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© File photo

**By M.A.Saki**  
Deputy editor-in-chief

## Trump joins dustbin of history

Trump has left a legacy which will continue to haunt Americans and some other nations, including Iranians, for the years to come.

In four years of his presidency that still more than two months of which is left, he has polarized the American nation the kind of which has not been seen since the American Civil War in the 19th century.

As some analysts say, he has made the United States of America "the Divided States of America."

He is notoriously famous as a liar. In his newest lies and disinformation campaigns, he falsely claims of extensive fraud in the presidential election and refuses to concede defeat. Even Republican Senator Mitt Romney has said Trump's claims of election fraud are "reckless".

Probably, his thoughtless remarks and behavior have hurt fellow Republicans more than others.

Even months prior to the November 3 elections, analysts had predicted that Trump will refuse to concede if he loses the election. Their predictions came true.

In general, Trump, who in the words of American Professor Marvin Zonis is "mentally ill", was a disaster for the U.S. and the world at large. In 2016, it was hard to believe that a person with such a personality had been elected as the president of the U.S.

He has mistaken the post of president with a real estate developer.

"It will take decades if not generations to regain the lost trust," The New York Times writer Paul Krugman wrote two days prior to the elections. On the same date, Roger Cohen, also from The Times wrote "America under Trump has lost the credibility and legitimacy that were cornerstones of its influence."

Also, Trump's sadistic sanctions on Iran pushed millions of Iranian citizens to the verge of absolute poverty and made some others overnight millionaires if not billionaires. These brutal sanctions are being intensified unabatedly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was because of these illegal sanctions that profiteers greedily bought foreign currencies and helped push the prices up, to the extent that prices of some commodities have been keeping pace with the value of dollar or euro.

Now that Trump is on the path to the dustbin of history, he will be remembered as a psychopathic, ego-centric, populist, racist, sadistic, climate change denier, anti-science, etc.

## Faghani's removal from Iran international referees list causes controversy

**By Farrokh Hesabi**

**TEHRAN** — The removal of Alireza Faghani, the elite Iranian referee, from the Iranian football federation's international referees list, has caused controversy.

Since Sunday, it has been heard that Faghani has been excluded from the list of international referees by the Refereeing Committee of the Football Federation of Iran.

The news was confirmed on Monday. Therefore, some former Iranian referees and current experts reacted with concern to the issue and asked the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) to solve the problem and even called higher sports authorities such as Sports Ministry for addressing the issue.

One of the world's top referees, Faghani, decided last year to migrate to Australia from Iran for family reasons.

The Australian football federation offered him a contract to officiate in the Hyundai A-League 2019-20 season as a full-time referee.

Most Iranian refereeing experts believe that by removing Faghani, Iranian football has no chance to have any other representative to officiate in the 2022 World Cup. That's why the FFIRI's Refereeing Committee should return Faghani to the list of international referees of Iran.

An extremely well-respected international match official, Faghani refereed two matches at the AFC Asian Cup 2019 as well as four matches at the 2018 FIFA World Cup, including the third-place play-off match between Belgium and England, two matches at the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup, and also the gold medal match at the 2016 Olympic Games Men's Football tournament between Germany and Brazil. **→3**

## Mass job losses and pandemic create 'perfect storm' for U.S. protests

Mass job losses in the United States coupled with the COVID-19 lockdown have created a "perfect storm" for unrest, according to RMIT professor Joseph Siracusa.

"You can't think of a worse week in American life than this one," the professor of Human Security and International Diplomacy told A Current Affair.

The protests, which are in their sixth day, are now being viewed as a law and order issue, taking focus away from the core issue of police brutality, as well as the country's poor handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, 9 News reported.

This shift has been greatly beneficial for President Donald Trump, according to professor Siracusa.

"Trump couldn't believe his luck," the professor said.

While the spread of violence has divided the country, professor Siracusa says police brutality

has actually been the common denominator among US protests for the last century.

According to him, the United States tolerates a great deal of police brutality, making it a trigger for riots in the 1960s, 1980s and today.

"It all comes down to one thing: the response to police brutality," he said.

"Some people are referring to these protests as racial riots but they're not. These are a mob of protesters protesting what they see as police brutality around America and they've morphed into something else," he added.

The professor believed the riots would "probably burn itself out" in the coming days.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump, who hasn't conceded defeat to Joe Biden in the presidential election, is planning to hold rallies to build support for his challenge to the election results, campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh has said.

## It's Biden that needs to take verifiable steps to lift Iran sanctions: Adib-Moghaddam

**By Javad Heirannia**

**TEHRAN** — Professor Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute, argues it is Joe Biden's administration that needs to take verifiable steps to lift sanctions on Iran.

"There is a chance for diplomacy, but it is the Biden administration that needs to take verifiable steps towards sanctions relief," Adib-Moghaddam tells the Tehran Times.

Adib-Moghaddam also say, "The Iranian

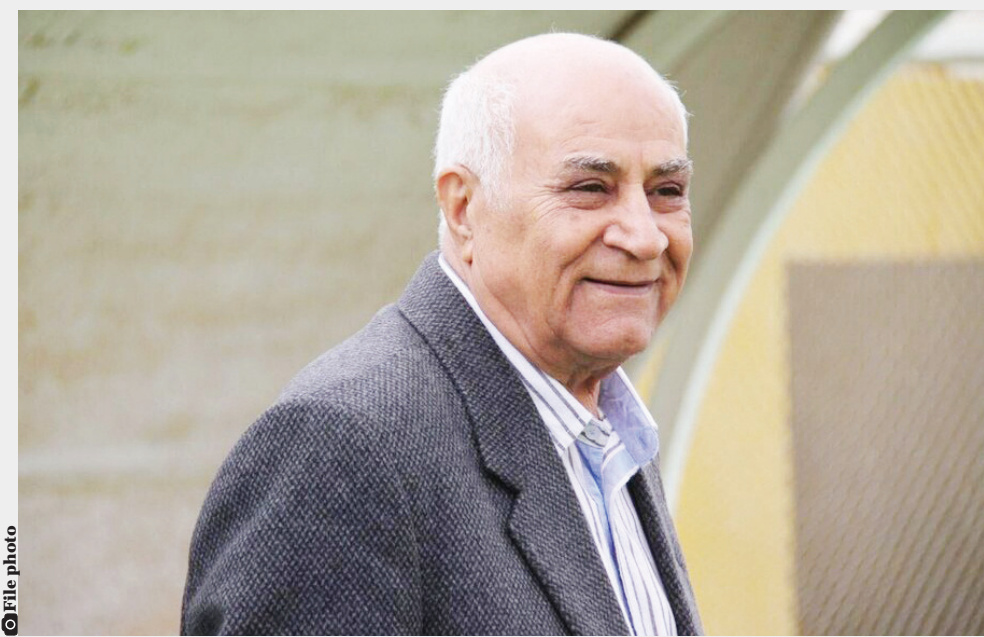
people deserve nothing but this approach from their government."

Outgoing President Donald Trump has slapped the harshest sanctions in history against Iran in violation of international law under his "maximum pressure" strategy against Iran. Trump, a real estate developer, called the nuclear agreement, officially called the JCPOA, "the worst ever deal" he has seen.

"Joe Biden is not Donald Trump much in the same way as Barack Obama spearheaded a different U.S. foreign policy which yielded some major

successes for peace and stability, including with Iran and other post-revolutionary countries such as Cuba," says Adib-Moghaddam, also an expert in global thought and comparative philosophies. Here is the full 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? **→2**



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## Ex-Iran football coach Mahmoud Yavari dies

**TEHRAN** — Former Iran national football team head coach Mahmoud Yavari passed away at the age of 81 on Tuesday.

He was hospitalized in an intensive care unit (ICU) in Isfahan for 20 days.

Yavari started his coaching career at Zob Ahan in 1969 and also coached Iranian teams Sepahan, Bargh Shiraz, Fajr Sepasi, Aboomoslem, Pas, Saba, Rah Ahan, Steel Azin and Mes Kerman.

Yavari was appointed as Iran U20 football team head coach in 1980 and following his good results with the team, he was appointed as coach for the Iran National Olympic Team in 1982. **→3**

## The recent divide in U.S. is due to decline of family values: professor

**By Mohammad Mazhari**

**TEHRAN** — An American academic attributes the recent divide in the American society to the decline of family and religious values that have taken place in the country since 1963.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Dr. William Jaynes, a professor of education at California State University, notes that the Americans are often not as tolerant of each other as was the case in past generations.

"A likely cause of this is the decline of the family- and Bible-based- values that have taken place in the United States since 1963," Jaynes says. "Since 1963, divorce rates skyrocketed, and the U.S. Supreme Court removed Bible-based character education out of the public schools."

The following is the text of the interview:

**■** What made the November 3 election a controversial issue?

A: Yes, the election in 2020 is controversial. However, it does not call into question whether the U.S. can preserve its democracy. Rather, what it does highlight is two facts. First, the American electoral system was not prepared to handle so many absentee ballots that resulted from COVID-19. It is apparent that the U.S. will need to reform its absentee ballot system so that it is more uniform from state to state. Especially controversial has been the issues of whether non-postmarked ballots that arrive up to three days after election day will be counted and whether ballots in which the signature does not appear to match the one on record should be counted. **→5**



## Iran pardons 157 prisoners with security charges

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – Judiciary spokesman Gholam-hossein Esmaeili announced on Tuesday that the Judiciary has pardoned 157 prisoners convicted of security charges.

At a press conference, Esmaeili said that Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has agreed to pardon or commute the jail terms of 3,780 prisoners sentenced by the public and Islamic revolution courts in Iran.

It came upon a proposal by Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and Imam Sadeq (AS), IRNA reported.

Esmaeili said that from the mentioned number, 2301 prisoners were freed from prison, 157 of whom with security charges that had participated in the riots of the past three years.

## Rouhani says Iran ready to share experiences in Coronavirus fight

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – President Hassan Rouhani of Iran announced on Tuesday that Iran is ready to share its experiences with regional countries, including members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), in “combating COVID-19”.



“In order to counter the shared challenges of COVID-19 pandemic, it is urgent that SCO member states, in coordination with the UN and WHO, proceed to adopt a coherent and unified approach whereby they should ensure the full, free and equitable access of all regional and global populations to healthcare services and medical equipment intended for better combat against the disease,” Rouhani told the summit of the SCO leaders through a video-conference, according to the president.

“To this end and for improving on their conditions, the Islamic Republic of Iran provided some regional countries with humanitarian aid. We also register our readiness to share with other member states our experiences in combating COVID-19,” Rouhani stated.

Rouhani also pointed to the result of the U.S. presidential elections in which sitting president Donald Trump lost to his Democratic rival Joe Biden, saying the vote showed that “the world is not alone in opposing the wrong policies of the incumbent U.S. administration.”

He added, “Now the field is clear for new U.S. elected leaders to grasp the message of their people and translate this determination for change into their foreign policies and their ties with other countries and states.

Rouhani called on the incoming U.S. administration to embrace international law, honor its obligations and make up for the losses that the Trump administration incurred on other countries.

“Re-embracing adherence to recognized international laws, regulations and obligations, honouring other nations’ rights and compensating the losses incurred are prerequisites to healing the U.S. credibility across the world.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran has invariably emphasized its principled policy of strengthening good neighborliness, confidence-building and dialogue with its neighbors in such regions as Eurasia, the Persian Gulf and West and South Asia.”

Rouhani added, “For the Islamic Republic of Iran, sustainable security is viable but through cooperation, participation and peace. The proposal of the Hormuz Peace Endeavour (HOPE), involvement in the Astana Peace Process, supporting peace and stability in Afghanistan and emphasis on increased multilateral cooperation among SCO member states are notable examples, to name a few, of the attention extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran to participation and cooperation for sustainable regional and global security.”

## Tehran says U.S. sanctions grossly violate human rights

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – Iran has censured the United States over its unilateral sanctions against nations, describing such measures as a serious violation of human rights, ILNA reported.



In remarks on Monday, Seyed Mohammad Sadatinejad, who is in charge of human rights issues at the Iranian mission to the UN in Geneva, urged Washington at the UN rights council to abandon such abuses and work instead to compensate for them.

Sadatinejad put forward nine recommendations for the U.S. delegation, which was led by U.S. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Assistant Secretary Robert A. Destro, Ambassador in Geneva Andrew Bremberg and Acting Legal Adviser Mark String.

He said the U.S. must end its systematic killings using drones and bring to justice those who assassinated five Iranian citizens, including top anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, in Iraq in January.

General Soleimani and four other Iranians were martyred in a U.S. drone strike, ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump, upon their arrival in Baghdad International Airport on January 3 at the invitation of the Iraqi government. The attack also killed Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Units (PMU).

Elsewhere in his remarks, Sadatinejad called on the U.S. to take necessary legal and judicial measures towards ending systematic racism against minorities, including African-Americans.

The Iranian diplomat further called for an end to the unilateral U.S. sanctions against other nations, which have led to serious rights breaches.

The U.S., he continued, should also cooperate with the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative effects of its coercive actions.

Sadatinejad said Washington should stop the detention of Iranians on fake charges of violating U.S. sanctions.

# Iran vows to bring Trump to justice over Soleimani assassination

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has said Iran will spare no efforts in bringing the assassins of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, especially Donald Trump, to justice.

“Iran, while fully adhering to the applicable provisions of international law, will spare no legal and legitimate effort in order to bring the perpetrators and accomplices of Martyr General Soleimani to justice, so that they suffer legal punishment for their action,” Khatibzadeh said, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

On January 3, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered drone strikes that martyred General Soleimani, chief of the IRGC Quds Force, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy commander of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Units (PMU).

In the early hours of January 8, the IRGC attacked Ain al-Assad airbase in western Iraq, where U.S. forces were stationed, as part of its promised “tough revenge” for the U.S. terror



attack.

In September, IRGC Chief Major General Hossein Salami said the Americans should know that Iran will target whoever had a role in the cowardly assassination of General Soleimani.

“This is a serious message,” Salami warned. “These threats are serious and we’re not engaging in a war of words,” Salami said, adding, “Rather, we’ll leave everything to the field of action.”

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

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

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

Khatibzadeh said based on Iran’s stance, Trump cannot enjoy presidential impunity after his term and he must be brought to justice for his crime.

“I repeat that we do not believe the perpetrators of this crime, especially Trump as the main perpetrator, can be exempted from legal prosecution, in a way that is in line with international law, by taking refuge behind the wall of immunity,” he added.

## Iran says backs UN to establish security, peace in Afghanistan U.S. exploiting Afghanistan’s situation, advisor says

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – Hossein Amir Abdollahian, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Iranian parliament speaker, has said Iran considers Afghanistan’s security as its own security, emphasizing that the United States is taking advantage of the situation in Afghanistan.

“Afghanistan’s transition from the status quo will certainly be possible with the cooperation of neighboring countries and influential regional and global actors,” Amir Abdollahian said, according to Mehr.

He made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran on Monday with Deborah Lyons, the Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Highlighting Iran’s continuous support for the friendly people of Afghanistan, he said the constitution of Afghanistan and the existing democratic structures must be protected in the context of inter-Afghan negotiations.

Amir Abdollahian also pointed to the recent activities of terrorist leaders and groups, especially Daesh (ISIS), in Afghanistan, saying, “Unfortunately, the United States is taking advantage of the situation in Afghanistan.”

“While the U.S. pretends to support the peace process, some U.S. troops are smuggling drugs from Bagram Airport,” he said.

The advisor said Iran supports any UN action to establish security, peace and prosperity in this important neighboring country.

Deborah Lyons, for her part, referred to the history of co-operation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNAMA in support of the peace process in Afghanistan.

She said that as Afghanistan’s neighbor and a strategically influential country in the region, Iran has always been instrumental in supporting the Afghan people.

She said that as Afghanistan’s neighbor and a strategically influential country in the region, Iran has always been instrumental in supporting the Afghan people.

“Iran’s support for Afghan refugees and displaced persons and its assistance in building Afghanistan’s roads and energy supply is commendable,” she added.

“We need the help of all parties, neighboring countries and international organizations to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan and to improve the economic conditions to motivate the people of this country,” Lyons said.

She added that it is expected that regional actors and neighboring countries will help further and better advance the negotiation process.



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 met with Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian, the Iranian foreign minister’s Special Envoy for Afghanistan, earlier on Monday, when the two sides conferred on the latest developments, the political and security conditions in Afghanistan, and the peace process in that country.

## Vice president: Through resistance Iranians defeat ‘maximum pressure’

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – Vice President Es’haght Jahangiri has said the era of U.S. President Donald Trump’s “maximum pressure” policy has ended with Iran’s resistance.

Speaking on Monday, Jahangiri said despite the maximum pressure policy exerted by the Trump Administration, the Iranian people and government are still proud, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks in reaction to the November 3 presidential election in the United States, which saw the victory of Democratic candidate Joe Biden against Trump.

He said the changing of the U.S. president does not mean a change in the key policies of that country toward the Iranian nation.

“Trump’s enmity towards the Iranian nation was unprecedented which had been

formed under the influence of the Zionists, Saudis and extremist groups in the United States,” Jahangiri remarked.

The vice president said the fall of the Islamic Republic system and collapse of the Iranian economy was the main objective of the U.S. government under Trump.

“With the adoption of the strategy of resistance against the U.S. maximum pressure policy, the Iranian nation emerged victorious and thwarted all conspiracies waged by enemies against the country,” he said.

He added that in order to progress, Iran needs to establish ties with the outside world so as to export domestically-manufactured products to other countries.

The nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was reached in Vienna on 14 July

2015 between Iran and six world powers, including the U.S., Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany, and also the European Union. Trump’s unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA was deplored by all other parties to the deal.

On May 8, 2019, exactly one year after Trump’s withdrawal, Iran began to gradually reduce its nuclear commitments according to the JCPOA, citing the other parties’ failure to secure its interests under the deal. However, Tehran has repeatedly said that it will return to its commitments if the other parties can protect its interests against the United States’ “toughest ever” sanctions.

In a tweet on Sunday, Zarif said, “The world is watching whether the new leaders will abandon disastrous lawless bullying of outgoing regime—and accept multilateralism,

cooperation & respect for law.”

“Deeds matter most,” he wrote, adding, “Iran’s record: dignity, interest & responsible diplomacy.”

President Hassan Rouhani also urged the U.S. president-elect to make up for Trump’s mistakes, and return the U.S. 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 abide by international commitments through respecting international regulations,” Rouhani said in remarks on Sunday.

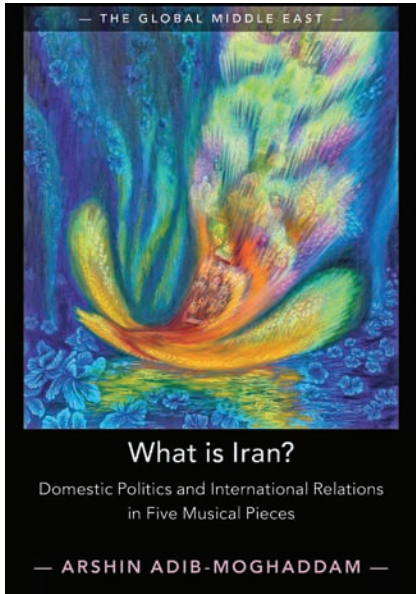
The president said the U.S. government’s destructive policies over the last four years were not only rejected by the people of the world but were also opposed by the American people in the U.S. election.

## It’s Biden that needs to take verifiable steps to lift Iran sanctions: Adib-Moghaddam

Professor of global thought and comparative philosophies says “U.S. decision-makers are under the false impression that sanctions work”

**1 →** A: Joe Biden is not Donald Trump much in the same way as Barack Obama spearheaded a different U.S. foreign policy which yielded some major successes for peace and stability, including with Iran and other post-revolutionary countries such as Cuba. This is the starting point of the analysis, as there are opportunities in understanding those differences in terms of leadership and world-view. Biden will be serious about bringing back the JCPOA, not least as a means to narrow the rift with Europe. So the JCPOA negotiations will be presented as a new “multilateral” outreach in anticipation that it will suddenly improve the image of this U.S. government among its European allies, but also in Japan. Europe will be receptive to that approach and it is within that dialectic between Europe and the U.S. where we find the real answer to your question. At this juncture of global history the strategy and tactics of Biden, will be decisively affected by Europe. The human security question will prop up – and in this case it is up to Iran to pre-empt any major problem in this regard by instituting serious reforms starting with the judiciary which are long overdue irrespective of the international situation. In terms of diplomacy such an Iranian human rights initiative would make it rather more unlikely that the country would be dragged into negotiations that would involve the ballistic missile program and/or regional policies. So Iranian domestic politics will be the second determining factor in answering your question. If there is a shift to the right in Iran, Europe will toughen its stance, this time with a U.S. president that they can safely liaise with, without losing votes in their own countries.

■ During his election campaigns, Biden repeatedly spoke of returning to the JCPOA if



Iran fully complies with the agreement. What is your analysis?

A: The two factors that I mentioned above are equally important for this question. Even Biden’s team will assume that Iran is rather more likely to negotiate when the country is under economic distress. This is a misperception, of course. There will be token gestures with reference to medicine and other life-saving materials, but the sanctions threat will be a part of the diplomatic tool-box, largely because U.S. decision-makers are under the false impression that sanctions work. This is an effect of a wider materialist-capitalist world-view. But the empirical data doesn’t support a link between

sanctions and changes in foreign policy of the target countries. Neither in the case of Iran, nor Cuba or Venezuela for instance.

Secondly, two Iranian administrations did what the so called international community, including the United States, wanted them to do: First, Mohammad Khatami when he suspended nuclear enrichment on Iranian territory in return to promised sanctions relief and then the Rouhani administration when it adhered to the JCPOA. The fact is that in both cases Iranians were punished, that civilians died because of the sanctions, and that Iran was either aggregated into an axis of evil or targeted by assassination campaigns such as the murder of General Soleimani, which must be a factor in this, not merely because of him and his persona, but because of the statutes of international law. No country can simply be asked to forget and forgive and to move on. Diplomacy must be pursued in earnest, but Iranians shouldn’t be under any illusion that this time it will be fundamentally different, not least because Trumpism and the global right wing will continue to impinge on the process. This is a major topic in my new study “What is Iran: Domestic Politics and International Relations in Five Musical Pieces” which will be published next year. There is a chance for diplomacy, but it is the Biden administration that needs to take verifiable steps towards sanctions relief. The Iranian people deserve nothing but this approach from their government.

■ In a statement during the presidential campaigns, the Democratic Party announced that it would no longer pursue regime change in Iran. Will this policy be pursued under Biden or it is just a publicity?

A: The global right-wing will continue to insist

on the regime change strategy, but Biden will attempt to resist this drive towards escalation and destabilisation. I am sure that he will shift the discursive field in this regard by addressing the country as the Islamic Republic of Iran, for instance, certainly in his first initiatives. This is what Obama did too together with his famous reference to Khayyam’s Bani Adam poem. Biden has similar sensitivities, but once again this analysis must be mindful of the institutionalised coterie of extremists and anti-Iranian hawks and their global networks which I refer to as the “global right-wing”. They will continue to drive a policy of confrontation and so called “regime change”.

Secondly, a lot of this will be depended on another major analytical factor and that is the economic devastation that Covid-19 is bringing about in the United States. If the pandemic continues to escalate on this scale, the country will not only be traumatised in terms of the human tragedies, the repercussions of the economic crisis may yield a comeback of the reactionary forces under a new leadership. And who couldn’t guarantee that with such socio-economic tremors a Donald Trump Jr. would come to the fore in four years time, this time battling it out against an 82 year old Biden, or someone that the Democratic Party would have to build up in a very short period of time.

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

A: Biden will try to construct a diplomatic Trojan Horse that will be filled with strategies to re-claim U.S. diplomatic hegemony in the region and beyond. In that regard, Trump was sitting on a mule. A Trojan Horse is more effective – Hence it could be more dangerous.



# Iran welcomes Russian-brokered peace deal between Azerbaijan, Armenia

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Mahmoud d e s k Vaezi, the Iranian president's chief of staff, welcomed on Tuesday a Russian-brokered deal between Azerbaijan and Armenia to put an end to the conflict in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

First of all, Vaezi welcomed the Russian mediation efforts and then expressed satisfaction with the end of the conflict between Baku and Yerevan.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the mediation of Russia between Azerbaijan and Armenia and the acceptance of the ceasefire by the two sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We continue to emphasize the two countries' adherence to international borders and the protection of the civil rights of all," the Iranian president's chief of staff said in a tweet on Tuesday noon.

"We believe that negotiations and a political solution can end this long-standing crisis if the two parties to the conflict remain committed to international rules, including the territorial integrity of countries and the citizenship rights of their citizens. While pleased with the end of the war, we hope that the ceasefire agreement will be implemented," Vaezi added.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry also issued a statement on Tuesday welcoming the tri-lateral peace agreement.

The statement also said that the agreement is similar to the peace initiative that Iran has recently presented to Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Armenia.



"The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the agreement reached among the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation, which led to a ceasefire and a cessation of hostilities, and hopes that this agreement, the principles of which were included in the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will lead to the establishment of lasting peace in the Caucasus region in such a way that includes peace and prosperity for the people in all countries of the region and removes existing concerns," the statement said.

The statement underlined the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity, and inviolability of the official international borders while calling for the liberation of

occupied territories, the return of refugees, and respect for the rights of minorities, as well as the withdrawal of all Takfiri forces and foreign fighters from the region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran also declares its readiness to assist in the deployment of peacekeeping forces of the Russian Federation along the contact lines in accordance with clauses 3 and 4 of the ceasefire agreement," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said, referring to the clauses in the peace agreement that articulate the mission of the Russian peacekeeping forces.

The leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Russia issued a late-night joint statement on the Russian brokered agreement to put an end to the long-running conflict in the

volatile region of Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"A complete ceasefire and a cessation of all hostilities in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict shall be introduced at 00:00 hours Moscow time on 10 November 2020. The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, shall stop at their current positions," said the joint statement, adding that Armenia agreed to return the districts of Aghdam, Kalbajar, and Lachin to Azerbaijan in the coming weeks.

Clauses 3 and 4 of the joint statement outlines the places where Russian peacekeeping forces will be deployed.

The third clause stipulates that "along the contact line in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor, a peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed in the amount of 1,960 military personnel with small arms, 90 armored personnel carriers, 380 units of automobile and special equipment."

And the fourth clause further stipulates that "the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed in parallel with the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces. The peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed for a period of five years with automatic extension by further five-year periods if none of the Parties declares six months before the expiration of the period of its intention to terminate the application of this provision."

## Rouhani calls on U.S. to reconsider 'inhumane behaviors' toward countries

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani d e s k has called on the United States to change tack and reconsider its "inhumane behaviors" toward other countries.

Speaking at a cabinet session on Tuesday, Rouhani said, "The new U.S. administration should reconsider its inhumane behaviors toward other countries in the first place in order to repair the country's tarnished image in the international community."

The president made the remarks at a session held to discuss the latest efforts by government bodies to expand Iran's foreign trade and unblock the country's assets blocked in frozen bank accounts abroad. During the session, Rouhani was briefed on efforts made by Iranian authorities to unblock the assets.

Decisions were made during the session that despite U.S. sanctions pressure, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and the Foreign Ministry should work more closely and effectively to release and use these assets to meet the country's needs.

The president's remarks were made two days after he called on the new U.S. president-elect, Joe Biden, to compensate Iran for the past mistakes of Donald Trump.

"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 on Sunday in what appeared to be a reference to the sanctions the sitting U.S. administration imposed on Iran following Donald Trump's withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Trump pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear deal on May 8, 2018, reimposing sweeping economic sanctions on Iran in a bid to reach what he called a better deal with Iran. However, Trump failed to make such a deal with Iran as the Iranian leadership refused to negotiate with the White House under the sanctions pressure.

Joe Biden, Trump's rival who is seen as the U.S. president-elect, has vowed to rejoin the JCPOA after moving into the White House.

"I will offer Tehran a credible path back to diplomacy. If Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal, the United States would rejoin the agreement as a starting point for follow-on negotiations. With our allies, we will work to strengthen and extend the nuclear deal's provisions, while also addressing other issues of concern," Biden wrote in an opinion piece published by CNN in mid-September.

Rouhani pointed out that 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 3rd election.

The president also praised the Iranian people's resistance in the face of the U.S. economic pressure, 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.

## Canada's double standard over human rights

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — As Iran and d e s k Ukraine move forward with their cooperation on the downed air-plane, analysts put the spotlight on Canada's double standards over human rights. Canada is making maverick efforts to use the airplane incident to turn up the heat on Iran.

On January 8, 2020, a Ukrainian passenger plane crashed near Tehran moments after taking off from Imam Khomeini International Airport, killing all 176 passengers and crew on board. Nearly three days after the plane crash, Iran formally announced that Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 was mistakenly shot down by Iranian air defenses amid heightened tensions with the United States over the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force.

The general was assassinated by an American drone strike near Baghdad's international airport on January 3, an adventurous move that brought Iran and the U.S. closer to an all-out war. Iran strongly condemned the U.S. decision to assassinate General Soleimani and vowed to take "harsh revenge" against the U.S. First of all, Iran held a very large funeral ceremony for the general and then buried him in his hometown of Kerman. As Soleimani was laid to rest in Kerman, on January 8 Iran launched retaliatory missile strikes against an Iraqi base housing American troops, causing brain injuries to dozens of American servicemen.

During the same night of the strikes, the Ukrainian airplane was mistakenly shot down by Iranian air defenses. Iran expressed sympathy with the victims and, right from the start, worked with Ukraine and Canada, and other countries that their citizens were killed in the plane to get to the bottom of what happened to the Ukrainian plane on that tense night.

"A sad day. Preliminary conclusions of internal investigation by Armed Forces: Human error at time of crisis caused by US adventurism led to disaster. Our profound regrets, apologies and condolences to our people, to the families of all victims, and to other affected nations," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet on January 11, shortly after the Iranian Armed



Forces announced that the plane was mistakenly shot down.

But Canada sought to politicize the plane crash right from the start.

"The families of the victims and all Canadians want answers. I want answers. That means closure, transparency, accountability and justice – and this government will not rest until we get that," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on January 9.

At that time, investigation into the incident had not been started yet. That's why legal and political experts said at the time that Canada should wait until a thorough investigation is done.

Seyed Abbas Mousavi, then spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, accused Canada of abusing the plane crash. Mousavi pointed out that Canada abused the incident to sympathize with the Iranian people and demand some action while it has severed diplomatic relations with Iran under U.S. pressure, depriving hundreds of thousands of Iranian people living in Canada of consular services.

"We have announced our readiness to open a consular section in Canada and they can have one in Iran, but these requests and suggestions have been ignored by the Canadian government for a long time, and now in such cases, they express concerns about Iranian citizens. They are just like a bowl that is hotter than the soup," Mousavi stated.

Canada's double standards over human rights were also on full display during the so-called U.S. "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran. Over the past two years, the White House imposed the toughest sanctions on Iran in history that led to shortage of medicines in Iran. Canada strictly adhered to the unilateral U.S. sanctions and refused to even export humanitarian goods to Iran. Analysts believe that Canada is not really concerned about the Iranians who died in the plane crash. Rather, it is using the incident to put pressure on Iran.

Besides, Canada has become a safe haven for almost all corrupt politicians who are convicted of embezzlement and other financial crimes. Mahmoudreza Khavari, the former head of Iran's Bank Mellat, is a case in point. Khavari was involved in an Iranian embezzlement scandal of roughly 2.6 billion dollars.

He is a Canadian-Iranian citizen who fled from Iran in 2011 after his involvement in the embezzlement scandal was made public.

The Iranian police chief has recently said that Iran has made efforts to extradite Khavari but Canadian authorities refused to cooperate.

"Our problem is the judiciary and the police of those countries that do not cooperate with us. There are protocols for the extradition of criminals which stipulate that criminals

should be extradited from everywhere in case the international police inform Interpol that a criminal should be extradited," Iranian police chief Hossein Ashtari said of Iran's efforts to extradite Khavari in late October.

He added, "We went to Khavari's residence twice and even told the [Canadian] police where he was, but the police did not detain him there."

Despite its untenable records on human rights, Canada still makes efforts to abuse the Ukrainian plane crash. In early October, Canada announced that it is forming its own forensic examination and assessment team to examine evidence and information related to the Ukrainian plane crash.

The office of Foreign Minister François-Philippe Champagne told The Associated Press the team will collect, organize and analyze all available information, evidence, and intelligence about the Jan. 8 crash near Tehran, and will advise the Canadian government on its credibility.

"This is yet another step to uncover the truth, hold the Iranian regime to account, and seek justice for the families of the victims. We will spare no efforts on behalf of the families of the victims to obtain justice and closure," Champagne said in a statement provided to the AP.

On the other hand, Iran has lashed out at the "undiplomatic behavior" of the Canadian foreign minister.

"The ill-mannered language, impolite phrases, and very undiplomatic behavior of the minister of foreign affairs of Canada are not something you see behind closed doors," Saeed Khatibzadeh has recently said in what appeared to be a response to Champagne's remarks. "Unfortunately, statesmanship in the West has now turned into politics in order to garner a few votes from others. I am very, very deeply sorry that the Canadian nation has to witness such a language from such a foreign minister."

The spokesman noted, "We recommend that they (Canadian politicians) speak in the same way that they behave and talk behind the closed doors. The etiquette does not allow us to speak like the rude foreign minister of Canada."

## SPORTS

### Ex-Iran football coach Mahmoud Yavari dies

**1→** On Aug. 7, 1984, he took charge of Iran national football team. Along with his assistant, Nasser Ebrahimi, they helped to build a new base for the national team. Yavari led the team six matches but resigned on Dec. 1, 1984. He was appointed as U20 head coach once again in 1985 and led the team for a decade.

"Yavari in no longer with us. On behalf of all members of National Team, I express my deep condolence to the family and all Iranian football enthusiasts. Rest in Peace Mr. Mahmoud," Iran coach Dragan Skocic said in a video message from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Yavari will be laid to rest on Wednesday in his hometown Isfahan. Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to Yavari's family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

### Faghani's removal from Iran international referees list causes controversy

**1→** He was named the AFC Referee of the Year twice in 2016 and 2018.

To remove a referee of such a caliber as Faghani has put the Iranian football federation under pressure and drew heavy criticism from media and experts against the directors of the federation and the members of the Refereeing Committee.

Accordingly, Heydar Baharvand, the football federation's acting president, ordered the Refereeing Committee to review the issue urgently. He asked the committee to examine the possible ways of introducing Faghani as Iran's international referee. He also demanded to require the possible instructions through FIFA to solve the problem.

Faghani's international experience is a huge asset for the Iranian football, especially the Iranian refereeing community. It is necessary to pave the way for keeping him on the list of Iranian referees for today and always.

### Iran make progress every year: Dragan Skocic

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — National Team head coach d e s k Dragan Skocic praised the Iranian football team, saying they are making progress every year.

Iran are scheduled to meet Bosnia and Herzegovina football team in a friendly match on Thursday as part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

"The Iranian national football team, along with Japan, are the best Asian national team. This is confirmed by FIFA's ranking list. Iran are making progress every year. I am honored to be selected as the team coach," Skocic said in an exclusive interview with Sportske.ba.

"Iranians are the most hospitable and welcoming people in the world. I am not saying that because I am coach of Iran. Anyone who has ever been in Iran for at least one day, will confirm that," he added.

Iran national football team will meet Bosnia behind closed the doors at the Asim Ferhatovic-Hase Stadium.

"I really appreciate the Bosnian football federation for arranging the friendly. Needless to talk about quality of some Bosnian players. BiH have always had high quality players. Miralem Pjanic is a world class player. I want Bosnia to win their matches, but the match against us," the Croat concluded.

### Iranian wrestling referee Jeddi passes away

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iranian international retired d e s k wrestling referee Rahim Jeddi died on Tuesday.

He died at the age of 77 in Tehran, capital of Iran, due to the coronavirus.

He was a FILA honorary referee and received FILA Golden Whistle award.

Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to Jeddi's family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

### Foolad Sirjan extend winning streak

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Foolad Sirjan kept their winning d e s k streak at the 2020/21 Iran Volleyball Super League on Tuesday.

Foolad Sirjan powered past Paykan in straight sets (25-20, 25-15, 25-21) in Tehran's Khaneh Volleyball.

The Sirjan-based team have won eight matches out of nine over the last nine 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.

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 31st edition of Iran volleyball league has brought a total of 14 teams together.

Matchweek 9  
\* Paykan Tehran 0 – 3 Foolad Sirjan  
\* Rahyab Melal Kordestan 0 – 3 Shahrardi Gonbad  
\* Shadab Yazd 1 – 3 Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan  
\* Khatam Ardakan 2 – 3 Shahrardi Urmia  
\* Azar Battery Urmia 1 – 3 Saipa Tehran  
\* Hoorsun Ramsar 2 – 3 Shahrardi Varamin



## Initial plan for gas export to Afghanistan ready: NIGC head

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) said on Monday that the initial plan and the necessary infrastructure has been prepared for launching gas exports to Afghanistan, Shana reported.

“The initial plan has been prepared and the private sector will be in charge of the gas exports to Afghanistan,” Hassan Montazer Torbati told reporters on the sidelines of an inauguration ceremony.

Torbati noted that diplomatic negotiations are underway and the government has already provided the full infrastructure needed for transfer of gas to its eastern neighbor.



Afghanistan is increasingly relying on Iran for its energy needs as the landlocked country moves to expand economic activity through opening a new trade route that passes through Iran to the Indian Ocean.

However, Iranian energy supplies, including electricity, are mostly available to western parts of Afghanistan where the security of transfer infrastructure can be properly guaranteed.

Iran has increased both the output and exports of natural gas in recent years despite the U.S. sanctions that have specifically targeted the country’s energy sector.

Nearly a tenth of Iran’s current output of more than 700 million cubic meters of gas is exported, mainly through pipelines to Turkey and Iraq.

On exports to Turkey, where authorities have announced the discovery of a new gas reserves in the Black Sea, Torbati said Ankara would still need to import gas from Iran to respond to its growing energy demand.

He said talks on renewing a 25-year export agreement with Turkey that is set to expire in several years’ time would start in the near future.

## Monthly red meat production increases 55% yr/yr

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN**— Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) announced that production of red meat in Iran stood at 39,600 tons in the seventh month of the current Iranian calendar year (September 22-October 21), showing 55 percent growth compared to the same month in the past year.

The SCI’s report said that beef and veal had the lion’s share in the country’s red meat output during the seventh month with 22,400 tons, followed by lamb and mutton with 13,500 tons, goat meat with 2,900 tons, and red meat from other livestock with 794 tons.

The head of Iran’s Livestock Provision Council has called on the government to purchase the red meat at guaranteed prices to support the producers.

Making the remarks in an interview by IRNA on October 2, Mansour Pourian also recommended the exports of livestock to support the producers and also bring foreign revenue for the country.

Saying that the purchase of red meat at guaranteed prices started in the country in the middle of the fourth Iranian calendar month of Tir (early July), Pourian announced that 4,000 tons of red meat have been purchased in this way by the State Livestock Affairs Logistics Company since then.

The purchase of red meat at guaranteed prices is already done in 15 provinces, including Khorasan Razavi, North Khorasan, Gilan, Alborz, Yazd, Isfahan, Fars, Sistan-Baluchestan, Khuzestan, East Azarbaijan, and Semnan, he said, adding that it will be then conducted in the other provinces as well.

Iran’s deputy agriculture minister, Morteza Rezaei, has said that the total production of red and chicken meat is expected to reach 3.5 million tons by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

He said red meat production will reach 880,000 tons, while chicken meat output is expected to reach 2.7 million tons.

“Considering the measures taken, the egg production will reach 1,650,000 tons, the honey output will reach 113,000 tons, and the production of fresh silk cocoons will reach 1,650,000 tons,” the official added.

Pointing to the per capita consumption of protein products in the country, Rezaei said: “Currently the per capita consumption of red meat is 12.5 kilograms, chicken meat 31.25 kilograms, raw milk 124 kilograms, eggs 11.72 kilograms and honey 1.35 kilograms.”

Iran is among the leading consumers of red meat in the West Asia region with lamb being the most sought after.

However, the consumption per person is around a third of what is normally seen in countries like the U.S. and Australia, mainly due to the prohibition of pork in Islamic law.

The major part of Iran’s red meat imports comes from countries like Brazil, where Iranian supervisors directly control culling methods to ensure they comply with religious rules.

## Iran’s 1st indigenized freight wagon brake system unveiled

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami on Tuesday unveiled the country’s first fully-indigenized brake system for freight wagons, ILNA reported.

According to the Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) Saeed Rasouli, the mentioned system was one of the most important equipments that the country’s rail industry always depended on foreign sources to supply it.

“Over the past few years some of its parts were indigenized, but today we have become completely self-sufficient in manufacturing this type of brake system,” Rasouli said.

The mentioned system was unveiled along with 122 new wagons and locomotives which were added to the country’s railway fleet on the mentioned day.

The country’s railway fleet also received crane locomotives.

Eslami also inaugurated a rail industry talent management program, the planning for which was started in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), based on which in the first stage 3,755 railway experts and managers are going to be assessed to identify significant talents in this area.

“The results of this project are going to provide us with a good database that we will use to select managers and key workforces in the future”, Rasouli explained about the said project.

# Plan for renovation of railway fleet strongly pursued

**1 →** In this regard, RAI has been implementing new programs for replacing old wagons and locomotives with new ones to reduce the age of the country’s fleet.

To this end, the private sector has been a big contributor to the development of the railway sector in different fields from building rails to manufacturing locomotives and wagons in the past few years.

In 2018, during the 6th International Exhibition of Rail Transportation, Related Industries, and Equipment of Iran, dubbed RAILEXPO 2018, the country unveiled the first-ever Iranian-made locomotive engine.

And then in mid-June 2019, Mapna Group unveiled the first Iranian-made freight locomotive on the sidelines of the 7th edition of the mentioned exhibition, and later in August, RAI Head Saeed Rasouli unveiled a comprehensive program based on which domestic manufacturers are set to supply over 1,000 locomotives and wagons and also 40,000 tons of rails to RAI by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

Following the mentioned program, so far seven rounds of additions have been made to the railway fleet since the beginning of the current calendar year (March 19) which is named the year of “Surge in Production”



by Leader of Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei.

The sixth and seventh additions were made during a ceremony held on Monday, in which 122 new wagons and locomotives worth about 3.66 trillion rials (about \$87 million) joined the country’s railway fleet.

According to the Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami, who attended the mentioned ceremony, the renovation of the railway fleet by domestic companies has so far saved the country €24 million in the current year.

In total, some 451 wagons and locomotives

valued at 9.33 trillion rials (about \$222.1 million) have been added to the country’s railway fleet in the mentioned seven stages during the current year.

At the first stage, which was on April 28, the fleet received 56 new domestically-made locomotives and wagons.

As reported by the portal of Transport Ministry, over 1.25 trillion rials (about \$29.7 million) was invested by six domestic companies for the manufacturing of the mentioned wagons and locomotives.

As for the second stage, 88 wagons and locomotives were added to the fleet, while in the third round 65, in the fourth stage 50, and in the fifth stage 70 wagons and locomotives joined the fleet.

According to Eslami, all the locomotives and wagons added to the country’s railway fleet have been made by domestic companies.

The mentioned wagons and locomotives have been mostly made by three companies namely, Wagon Pars, Iranian Rail Industries Development Company, and Foolad Derakhshan Arak Company.

In total, since the beginning of the program in the previous year, 900 wagons and locomotives worth 16.36 trillion rials (over \$389 million) have joined Iran’s railway fleet.

## Gas to be supplied to 40,000 villages by March 2022

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The managing director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) announced that gas will be supplied to 40,000 villages throughout the country by the end of the next Iranian calendar year (March 2022).

Hassan Montazer Torbati stated that gas supply has been developed in the cities and villages of the country since seven years ago due to the increase in gas production in South Pars gas field (Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf).

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

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

It is while the sanctions have created many limitations

and difficulties for the Iranian economy in recent years.

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

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

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

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

While rural development has been always attached priority among the government’s projects, launching and inaugurating gas-supply projects in the rural areas has



been expedited since the beginning of the sixth month of the current Iranian calendar year (August 22).

Of course, the development of the South Pars giant gas field has played a significant role in supplying gas to the villages.

## Crude steel output up 8% in 7 months on year

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Production of crude steel in Iran increased eight percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21) from the figure of the same period of time in the past year.

Iranian steel producers produced 13,164 million tons of crude steel during the seven-month period of this year.

The monthly crude steel output stood at 1,921 million tons in the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr (September 22-October 21).

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

Based on the WSA’s report, Iran produced 31.9 million tons of the mentioned commodity during 2019, while the figure was 24 million tons in 2018.

According to the World Steel Association, Iran became the world’s tenth-largest steel producer in 2018.

Iran which stood at the 13th place in 2017 could lag behind three major steel producers in the world, namely Italy, Taiwan, and Ukraine to stand at the 10th place in 2018, despite the re-imposition



of sanctions by the U.S.

In its outlook plan for the Iranian calendar year 1404 (2025-2026) Iran has envisaged production of 55 million tons of steel per annum, and to achieve this target the country requires to produce 160 million tons of iron ore concentrates.

Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has announced that production of iron ore concentrate in Iran reached 47,306 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, registering a four-percent rise compared to the preceding year.

The country has extracted 64.274 million tons of iron ore during the past year, according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

## 625 rural areas to be connected to national power grid by Aug. 2021

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Ministry’s Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi has said that 625 rural areas are planned to be connected to the national electricity grid by the end of the current government’s incumbency (August 2021).

According to Rajabi Mashhadi, 150 villages have joined the national grid since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), IRNA reported.

The official noted that over 2,929 villages have been supplied with electricity since the beginning of the current government administration (August 2017), which means every week about eight villages have been connected to the national grid, on average.

Based on the Energy Ministry plans, 240 more villages will join the national grid by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021), Rajabi said.

He also put the number of villages supplied by electricity through renewable sources at 241 villages and said: “International statistics all show that the rate of electricity supply to villages in Iran is higher than the world average.”

Iranian Energy Ministry has been inaugurating numerous energy-related projects in the current Iranian calendar year under



the framework of a program called A-B-Iran.

Back in August, Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian inaugurated 2,230 electricity supply projects with a total investment of 31.6 trillion rials (over \$752 million) in various provinces across the country.

According to Iran’s Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir), 1,824 households in 140 villages across Iran were provided with electricity from the national electricity network in the previous Iranian calendar year.

Nearly 99.7 percent of Iran’s rural population is currently supplied with electricity, while according to the information provided by the International Energy Agency (IEA), this figure is 86 percent in Central and South America, 85 percent in Asia, 78 percent in West Asia and 36 percent in Africa.

## Commodities worth \$734m exported from Khorasan Razavi in 7 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Khorasan Razavi Province, in northeast of Iran, has exported 1.451 million tons of commodities valued at \$734 million during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), according to a provincial official.

Mohammadreza Mesforoush, the head of the province’s Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that the seven-month export indicates 30 percent fall in terms of weight, and 21 percent drop in terms of value, compared to the figures for the same period of time in the past year.

He mentioned types of iron or steel rods, pistachios with fresh or dried skin, tomato paste, industrial tallow, flooring, saffron, chicken meat, and uncooked or cooked potatoes as the major exported products, and Afghanistan, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Hong Kong, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Spain, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan as the main export destinations during the said time span.

The official further said that 92,000 tons of commodities worth \$210 million have been imported to the



provinces in the first seven months of this year, which were 43 percent and five percent less than that of the previous year, in terms of weight and value, respectively.

He named mobile phones, cotton, cola essence, oil, potassium chloride, raw silk, coffee, wire and cable connectors as the main imported items, and the UAE, Uzbekistan, China, Turkey, India, Germany, South Korea,

Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and Pakistan as the major exporters of goods to the province in the said time span.

Iran has exported 65.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$18.2 billion during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year, registering a 17.5-percent fall in terms of weight and a 23-percent decline in terms of value compared to the figures for the previous year’s same period, according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

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

In the first seven months of this year, some 19.3 million tons of commodities worth \$20 billion have been imported into the country, of which 13.8 million tons were basic goods.

China with \$5.1 billion, the UAE with \$4.7 billion, Turkey with \$2.2 billion, India with \$1.2 billion, and Germany with \$1 billion of exports to Iran were the top exporting nations to the Islamic Republic.



# The recent divide in U.S. is due to decline of family values: professor

➔ Second, President Trump is no doubt very angry that Hillary Clinton previously claimed that President Trump was an “illegitimate president” who, she claims, in essence, stole the 2016 election from her.

After the 2016 election, certain media outlets claimed that Russia was a primary force that made President Trump’s victory possible. Nevertheless, such an accusation requires a certain amount of proof. However, the Mueller hearings that followed never produced a sufficient amount of evidence. President Trump, after going through the emotional strain of those accusations, is now angered. He asserts that various suspicious events regarding ballot counting constitute fraud and make the 2020 election results illegitimate. Granted, there are numerous suspicious ballots counting events. However, the Trump Administration needs to present sufficient evidence that: a) the events are systemic and not isolated individual events and b) that enough ballots were affected to have influenced the ultimate outcome of the election. That will be very difficult to achieve.

■ Is Trump an exception in America’s history? Could he gain the hearts of millions of Americans?

A: President Trump is an unusual person, who has also been through a prodigious amount of stress from the Democratic- and media-accusations that the Russians helped him get elected in 2016. That combination of being an unusual person and the accumulation of stress and anger likely caused him to claim victory in the 2020 election prematurely. He should have said that there was a plethora of irregularities in the counting of absentee ballots that must be thoroughly investigated and corrected right away before he can accept the results of the election. Although President Trump’s approach is unique, reform to count absentee ballots more precisely is needed to prevent a repeat occurrence in the future.

■ How can the U.S. bridge the recent gap, which has divided the country into two opposing poles?

A: It is very unfortunate that the Americans are often not as civil and kind to each other, as was the case in past generations. A likely cause of this is the decline of the family- and Bible-based- values that have taken place in the United States since 1963. Since 1963, divorce rates skyrocketed, and the U.S. Supreme Court removed Bible-based character education out



**“Trump is an unusual person, who has also been through a prodigious amount of stress from the Democratic- and media-accusations that the Russians helped him get elected in 2016.”**

of the public schools. Before the U.S. Supreme Court decisions, love, compassion, civility, loyalty, and respect were major moral pillars taught by teachers in the public schools. The behavior of many American adults towards each other reflects this absence of character education and family values. The only way to heal the divisions is to emphasize shared character once again- and family- values returning to American society.

■ Do you agree with this view that the Supreme Court has an outsized role in elections because it has become politicized?

A: The U.S. Supreme Court realizes it must do all it can to remain to limit its role in this political controversy. What is interesting is that the three Trump U.S. Supreme Court appointees believe

in “judicial restraint.” This means that justices should avoid getting involved in these matters, except when it is absolutely necessary. Hence, unless the Trump Administration presents a great deal of evidence indicating corruption in counting absentee ballots, the U.S. Supreme Court will likely do their best not to order a “do-over” election in some states, etc. They will try to limit themselves to giving direction to what ballots arrived too late to be counted and similar issues.

■ It seems that president in the American political structure has vast authority that may tempt him to exploit the power for his own benefits. What is your comment?

A: Potentially that is true, but there is one quality that it is important for people to understand about

**Since 1963, divorce rates skyrocketed, and the U.S. Supreme Court removed Bible-based character education out of the public schools. Before that, love, compassion, civility, loyalty, and respect were major moral pillars taught by teachers in the public schools.**

Americans. Since our independence in 1776, U.S. citizens have never had a king, queen, emperor, etc. As a result, Americans have a deep distrust of one person having too much power. Built into the American system are “checks and balances” that will likely allow President Trump to “state his case,” but not “get his way,” unless there is widespread evidence of corruption in the counting of ballots. Either Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell or the U.S. Supreme Court will likely stop him before he goes too far. Instead, I believe the ultimate result will be the recounting of ballots, an investigation, hearings about possible fraud in counting late ballots, and President Trump will allow the transition to Joseph Biden becoming the next president.

■ Don’t you think that electoral votes threaten the future of democracy in the United States?

A: The Electoral College is designed to protect American democracy. It is specifically designed to protect areas of low population. Otherwise, politicians will only seek to fulfill the desires of people living in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, and Philadelphia, etc. It is much the same reason why in the United Nations, even nations with a low population such as Qatar and Liechtenstein each have one vote in the General Assembly. Some might say that the U.N. arrangement in the General Assembly is unfair, but the consensus is that this structure protects small nations. For example, one issue that is becoming a major one is that Southern California, a dry area, is draining the Colorado River beyond California’s border, which is reducing the water supply in 6 other states, which have lower populations than California. Should California be able to demand its way because its population is larger than all those six states combined? Americans would say “no,” that the people from other states have rights too. In so many countries, people in the main cities are very rich, but people living outside the cities are very poor. This is true in most countries around the world. The electoral college is designed to prevent this from happening. It is not a perfect system, but even the poorest families in America have 2 or 3 cars. This year, the vote count is very close between Joseph Biden and Donald Trump. Biden only has 50-51% of the vote, but his electoral advantage will probably be 55% or more. Usually, the electoral college system works well.

## Trump amplified polarization: ex-White House official

By Zahra Mirzafarjouyan

**TEHRAN**— Stating that Trump has amplified polarization, Prof. Frank von Hippel believes that Biden is very conscious of how close to civil war the American society came.

While Donald Trump was at his golf course, some U.S. media outlets announced that Democrat Joe Biden has been chosen as the 46th U.S. president with receiving more than 270 Electoral College votes required for the White House.

Biden has said he is “honored and humbled” by the projected victory.

Following this announcement, Donald Trump has repeated voting fraud claims and said Biden is “rushing to pose as the winner falsely.”

Issuing a statement, Trump said, “We all know why Joe Biden is rushing to pose as the winner falsely, and why his media allies are trying so hard to help him: they don’t want the truth to be exposed. The simple fact is this election is far from over. Joe Biden has not been certified as the winner of any states, let alone any of the highly contested states headed for mandatory recounts, or states where our campaign has valid and legitimate legal challenges that could determine the ultimate victor. In Pennsylvania, for example, our legal observers were not permitted meaningful access to watch the counting process. Legal votes decide who is president, not the news media.”

His statement indicated that he is not ready to accept his electoral defeat.

On the other hand, many believe that the growing polarization of the United States into a nation is one of the legacies of the Trump presidency.

To know more about the result of the U.S. Presidential Election in the American society, we reached out to Professor Frank von Hippel, an American theoretical physicist and a Professor of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

■ As you know, in recent days, we have been witnessing a confrontation between the opponents and the supporters of Donald Trump. One of the damages of Trump’s presidency was the polarization of Amer-

ican society. How will this affect American society in the long run?

A: The polarization has been amplified by Trump but also by Facebook and Twitter and the other social media that have made it possible to spread conspiracy theories much more rapidly than before. All societies need to grapple with how these media are designed to hold their users’ attention by amplifying their passions rather than by encouraging them to learn more. Wikipedia provides an inspiring alternative model.

Biden is very conscious of how close to a civil war we came and is trying to talk us back from the brink by telling us that we are not each other’s enemies. We are fellow citizens and must work together to solve our problems.

■ Will American society witness more destructive actions by Trump in the rest period of his presidency?

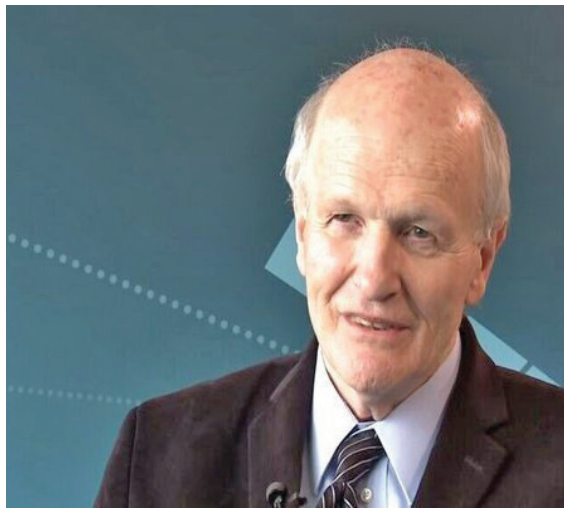
A: I worry about this because Trump’s entire presidency has been so nihilistic and sociopathic. But even though he may be having difficulty accepting that he will be out of power on the afternoon of January 20, I think most of the people around him are accepting it, and I hope career officials will refuse to execute irrational actions that cannot easily be reversed like waging war in the Middle East (West Asia).

■ These days, we see the U.S. highest official, Trump, is talking about election fraud. What do you think about his remarks? Haven’t these remarks damaged the position of U.S. democracy and its credibility?

Trump’s remarks have been damaging to his followers’ faith in democracy. But his followers already appeared to be ready to embrace fascism. I am grateful, so few of them have gone over the edge into violence, and I hope that, if they see some benefits out of a Biden Administration, their faith in democracy will be strengthened.

It appears likely that the Senate will remain in Republican hands – although there is a remote possibility that Georgia will elect two Senators in the runoff election in January, which would result in a 50-50 balance in which Vice President Harris would be the deciding vote.

If this does not happen, Biden may not be able to do



the big domestic reforms some of us feel are needed – as President Franklin D. Roosevelt did in the 1930s.

But we have been saved, for now at least, from descending further into a pit of horrors and must work to do the best we can to improve the prospects for the United States and for the World.

In terms of foreign policy, the president has many opportunities for executive initiatives. I expect Biden Administration to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement and the JCPOA if Iran comes back into compliance and extends the New START nuclear-arms-limitation agreement with Russia.

New treaties will probably be impossible in the near term because of the two-thirds Senate vote required for ratification. Some Congressional actions will also be difficult to reverse.

But I hope that Iran finally will see substantial benefits from the JCPOA and that we can make it a foundation for a Persian Gulf Nuclear Weapon Free Zone as the next step toward a nuclear-weapon-free world.

*Professor Frank von Hippel was the Assistant Director for National Security in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. He now serves on the National Advisory Board of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, the research arm of Council for a Livable World.*

## Saeb Erekat, longtime negotiator for Palestinians, dies at 65

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat passed away due to complications from the novel corona-virus at the age of 65 on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat passed away due to complications from the novel coronavirus at the age of 65 on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. He had been receiving treatment at Hadassah-University Medical Center in Jerusalem’s Ein Kerem since his medical condition deteriorated in mid-October. Erekat first came into prominence in 1991, when he was appointed deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation to the Madrid Peace Conference.

Born on 1955 in the village of Abu Dis, south of Jerusalem, Erekat later played an active role in the peace talks with Israel in 1992 and 1993, when the Oslo Accords were signed between Israel and the PLO.

## Turkey pulls out from another base in northwestern Syria

Turkish troops in northwestern Syria have pulled out of a second military base in the area that had been surrounded by Syrian government forces, media activists said Tuesday.

The pullout from the observation post in Sher Mogher in northern Hama region comes nearly a month after the evacuation of Turkey’s largest military base in the area that was once held by the Syrian opposition. The area was overrun by Syrian government troops late last year during a military offensive that also displaced nearly a million people, AP reported.

The development comes as violence returned to the overcrowded rebel-held enclave, with resumption of Syrian government strikes.

A Turkish official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations, said the evacuation was not a “withdrawal but a redeployment in line with necessities on the ground.”

## Mark Esper fired as Pentagon chief after contradicting Trump

Donald Trump has fired his defense secretary, Mark Esper, in the latest sign that the transition to a new Biden administration in January is going to be turbulent on both domestic and foreign fronts.

Esper was fired by tweet on Monday afternoon, with the president declaring he was “pleased to announce that Christopher C Miller, the highly respected director of the National Counterterrorism Center (unanimously confirmed by the Senate), will be acting secretary of defense, effective immediately, Guardian reported. “Chris will do a GREAT job! Mark Esper has been terminated. I would like to thank him for his service.”

Esper had been at odds with Trump on a number of issues, most importantly his insistence at the height of the Black Lives Matter protests in the summer that there were no legal grounds to deploy active-service troops on the streets of U.S. cities.

He was also working with Congress on legislation to rename U.S. army bases named after Confederate generals. In a final interview Esper predicted that he would be followed by a “yes man”, adding “And then God help us.”

## Amnesty: U.S. must stop drone sale to UAE over Yemen, Libya wars

Amnesty International has called on the United States to drop plans to sell sophisticated armed MQ-9B aerial drones to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), saying that there is evidence of civilian deaths as a result of Abu Dhabi’s involvement in war-torn Yemen and Libya.

Philippe Nassif, advocacy director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International USA, said on Monday that Washington must resolutely refrain from supplying the UAE with arms that could kill civilians in Yemen and Libya.

“The startling fact that the United States government continues its unflinching support of providing weapons that risk adding to the devastating toll of Yemeni civilians unlawfully killed and injured by U.S.-made weapons should shake to the core every person living in this country,” Nassif said.

## Resistance News

## Peace Now: Israel’s settlement expansion surged during Trump’s tenure

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — The human rights group, Peace Now, said that Donald Trump’s administration green lighted a surge in settlement construction and planning and attempted to set in motion Israel’s formal annexation of the occupied West Bank.

“Donald J. Trump’s four years in office, there have been far-reaching changes in the American position on Israeli settlements that have shattered the international consensus around a two-state solution, and which have promoted annexation in all but name,” Peace Now said Monday on its website.

“The de facto annexation has manifested itself in high levels of settlement unit approvals, transgressions of informal international red lines in highly sensitive areas like the Jerusalem environs and Hebron, and the building of over 30 new outposts.”

“The Trump administration lent the power of the United States to the benefit of the narrow interests of a small, radical group of settlers, and has done enormous damage to Israel. We expect the incoming administration of President-Elect Biden to be attentive to the peace-seeking majority in Israel and to restore the United States to its status as a constructive intermediary for a two-state solution.”

It highlighted that “the number of plans promoted in the settlements increased 2.5 times compared to the previous four years – 26,331 housing units were promoted in the settlements in the years 2017-2020, compared to 10,331 housing units in the years 2013-2016.”

“The number of tenders in the settlements doubled – tenders were published for 2,425 housing units in the settlements, compared with 1,164 housing units in the previous four years.”

It also pointed out that Israel carried out infrastructure and road projects during those four years in order to add another million settlers. “In recent years, the Israeli government has begun infrastructure and road projects designed to form the development axis for settlements with an investment of billions of shekels.”

**Trump’s remarks have been damaging to his followers’ faith in democracy. But his followers already appeared to be ready to embrace fascism**



## Tourist campsite being built in Abu Musa Island

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** —A tourist campsite is being constructed on the Persian Gulf island of Abu Musa, southern Hormozgan province, with a budget of 38 billion rials (about \$905,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

The camp will include pergolas, handicrafts stalls, sports fields, prayer rooms, restrooms, suites, light towers, and sidewalks, Hormozgan's tourism chief announced on Monday.

Considering the high demand for domestic tourists to travel to this beautiful island, its tourism infrastructures need to be developed, Reza Boroomand said.



Launching the tourist camp could attract more investors to construct more tourism facilities, which could increase the direct and indirect income of the residents of Abu Musa Island, the official added.

With an area of 12.8 square kilometers, Abu Musa Island enjoys a warm and humid climate as well as a variety of plants and marine life.

The Abu Musa along with two other Iranian islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb sit near important oil shipping channels at the mouth of the strategic Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf.

Known as the province of islands, Hormozgan province is located on the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. It embraces scenic islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, Qeshm, and Abu Musa are the most beautiful ones and top tourist destinations in southern Iran.

## A brief history of Persian pottery

(Part 5/8)

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** —Sasanian pottery thus can be subdivided into two major groups: unglazed and glazed wares. The unglazed wares were mainly of heavily potted red wares. These include large jars, jugs, and various types of bowls.

They have thick, everted rims and their surfaces now reveal intricate incised or stamped decorations, including wavy lines, geometrical patterns, rosettes, or occasionally, even Pahlavi inscriptions. The number of these Sasanian red wares is constantly increasing. They have been discovered at a number of sites, such as Bishapur; Siraf, Kangavar, the Gorgan plain, Tureng Tepe, Takht-e Soleyman, at Ghubayra near Kerman and Takht-i Abunasar in Fars Province.

Glazed pottery, although the alkaline glaze was still used, has in fact considerably advanced technologically. Instead of the Parthian dark green or brownish-yellow glaze, the most important color now becomes turquoise green, or turquoise blue. This is to be found on a number of pilgrim flasks, bowls and particularly on large storage jars. These storage jars, which had been unearthed at Siraf and also at Ghubayra in late 1970s, in addition to glazing, were also decorated with appliqué patterns, most frequently with cable patterns, which run around the upper part or on the shoulder of the vessels.

Terracotta figurines were also produced in Sasanian times, of which a great variety are known today. Some of these are partially glazed.

### ■ Post-Sassanian, and Islamic period

With the advent of Islam during the first half of the 7th century CE, pottery manufacture gradually started to change all over the Islamic world. At the beginning Iranian potters continued their pre-Islamic traditions, and in Iran some of these early wares are known as "Sassano-Islamic".



Islamic-era ceramics - Green pots with calligraphy, eastern Iran - late twelfth century CE.

It has been suggested that due to contact with the Far East, particularly with China, on one hand and to the restrictions of mainstream Islam on the other, considerable changes gradually took place in pottery-making, and several new types of wares were produced. Potters of the Near East made several experiments, partly imitating imported Chinese ceramics, partly using their own skill and imagination in inventing new types.

In general the history of Iranian-Islamic pottery can be divided into three main periods post-Sassanian or early Islamic period (9th - 10th centuries CE) middle Islamic period (11th - 15th centuries CE), and the later Islamic period (16th - 19th centuries CE).

In these three periods, which lasted for more than a thousand years, numerous pottery centers were established, which produced innumerable types of wares. Recent excavations in famous Islamic cities, e.g. Samarra, Siraf, Nishapur, Jorjan (old Gorgan), Fustat, etc., together with the discovery of pottery kilns at several sites, provide us with considerable information on pottery manufacture in the Islamic world.

It is worthwhile to emphasize that in pottery manufacture Iran and the Iranian world was always ahead of the rest of the Islamic world, and it was always Iranian potters who experimented most widely with new types and new ideas.

# Masjed-e Jameh Kerman: an old mosque with exclusive tiling

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** —The congregational Masjed-e Jameh of Kerman, which boasts four lofty iwans (porticos), and loads of exemplar tilework, stuccowork, and masonry, is a must-see when you are in Kerman, southeast Iran.

The terms "Jameh Mosque" or "Masjed-e Jameh" or "Friday Mosque" is used in Iran for a grand communal mosque where mandatory Friday prayers are performed: the phrase is used in other Muslim countries but only in Iran does it designate this purpose.

The mosque originally dates from the 14th century, and it has undergone extensive restorations during the Safavid era (1501 to 1736) and later periods. It is the earliest surviving example of Muzaffarid architecture, according to Archnet, a source focused on architecture and conservation issues related to the Muslim world. The Friday mosque of Kerman was built in 1350 by Amir Mobarezeddin Mohammad-e-Mozaffari-e-Meybodi- Yazdi under the Muzaffarids, who pushed away from the Il Khanids after Abu Sa'id's death in 1335 and established their own dynasty, ruling central Iran from 1314 to 1393.

Having a clock tower atop the main (eastern) entrance portal instead of a minaret, the mosque is located in the prominent city of Kerman long been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with sub-continental tribe dwellers. Such a position has led to the emergence of its famous, vibrant bazaar that begins at the Friday mosque's rear portal and extends along the east-west axis, ending at the Arg Square.

Its continuous tile mosaic is limited to certain areas-- the main portal and the facing of the arcade-- and is restricted to a four-color palette (white, yellow, and dark and light blue). In the court, tile mosaic in geometric patterns cover the arcade's piers and the upper edge of the arcade's frieze;



the arcade's spandrels are decorated with arabesque vegetal decoration of tile mosaic.

The iwan facing the court on the north is framed by a geometric arabesque pattern of tile mosaic inscribed into a geometric inscription band composed of rectangular tile mosaic pieces. It is surmounted by a semi-dome ornamented with a geometric arabesque pattern in white and dark blue inscribing floral patterns and descending from a medallion at the top of the semi-dome.

Unlike the mosque at Yazd, the southern main iwan does not precede a closed domed chamber but opens the hall behind it to the court. The eastern and western iwans are located on the cross axis and are both rectangular (five meters by 12 meters).

The main entrance to the mosque is located to the north and is emphasized by its soaring portal iwan (20 meters high) opposite a city square with a central pool. Two succeeding spaces lead through this

portal iwan to the mosque's court: an intermediary room, four meters square and surmounted by a dome, and an iwan facing the court. Two additional entrances are found on the south and west, extending beyond the rectangular perimeter of the mosque.

The mihrab (a semicircular niche in the wall of a mosque that points out the qibla, the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca) was installed in the sixteenth century, whereas the qibla wall and the two side walls date from the original construction. The mihrab is a half-octagonal niche in the qibla wall and is surmounted by a semi-dome comprising two muqarnas tiers of tile mosaics of arabesque motifs placed on top of a marble dado.

The mihrab's arch is framed by a rectangular frame with an inscription band flanked by two rectangular panels of glazed tile mosaics of geometric arabesque motifs. Another inscription band marks the joint between the prayer hall's walls and the room's

pointed barrel vault, which is decorated with glazed terracotta in yellow and blue.

The two walls adjacent to the qibla wall have only a marble dado on their base without any further ornamentation. Column-bounded prayer halls (16 meters by 24 meters) are integrated into the design and extend behind the arcade, aligning with the exterior walls of each of the four iwans (except part of the northern wall) and forming a rectangular outer perimeter of the mosque.

The main portal iwan is decorated with an extraordinary variety of rectangular panels of geometric, floral, and vegetal motifs. An inscription band in white script on a dark blue background frames the external perimeter of the iwan; floral ornament fills the spandrels' areas.

The inner wall of the iwan, where the entrance opening is located, is covered by multiple frames of geometric panels in a tile mosaic on top of which an inscription band runs horizontally at the center of the iwan's elevation. The iwan is crowned by a semi-dome of exquisite multi-tiered muqarnas units that ascend to a sunburst medallion on top of the semi-dome. The arch of the iwan comprises a cable molding frame, inscription band, and another geometric frame.

The square room behind the portal iwan is surmounted by a dome of muqarnases of alternating glazed and unglazed terracotta. An inscription band of tile mosaic runs along the room's frieze, above which four windows with a grill are at the center of each wall. The Friday mosque of Kerman continues to draw visitors and historians for its location, design, and ornamentation.

Edged by the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut, Kerman province, is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south.

## Visa-free access, direct flights a privilege for Iran, Venezuela: tourism minister

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Visa-free access and direct flights are the two important advantages for Iran and Venezuela to develop tourism cooperation, the Iranian tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said on Tuesday.

"We are ready to expand our relations with Venezuela in the arena of tourism by organizing familiarization tours in both countries with the participation of the private sector," Mounesan said.

He made the remarks in a meeting with the Venezuelan ambassador to Tehran, Carlos Antonio Alcala Cordones, CHTN reported.

The envoy for his part said: "Venezuela has a variety of tourist and historical attractions, and the development of tourism between this country and the rest of the world is an important issue that we pursue."

"In the meantime, we are very interested in developing tourism [ties] with Iran and we are fully prepared,"

he added.

"Oil revenues of Venezuela have declined over the past recent years, so the country is looking to increase its income from other ways, one of which is to develop tourism."

Back in October, Mounesan exchanged views with Venezuelan Minister for Tourism and Foreign Trade, Felix Plasencia, in a video conference to deepen tourism relations, especially through simplifying visa rules, launching fam tours, and setting up exhibits. They also agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding in a bid to broaden bilateral ties.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to in-



crease the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025. So it will undeniably try its best to achieve a relatively ambitious goal but when that happens the travel industry is likely to look more altered.

## Historical celadons loaned to China return home

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A collection of centuries-old celadons - a greenish ceramic glaze that is used on stoneware - has returned home after being showcased at Beijing's Palace Museum.

[A total of] 14 pieces of celadon vessels, which was on a loan from the National Museum of Iran, have arrived at Imam Khomeini International Airport, director of the museum Jebrael Nokandeh announced on Monday.

Regarding limitations caused by the coronavirus pandemic, he explained: "What made this exhibition different from other similar events was the [special] conditions and limitations caused by the coronavirus



spread...., and fortunately all the stages from transferring and reopening the boxed have been carried out in compliance with all rel-

evant [health] instructions."

Celadon is particularly valued in China, South Korea, Thailand, and Japan.

"The exhibition, which brought together a huge treasure of celadon (vessels) as its common theme on loan from major museums, was a sign of the common, transboundary cultural heritage for all the world, which its results in the lasting friendship of nations through cultural diplomacy," Nokandeh explained.

"In ancient eras, Iran (Persia) had close and extensive relations with its counterparts and great governments of the time," the official added.

## New eco-lodge units to be constructed in Tehran

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Four new eco-lodge units are scheduled to be built in the Iranian capital by the end of the next Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 20, 2022), a provincial tourism official has said.

Three units will be constructed in Firoozkooch and one unit will come on stream in Shemiranat with the aim of boosting tourism infrastructure in the province's rural areas, Jalal Abbasi announced on Monday.

The construction of these units, which could preserve the historical texture of the rural areas, will generate job opportunities for 30 local people directly, the official added.

The tourism ministry has set a target to help build



2,000 eco-lodges by 2021, believing such guest houses could cater to sustainable development and job creation in the countryside and rural areas.

Experts say each eco-lodge unit generates jobs for seven to eight people on average so that the scheme could create 160,000 jobs.

The culturally-diverse country never disappoints visitors when it comes to eco-tourism, sightseeing, and even tribal tourism as it is home to many regional people including ones with Turk and Arab elements in addition to the Kurds, Baloch, Bakhtyari, Lurs, and other smaller minorities such as Armenians, Assyrians, Jews, and others.

## Natanz museum undergoes restoration

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The historical Bageri Mansion in the city of Natanz, central Isfahan province, being used as an archeological museum, has undergone some rehabilitation works.

A budget of 3 billion rials (\$71,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) was allocated to the restoration project, which involved repairing the ceiling and rooftop, lightening

the roof, and strengthening the walls using cob material, Natanz's tourism chief, Hossein Yazdanmehr, said on Monday.

Inaugurated in 2010 as the first archeological museum in Isfahan province, Natanz Archaeological Museum houses more than 350 historical and cultural artifacts related to the first to third millennium BC, as well as the Islamic era related to the people of

the central plateau of Iran.

Dating back to 2500 years ago, the ancient city of Natanz is home to several historical structures and monuments such as a 1000-year-old mosque.

Located 120 kilometers northeast of the city of Isfahan, the city enjoys a beautiful landscape and a pleasant climate, which made it summer capital during the Safavid



era (1501–1736).

The town is also associated with pottery making and tile production.



By Faranak Bakhtiari

**TEHRAN** – Wetlands are important features in the landscape that provide numerous beneficial services for people, aquatic species, and wildlife; so that is called the most biologically diverse and dynamic ecosystems of the world.

Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They store water and ensure its quality, providing resilience against drought. They play a central role in sustainable development by supplying all our freshwater.

Natural wetlands are a variety of habitats such as rivers, lakes, coastlines, mangrove forests, and even coral reefs. An immense variety of species of microbes, plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish, and mammals can be part of a wetland ecosystem.

They are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs.

The functions of a wetland and the values of these functions to humans depend on a complex set of relationships between the wetland and the other ecosystems in the watershed. A watershed is a geographic area in which water, sediments, and dissolved materials drain from higher elevations to a common low-lying outlet or basin a point on a larger stream, lake, underlying aquifer, or estuary.

Wetlands play an integral role in the ecology of the watershed. The combination of shallow water, high levels of nutrients and primary productivity is ideal for the development of organisms that form the base of the food web and feed many species of fish, amphibians, shellfish, and insects. Many species of birds and mammals rely on wetlands for food, water, and shelter, especially during migration and breeding.

About 20,000 different species of fish found worldwide live in freshwater (natural wetlands).

Wetlands' microbes, plants, and wildlife are part of global cycles for water, nitrogen, and sulfur. Scientists now know that atmospheric maintenance may be an additional wetlands function. Wetlands store carbon within their plant communities and soil instead of releasing it to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. Thus wetlands help to moderate global climate conditions.

**The most beautiful, important international wetlands of Iran**

**■ Gomishan wetland**

Golestan province's Gomishan wetland is around 17,700 hectares, which supports three IUCN Red List vulnerable species of waterbirds, i.e., *Pelecanus crispus*, *Aythya nyroca*, and *Vanellus gregarius*, as well as the vulnerable mammal *Phoca (Pusa) caspica*; it is also an important staging area for the fish subspecies *Rutilus rutilus caspicus*.

More than 20,000 waterbirds have been observed in the most recent 13 years of censuses, and more than 20 species of waterbirds surpass the 1% threshold (Criteria 5 and 6), and 15 fish species depend upon the site as an important source of food (Criterion 8).

**■ Amirkelayeh Lake**

Located in Gilan province, Amirkelayeh Lake is a deep, freshwater lake supporting extensive reed beds and a rich floating and submerged vegetation. The lake is fed by springs and run-off, and at times of high water level drains into the Caspian Sea. The area is important for several species



# Wetlands: world's most dynamic ecosystems

of wintering waterbirds, mostly Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.). Past human activities have included intensive duck hunting, which is now banned.

**■ Anzali Wetland**

Anzali wetland in Gilan province stretches to 15,000 hectares; added to the Montreux Record, in June 1993.

A large, freshwater lagoon fed by several rivers and separated from the sea by a dune system; supports extensive reed beds and abundant submerged and floating vegetation. The permanent wetland is surrounded by seasonally flooded marshes and ab-bandans (water impoundments) fringed by reedbeds and damp grassland.

The site is of international importance for breeding, staging, and wintering waterbirds. The massive spread of the exotic floating water fern *Azola* is suppressing native flora which is an important food for waterbirds. This site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 due to a change in water levels and increased nutrient-enrichment, leading to the rapid spread of the reed *Phragmites australis*.

**■ Miankaleh International Wetland**  
Miankaleh International Wetland and Wildlife Sanctuary in Mazandaran stretches to a total area of 68,000 hectares. About 20,000 hectares of this area consists of forest lands, including pomegranate trees and shrubs, and raspberries. This vegetation, along with the Miankaleh International Wetland, is home to at least 130 species of migratory species with a population of 1.5 million.

Shrubs are used as a refuge for migratory birds for spawning and hatching, and wild pomegranate and raspberry trees are also used as food for these birds. In recent years, due to intentional fires, a large number of animal species in this area have become extinct.

Miankaleh peninsula is 48 kilometers long, and between 1.3 and 3.2 kilometers wide, which sets apart the Gorgan Bay from

the Caspian Sea. The peninsula was designated a Ramsar site in 1975 and called Iran's bird-watching paradise.

Major habitats include wetlands, inter-tidal mud with sandy shores, shallow marine waters, forests, peatlands, and agricultural areas. It is home to many unique Caspian birds and reptile species native to this region. It's also a very important internationally-recognized refuge for migratory birds.

**■ Alagol, Ullmagol and Ajigol Lakes**

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

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

**■ Kanibarazan Wetland**

Kanibarazan Wetland is located in West Azarbaijan province; stretching to 927 hectares; consists of a freshwater lake surrounded by diverse plant communities and seasonal wetlands which become dry during summer and autumn.

Kanibarazan Wetland is one of the most important habitats for waterbirds in the region, supporting more than twenty thousand birds with more than one hundred and forty-four bird species recorded at this site, including a number of important species such as the endangered White-headed Duck.

This site is important for water purification and water storage; it also prevents

saltwater from intruding into upstream areas.

**■ Zarivar**

Located at the foot of the Zagros mountains in north-western Iran, Zarivar is a freshwater wetland featuring a lake fed mainly by springs from the lake floor, which is recently designated as a Ramsar Site.

The Site provides a suitable breeding and resting place for birds and other wetland animals, and due to the relatively extensive reed beds, it is an important overwintering site for northern migratory birds.

Some 29 plant species, 74 birds, nine fish, two mammals, three reptiles, and three amphibians have been identified in the wetland.

**■ Choghakhor Wetland**

Located in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, Choghakhor Wetland is flowing on 1687 hectares; designated as a hunting restricted area.

Choghakhor Wetland supports more than 47 bird species, with breeding populations of migratory birds such as the Northern Pintail (*Anas strepera*).

It supports more than 1% of the population of Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) and harbours threatened species such as the endangered White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and the vulnerable Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*).

Choghakhor Wetland is considered to be one of the most important sites in Iran for the endemic Zagros pupfish (*Aphanius vladkovii*). It is important for flood control, groundwater replenishment, and is generally considered a reservoir for biodiversity. Plants with important medicinal (e.g. *Achillea mille folium*) properties can be harvested, and locals engage in livelihood activities such as fishing and agriculture.

Threats to the site include the collection of bird eggs and poaching. Dam construction in 1991 has caused increasing water levels in the wetland which in turn, has affected the availability of bird habitats. The Department of Environment is responsible for the management of this site.

**■ Lake Parishan and Dasht-e-Arjan**

Lake Parishan and Dasht-e-Arjan, located in Fars province with 6,200 hectares, are permanent freshwater lakes subject to seasonal fluctuations in level, fed by springs and seasonal streams.

Parishan is subject to fluctuating salinity depending on precipitation. Both lakes are fringed by marshes dominated by reeds and are important staging and wintering areas for numerous species of migratory waterbirds. The area also supports a variety of nesting waterbirds including pelicans, Ardeidae (herons, bitterns, etc.), and ibises.

These include some globally vulnerable species such as the lesser white-fronted goose, red-breasted goose, Amur carp, and common tortoise, in addition to endemic species such as the Namak scraper and the Mesopotamian spiny eel.

**■ Gavkhouni wetland**

Gavkhouni Lake and marshes of the lower Zaindeh Rud in the central province of Isfahan stretch to 43,000 hectares.

Gavkhouni is a brackish lake with limited reed vegetation, and both it and the marshes of the lower Zaindeh Rud River are subject to wide seasonal flood fluctuations. Much of the original marshland has been converted to agricultural use to take advantage of the rich alluvial soil. The site is important for staging and wintering for several species of migratory waterbirds. The site is impressive in its desert situation.

## Daily COVID-19 tests to reach up to 100,000: minister

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – Coronavirus diagnostic tests being conducted daily in the country will reach up to 100,000 from currently 45,000, Saeed Namaki, the Minister of Health, has announced.

In this regard, the fourth step of the national mobilization campaign against COVID-19, which can cause a change in disease control, is piloted in Kermanshah province and will be gradually implemented throughout the country, he highlighted.

The focus of the project will be on early detection, quarantine of identified patients, support for patients during quarantine, proper screening of cases that have been in contact with the infected person, he explained.

The capacity of non-governmental organizations, charities, Basij, the Red Crescent Society, and the Ministry of Telecommunications, will be used to implement the plan, he said that through the plan, we will make each house a health base to fight against the virus.

He went on to conclude that it is estimated that by focusing on public education and early detection of cases, the burden of the disease will reduce.

Earlier in October, Namaki announced that the number of daily tests reached from 25,000 to 40,000.

Some three million test kits are being imported to the country from South Korea, which takes between 20 and 25 minutes to identify the infection, he stated, adding, of course, this type of test is being produced domestically to perform 100,000 tests a day, which is the most successful method in early detection.

Namaki also has expressed hope that the country will introduce the home-grown COVID-19 vaccine by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2021).

**■ COVID-19 cases surpass 703,000**

In a press briefing on Tuesday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 10,339 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 703,288. She added that 530,694 patients have so far recovered, but 5,584 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, coronavirus daily deaths and new cases hit the record high, as 453 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 39,202, she added.

Lari noted that so far 5,302,200 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.

## “Science for All” festival being held virtually

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – The 6th festival of “Science for All” started virtually on Tuesday concurrent with the World Science Day for Peace and Development.

Celebrated annually on November 10, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.



This year, at a time when the world is struggling with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the focus of the World Science Day was on “Science for and with Society in dealing with the global pandemic”.

The festival is held by the National Museum of Science and Technology in partnership with the Museum of the Qasr Prison and over 20 scientific and cultural centers with the aim of providing the people an opportunity to visit scientific achievements and increase public interest in scientific advances.

It includes various programs such as science-fiction stories, introducing the best science books from the children's point of view, meeting with experts, computer games on the subject of periodic tables, experiments, and scientific materials, lectures, webcasts of book, science-fiction podcast accompanied by a play, etc.

The festival is running until November 20.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 52)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

### یَک‌اَرَش = کتاب کار

● تمرین ۱. جوابی سؤال‌های زیر را کامل بنویسید:

۱. استاد چه ساعتی به کلاس آمد؟
۲. او تکلیف کدام درس را گرفت؟
۳. چند نفر در کلاس حاضر بودند؟
۴. استاد کدام درس را شروع کرد؟
۵. او روی تخته چه نوشت؟
۶. انشای دانش‌جویان چطور بود؟

## Iran to send humanoid robot to space within year

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – In order to gain the knowledge of sending living creatures to space, a humanoid robot will be sent to space in the early next [Iranian calendar] year (to start March 21, 2021), before the final stage of sending a human, the head of Iran's Aerospace Research Institute (ARI) said.

Any country that succeeds in sending humans into space is called a superpower in the world of technology. Iran began providing the appropriate infrastructure for sending humans into space many years ago by sending living creatures into space, Fathollah Ommi stated.

Now, in the ninth stage of achieving the goal of sending humans into space, Iran intends to launch a human model robot into space, which was designed and built by Iranian scientists, he added.

If Iran can place a human-carrying space capsule weigh-



ing about 2 tons in Earth orbit in the coming years, it will achieve this position, although there is still a long way to

go, he noted, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

According to the head of ARI, the orbital phase of the project will be operational by 2025 and the suborbital phase will take place before that.

Iran has had eight tries sending to space so far and we will launch the ninth launch soon, he further stated.

The Aerospace Research Institute has been working for two years in the two general sections of developing the knowledge frontiers of space sciences and the technology section in the field of aerospace. With the efforts of this research institute, the position of this center was upgraded from the national rank of 23 to 4, he said.

Of course, the focus is not only on domestic development, the research institute is trying to be one of the 200 candidates for the World Academy by submitting articles and books in a global style, he concluded.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## سازمان محیط زیست: برای انتقال آب خزر مجاب نشده‌ایم

پروین فرشچی معاون محیط زیست دریایی سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: مطالعاتی که ما را به انتقال آب خزر به فلات مرکزی مجاب کند، هنوز تکمیل نشده است.

به گزارش روز شنبه خبرآنلاین پروین فرشچی در خصوص وضعیت آبی کشور گفت: طی این سال‌ها با خشکسالی و کمبود بارش روبه‌رو بودیم، بنابراین ارزش‌گذاری آب ملموس‌تر مطرح‌شده است.

معاون محیط زیست دریایی سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست درباره مسائل مطرح‌شده در خصوص انتقال آب خزر به فلات مرکزی گفت: این موضوع از سال‌ها پیش مطرح بوده و در سال ۱۳۸۹ نیز مطالعات گوناگونی در این حوزه صورت گرفته است.

## DOE not convinced to transfer water from Caspian Sea

Studies carried out so far has not yet convinced the Department of Environment (DOE) to transfer water from the Caspian Sea to central Iran, Parvin Farshchi, deputy director of the DOE for marine affairs has said. Over the past few years Iran has faced recurrent drought spells and low precipitation and the value of water has become more tangible, Khabaronline quoted Farshchi as saying on Saturday. She further explained that water transfer from the Caspian Sea to central Iran has been a matter of interest for some years now and in the [Iranian calendar year of] 1389 (March 2010-March 2011) various research and studies on the issue were conducted.



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If a Muslim plants a tree or any plant and a human, bird, or any other animals use it, Allah counts it as an act of charity.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

## Short doc “Green Zone” studies Commander Soleimani’s conduct toward children

→1 “Wherever during the fight in Iraq or Syria, he encountered a difficult situation he called me amid a military operation saying ‘Call the martyrs’ children and tell them to pray for us’,” Hemmat said in a radio program a few months ago.

After the martyrdom of Soleimani, a video showing a little boy named Mohammad-Hossein giving the commander a flower when he was attending a congregational prayer in a mosque in the northern Iranian town of Babol, went viral.

The boy was the son of Hossein Bavas, one of Soleimani’s soldiers martyred in a fight against ISIS.



A file photo shows Commander Qassem Soleimani greeting several children of Iranian soldiers martyred by the ISIS terrorists in Syria.

Iran has produced numerous cultural materials to introduce Soleimani to the younger generation.

One of these materials is “I Am Qassem Soleimani”, a book written by Mohammad Hosseinkhani.

The Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) launched a painting and calligraphy contest named “Like Father, Kind” in memory of Soleimani.

Earlier in January, Art Bureau Deputy Director for Cultural Affairs Hamid Hosseinzadeh announced the center’s plan to produce a documentary about Soliemani’s good behavior toward children.

“Martyr Soleimani and his kind behavior toward children will be the main topic of the documentary,” he said.

“His affection towards children, especially the children of those Iranian soldiers who were martyred by ISIS terrorists in Syria, was very special and was one of the lasting aspects of his character,” he added.

“Any image that narrates specific aspects and bravery of the martyr needs to be recorded and preserved for future generations to show how this national and international hero achieved such a high position and won hearts,” he noted.

## “The Badger” competing in Hamilton Film Festival

A R T T E H R A N — “The Badger” by Kazem Mollai is competing in the 15th Hamilton Film Festival underway in the Canadian city.

The movie 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



A scene from “The Badger” by Kazem Mollai.

Sudeh to pay 10 Bitcoins for her son. Tremendous pressure is put on Sudeh, but the truth hidden beneath will surprise everyone.

The film has been acclaimed at numerous international events. It was selected as best fiction feature at the 6th BangkokThai International Film Festival in Thailand last week.

It also won the grand prize for the best foreign feature at the 29th Berkeley Video and Film Festival last October, and the award for best narrative feature at the Austin Film Festival in the U.S.

Hosted in a city with a booming art scene, the Hamilton festival continues to be one of Canada’s most important film events for Canadian and international films. It will run until November 15.

# Sculptor Parviz Tanavoli donates collection of Persian rugs, carpets to CHTHM

A R T T E H R A N — World-renowned Iranian sculptor Parviz Tanavoli has donated a collection of his Persian flatweave rugs, kilims and carpets to the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry (CHTHM).

The donation was made based on an agreement signed between Deputy Minister Mohammad-Hassan Talebian and the daughter of the Canada-based artist, Tandis, as his legal representative in Iran, the CHTHM announced on Tuesday.

The collection is composed of 408 rugs, kilims and carpets woven by Iranian nomads.

“My father has accumulated the collection from the villages and nomads across Iran over 60 years, and most of the rugs are not woven any longer and the nomads also do not exist any longer,” Tandis Tanavoli said during the meeting with Talebian.

“Several books have been authored about this collection that my father believes belongs to Iran and should be preserved in the country,” she noted, and added that her father has always lamented the lack of a special section for Iranian rural and nomad carpets and rugs in Iranian museums.

She said that nine pieces from the col-



A file photo shows Iranian sculptor Parviz Tanavoli and art aficionados visiting an exhibition of his Persian flatweave rugs, kilims and carpets.

lection will be put on display permanently at the Carpet Museum of Iran.

“The collection comprising rare invaluable nomad rugs, kilims and carpets will

be showcased in a temporary exhibition at the Carpet Museum of Iran in the near future,” Talebian said during the meeting.

He added that a historical house in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz will be converted into a museum of Tanavoli’s artworks, which will also be a permanent place for displaying the donated collection.

A team of cultural heritage experts and the master’s family are scheduled to visit the house for a feasibility study next week.

Tanavoli has devoted himself to serious studies of Iranian nomad carpets and rugs, which have been published in the books “Shahsavan Iranian Rugs and Textiles” and “Persian Flatweaves”.

Tanavoli is also known for his expansive body of works including paintings, prints, ceramics, rugs and jewelry. In addition, the artist is a highly-regarded collector and poet.

In his latest book, “Mania for Collecting”, published this August, he tells about his passion for collecting strange and rare objects.

The Tehran City Council approved on Sunday to rename a street in the Niavaran neighborhood after Tanavoli.

## Sadeq Tabrizi’s rarely-seen artwork offered at Bonhams

A R T T E H R A N — A rarely-seen artwork by Sadeq Tabrizi, a pioneer of calligraphic-painting in Iran, has been put on sale at the Bonhams auction in London set for November 24.

A selection of 115 works by famous artists of West Asia is offered at the Modern and Contemporary Middle Eastern (West Asian) Art.

Entitled “Saqqakhaneh”, the artwork is one of Tabrizi’s Saqqakhaneh series selected from his collection of Ehsan Yarshater offered at £2500 to 3500.

Tabrizi was an influential figure in the formation of the Saqqakhaneh School, a neo-traditional style of art that derives inspiration from Iranian folk art and culture.

Iranian scholar Yarshater spent all his life creating his magnum opus, Encyclopedia Iranica, a complete encyclopedia of Iranian culture and history.

Yarshater was a professor and the founder of the Center for Iranian Studies at Columbia University in New York. He was born in Hamedan in 1920, and earned a Ph.D. in Persian language and literature at the University of Tehran in 1947. He then moved to England to pursue his studies at London University,

where he received an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Old and Middle Iranian in 1960.

Tabrizi died in London in 2017 at the age of 79. He was suffering from liver cancer and was in London to receive further treatment.

For the first time in 1959, Sadeqi painted and inscribed some illegible words on a ceramic panel, which some experts believe to have been his first calligraphic-painting.

Also among the highlights offered at the Bonhams auction are a calligraphic-painting by Mohammad Ehsai named “Yazdan” offered at £40,000 to 60,000 and a painting by Hossein Zendeherudi “LA+LA+SAR” offered at £120,000 to 180,000.

Bonhams has maintained a significant international presence in the market since the early years of its development. During their inaugural sale of modern West Asian art in Dubai in 2008, Bonhams broke 33 world records and witnessed the first West Asian artwork to achieve an auction sale of over one million dollars; Farhad Moshiri’s stunning mixed media work “Eshq” (Love).

Since then, Bonhams has firmly established itself as one of the leading auction houses in the category,



“Saqqakhaneh” by Iranian calligraphic painter Sadeq Tabrizi.

holding regular bi-annual sales first in Dubai and now in London, in recognition of the growing international market for art from West Asia and surrounding regions.

## “Am I a Wolf?” crowned best short animation at Corti a Ponte festival

A R T T E H R A N — Iranian filmmaker Amir-Hushang Moin’s “Am I a Wolf?” has been named as best animation at the 13th Corti a Ponte Short Film Festival in Italy.

The animated movie produced at the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) was screened in the official competition of the event, which came to an end on November 6 in the Venice area.

“Am I a Wolf?” is about a group of students who are performing a play called “The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats” in which everybody has a role.

The students are totally taken in by their



“Am I a Wolf?” by Iranian filmmaker Amir-Hushang Moin.

roles in a way that the boundary between reality and acting can hardly be distinguished. Meanwhile, the child who is acting as the wolf and is doomed to be defeated feels lonely and irritated. He takes his role too seriously, and there is a bit of chaos. At the end, the presence of the other children and his friends near him take him out of this atmosphere.

“Both in the way the story is written and in the way is visually represented, it shines for the simplicity and lyricism with which it tells us how the experience of theatrical interpretation can be deeply involving,” the jury said in a statement.

The movie won the award for best film

at the 8th Canlandiranlar Film Festival in Istanbul, Turkey, in October.

The Corti a Ponte festival in the official competition selected “Cargo” by Christina Tournatzés from Germany as best dramatic short, while the award for best non-dramatic short went to “Running Naked In the Universe” by Levil Guillaume from France.

The award for best animation short for 3.18 was given to “Warm star” by Anna Kuzina from Russia “It’s Me” by Andrea Casaseca from Spain won the award for best short for 3.18 fiction.

Two other productions from Iran’s IIDCYA were screened at the Corti a Ponte festival, but neither won an award.

## Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards receives about 1900 submissions

C U L T U R E T E H R A N — The organizers of the 13th edition of the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards, Iran’s most lucrative literary prize, announced on Tuesday that so far it has received 1879 titles of books.

The books will be categorized into four sections, novels, documents, literary critics and short stories.

Ebrahim Mohammad Hassanbeigi, Hamid Hessam, Mohammadreza Sharafi-Khabushan, Mostafa Jamshidi, Ali Changizi, Abolfazl Horri, Morteza Sarhangi, Maryam Moshref and Mohammadreza Bayrami are the members of the selecting committee for the prize.

Ebrahim Mohammad Hassanbeigi will also be collaborating as the academic secretary.

This year, books written on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is known as the Sacred Defense in Iran, will be reviewed to honor the top works of the past four decades.

“Novels, short stories, reviews and documents produced over the past 40 years on the Sacred Defense will be selected by a number of journalists and representatives of the media



A poster for the 13th edition of the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards.

active in the literature arena,” director of the awards Behruz Jalali has said.

Winners will be selected by a jury panel and a group of veteran journalists in the program entitled “Forty Years of the Sacred Defense Fiction”.

This program has been designed to highlight the high position of the Sacred Defense in the history of Iranian contemporary literature.

“Teahouse Painting”, the memoirs of Kazem Darabi, an Iranian suspect in the 1992 Mykonos Restaurant assassinations case in Berlin, won the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Award during the 12th edition last year.

Published in early 2019, “Teahouse Painting” received the honor in the documentation category.

In the book, Darabi explains how he was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1997 for having a hand in gunning down four members of the Kurdish opposition in the Mykonos Restaurant in the German capital in 1992 and his life during 15 years in captivity in Germany.

## “Nothing to Be Frightened Of” at Iranian bookstores

C U L T U R E T E H R A N — A Persian translation of English writer Julian Barnes’s “Nothing to Be Frightened Of” has recently been published by Tadaei Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Mina Vakilinejad.

Two years after the bestselling “Arthur & George”, Barnes gives readers a memoir on mortality that touches on faith and science and family as well as a rich array of exemplary figures, who over the centuries have confronted the same questions he now poses about the most basic fact of life, its inevitable extinction.

If the fear of death is “the most rational thing in the world,” how does one contend with it? An atheist at twenty and an agnostic at sixty, Barnes looks into the various

arguments for, against, and with God, and at his own bloodline, which has become, following his parents’ death, another realm of mystery.

Deadly serious, masterfully playful and surprisingly hilarious, “Nothing to Be Frightened Of” is a riveting display of how this supremely gifted writer goes about his business and a highly personal tour of the human condition and what might follow the final diagnosis.

Barnes was born in Leicester, England on January 19, 1946. He was educated at the City of London School from 1957 to 1964 and at Magdalen College, Oxford, from which he graduated in modern languages in 1968.

After graduation, he worked as a lexicographer for the Oxford English Dictionary supplement for three years. In 1977, Barnes

began working as a reviewer and literary editor for the New Statesman and the New Review. From 1979 to 1986 he worked as a television critic, first for the New Statesman and then for the Observer.

Barnes has received several awards and honors for his writing, including the 2011 Man Booker Prize for “The Sense of an Ending”. Three additional novels were shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize: “Flaubert’s Parrot”, “England, England” and “Arthur and George”. Barnes’s honors include the Somerset Maugham Award, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize and the E. M. Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

In 2004, he was named Commandeur de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Julian Barnes’s “Nothing to Be Frightened Of”.