm in 2020. This also applies to populations that appear to be completely stable now.

"It could be that the apparent stability today is hiding a future collapse," says Simmonds.

The reason is that we might reach a kind of threshold where the great tits aren't keeping up. The rubber band gets stretched too far, you could say.

"The good news is that the populations will be able to survive scenarios with lower or medium warming trends," Simmonds says.

Llama nanobodies could be a powerful weapon against COVID-19

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine described a new method to extract tiny but extremely powerful SARS-CoV-2 antibody fragments from llamas, which could be fashioned into inhalable therapeutics with the potential to prevent and treat COVID-19.

These special llama antibodies, called "nanobodies," are much smaller than human antibodies and many times more effective at neutralizing the SARS-CoV-2 virus. They're also much more stable.

"Nature is our best inventor," said senior author Yi Shi, Ph.D., assistant professor of cell biology at Pitt. "The technology we developed surveys SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing nanobodies at an unprecedented scale, which allowed us to quickly discover thousands of nanobodies with unrivaled affinity and specificity."

To generate these nanobodies, Shi turned to a black llama named Wally -- who resembles and therefore shares his moniker with Shi's

black Labrador, according to Science Daily. Shi and colleagues immunized the llama with a piece of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and, after about two months, the animal's immune system produced mature nanobodies against the virus.

Using a mass spectrometry-based technique that Shi has been perfecting for the past three years, lead author Yufei Xiang, a research assistant in Shi's lab, identified the nanobodies in Wally's blood that bind to SARS-CoV-2 most strongly.

Then, with the help of Pitt's Center for Vaccine Research (CVR), the scientists exposed their nanobodies to live SARS-CoV-2 virus and found that just a fraction of a nanogram could neutralize enough virus to spare a million cells from being infected.

These nanobodies represent some of the most effective therapeutic antibody candidates for SARS-CoV-2, hundreds to thousands of times more effective than other llama nano-



bodies discovered through the same phage display methods used for decades to fish for human monoclonal antibodies.

Shi's nanobodies can sit at room temperature for six weeks and tolerate being fashioned into an inhalable mist to deliver antiviral therapy directly into the lungs where they're most needed. Since SARS-CoV-2 is a respiratory virus, the nanobodies could find

and latch onto it in the respiratory system, before it even has a chance to do damage.

In contrast, traditional SARS-CoV-2 antibodies require an IV, which dilutes the product throughout the body, necessitating a much larger dose and costing patients and insurers around \$100,000 per treatment course.

"Nanobodies could potentially cost much less," said Shi. "They're ideal for addressing the urgency and magnitude of the current crisis."

In collaboration with Cheng Zhang, Ph.D., at Pitt, and Dina Schneidman-Duhovny, Ph.D., at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the team found that their nanobodies use a variety of mechanisms to block SARS-CoV-2 infection. This makes nanobodies ripe for bioengineering. For instance, nanobodies that bind to different regions on the SARS-CoV-2 virus can be linked together, like a Swiss army knife, in case one part of the virus mutates and becomes drug-resistant.

Wildfire burns 7,000ha of protected areas since mid-March

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Wildfire has burnt 7,017 hectares of areas under the management of the Department of Environment (DOE) since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

While in the same period last year, 4,760 hectares were haunted by fire, so wildfire has increased by 34 percent, Reza Harati, an official with the DOE, said, IRNA reported.



To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have been designated for preservation and protection, including, national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas, and natural national monuments, he explained, highlighting, currently, the DOE holds supervision over 18 million hectares.

The monitoring and protection of the areas against degradation, hunting, and wildfire are related to the DOE, and the rest is managed by the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization, he noted.

Most of the causes of the fires were accidental, but there were intentional and natural causes, as well. Judicial cases are being investigated for the intentions, he stated.

He went on to say that "unfortunately, some farmers burn their agricultural lands, and due to being located next to the protected areas, the fire spreads to those areas as well.

Also, because of ethnic, local, and tribal differences, some locals commit arson, he regretted, adding, sometimes, they set fire to the regions in retaliation of a poacher's illegal hunt."

Since the beginning of this year, Kermanshah province with 1,802 hectares has experienced the most wildfires in the four regions, followed by Fars, Bushehr, Tehran, Qazvin, Khuzestan, and Mazandaran provinces, respectively, he announced.

"At the beginning of March and over the first two months of this year, the country received above-normal rainfall, which increased vegetation and wildfire risk, he also stated.

Protected areas are mostly impassable, so it is very difficult to transport equipment when on fire unless a helicopter drops forces to the area, he explained.

This year, purchasing portable equipment can be of help, on the other hand, it is very important to educate the local communities living around the protected areas; because protecting nature can play an important role in reducing fires, in addition to knowing how to put out a fire.

■ **Humans are the main cause**

Ali Abbasnejad, the commander of the forest protection unit of Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization, said in July 2019 that over 95 percent of wildfires in the country is due to human-caused ignition from unattended campfires, debris, and negligently discarded cigarettes.

He went on to add that some of the wildfires also are intentional acts of arson, some set fire to another's properties which is rooted in regional disputes. "Some 83 percent of the country's total land area amounting to 135 million hectares is covered by natural resources. Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient human forces and facilities to protect our natural resources."

Jamshid Mohabbat Khani, commander of the protection unit of the DOE said in June that the number of rangers in Iran is one-tenth of the global standard, which is a ranger for every 12,000 hectares, while it should be a ranger per 1,000 hectares.

Regarding the people's role in wildfires and the lack of law in this field, Mohabbat Khani, said that last year (ended on March 19), 12 percent of fires were naturally set, on the other hand, 18 percent of fires were an act of arson.

Reza Aflatooni, the deputy director of the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization for legal affairs, in June announced that people who deliberately set fire to forests and pastures are sentenced to at least 10 years in prison.

Farmers, ranchers, and gardeners must obtain permission from natural resources officials for burning their garden plant residues, he said.

Qasem Sabz'ali, commander of the forest protection unit of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization, said in April 2018 that some 15,000 hectares of forests burn in wildfires annually in Iran that 95 percent of them are caused by humans.

Forest wildfire brings a heavy economic burden amounting to 560 million rials (about \$13,000) per hectare for the country, he added.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 52)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

■ **Adjective**

■ **صفت** ← کتاب کار

Adjectives usually follow the nouns they qualify and are joined to them by means of the ezafe:

پسرِ خوب، بچه‌ی کوچک، شهرِ بزرگ

پسرهای خوب، بچه‌های کوچک، شهرهای بزرگ

● Exercise 2. Make adjective phrases from both groups:

..... :	آسان	امتحان
..... :	گذشته	پنج‌ره
..... :	باز	جواب
..... :	غلط	شیر
..... :	خوشمزه	دانشجو
..... :	غایب	شب

Adjectives may also be used as a predicate: ➡ workbook

خانه‌ی قشنگ ← خانه‌ی ما قشنگ است.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

11m ha of plains require aquifer, watershed management

Some 11 million hectares of the country's plains need watershed and aquifer management plans, so they must be prepared in this regard, director of watershed management at Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization has said.

Over the past 10 years, the country experienced 11 millimeters of rainfall decline while evaporation rate increased by 54 millimeters, ISNA quoted Khoshroo Shahbazi as saying on Thursday.

یازده میلیون هکتار از دشت‌های کشور نیازمند آبخوانداری است

معاون آبخیزداری، مراتع و بیابان سازمان جنگلها و مراتع و آبخیزداری، گفت: یازده میلیون هکتار از دشت‌های کشور نیازمند اجرای طرح‌های آبخیزداری و آبخوانداری است.

به گزارش ایسنا، خسرو شهبازی گفت: طی ۱۰ سال گذشته به طور متوسط در کشور ۱۱ میلیمتر کاهش بارندگی و ۵۴ میلیمتر افزایش تبخیر و تعریق را شاهد بودیم.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Loving humanity is second only to having faith
in Allah as one of the best deeds in Islam.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Child labor drama “Sun Children” picked to represent Iran at Oscars

→1 “Sun Children” 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” by Iranian director Majid Majidi.

The movie had its Iranian premiere during the 38th Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in February, garnering the Crystal Simorghs for best film, script and set design.

Numerous international events, including the 77th Venice Film Festival, have also screened the movie. The festival honored the film’s star Ruhollah Zamani with the Marcello Mastroianni Award.

The 33rd International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Isfahan also awarded Majidi as best director and Zamani as best actor.

The 8th Ajyal Film Festival in the Qatari capital of Doha is scheduled to open with a screening of “Sun Children” on November 18.

Majid Majidi’s “Children of Heaven” received a nomination in the Oscars’ best foreign-language film category in 1996 and Asghar Farhadi’s “A Separation” and “The Salesman” won Iran two Oscars in 2012 and 2017.

Polish filmmaker Hanna Polak to hold master class at Cinema Vérité

A R T TEHRAN — Polish filmmaker Hanna Polak will be holding a virtual master class during the 14th edition of the Cinema Vérité, Iran’s major international festival for documentary films.

She will be discussing the topic “making a documentary in a crisis” at the master class, the Documentary and Experimental Film Center, which is the organizer of the event, announced on Sunday.

This year the festival will be organized entirely online during December due to a spike in coronavirus cases in the country over the past few months.

The 53-year-old Polak, who is also a director of photography, was nominated for an Oscar for her documentary “The Children of Leningradsky” in 2005.

She graduated from the cinematography department of the Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography. She has also established a foundation that helps homeless children in Russia.

Thanks to the children of Leningradsky station, she met the protagonists of her next film, “Something Better to Come”, which was the most awarded Polish film of 2015.

She tells the story of the inhabitants of the biggest rubbish dump in Europe.

Polak’s “Something Better to Come” was screened at the 9th Cinema Vérité in 2015.

This year, the organizers of Cinema Vérité have dedicated a special section to screening documentaries on the pandemic and COVID-19. Over 130 submissions in the pandemic and COVID-19 category have been received by the organizers of the festival.

The four top selected works in this category will be honored at the closing ceremony, while the international section of the festival is non-competitive this year.

Iran’s Hushang Moradi Kermani nominated for Astrid Lindgren Award

By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN — Iran’s Institute for Research on the History of Children’s Literature has nominated bestselling writer Hushang Moradi Kermani for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2021.

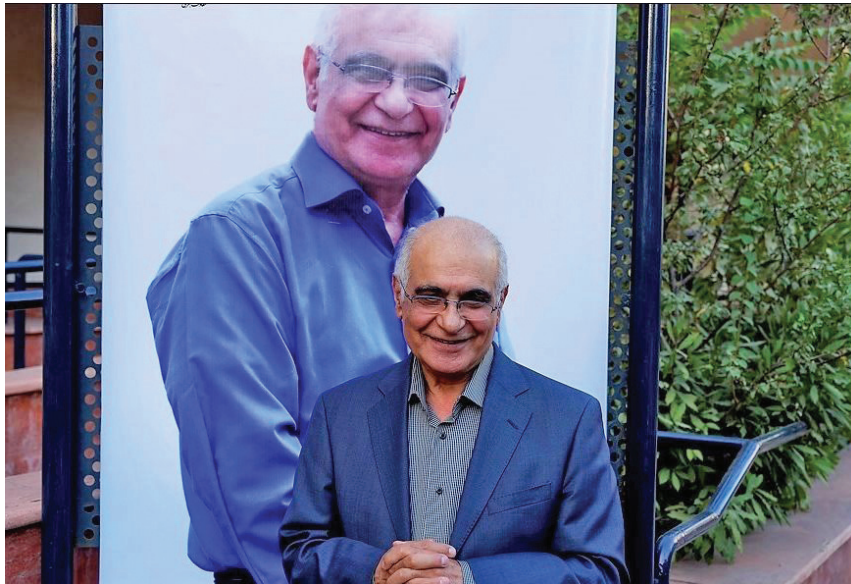
The award, administered by the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs, was established in 2002 to commemorate Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren and to promote children’s and youths’ literature from around the world.

It is the world’s largest award for children’s and youths’ literature, and the second-largest literature prize in the world.

The prize, five million Swedish kronor in cash, is awarded to one or more recipients including authors, illustrators, storytellers and promoters of reading.

Over 260 figures and organizations from across the world have been nominated for the award and the winner will be announced on April 13, 2021.

Iran’s nominations for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award are selected separately every year by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), the Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth, the Children’s Book Council of Iran



Iranian writer Hushang Moradi Kermani in an undated photo.

and the Institute for Research on History of Children’s Literature.

The 76-year-old Moradi Kermani has been nominated for the award several times, the last of which was made by the IIDCYA in 2020. However, he failed to

win the honor.

The writer is not Iran’s sole nomination for the award in 2021. IIDCYA has earlier announced writer Hamidreza Shahabadi and its mobile library program as its nominees for the prize.

Sydney Persian Film Festival unveils lineup

Slaughterhouse” by Abbas Amini and “A Hairy Tale” by Homayun Ghanizadeh are among the Iranian features.

“Son-Mother” tells the story of Leila, a single mother who lives in the poverty of today’s Iran. The factory where she works is facing a crisis and jobs are in danger. Kazem, the factory bus driver, proposes to Leila, but only under certain conditions. When Leila loses her job, she must face a difficult decision – whether to accept Kazem’s proposal, which would save her from poverty, but would also force her to abandon her son. In the end, it will be him who will have to decide.

“The Badger” is about Sudeh, a 40-year-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.

In “A Hairy Tale”, Danesh is in love with both cinema and Homa, a well-known actress. Kazem is in love with both the movie “Casablanca” and his barber shop’s certificate. Shapur is in love with both canned tuna and politics. The city is full of beggars while an earthquake may happen soon. Every now and then, the body of a dead woman, with head shaved, is found near the sea. As Inspector Kiani says: It’s a messy situation!

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

The festival will also screen the documentaries “None of Your Business” by Kamran Heidari and “Sunless Shadow” by Mehrdad Oskui.

The short competition of the festival features “Like a Good Kid” by Arian Vazirdaftari, “The Visit” by Azadeh Musavi, “Red Panda” by Ali Paknia, “Hedeyeh” by Sahar Sotudeh, “Dilemma” by Omid Shams, “Each Other” by Sarah Tabibzadeh, “Funfair” by Kaveh Mazaheri and “Exam” by Sonia Haddad.

Christie’s offers works by contemporary Iranian modernist icons

A R T TEHRAN — The Christie’s Middle Eastern (West Asian) Modern and Contemporary Art sale in London has offered a diverse selection of contemporary works by Iranian artists along with those from other countries.

This year, Christie’s auction will be held online from November 11 to 24 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Farhad Moshiri’s painting “Once Upon a Time” is among the highlights of the collection offered at an estimated price of £220,000 to 280,000.

“Baby”, “Tranquility” and “The Looker” are Moshiri’s other paintings offered at the sale.

Works by Hossein Zendeherudi, including “Avant Toi Et Moi, Il Y Eu D’aut”, “Wav + Wav + V” and “Satame”, are also offered. Zendeherudi’s “Wav + Wav + Ve” is offered



“Once Upon a Time” by Farhad Moshiri.

at £80,000 to 120,000.

Other Iranian artists whose works are offered at the sale include Monir Farmanfarmaian, Sohrab Sepehri, Nasrollah Afjei, Bahman Mohasses and Farideh Lashai.

With the second season of international auctions approaching in 2020, Christie’s auction will be selling 60 art pieces by contemporary artists from West Asia.

During this auction, works by artists from different countries, including Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Sudan, will go under the hammer.

In 2017, ten Iranian artworks grossed £1,011,250 during the Middle Eastern Modern and Contemporary Art sale at Christie’s in London while the sale total including the buyer’s premium was £5,235,125.

“Standing Lovers Heech” from sculptor Parviz Tanavoli’s Heech series fetched £200,000, topping the Iranian collection. Another piece from the series was also sold at £35,000.

The collection also contained works by Farhad Moshiri, Ali Baniasad, Monir Farmanfarmaian, Manuchehr Yekta, Sohrab Sepehri, Nasrollah Afjei, Reza Derkshani and Kurosh Shishegar.

Also in 2016, Christie’s 250th anniversary sales of Modern and Contemporary Art in Dubai put the spotlight on art of Saqqakhaneh, an artistic movement that began in Iran during the 1960s.

Works by Parviz Tanavoli, Farhad Moshiri, Faramarz Pilaram and Nasser Ovisi were among the highlights of the auction.

IIDCYA to announce winners of Clean Hands painting contest today online

CULTURE TEHRAN — Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) will announce the winners of the International Clean Hands, Save Lives Painting Contest on Monday online.

The institute launched the competition in March to promote the topic of personal health, which has received much attention as one of the main factors in transmitting coronavirus.

The University of Geneva Hospitals and Mashhad University of Medical Sciences have made contributions to the competition.

Winners will be announced during an online ceremony, which will stream live on cong-phcai.mums.ac.ir at 9 pm, the IIDCYA announced on Sunday.



A poster for the International Clean Hands, Save Lives Painting Contest.

Nearly 9,000 paintings done by children aged between 4 and 18 from 27 countries have been sent to the competition.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Iran in February, the IIDCYA has developed numerous programs to raise children’s awareness of the disease and to enrich their times during the coronavirus era.

The institute gave discounts on its electronic copies of a number of its publications to help keep children busy with reading during the home quarantine.

Hundreds of books ranging from novels and historical books to audiobooks were offered by Iranian platforms providing online book sales service.

It also made a number of its films and videos of its theatrical performances available for the users on its website during the pandemic.

“The Island of Dr. Moreau” pops up at Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of H. G. Wells’ “The Island of Dr. Moreau” has recently been published by Sib-e Sorkh Publications in Tehran.

The book has been rendered into Persian by Mohammad-Amin Askari.

Ranked among the classic novels of the English language and the inspiration for several unforgettable movies, the early work of Wells was greeted in 1896 by howls of protest from reviewers who found it horrifying and blasphemous. They wanted to know more about the wondrous possibilities of science shown in his first book, “The Time Machine”, not its potential for misuse and terror.

In “The Island of Dr. Moreau”, a shipwrecked gentleman named Edward Prendick, stranded on a Pacific island lorded over by the notorious Dr. Moreau, confronts dark secrets, strange creatures and a reason to run for his life.

While this riveting tale was intended to be a commentary on evolution, divine creation and the tension between human nature and culture, modern readers familiar with genetic engineering will marvel at Wells’ prediction of the ethical issues raised by producing “smarter” human beings or bringing back extinct species. These levels of interpretation add richness to Prendick’s adventures on Dr. Moreau’s island of lost

souls without distracting from what is still a rip-roaring good read.

Herbert George Wells was an English writer, now best known for his work in the science fiction genre. He was also a prolific writer in many other genres, including contemporary novels, history, politics and social commentary, even writing textbooks and rules for war games.

Together with Jules Verne and Hugo Gernsback, Wells has been referred to as “The Father of Science Fiction”. His most notable science fiction works include “The War of the Worlds”, “The Time Machine”, “The Invisible Man” and “The Island of Doctor Moreau”.



Cover of the Persian translation of H. G. Wells’ book “The Island of Dr. Moreau”.