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Iran's demographic issue: fertility reaches lowest rate in 8 years

BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI
The fertility rate in Iran has been declining over the past eight years, the lowest of which was related to the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2019- March 2020) with the birth rate of 1.2, according to the data recently published by the Statistics Center.

The total fertility rate in simple terms refers to the total number of children born or likely to be born to a woman in her lifetime if she were subject to the prevailing rate of age-specific fertility in the population.

The fertility rate of the country has experienced ups and downs over the past eight years; during the first half of the 1390s (2010s), the rate slightly raises from 1.75 to 2.07. However, it drops to a record low of 1.8 over the last [Iranian calendar] year.

According to the data released by the National Organization for Civil Registration, the number of births registered during the [Iranian calendar] year 1390 (March 2011-March 2012) was equal to 1,382,118, which increased to 1,528,053 births in the [Iranian calendar] year 1395 (March 2016-March 2017).

However, the number of births in the whole country faced a downtrend over the past three years, as registered births decreased to 1,196,135 over the past [Iranian calendar] year; a difference of roughly over 120,000 to 16,000 per year.

Moreover, the age pattern of fertility shows a decrease in total fertility at all ages, including the age groups of 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34 years in the last year; indicating fertility downward among young people, which in turn has played a significant role in reducing the total rate.

Population decline comes up with consequences, including the reduction of the working population (aged 15 to 64) and the aging population in the coming decades.

Several socio-economic factors led to fertility rate decrease and reproductive behavior in the country, including financial issues, urbanization, education, first marriage age, as well as increased access to family planning services along with increased time gap between the firstborn and marriage.

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Ottawa a heaven for Iranian fraudsters: HRC ambassador at large to West Asia

BY REZA MOSHFEGH
TEHRAN — Canada claims to defend human rights while it sold nearly 3 billion Canadian dollars worth of arms to Saudi Arabia in 2019 which are chiefly used to kill innocent Yemeni citizens, including women and children.

Canada's hypocrisy over human rights was also on full display during the so-called U.S. "maximum pressure" policy against Iran.

Over the past two years, Washington imposed harsh sanctions on Iran that are hampering Iran's access to medicine. At this time, Ottawa cooperated with Washington in pushing ahead with U.S. unilateral sanctions by refusing to sell humanitarian goods to Iran.

However, Canada is not really concerned about human rights when it clinches trade deals with a value of 15 billion dollars with Saudi Arabia.

In this regard, Haitham Abu Said, HRC ambassador at large to the Middle East (West Asia), tells the Tehran Times that the arms contract between Canada

and Saudi Arabia in 2018 "consisted of 928 artillery vehicles and 119 vehicles carrying 30 mm cannon and 119 artillery personnel carriers and 105 mm guns."

Today, the global economic crisis remains the result of search for a contract under the pretext of "good use," according to Abu Said.

Asked about motives why Canada persist in focusing on Iran but remaining silent when it comes to Israeli crimes against Palestinians, the Lebanese special envoy to the United Nations office in Geneva says everyone knows Western approaches to exploitation of rights in the American heartland "where we see double standards, especially with regard to the Israeli regime."

Canada is considered one of the main countries Israel relies on to escape responsibility for its crimes, but when it comes to, Ottawa resorts to every ploy to bring about a pretext against Iran and condemn it.

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Aluminum ingot output rises 69% in 7 months on year

TEHRAN — Production of the aluminum ingot in Iran rose 69 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21) compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The country's aluminum ingot output stood at 247,335 tons during the seven-month period of this year.

The monthly aluminum ingot output has also risen 56 percent to stand at 35,556 tons in the seventh month of the present year.

Production of the aluminum ingot in the country is planned to increase 63 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

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Tehran voices indifference toward result of U.S. election

TEHRAN — Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Iran is neither terrified of a second term of the Trump administration nor is it excited about a Biden administration.

"We decide and act based on our interests," Araghchi said on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

He pointed to the claims of voter fraud in the U.S. presidential election, describing the November 3 poll as a "spectacle"

through which the fake grandeur of the United States' democracy was broken in the world.

In similar remarks last week, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei slammed the U.S. election as a "spectacle" in which the incumbent president has said the poll was the most fraudulent election in U.S. history.

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Resistance festival unveils official competition lineup

TEHRAN — The 16th Resistance International Film Festival on Wednesday unveiled the official competition featuring a lineup of 12 films.

Among the films are "Abadan 11, 60", "Exodus", "Pinocchio, Amu Sardar and Raisali", "The Daughter of Iran" and "Day of Chaos".

"Abadan 11, 60" by Mehrdad Khoshbakht is about the people's fight against

Iraqi forces in the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan during the early months of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

"Exodus", a protest film by Ebrahim Hatamikia tells the story of a group of cotton farmers who leave their farms to protest the local official's unfulfilled promises at the president's office in the capital.

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U.S. protests: DC preparing for pro-Trump rallies planned for Saturday

Supporters of the President are planning rallies in D.C. on Saturday as the country waits for the Trump campaign to submit evidence for unfounded claims of voter fraud.

One of the rallies is called the "Million Maga March," according to the group on Twitter. And another is called, "Stop The Steal." Both of the planned rallies will be held on Saturday starting at noon.

According to the Stop The Steal flyer posted on Twitter, the event is calling on supporters to meet at Freedom Plaza. It is unknown where demonstrators of the Million Maga March are expected to meet.

It appears these rallies are separate events and are not planned by the same organizers.

A growing number of Trump supporters believe Trump's claim that the election was rigged, even though elections officials, many

of whom are Republican, said the allegations are both unfounded and untrue.

Some Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, rallied behind Trump's efforts to fight the election results. Few in the GOP acknowledged Biden's victory or condemned Trump's other concerning move on Monday: his firing of Defense Secretary Mark Esper.

The developments cast doubt on whether the nation would witness the same kind of smooth transition of power that has long anchored its democracy. The Electoral College is slated to formally confirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory on Dec. 14, and the Democrat will be sworn into office in late January.

During a Tuesday morning news conference at a D.C. park opening, Mayor Muriel Bowser was asked about the expected rallies.

Europe's terror problem is not Islamic

By Ian Greenhalgh
Europe has been experiencing a wave of 'Islamic' terrorism for many years now, with the recent attacks in Austria and France being just the latest examples. In my own country of Britain, we have witnessed high profile terror events such as the July 2005 London tube train bombings, the 2013 murder of British soldier Lee Rigby on a London street, and the 2017 Manchester arena bombing.

France has experienced several attacks too, notably the multiple incidents in Paris in 2015, first in

January, a mass shooting took place at the offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and in November, a series of violent incidents that included the mass shooting at the Bataclan nightclub. Germany, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, and numerous other European nations have also experienced incidents of so-called 'Islamic terror.'

It would need to write a book, or perhaps a series of books to explain all the falsehoods that have been perpetrated by the relevant governments with the assistance of European media outlets

about this phenomenon of 'Islamic terror.' In some cases, the violence is all too real; innocent people's tragic deaths did occur. However, that is not true of all of these events; some were entirely fake, such as the blatant and all too obvious street theatre of the Lee Rigby 'murder', some were entirely real, others were a mixture of real and fake elements. One thing all of these terror attacks have in common though, is that they are in no way, shape, or form Islamic.

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Zarif holds talks with dignitaries in Pakistan

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited Islamabad on Tuesday night to discuss regional issues, the Muslim world, international affairs, and the promotion of bilateral relations, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Upon his arrival in the Pakistani capital, the chief Iranian diplomat was welcomed by Pakistani Foreign Ministry officials. He was accompanied by a high-ranking political, economic, and military delegation.

On Wednesday, the foreign minister met with Chief of Pakistan's Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

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Iran seeking UNESCO tag for Ramsar landscape

TEHRAN — Iran is preparing a comprehensive dossier for its northern Ramsar landscape to be submitted to UNESCO in the near future.

Deputy tourism minister Mohammad-Hassan Talebian on Tuesday said if the problems of the 33-hectare Ramsar site are completely solved, its dossier will be sent to UNESCO for being assessed as a World Heritage, IRNA reported.

The official cited some challenges with the cultural, natural landscape, saying "The damage of some trees due to drought, installation of improper mosaics [on the ground] and the lack of drainage in the garden are among the problems that must be resolved as soon as possible so that its dossier could be sent to UNESCO."

The Ramsar landscape in northern Mazandaran province is one of the two sites proposed in [the Iranian year] 1388 (2009-10) for UNESCO World Heritage listing, he noted.

"A large part of this historic garden embraces species of Hyrcanian forest trees as well as citrus trees that have been damaged over the years due to negligence and they should be restored as soon as possible," Talebian said.

To achieve this, a meeting is scheduled to be held next week with the presence of natural resources and cultural heritage experts, as well as municipality officials, he concluded.

The cultural-natural landscape of Ramsar is stretched from the northern foothills of Alborz Mountains to the shores of the Caspian Sea. It shows the city planning of one century ago that was integrated with nature.

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Biden, Macron discuss Iran nuclear deal

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — U.S. President-elect Joe Biden has told France's President Emmanuel Macron that he would like the U.S. to once again work with its European ally on Iran nuclear policy.

Biden "expressed his readiness to work together on global challenges, including security and development in Africa, the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, and Iran's nuclear program," Biden's transition team said, according to Newsweek.

Tensions soared between Tehran and Washington after the Trump administration unilaterally walked away from the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018.

Under the JCPOA, which was also signed by Russia, China, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and the European Union, Iran agreed to curb its nuclear program in exchange for termination of sanctions and international investment.



Trump's withdrawal came while Iran was in full compliance with the treaty. He then reimplemented stringent sanctions against Iran. All other parties to the deal have repeatedly criticized the Trump administration's policy toward Iran.

Ever since Trump's defeat was projected by the U.S. media, his administration has accelerated its efforts to slap more sanctions on Iran in order to create more obstacles in the path of Washington's return to the nuclear agreement.

On Tuesday, the U.S. government imposed Iran-related sanctions on six companies and four people, accusing the network of supplying sensitive goods to an Iranian military firm.

In a statement, the U.S. Treasury Department accused the companies and individuals of facilitating the procurement of sensitive goods, including U.S.-origin electronic components, for Iran Communication Industries, an Iranian military firm blacklisted by Washington and the European Union.

"The Iranian regime utilizes a global network of companies to advance its destabilizing military capabilities," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in the statement. "The United States will continue to take action against those who help to support the regime's militarization and proliferation efforts," he added.

At the same time, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called on the United States to change tack and reconsider its "inhumane behaviors" toward other countries.

"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," Rouhani said on Tuesday.

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.

Iran warns Europe of drug production increase

TEHRAN (MNA) — The Secretary-general of Iran's Drug Control Headquarters warned that the increasing trend of industrial narcotics production in Afghanistan, led by western countries, will be in detriment of European and regional countries.



On Wednesday, a video conference was held with the presence of the secretary-general of Iran's Drug Control Headquarters Eskandar Momeni and Ghada Wali, the Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Despite the conditions caused by the spreading of coronavirus in the world and the imposition of oppressive sanctions against the country, the Islamic Republic has not

stopped fighting against drug trafficking, Momeni said in the meeting.

Hailing Iran achievements in the fight against narcotics, he announced over a 26-percentage increase in Iran's narcotics discoveries in the first six months of the Iranian calendar year.

During the mentioned period, 700 tons of narcotics were discovered throughout the country, he said, adding, "Recently a shipment of 2 tons of narcotics destined for European countries was also discovered."

In this regard, he expressed deep concern over the increasing production of industrial narcotics, especially glass in Afghanistan which is supported by the U.S. and other western countries.

The continuation of such an increase will be in detriment of European and regional countries, he explained.

Ghada Wali, for her part, hailed Iran's great measures in the fight against narcotics and also called the Islamic Republic of Iran an important partner for UNODC in this field.

"As Iran enjoys valuable experiences in the field of narcotics confiscation, therefore we seek to cooperate with Iran in various fields and to transfer such Iranian knowledge to the countries of the region and the member countries of UNODC", she added.

What do Iranian MPs say about the U.S. election?

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian lawmakers have offered their takes on the election of Joe Biden as the next president of the United States and the defeat of the incumbent president Donald Trump, demonstrating a broad range of opinions within Iran's political spectrum with regard to Tehran-Washington interactions.

According to an article published by ISNA, MP Mojtaba Yousefi said history has shown that there's no difference between Democrats and Republicans, and both camps pursue the same policy.

"Therefore, we should never trust the Americans," Yousefi added.

Yaghoob Rezazadeh, a member of the presiding board of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said if the next U.S. administration returns to the Iran nuclear deal, it must compensate for the Trump administration's unilateral withdrawal from the deal.

In May 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear pact, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and put enormous economic pressure on Iran through a renewed policy of anti-Iran sanctions.

Vahid Jalalzadeh, another member of the committee, expressed similar remarks, saying the U.S. should compensate all the damage caused by its sanctions.

MP Fada Hosseini said Biden is likely to follow Barack Obama's policies toward Iran, but the U.S. should know that Iran's circumstances are very different compared to the Obama era, in the sense that its defense program is more advanced and it has suffered from the illegal sanctions.

According to Asghar Salimi, Trump was an unpredictable person in the inter-



national arena who tarnished the image of America in the world and isolated his country.

"We've proven in the past couple of years that we will not back down from our stances and the Iranian nation never backs down from its interests and stances," MP Salimi pointed out.

Salimi, too, urged the next U.S. administration to compensate for the damage inflicted upon Iran.

Kamal Hosseinpour offered a different perspective. He said most of Iran's economic problems are not due to U.S. sanctions but rooted in pervasive mismanagement by the government.

"By relying on domestic capacities,

many problems will be resolved and people's livelihood can be improved through thoughtful planning," he added.

Legislator Rahmatollah Firouzi said if the U.S. changes its bullying behavior against the Iranian nation, Iran can change its policies as well.

"It makes no difference to us who has become the president of the U.S., rather, what's important is the behavior of the American rulers," he remarked.

Similarly, Mostafa Mirsalim, who ran an unsuccessful campaign for president in 2017, said Iran's problems are not linked with Trump or Biden, but are "rooted in the officials' belief, capability, determination and truthfulness, as well as people's

Rouhani: We will use every opportunity to lift U.S. sanctions

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani says his administration will make use of every opportunity in order to lift the U.S. sanctions against Iran.

"Whenever we see that there's a situation for the lifting of sanctions, we will make use of that," Rouhani said at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday. "Our goal is that cruel sanctions would be lifted."

He also said the world is faced with new conditions with the defeat of Donald Trump, adding that it would enable the Islamic Republic to strengthen relations with friends and neighbors, Tasnim reported.

Iran's foreign relations are based upon ties with neighbors and friends, he added, noting that the termination of Trump's administration, which was an obstacle to Iran's relations with other countries, would pave the way for the Iranian relations.

"We established good relations with certain neighbors such as Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Azerbaijan over the past years, as well as with other friendly countries like Russia, China and others. I feel that the

atmosphere for closer relations with all of our friends is more prepared."

Rouhani also said his American counterpart's administration that sought the fall of the Iranian establishment has faced a "humiliating" defeat itself.

The Trump administration that dreamed about the collapse of the Iranian establishment has been toppled humiliatingly, the president pointed out.

Last week, Rouhani said the next American administration will have no option but to surrender to the Iranian nation.

Meanwhile, Hossein Mousavian, a former Iranian nuclear negotiator and a Princeton University research scholar, has advised against an extreme form of optimism on the Iranian side over Joe Biden's victory.

"Biden's victory is an opportunity, but we shouldn't get delusional," Mousavian said in an interview with Hamshahri published on Wednesday.

"We shouldn't think that if Biden returns to Barjam (nuclear deal), it means that he will not support the Zionist regime anymore or he will cut ties with the



Saudis," he said.

However, he continued, the issue of Biden's victory and its outcome for Iran is boiled down to one point which is de-escalation of tensions between Tehran and Washington, which is an opportunity for Iran.

Tehran voices indifference toward result of U.S. election

1 → "What a spectacle!" Ayatollah Khamenei's office tweeted last week. "One says this is the most fraudulent election in US history. Who says that? The president who is currently in office."

"His rival says Trump intends to rig the election! This is how USElections & US democracy are," it added.

On Biden's possible policy with regard to the United States' return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, Araghchi said despite the difficult path forward "the way to return to the JCPOA is not closed."

"Iran did not leave the negotiating



table ... It was the U.S. which unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA."

The 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. He subsequently imposed harsh economic sanctions on Tehran which he called the "maximum pressure" policy.

Referring to the maximum pressure campaign, Araghchi said the whole world has accepted that the policy has failed and has not achieved any of its goals.

So far, the Iranian nation has resisted these pressures well and they will continue to do so in the future, added Araghchi who was a lead nuclear ne-

gotiator.

Still, Araqchi leads the Iranian team in the Joint Commission of the JCPOA which holds regular meetings.

In similar remarks on Monday, Vice President Es'hagh Jahangiri said the era of Trump's maximum pressure policy has ended with Iran's resistance.

Jahangiri said despite the maximum pressure policy exerted by the Trump administration, the Iranian people and government are still proud.

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.

Diplomat: Syria's security to pave way for return of refugees

TEHRAN (FNA) — Senior Assistant to the Iranian Foreign Minister for Special Political Affairs Ali Asghar Khaji underlined that the return of calm and security to Syria will prepare the grounds for the return of refugees to their home country.

"The improvement of security conditions on the Syrian territory to a large extent and the efforts exerted by the Syrian government to reconstruct what has been sabotaged by terrorism constitutes a strong basis to set off towards the return of all refugees," Khaji said in a meeting with Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus.

Talks during the meeting concentrated on the International Conference on the return of Syrian Refugees to be held in Damascus as President Assad was briefed by the Iranian delegation on the vision of Iran towards this conference and its readiness to offer any support that could contribute to making it a success and solving this humanitarian file.

The two sides also exchanged viewpoints on a number of issues of political concern, including Astana talks on Syria and the Committee of Discussing the Constitution.

Khaji has traveled to Syria to participate in the in-



ternational conference on the return of refugees and hold talks with the high-ranking Syrian officials.

In relevant remarks earlier in November, Khaji said various parties should converge to tackle the challenges facing Syria, insisting on the dire need for international participation to this end.

Khaji made the remarks in a phone call with UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Otto Pedersen.

The Iranian diplomat underlined the need for collective efforts to help resolve Syria's challenges as a humanitarian and positive move.

Pedersen, for his part, elaborated on the results of his negotiations with the representatives of several regional countries over the Syrian issue.

The two sides also exchanged views on the political process and activities of the Syrian Constitutional Committee.

They also addressed the issue of the Syrian refugees which will be discussed during a conference in Damascus in the coming weeks.

Back in late September, also, Khaji and Pedersen had underlined political means as the way to reach a final solution to the Syrian crisis.

Khaji and Pedersen discussed the latest Syrian developments during a phone call on September 26.

They emphasized achieving a final solution through respecting Syria's national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Both diplomats voiced their support for the strengthening of the political trend and the continuation of cooperation with the Syrian Constitutional Committee.

Pedersen and Khaji urged the international community to help the Syrian people given the tough humanitarian conditions in the country.

SPORTS

Komeil Ghasemi new gold medalist of 2012 Olympics

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian freestyle wrestler Komeil Ghasemi has been awarded gold medal of the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Iran's Komeil Ghasemi and Russia's Bilyal Makhov had initially both been awarded gold in the 120kg at London 2012 by the IOC in July but United World Wrestling has confirmed Ghasemi as the sole gold medalist.

Makhov - himself provisionally suspended following a positive drugs test - received the silver.

Uzbekistan's Davit Modzmanashvili has been banned for six years after he was stripped of his Olympic wrestling silver medal for doping following the re-analysis of his sample from London 2012.

The Georgian, who switched allegiance to Uzbekistan in 2017 and won a bronze medal for the country at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, was beaten in the 120kg final at London 2012 by Uzbekistan's Artur Taymazov.

Taymazov was also caught up in the IOC's re-tests and has been stripped of gold medals he won in the same category at Beijing 2008 and London 2012 for doping.

The IOC Disciplinary Commission (DC) rendered its decision against Taymazov who failed a reanalysis of his anti-doping test at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Taymazov tested positive for the prohibited substance dehydrochloromethyl-testosterone (oral turinabol).

The Uzbek wrestler had earned a gold medal in freestyle wrestling at 120kg and his removal will re-shuffle the order of medalists at the 2012 London Games. Ghasemi will become the new gold medalist, Makhov remains silver, and Tervel Dlagnev (USA) and Daulet Shabanbay (KAZ) will be the newest bronze medalists.

Asian qualifiers for World Cup 2022 to resume in March

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The dates for the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 were approved by the AFC Competitions Committee at their third meeting for the 2019-2023 cycle, which was held online.

It was agreed that all the Asian Qualifiers Round 2 matches should be completed by June 15, 2021 with Match Day 7 and 8 in March 2021 and Match Day 9 and 10 in June 2021 with the Final Round of the Asian Qualifiers beginning in September 2021.

Iran will meet Hong Kong and Cambodia in March 2021 and face Bahrain and Iraq in June 2021.

The 'Persian Leopards' are third in Group C behind Iraq and Bahrain.

It was also agreed, in collaboration with FIFA, that the 10 match days of the Asian Qualifiers Final Round should be finished by the end of March 2022 with the Asian and Inter-Continental Play-offs proposed for the FIFA Window May/June in 2022. The Asian Play-off for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is proposed as a single match.

AFC President offers condolences on passing of ex-Iran coach Yavari

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa has sent his condolences to the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) and the family and friends of former Iran head coach Mahmoud Yavari who passed away at the age of 81 on Tuesday.

As one of the most experienced Iranian tacticians, Yavari started his coaching career at Zob Ahan in 1969 before going on to manage a host of clubs including Isfahan-based Sepahan FC and Tabriz-based Tractor SC.

The AFC President said: "I am saddened to learn of the passing of former national team coach Mahmoud Yavari in Isfahan.

"The Asian football family extends its condolences and sympathies on this loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran, his family and friends.

"His contributions to football in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Asia, will always be remembered and cherished."

Yavari was appointed as Iran U20 team head coach in 1980 and was rewarded for his impact when he was entrusted to lead Iran National Olympic Team in 1982. Shortly after, he took charge of the Iran national team for a brief period before returning to manage the U20 side for a second time in a spell which lasted a decade.

The thoughts and prayers of the AFC and the rest of the Asian football community are with the loved ones and friends of Yavari, FFIRI and the Iranian football family during this difficult time.

Yavari was laid to rest at the Bagh-e-Rezvan Cemetery in Isfahan on Wednesday.

Golmohammadi shortlisted for Best 2020 ACL (West) head coach

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Persepolis head coach Yahya Golmohammadi has been nominated for the best coaches of the 2020 AFC Champions League (West).

Replacing one of the most successful head coaches at a club the size of Persepolis is a daunting task for anyone, and following the short-lived Gabriel Calderon stint, former defender Golmohammadi was tasked with restoring the club to the unprecedented heights achieved under Branko Ivankovic between 2015 and 2019.

The 49-year-old had represented Persepolis for four years in the 1990s and managed it briefly in 2012-13, but this time he was coming into a side that had won three consecutive Iran Professional League titles and reached the AFC Champions League semi-final in 2017 and final in 2018, the-afc.com reported.

He will compete with Rui Vitoria (Al-Nassr), Vladan Milojevic (Al-Ahli) and Shota Arveladze (Pakhtakor) to be named as the best coach.

The man who made it possible

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — As Iran commemorated the ninth martyrdom anniversary of Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, a general known for his studious efforts to develop Iran's missile program, a defense expert tells the Tehran Times that the general has played a crucial role in establishing deterrence against Iran's enemies.

Tehrani Moghaddam was born on October 29, 1959, in Tehran. He was admitted to university one year before the 1979 Islamic revolution and when the revolution broke out, he joined anti-Shah protestors while he was 19-year old. During the revolution, he showed interest in making weapons by providing the revolutionaries with grenades he made in secret. On February 11, 1979, Tehrani Moghaddam used his grenades to capture a military vehicle driven by a colonel.

Soon after the victory of the Islamic revolution, Tehrani Moghaddam joined the newly established force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), which was - and still is- tasked with protecting the revolution. He served in many positions within the IRGC. Tehrani Moghaddam was one of the main figures that played a leading role in boosting the IRGC missile and artillery capabilities during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, a role that he continued to play years after the war with Iraq was over. In fact, Tehrani Moghaddam was working to build Iran's missile capabilities until the last moment of his life.

The general was martyred in a massive explosion at a missile garrison near the capital Tehran on November 12, 2011. Several IRGC officers were also martyred in the Modarres arsenal explosion along with Tehrani Moghaddam. At the time of his martyrdom, Tehrani Moghaddam was preparing a missile test.

He was appointed as the IRGC commander's missile advisor and the head of the Self-Reliance Organization of the IRGC in mid-December 2006 and continued to hold the position until he was martyred in 2011.

Tehrani Moghaddam is credited with building Iran's missile capabilities, a move that earned him the title of Father of Iran's Missile Program. He also established the Lebanese Hezbollah's missile units during a visit to Lebanon in the 1980s.

Analysts believe that Tehrani Moghaddam has based Iran's defense strategy on missile capabilities and missile deterrence, a move that effectively removed the military option of the enemies of Iran from the table.

Tehrani Moghaddam established the Iran missile program at a time when the



country was involved in the eight-year war with Iraq, according to Mehdi Bakhtiari, a defense expert.

"The Iraqi side has been attacking us while we were unable to respond and had no experience in the missile industry even before the revolution. We obtained a kind of missile capability to deter Iraq from attacking us after Tehrani Moghaddam took action to found the missile program. We stopped Saddam's missile attacks on Iran thanks to Tehrani Moghaddam," Bakhtiari told the Tehran Times.

According to the expert, Tehrani Moghaddam continued to boost Iran's missile program in the years after the Iran-Iraq war.

"Despite all sanctions, Tehrani Moghaddam built missile capabilities that are unique compared to the region's countries," asserted Bakhtiari, adding that the West has totally imposed sanctions on Iran's missile program in such a way that Iran cannot even obtain raw materials.

Iran and the West have been locked in a dispute over at least three main issues for so many years. The missile program of Iran is one of those issues that the West keep pressuring Iran into curbing it. During the nuclear negotiations leading up to the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA), Western countries parties to the deal were willing to discuss Iran's missile program and its influence in the region along with the nuclear program but Iran firmly rejected any proposals to start negotiations over the missile program and insisted on separating the nuclear issue from the missile program and the regional influence. Iran's policy of separating issues that concern the West is rooted in a belief that missiles are the main

deterrence against any foreign aggression.

Bakhtiari said Iran's defense doctrine is based on missile capabilities that were built to a large extent by Tehrani Moghaddam.

"The importance of Tehrani Moghaddam's missile legacy is reflected in the West's efforts to constrain Iran's missile program. Over the past years, the most important issue for the West has been Iran's missile program. They have imposed sweeping sanctions on this program. The missile issue is so important for the Westerners that they have been so much focused on it," Bakhtiari said.

He added, "Iran's missile capabilities are not only shown in military exercises, rather Iran has also used its missiles on the battleground. Iran has launched at least two overseas missile attacks against the terrorists in recent years. In one very important case, Iran attacked an official U.S. military base in Iraq, which was unprecedented in recent times. These attacks show how effective are Iran's missile capabilities and how they thwarted foreign threats whether during the Iran-Iraq war or in the current time. If the United States commits aggression against Iran, these missile capabilities will deter it. I think the track record of Iran's missile capabilities is indicative of their importance."

The expert was referring to the January military showdown between Iran and the U.S. after President Donald Trump authorized a drone strike that assassinated the commander of the IRGC's Quds Force, General Qassem Soleimani on January 3 near Baghdad's international airport. The strike was so unexpected that brought Tehran and Washington closer to an all-out war. Iran showered an Iraqi base housing

Zarif holds talks with dignitaries in Pakistan

Iran, Pakistan to open border crossings for trade

1→ Zarif and Bajwa expressed satisfaction with the political, military, and regional cooperation between the two countries, emphasizing the expansion of relations in all dimensions.

During the meeting, Zarif pointed to the good military cooperation between the two countries and praised the measures taken to strengthen border security, while opening new border crossings between the two countries, and announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran will open the Rimdan crossing in Sistan-Baluchistan province next week.

The foreign minister expressed hope that the Gabd crossing would be opened by the Pakistani side and that other crossings, including the Pishin-Mand crossing, would be opened to expand public and trade relations between the two countries.

For his part, General Bajwa stressed the importance of political and military cooperation between the two countries, underlining the need to expand cooperation in all fields and supporting the Pakistani government's decision to open a border market and various crossings, including the Rimdan-Gabad and Pishin-Mand crossings.

General Bajwa also pointed out that the expansion of Iran-Pakistan ties is important and would have a positive impact on peace and stability in the region.

Pakistan's army issued a statement after the meeting between Zarif and Bajwa saying that the two officials discussed several issues such as the security situation in the region, including the Afghanistan peace process, and the situation in Iran-Pakistan joint borders.

Zarif also met with his Pakistani counterpart on Wednesday. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said in a tweet that Qureshi "warmly received" Zarif on Wednesday before the latter planted a sapling at the lawn of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The spokesperson also said the two top diplomats held a one-on-one and delegation-level meeting to discuss "increased bilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual interest."

This is the fourth visit by the Iranian foreign minister to Pakistan during the last two and a half years, which reflects the promotion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields, according to the Pakistani newspaper The Nation. The Pakistani media have generally welcomed Zarif's visit, describing it as coming at an important juncture particularly against the backdrop of a host of developments, such as the election of Joe Biden in the United States, the resumption of economic projects between Tehran and Islamabad, and Pakistan's apparent hiccup in ties with Saudi Arabia.

"The election of Joe Biden as the U.S. president might bring new changes to the region as he wants to revive the Iranian nuclear deal, which former president Trump scrapped after coming to power. The revival of Iranian



Zarif (L) holding talks with PM Imran Khan

nuclear deal will help Pakistan pursue some of the economic projects, including Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline that was halted due to the threat of U.S. economic sanctions. The visit is also important against the backdrop of Pakistan's apparent hiccup in ties with Saudi Arabia, which wanted Islamabad to maintain distance from countries such as Iran, Turkey and Malaysia," said the Pakistani newspaper Express Tribune.

■ Zarif thanks Pakistan for backing Iran's bid to join SCO

In a separate meeting with Prime Minister Khan, Zarif thanked Pakistan for supporting Iran's bid to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Zarif and Khan also exchanged views about international and regional developments, especially issues related to Afghanistan and the larger Islamic world.

The Pakistani leader said his country is interested to develop economic and political ties with Iran. The two sides also expressed hope to strengthen ties between the two neighboring countries.

Iran's chief diplomat also praised the Pakistani prime minister's stance on the issue of normalizing ties with the Zionist regime of Israel.

Prime Minister Khan said in September that normalization with Israel is "pointless".

■ MP hails Zarif's visit to Pakistan as 'fruitful' Fadahosseini Maleki, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, has welcomed the visit by Zarif to neighboring Pakistan.

"The visit by our foreign minister to Pakistan is important for the two countries because we have good relations in terms of politics, security, border issues, trade, and economy. Besides, our commonalities as two major countries in the region are very important," the lawmaker told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA) on Monday.

He added, "As the relationship between Iran and Pa-

kistan becomes stronger, in addition to improving the economic situation of the two countries, the possibility of confronting the evil of many terrorist groups and foreigners increases. Unfortunately, in the eastern border regions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and eastern provinces such as Sistan-Baluchestan, we usually see the sabotage of terrorist groups, and this has placed a heavy burden on the Pakistanis."

Speaking at a weekly press briefing on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said, "Tomorrow, the foreign minister will travel to Islamabad for a two-day visit at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart at the head of a political and economic delegation."

Zarif had just concluded a regional tour of three Latin American countries.

Zarif said on Tuesday that he will be holding top-level talks with the Pakistani leadership during his visit.

"Top-level talks on bilateral & regional issues with brothers FM Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Army Chief Gen. Bajwa & PM Imran Khan tomorrow in Pakistan. Visit follows Iqbal Day, celebrating great Islamic scholar, international poet & tireless promoter of Muslim unity who ties together our two nations," Zarif said in a tweet.

Maleki said Prime Minister Imran Khan favors a good relationship with Iran.

"Mr. Imran Khan, as the prime minister of Pakistan, has a good relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He has recently visited the Islamic Republic of Iran, so the atmosphere of relations between the two countries is suitable, but it should be strengthened," said the lawmaker, calling Zarif's visit to Pakistan a positive move.

Maleki noted, "This visit will have effective results, given the latest developments in the region and the weakened position of the Americans in the region."

The lawmaker also pointed to the security situation in Iran's border areas with Pakistan.

"The Pakistanis do not have the necessary sovereignty in the provinces adjacent to Iran, so we have previously suggested that the two countries' security forces intervene instead of governments focusing on border security because Pakistan's structure is such that it is a security-oriented organization. Mr. Zarif should speak about these issues and trade and economic relations between the two countries from a more serious position," stated Maleki, Iran's former ambassador to Afghanistan.

The lawmaker also pointed to Pakistan's concerns about the presence of Indians in Iran.

"The Pakistanis are very concerned about the presence of Indians in the region, which will be resolved by increasing their ties with Iran," pointed out Maleki, the representative of Zahedn - capital of the border province of Sistan-Baluchistan - in the parliament.

TEDPIX gains 9,000 points on Wednesday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 9,119 points to 1.221 million on Wednesday.

Over 9.806 billion securities worth 85.995 billion rials (about \$2.47 billion) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday.

The first market's index gained 8,163 points, and the second market's index rose 12,609 points.

TEDPIX finally experienced a weekly growth in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday) after several weeks of falling.

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

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

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

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

Industrial unit establishment permits issuance up 35% in Yazd Province

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**—The issuance of industrial unit establishment permits has increased 35 percent in Iran's central Yazd Province during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), according to a provincial official.

Mohammadreza Alamdar Yazdi, the head of Yazd Province's Industry, Mining, and Trade Department, said that 2,036 industrial unit establishment permits have been issued in the province during the seven-month period.

He put the estimated investment to be made for setting up these units at 247.129 trillion rials (about \$5.884 billion), and said they are predicted to create jobs for 39,316 persons.

As previously announced by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, the issuance of permits for setting up industrial units in the country increased 16 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

ISIPO's Previous Head Mohsen Salehinia has said that providing liquidity is the main issue for many of the country's production units, so based on the arrangements made, these units can receive part of their needed liquidity through bank facilities.

"Currently, the share of the country's production and industrial units in receiving bank facilities is about 31 percent and it is necessary to allocate a larger share of banking facilities to the country's production and industry," he added.

Given the position of production in the country's economy and employment, and the fact that production units are facing lack of liquidity to supply raw materials and equipment, it is necessary to increase their share of bank facilities up to at least 40 percent, Salehinia stressed.

He further said: "Despite all the limitations, we are currently witnessing an increase in production in some units, for example those active in the field of home appliances; also, according to the plans made and by solving the problems in the way of the production and industrial units, we will realize the motto of "Surge in Production" by the end of this year."

Strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance is the most important program that Iran is following up in its industry sector in a bid to nullify the effects of the U.S. sanctions on its economy.

To this end, the current Iranian calendar year has been named the year of "Surge in Production", and all governmental bodies as well as the private sector are moving in line with the materialization of this motto.

Regarding its significant role in the realization of the mentioned goal, the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry has already defined its main programs for supporting domestic production in the current year.

Aluminum ingot output rises 69% in 7 months on year

1 → Iran's major aluminum producers produced 275,716 tons of aluminum ingots in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), according to the data released by the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The country's aluminum ingot production in the past year fell eight percent in comparison to the figure for its preceding year.

The data show that among the country's

top producers, Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) had the best performance registering a four-percent rise during the mentioned period.

On April 23, during the inauguration ceremony of Iran's biggest aluminum production complex (in the central Fars province), the former industry minister said the country's aluminum production is expected to be doubled with that unit



going operational.

The official put the value of the Iranian mining industry's production at about \$22 billion, saying that the country is relatively self-sufficient in minerals and a great deal is also exported every year.

He went on underlying, "The country's capacities in the sector, saying that Iran is

ranked 18th among the world's top aluminum producers, and with this new plant going operational the country will climb four places to stand at 14th place."

Iran plans to reach the annual production of 1.5 million tons of aluminum ingot by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

New IPOs promise future stock market growth: fin. min.

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand has said that new initial public offerings (IPOs) are an indication of the stock market growth in the near future, IRIB reported.

Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Dejpasand mentioned some concerns over the stock market's recent downward trend and said the holding of new IPOs shows that the government has long-term plans for the mentioned market.

Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) plans to hold IPOs for over 100 new companies

by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021), Dejpasand said.

The official noted that fluctuation is in the nature of the capital market and the market behavior completely depends on the behavior of shareholders and stock suppliers.

The government, however, is trying to guide these fluctuations in the direction that leads to a stable and growing market, he added.

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



Tavanir implements program to renovate 1,300km of power networks

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — An official with Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) said the company is going to implement a program based on which over 1,300 kilometers of the country's electricity network will be improved and renovated.

According to this program which will be officially launched on November 19, on the last Thursday and Friday of every month a two-day maneuver will be held to amend a part of the country's power grid, Gholamali Rakhshani-Mehr said.

As IRNA reported on Wednesday, this maneuver will be implemented for the first time in the country with a focus on the digital transformation of the country's power grid maintenance systems and the management of the Energy Ministry's assets.

More than 3,900 specialized personnel in the form of 1,327 operational teams will be participating in this nationwide maneuver to repair worn-out electricity distribution networks, Rakhshani-Mehr said.

The official mentioned implementing the policies of the resilient economy, improving and upgrading the network's performance indicators, increasing network stability and reliability, reducing the number and time of power outages, reducing network losses and balancing network load, improving customer satisfaction, and improving the readiness of operational teams in the face



of potential crises as some of the goals of this program.

The deputy coordinator of the Tavanir Distribution Office also mentioned the conversion of copper wire networks into self-supporting cable ones, removal of loose connections, improvement of the substations equipment including boards, counters, and metal base valves as other axes of this nationwide maneuver.

Having one of the vastest electricity networks in the region, Iran has been emerging as a power hub in West Asia.

All the Iranian urban population is enjoying electricity through the national power grid while nearly 99.7 percent of the country's rural population is also 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.

Iran, Qatar to expand co-op in electricity, water sectors

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Ministry and Qatar Electricity and Water Company (QEW) are planning to expand cooperation in water and electricity sectors.

In a meeting between QEW Head Essa Bin Hilal Al-Kuwari and Iranian Deputy Minister of Energy for International Affairs Mohammad Ali Farahnakian in Doha on Tuesday, the two sides stressed expansion of cooperation.

In this meeting, the two sides decided to pursue specialized discussions between the Qatari company and the relevant units of the Energy Ministry, so that both countries can achieve desired results.

Heading a delegation, the Iranian Energy Minister, who is also the chair of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee, arrived in Doha on Monday to meet with Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and deliver Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's message to him.

During the meeting with the Qatari emir, the officials emphasized the need to strengthen relations between the two countries and stated that necessary measures should be taken to implement the decisions and agreements made during the Emir of Qatar's visit to Tehran last year when he met with President Rouhani.

The two sides also stressed that regional cooperation can play a key role in



the sustainable development, welfare, and security of the people of the two countries and that Iran and Qatar, as two friendly and neighboring countries, need to cooperate in order to expand relations and be a model for other countries.

It was decided in the meeting that based on the memorandum of understanding inked in the previous meeting of the two country's Joint Economic Committee, Iran and Qatar would expand their cooperation in all areas mentioned in the said document.

The Emir of Qatar also instructed the country's Minister of Commerce and Industry Ali bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari, who is the Qatari Chairman of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee, to finalize the documents regarding the expansion of economic cooperation between the two countries and implement the necessary decisions.

Exports to be boosted to Vietnam's market

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said Vietnam has become a new destination for Iranian commodities and Iranian exports to the country are increasing.

Speaking in a meeting with Iran's new envoy in the Asian country, Hamid Zadboum stressed the importance of this emerging market for the development of Iranian exports in Southeast Asia and mentioned some of the issues that should be pursued by the envoy.

Referring to the TPO's readiness for providing assistance in informing about the latest business decisions and initiatives in the country, Zadboum emphasized the significant role of his organization as a strong and effective arm of the Islamic Republic of Iran's trade abroad.

In this meeting, the officials also discussed the issues regarding the 10th meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting and stressed the need



for taking necessary measures to remove obstacles to Iran's exports to Vietnam and to include Iran in the list of countries allowed to export livestock products

to Vietnam.

Iran and Vietnam have been considering signing a preferential trade agreement in order to boost the level of trade between the two countries to \$2 billion.

Back in January, the mentioned subject, among others, was discussed during an Iran-Vietnam business forum which was held in Tehran.

Facilitating visa issuance for Iranian businessmen by the Vietnamese Embassy in Tehran and setting the stage for signing the preferential trade agreement and reaching a level of up to \$2 billion of bilateral trade were the main issues explored by the two countries' private sector representatives in the forum.

The value of trade between the two countries reached \$352 million at the end of the Iranian calendar year of 1397 (March 20, 2019), up over 100 percent from \$172 million in the preceding year.

Lamb consumption per capita falls to 8kg



ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The consumption per capita of lamb in Iran has decreased from 12 kilograms to eight kilograms, the head of Tehran Guild Union for Lamb Supply and Distribution, Ali Asghar Maleki, announced.

The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has 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.

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.

Europe's terror problem is not Islamic

➔ The common denominator in all of these terror events is not that the perpetrators were Muslims or that they were affiliated to Islamic State, Al Qaeda, or any other group, it is that the intelligence agencies of the various countries, in collusion with each other and working with the CIA and Mossad have been the architects of the events; they recruited the terrorists, they trained them, they provided their explosives and guns, they planned everything and cynically exploited the naive, impressionable young Muslim men they used to perpetrate the violence.

Why would the intelligence apparatus of the European continent and their American & Israeli allies do such a thing? We are talking about the cold-blooded slaughter of their own citizens, of murdering innocent civilians on the streets of their cities. The answer is both simple and disturbing – the demonisation of Islam and the Muslim portion of the population of Europe. Why would they seek to do this? How does it benefit the powers that be to paint the Muslim members of their citizenry as dangerous, potentially violent and murderous jihadis liable to slaughter their fellow citizens while shouting 'Allahu Akbar'?

The answer is twofold; firstly, they seek to create support among their populations for military interventions in West Asia – it is necessary to have the support of your public before you send in the warplanes to drop bombs and the troops to occupy. Secondly, it is the age-old strategy of divide and conquer in action – the divide they seek to create is



between the indigenous, largely Christian population of Europe and the large numbers of Muslims who have migrated to the continent in the last several decades. By creating such a divide, they render the entire populous an easily controlled and manipulated flock of sheep all too easily misled into supporting nefarious agendas, especially when the intended victims of those agendas are the Islamic nations of West Asia.

Would the people of Europe and America have allowed their governments to wage their illegal wars in Afghanistan

and Iraq without the motivation of the 'Islamic terror' attacks in New York and Washington on 11th September, 2001? It is highly unlikely, and I cannot help but wonder what further violent aggression is planned against West Asia and its largely Islamic population; we have already seen the perpetration of the terror attacks in Europe that would be cited as justification for further wars therefore it is only logical to suspect that plans exist for more wars.

Perhaps the root of the entire psychological warfare operation that is being

perpetrated on the people of Europe under the guise of 'Islamic Terror' is, ultimately, the plight of the Palestinian people and the genocidal Likudist regime in Israel. There is no doubt that Israel constantly seeks to leverage any opportunity to demonise Islam and paint Muslims as bloodthirsty, crazed terrorist 'jihadis' in order to justify, in the minds of the goyim of Europe and America, their continued murderous persecution of the Palestinians and their violent aggression against their Arab neighbours.

Therefore, I am convinced that, as long as the current corrupt, criminal Likud regime remains in power in Israel, Europe will continue to experience the phenomenon of 'Islamic terrorism' and it deeply sickens me that many of my fellow Europeans will be persecuted as a result, for the crime of being a follower of the Islamic faith. Be it the nice man from Turkey who cuts my hair or the doctor from Pakistan who cured my leg infection, in the eyes of the less well-informed, more easily influenced white Europeans, they are somehow less respectable, perhaps potentially dangerous, just because they happen to be Muslims and they have been conditioned to associate Muslims with murderous acts of terrorism.

Ian Greenhalgh is a British political analyst and historian with a particular interest in military history and the real causes of conflicts. His studies in history and background in the media industry have given him a keen insight into the use of mass media as a creator of conflict in the modern world.

Ottawa a heaven for Iranian fraudsters: HRC ambassador at large to West Asia

➔ "There are electoral interests that affect this approach, in which the politicians in America are a hostage of the Zionist institutes who control most of the political and economic centers," Abu Said notes. "Unfortunately, we see international negligence, and that is why those countries turn a blind eye to this regime."

■ "A formality"

"Despite what we see in terms of discrepancies on some files between America and Canada, this matter remains a formality," the HRC ambassador at large points out.

"We believe that these differences are to give the impression that these countries respect the laws and work according to international norms far from any political bias."

He adds when it comes to taking a position, especially in the Security Council, "we see that they are pursuing an accent different from what is prevalent in the meetings

and trying to reduce the impact of the resolutions in order not to embarrass the Israeli regime."

Noting that Ottawa has turned to a heaven for Iranians wanted over economic corruption, Abu Said says this policy dates back to the first days of victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran when Imam Khomeini toppled the Shah's regime.

"This was a slap in the face of Western superpowers, especially America and Canada," he maintains. "Western countries exploit opponents of the Iranian government and people who are accused of financial fraud to delude international public opinion and say that the Iranian people do not want the continuation of the current political system in Iran."

"They are trying to falsify the facts and say that they represent the country's intellectual majority that aspires to develop Iran and make it a model country like the West," Abu Said concludes.



Iran-Azerbaijan relations in the post- Karabakh war period

By Seymur Mammadov

TEHRAN — Despite ups and downs in Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan relations, the two countries' relations have entered a new, dynamic, and promising stage of development in recent years.

Azerbaijani-Iranian relations have deep historical roots. These peoples have lived side by side for centuries. The peoples of Iran and Azerbaijan belong to the Islamic world. Scientific, spiritual, and cultural ties have united these peoples throughout history. During the period from 2003 to 2018, Azerbaijani-Iranian relations in the course of their development went through several stages, in each of which bilateral relations have experienced ups and downs. However, since 2013, a new page has been opened in interstate relations, and Azerbaijani-Iranian relations have entered a new, dynamic, and promising stage of their development.

However, the participation of Azerbaijan Republic and Iran in the project of the international transport corridor "North-South", trilateral cooperation between Azerbaijan, Iran, and Russia, as well as between Azerbaijan, Iran, and Turkey, close ties between the political elites of our countries, as well as frequent meetings of representatives of Azerbaijan and Iran ensured a general improvement in Azerbaijani-Iranian relations at the present stage.

The transport corridor "North-South" plays an increasing role in bringing Russia, Azerbaijan, and Iran closer together, which contributes to the preservation of peace and security in the region. It is expected that a significant reduction in transport costs and transportation time from South Asia to Northern Europe will strengthen the geopolitical alliance and attract other countries to it, which will play an important role in the formation of a regional trade center and increase the

non-oil revenues of Azerbaijan and Iran. The transport projects "North-South" and "East-West" create a favorable transport network for the countries of Central Asia and form the transit potential of Azerbaijan and Iran, the joint development of which is a priority for both countries.

After signing the Caspian Convention in 2018, new opportunities for cooperation have emerged, primarily in the Caspian. The International Baku Port, today, is making every effort to become a regional transport and logistics center of Eurasia. The construction of new sea gates continues in the Alat settlement. Azerbaijan has already fully commissioned the first phase of the seaport in Alat. Iran has also fortified its ports in the Caspian. Given the existing infrastructure, it can be argued that the delivery of goods will be cheaper compared to other means of maritime transport, and the Caspian Sea will become an important platform for freight and passenger traffic between the two countries.

However, soon new opportunities for deeper cooperation will open between Iran and Azerbaijan. The liberation of the cities of Zangilan and Jibrail, as well as the historic Khudaferin Bridge as a result of the Second Karabakh War, and most importantly, the restoration of full control over the 132-kilometer section of the Azerbaijani-Iranian border will strengthen economic ties between Azerbaijan and Iran.

Four years ago - during the visit of President Ilham Aliyev to Iran on February 23, 2016, an agreement was signed on cooperation between the governments of Azerbaijan and Iran in the field of continuing the construction of hydropower facilities and hydropower plants "Khudaferin" and "Giz Galaxy" on the Aras river, their operation and use of energy and water resources ". This agreement proclaims the principles of respect for Azerbaijan and Iran's sover-



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eighty and territorial integrity, the same rights to water and energy resources of the «Khudaferin» and «Gyz Galasy» hydropower facilities. It also emphasizes the need to restore the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan in accordance with UN resolutions. In addition, the agreement reflects that the completion of the construction of hydropower plants and hydroelectric power plants, as well as the protection of water and energy resources at hydropower plants and hydroelectric power stations until the restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, will be provided by Iran. This agreement provides Azerbaijan's access to the occupied territories and makes it possible to carry out economic activities there. The agreement once again emphasized the belonging of these territories to Azerbaijan and completely excluded Armenia's rights to them.

At that time, some political forces argued that the hydroelectric power plants on the Aras River, the construction of which was provided for by the agreement, would allegedly serve to strengthen the communication link between Iran and Armenia. The political forces, who understood absolutely nothing about this

agreement's essence and strategic significance, presented it as if this document created conditions for the development of Armenian-Iranian cooperation.

Today, when Azerbaijan managed to fully restore the international border with Iran, it became clear once again that the political forces that criticized this agreement did not understand not only its political significance but also the processes of regional and global significance, including the growing authority, the military and political power of Azerbaijan. They were completely unable to analyze these processes and did not take into account the reality that the occupied Azerbaijani regions adjacent to the Iranian border would be liberated from the armed forces of Armenia. Here you can clearly see that in 2016 Iran and Azerbaijan agreed on the implementation of a very important agreement, which in the post-war period will give a great impetus to the socio-economic development of the region and will open up new opportunities between Iran and Azerbaijan in the implementation of infrastructure projects. An analysis of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Iran allows us to draw a general conclusion that at the present stage, Azerbaijani-Iranian relations are experiencing a new, dynamic, and promising stage in their development, which contributes to the strengthening of peace and good-neighborly cooperation in the region, the search for constructive answers to the challenges of the rapidly changing international situation. Now there is every reason to assert that after the end of the war in Karabakh, another new page will open in the relations between Iran and Azerbaijan in the post-war period. There is a lot of work ahead of both countries - Tehran and Baku have to fulfill their obligations to fulfill the agreement signed on February 23, 2016, in Iran.

Four injured in 'cowardly IED attack' on Remembrance Day service in Saudi Arabia

An explosion went off at the Non-Muslim Cemetery in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, today during a WWI commemoration event.

Brits were present at the ceremony, alongside consulate officials from France and other European nations.

Local police are treating the attack as terror-related and officers have arrested a man over the incident.

A police source said: "It is being investigated as a terrorist attack against foreign dignitaries."

"Those present included British, French and Greek diplomats. There are numerous casualties."

The source said a grenade was thrown over a wall and into the cemetery, while France's foreign ministry said it was an improvised explosive device (IED) attack.

Four people had been injured in the blast, including diplomats and Saudi guards, according to another source.

The attack happened when several diplomatic delegations from the European Union and other countries were present at a Remembrance Day event organized by the French embassy, a source told Reuters.

Assad says U.S. pressure, sanctions obstructing return of refugees

Syrian President Bashar al Assad on Wednesday blamed U.S. sanctions and pressure on the United Nations and Syria's neighbors for the reticence of more than 5 million refugees who fled the conflict there to return.

"There are many hurdles," Assad said, citing U.S. sanctions at the opening of a conference in Damascus, co-hosted by Moscow.

Of Syria's 17 million people, 5.5 million are living as refugees in the region, mostly in Turkey, and a further six million are uprooted within their own country.

Assad said millions of refugees were being forced to stay in host countries by "pressure or intimidation" and that host states were enticing them financially while benefiting from international aid for them.

Bahrain's prime minister dies at age of 84

Bahrain's long-serving Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has died at the age of 84, the royal palace has announced.

In a statement carried by the state-run Bahrain News Agency, the royal court said the premier passed away on Wednesday morning at Mayo Clinic hospital in the US.

The burial ceremony, it added, will take place upon the repatriation of Sheikh Khalifa's body and the funeral will be limited to a specific number of relatives.

A week of mourning has been declared in Bahrain over the prime minister's death.

Sheikh Khalifa, who had served as premier since 1970, was the longest-serving prime minister of any government in the world at the time of his death.

He survived a popular uprising that began in the Persian Gulf country against the ruling Al Khalifa regime in mid-February 2011.



Pentagon officials resigning after Trump's dismissal of Esper

The U.S. Defense Department is facing a flurry of resignations after lame-duck President Donald Trump fired Pentagon chief Mark Esper.

The Pentagon's top policy official James Anderson, the agency's top intelligence official Joseph Kernan and Esper's chief of staff Jen Stewart have reportedly resigned.

"I want to thank Dr. Anderson, Admiral Kernan and Jen Stewart for their service to the nation and the Department," acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller said in a statement. "Over their careers each has contributed greatly to the national defense and the future of the Department of Defense. We wish them the best in their next endeavors."

The resignations "could mark the beginning of a process of gutting the DoD – something that should alarm all Americans," House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith said in a statement released after Anderson departed.

Resistance News

Over 120 Palestinian inmates infected with coronavirus inside Israeli jails: Rights group

INTERNATIONAL DESK **TEHRAN**— A Palestinian human rights group says more than a hundred Palestinian prisoners have contracted coronavirus inside Israeli-run detention centers across the occupied territories, expressing grave concern over the health condition of the inmates.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) said in a report that eleven Palestinian detainees had tested positive for coronavirus in the Gilboa prison in northern Israel.

It added that the new infections brought to 123 the number of Palestinian inmates diagnosed with COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

The news came on the same day that a Palestinian prisoner suffering from laryngeal cancer passed away following a sharp deterioration in his health due to medical negligence, Press TV reported.

Qadri Abu Bakr, head of the Palestinian Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, said 46-year-old Kamal Abu Wa'er died on Tuesday, condemning his death as a premeditated crime committed by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) and holding Israeli authorities fully responsible for his loss.

Abu Bakr noted that the IPS was fully aware of the seriousness of Abu Wa'er's health condition, but it ignored numerous calls for his release.

He said such a crime demonstrates the failure of the international community and relevant institutions to hold Israel accountable for its violations, warning that the world's continued silence on these practices will embolden the Tel Aviv regime to continue perpetrating crimes against Palestinians.

Millennia-old hill in southwestern Iran demarcated

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — New boundaries have been defined for the ancient hill of Tal-e Khosro in the southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province to prevent further destruction and damage to the site.

Implemented by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, a demarcation project has recently been completed on the hill to eliminate threats of land-grabbing, illegal construction, or repurposing its lands to agricultural fields, CHTN quoted archaeologist Noruz Rajabi as saying on Monday.

Contrary to initial assumptions, the hill, which was one of the few permanent settlements on the southern slopes of Mount Dena, covers an area more than eight hectares, he added.



The remnants of a Qajar-era (1789-1925) fortification have been found in the most superficial layer of the hill during the excavations, while lower layers reach a settlement from the fifth millennium BC, however, most findings reveal that the hill dates back to the third millennium BC, he explained.

Locals believe that the name of Tal-e Khosro is derived from Kay Khosro, a legendary king of Iran of Kayanian dynasty and a character in the Persian poet Ferdowsi's epic book, Shahnameh.

Narratives say that when Kay Khosro came to the plain of Yasuj, he instructed his riders to each pile dirt on top of each other to form a hill. He then went to the top of the hill and chose his successor.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province is known for its nomads and nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

A brief history of Persian pottery

(Part 6/8)

HERITAGE ■ Early Islamic period

The most important information on early Islamic pottery was, for a long time, provided by the German excavations at the short-lived early Abbasid capital of Samarra. Later, several other Islamic sites were investigated and at the same time those enriched our knowledge of the subject.

■ Buyid Dynasty (932-1055 CE)

The most common type of pottery during the Buyid era was the so-called "guebri", better known as champlevé, ware. The decoration of this pottery comes very close to Sassanian metalwork and pottery. This ware, it appears, was produced at Zanjan, Garrus, Amol and Sari.

It was actually a kind of Sgraffito technique (the term champlevé is actually a metalwork technique and should not be applied for pottery), where the surface of the vessels, which always had a red earthenware body, was covered with thick white slip and the decorations were carved away. The vessels then were coated with transparent green or yellow lead glaze.

The decorations of these wares include floral, geometrical or epigraphic designs, and frequently human and animals figures as well. The types of vessels made include bowls, dishes, and jugs; even a few plaques are known.



■ Samanid Dynasty (819-999 CE)

The Samanids were probably one of the most important Persian dynasties in the eastern part of the Islamic world during the early Islamic period. Their realm included large centers like Samarkand (Afrasiab), Bukhara, Marv, Nishapur and Kerman. The most important contribution of Samanid artists to Islamic pottery-making was the invention and perfection of the slip painted ware".

There are several types of this ware known today, and in general can be divided into the following main groups black on white, polychrome on white, decoration on coloured ground slip imitation of monochrome lustre.

These slip-painted wares constitute a great advance in pottery decoration. Normally the pigment runs in the kiln under the lead glaze, as it was practiced in Mesopotamia in early Abbasid times on splashed wares. By the introduction of a ground slip and slip pigments, potters could control the designs while in the kiln, and thus were able to produce a great variety of surface decorations.

Perhaps the most appealing, and at the same time chronologically one of the earliest wares was the one which depicted epigraphic designs in manganese-purple on white or creamy ground slip and then was covered by clear glaze. The earlier the piece the finer the epigraphic decoration is. These are also legible, mostly including benedictory phrases. As time went on the epigraphic design became more and more decorative and less and less legible. The introduction of polychrome over white or creamy ground can also be considered as the second step in the development of slip-painted pottery. These polychrome painted wares were now decorated not only with epigraphic designs, but also with flowers, arabesques or even ewers or other vessels.

Explore celebration of colors and lights at historical Motamedi house

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — The extraordinary Motamedi house is overstuffed with nearly all Iranian traditional decorations in such a way that one may say it's a festival of colors and lights.

Located in Isfahan, known as 'half the world' among Iranians, the house is a blend of neoclassical and traditional Persian architecture and filled with chandeliers, mirrorwork, tilework, stuccowork, woodwork, stained glass, and woodwork.

Amid the eclectic jumble of objects and essences, one can find a fine example of a centuries-old house, where typical Iranian merchants lived in it. Some previous visitors have recommended others to tour it in the middle of the day if interested to witness the dancing colors of the light.

Also known as Mollabashi house, the monument originally dates back to the Zand era (1736-1795) and was purchased during the rule of Zell-e Sultan in Isfahan by Mollabashi, the astronomer of Naser al-Din Shah. Mr. Motamedi bought this house in 2001 and renovated the damaged parts of the house, which is renowned for its beauty in architecture and furniture layout.

The house can be divided into two portions: the living spaces and service spaces. In living spaces, you may be faced with warm and intimate, high energy and high



lighting, and in the service spaces, there are rooms for rest and business, in which space is more closed, more serious, and less decorated.

The striking interior design of entrance with mogharnas tiles, a polygonal room

with a water pond in the middle for use in the summer, a rectangular big room with a mirrored and fresco walls designed to host, celebrate & reception of special guests are only a few of the unique attractions of this beautiful historic house.

The exterior courtyard bears a cozy little garden with well-manicured trees, there is also a staircase leading visitors to the upper floor where the porch is located. A cozy room is located at the end of the courtyard, with windows facing the opposite street. In this room, all the objects and tools have their own history. The room seems more attractive in the evening when sunlight shines through.

From the courtyard or adjoining corridor, which is fully decorated as well, one can reach the summer alcove of the home that is a memorial to the Zand era of the country.

The inner courtyard is what one may expect from a historic home in Iran. This part completely preserved its historical space, and the nine doors and the five doors with that old woods gave a strange glory to space. It's full of beautifully colored paintings to add to the color of the building.

Isfahan is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its amazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people. The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings and the city's majestic bridges contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside.

Gondola lift threatens Hyrcanian forests UNESCO status

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Iran's UNESCO-registered Hyrcanian forests (also known as Caspian forests), dating back some 50 million years, could lose its prestigious UNESCO status if the project of setting up gondola lifts is implemented as planned.

Although parts of the Hyrcanian forests have been registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the follow-ups for setting up gondola lifts in this area continue and if this happens, the forest may be removed from the list, an official with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization has announced.

Spanning from the south of Azerbaijan to about 850 km eastward to the provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan, the Hyrcanian forests are witnesses of the ancient forests of the world since they have survived between 35 and 50 million years.

According to UNESCO, these forests are between 25 and 50 million years old. Their surface area was reduced during the Quaternary Period's dramatic climate changes and glaciations and expanded again when the temperatures stabilized.

"We have to be responsive not only to our country but also to the world for the damages done to this forest," ISNA quoted Reza Bayani as saying on Tuesday.

However, necessary permits for the project have not yet been issued by the Steering Council for Iran's UNESCO-registered Hyrcanian forests, he noted.

UNESCO has documented the existence of over 3,200 vascular plants and 58 species of mammals, including the iconic Persian panther and endangered wild goat in the forest.

Due to its isolation, the areas now protected by UNESCO are home to many endangered and endemic plant species at a regional and local level.

In July 2019, the UN cultural body designated the vast woodland as a World Heritage site, making it the second such Iranian natural site after Lut Desert, which was granted the tag in 2016.

According to UNESCO, the forest contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the



point of view of science or conservation. It also contains superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 24 UNESCO World Heritage sites Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Underway tourism projects to create over 580,000 job opportunities

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A total of 587,000 job opportunities will be generated by implementing over 2,400 tourism-related projects across the country.

Costing 1,370 trillion rials (around \$32 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials), these projects create job opportunities for 475,000 people during their implementation and for 112,000 people once they come on stream, IRNA quoted Mohammad Khayyatian, an official with the tourism ministry as saying on Tuesday.

Although the tourism sector has taken a major hit from the impact of coronavirus, it is expected to get back on the right track as soon as the coronavirus crisis comes to an end, the official added.

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

In August, Mounesan said that Iran's tourism has suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials



(some \$2.85 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The tourism industry of the country was growing and progressing well but unfortunately, it has faced the coronavirus outbreak, which brought the industry into a standstill."

Referring to the investment in the tourism sector he added that this volume of investment indicates that investors recognize the growing tourism sector as a new economy in the country and have high hopes for it.

"Many tourism projects have been completed, or are being implemented, showing that a very good capacity has been created in the field of tourism in

the country and [this trend] should not be stopped," he explained.

In late August, the tourism minister said the coronavirus pandemic should not bring traveling to a complete standstill. "Corona is a fact, but can the virus stop tourism? Certainly not. For us, the coronavirus is a new experience in dealing with crises that teaches tourism experts around the world how to deal with such a disaster, and thankfully governments are turning this into an opportunity for better planning."

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

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

He also announced that depending on the type and activity of the businesses, they could benefit from at least 160 million rials

(some \$3,800) to nine billion rials (some \$214,000) of bank loans with a 12-percent interest rate.

The loans will be allocated to tourist guides, travel agencies, tourism transport companies, tourism educational institutions, eco-lodges and traditional accommodations, hotels, apartment hotels, motels, and guesthouses as well as traditional accommodation centers, tourism complexes, and recreational centers, the official explained.

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

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

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

Iran seeking UNESCO tag for Ramsar landscape

➔ 1 Possibly the most scenic spot on the Caspian coast, Ramsar is where the jungle-clad lower ridges of the snow-topped Alborz tumble into the sea. It's a verdant, photogenic area, lush with orange groves, and there are walking trails into the nearby hills. Time seems to move more slowly here (especially once you leave the highway), and the town and its hinterland make a nice place to kick back for a few days, especially in spring and autumn.

Iran ranks 10th in the world in terms of the number of historical monuments and sites registered on the UNESCO

World Heritage list.

Amongst the UNESCO-designated sites in Iran are "Arg-e Bam" (Bam Citadel) that represents an outstanding example of an ancient fortified settlement, "Bisotun" in western Kermanshah province, which is notable for its Achaemenid-era inscription carved on a limestone cliff, lavish "Golestan Palace" in downtown Tehran which is a masterpiece of the Qajar era (1789 to 1925), and millennium-old "Gonbad-e Qabus" which is a mudbrick tomb tower for Qabus ibn Wushmagir.



Safavid-era cistern being restored to former glory

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — The historical Seyyed Jafari Ab-Anbar (cistern) in the city of Lar, the southern province of Fars, has undergone some rehabilitation works, a provincial tourism chief has said.

The project involves repairing the dome of the cistern, which has collapsed over the years, Mohammad Ebrahim Kian announced on Tuesday.

The budget of the restoration project has been provided by a benefactor, the

official added.

Dating back to the Safavid era (1501–1736), the cistern with a depth of about 20 meters from the ground and a storage capacity of five million liters of water, is one of the biggest of its kind in southern Iran.

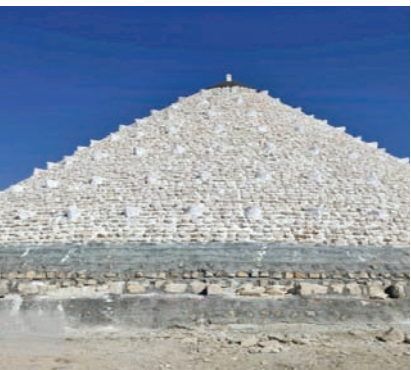
The cistern was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1976.

The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management

systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or on seasonal rainwater.

Such underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains.

Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.



Firefighting centers to be established in 6 provinces

ENVIRONMENT d e s k **TEHRAN** — Firefighting centers will be established over the next Iranian calendar year (starting on March 21, 2021) in six provinces of East Azarbaijan, Khuzestan, Mazandaran, Golestan, North Khorasan, and Khorasan Razavi, an official with the Department of Environment (DOE) has stated.

Given the sensitivity of proper protection of areas, funds were provided to set up firefighting bases in the provinces that are most prone to wildfire, Reza Hassan Harati stated.

These centers are established in Arasbaran protected areas in East Azarbaijan province, Shimbar in Khuzestan and Samsakandeh in Mazandaran, he noted, adding, in provinces of North Khorasan and Khorasan Razavi, there are two centers already, which will be renovated and turn into a firefighting base.

Each station, depending on the sensitivity of the areas and the credit given to them, is equipped with facilities such as heliport, water resources, fuel resources, stations for the forces to rest.

He went on to say that these stations will be operational by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year and the beginning of the next [Iranian calendar] year, for example, the initial steps are taken in Arasbaran.

In addition, the necessary instructions announced to the provinces to prepare for wildfire prevention and extinguishment as soon as the risk raises, he added.

Given that most of the protected areas are located in the highlands and in impassable areas, so a helicopter is needed to take forces to the area burning in the fire, he also said.

From the beginning of this [Iranian calendar] year to November 9, 7,017 hectares of areas under the management of the DOE haunted by wildfire, which in the same period last year 4,760 hectares were affected, so there is a 34 percent increase in fires.

Wildfire has burnt 7,017 hectares of areas under the management of the Department



Wildfire has burnt 7,017 hectares of areas under the management of the Department of Environment since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21). While in the same period last year, 4,760 hectares were haunted by fire, so wildfire has increased by 34 percent.

of Environment since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21). While in the same period last year, 4,760 hectares were haunted by fire, so wildfire has increased by 34 percent, Harati said a week earlier.

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have been designated for preservation and protection, including, national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas, and

natural national monuments, he explained, highlighting, currently, the DOE holds supervision over 18 million hectares.

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

■ **Humans the leading cause of wildfire**

Ali Abbasnejad, the commander of the forest protection unit of Forests, Range, and

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

He went on to add that some of the wildfires also are intentional acts of arson, some set fire to another's properties which is rooted in regional disputes.

"Some 83 percent of the country's total land area amounting to 135 million hectares is covered by natural resources. Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient human forces and facilities to protect our natural resources."

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

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

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

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

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

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

1,550 educational, welfare projects to be inaugurated

SOCIETY d e s k **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani will officially inaugurate some 1,550 educational, training, and welfare projects across the country on Thursday via video conferencing, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

The projects include 1,422 educational places with 8,051 classrooms, 124 training centers, and 4 welfare centers, measuring a total of 1.1 million square meters.



A sum of 360 trillion rials (nearly \$8.5 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) have been spent in this regard, the report added, highlighting that about 70 percent of the funds have been provided by the school renovation organization and the rest by school-building benefactors.

Mehrollah Rakhshanimehr, director of the Organization for Development, Renovation and Equipping, said in August that some 30 percent of the country's schools have been constructed by school-building benefactors; there are 450 school-building charities in Iran.

In line with the education reform plan, people who have a popular reputation are being invited as ambassadors to attract public participation for school construction even by buying a brick.

Iran has many school-building benefactors amounting to 650,000 people inside and 1,000 people outside the country.

There are some 107,000 schools nationwide with 530,000 classes, 160,000 of which are dilapidated, not meeting safety standards. Some 30 percent of the schools nationwide are old, of which some 12 percent must be completely rebuilt and 18 percent must be retrofitted.

The organization for renovation, development, and equipment of schools started operating in the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), which received a budget of 8.5 trillion rials (about \$200 million).

Renewable power 'defies' Covid-19 pandemic with record growth in 2020, says IEA

Growth in renewable sources of power reached a record level in 2020, "defying" the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, a new report from the International Energy Agency says.

The IEA report finds renewables will account for almost 90 per cent of the increase in total power capacity across the world in 2020.

The rise in clean power is being led by wind, solar and hydropower, the report says. The US and China are responsible for the newest additions to renewable power capacity in 2020.

"Renewable power is defying the difficulties caused by the pandemic, showing robust growth while others fuels struggle," said Dr Fatih Birol, the executive director of the IEA.

The rise in renewables comes as fossil fuels have struggled with the downturn in demand caused by international lockdowns. Oil prices crashed earlier this year as countries began issue lockdowns in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This left oil-dependent states, such as Nigeria, vulnerable to recession.

The net-installed renewable capacity will grow by nearly 4 per cent globally in 2020, reaching almost 200gw, according to the report.

"The renewables industry has adapted quickly to the challenges of the Covid crisis," the report reads. "We have revised the IEA forecast for global renewable capacity additions in 2020 upwards by 18 per cent from our previous update in May."

Renewable power is expected to surge further in 2021 to grow by a record 10 per cent, the report adds.

The rapid growth expected in 2021 is in part due to "the commissioning of delayed projects in markets where construction and supply chains were disrupted" by the pandemic, the report says.

The growth of renewables from 2022-2025 is less certain, and could rely on policy decisions in key countries such as the US and China, the report says.

"Renewables are resilient to the Covid crisis but not to policy uncertainties," said Dr Birol.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 55)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

متن
مَریمِ پارسا و مینوِ امامی دانشجویانِ دانشگاه تهران و دوستانِ نزدیکِ یانگ جو هستند.
مَریم بیست سال دارد و اَهلِ هَمدان است. او دانشگاهِ تهران را دوست دارد و در تهران با عَجه‌اش زَندگی می‌کُند. عَجه‌ی مَریم خانِه‌دار است. دُخترِ عَجه‌اش پَرستار است.
مینو بیست و یک سال دارد و اهل تهران است. پَدَرِ مینو کِتابفروشی بُزُرگی دارد و مادرش در دانشگاه کار می‌کُند. آنها در خیابانِ سَول، کوچه‌ی پَروین، زندگی می‌کُند.

Iran's demographic issue: fertility reaches lowest rate in 8 years

➔ Mohammad Jalal Abbasi, a demographic expert and head of the Population Association, said that usually when society is facing economic shocks and psychological crises, as in the current situation of a global pandemic, marriages and childbearing are even more affected due to fears of a vague future.

■ **Majlis draws up plan to encourage child-bearing**

Most recently, the Majlis (Iranian parliament) has developed a support plan to encourage families to increase childbearing.

The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

■ **Population growth policies**

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

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

Kimia Mohammadzadeh, a member of the working group for women's and family at the independent association of the University of Tehran, told Mehr news



The fertility rate of the country has experienced ups and downs over the past eight years; during the first half of the 1390s (2010s), the rate slightly raises from 1.75 to 2.07. However, it drops to a record low of 1.8 over the last [Iranian calendar] year.

agency that thus, instead of considering family support and youth marriage, policymakers adopt policies that lead to delays in marriage and family formation.

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

■ **Zero population growth within next century**

Nicholas Eberstadt, the Henry Wendt Chair in Political

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

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

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

At the beginning of the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), the country's population grew by 2.5 percent annually, however, suddenly, population growth reached about 1.5 percent in the 1980s, he highlighted.

■ **Iran: the world's oldest**

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

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

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

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

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ↔ چ

Miankaleh peninsula faces serious risk of disappearing

Hossein Ali Ebrahimi, head of Mazandaran province department of department, has said that almost 20 percent of the peninsula's wetlands have dried up.

Drought spell and climate change are two of the key factors contributing to the Miankaleh peninsula dryness, YJC quoted Ebrahimi as saying on Wednesday.

Unfortunately, the province of Mazandaran has also been negatively affected by climate change and less precipitation has increased the peninsula water deficits, Ebrahimi said, stating that additionally mismanagement, unsustainable agricultural practices, and severe depletion of the wells and groundwater resources have exacerbated Miankaleh peninsula's condition.

تالاب میانکاله در معرض خشکی کامل

حسین علی ابراهیمی مدیر کل محیط زیست استان مازندران ۲۰ درصد از تالاب میانکاله کاملاً خشک شده است.

به گزارش روز چهارشنبه باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان ابراهیمی ادامه داد: تغییرات اقلیم شده و خشکسالی نیز بر این تالاب تأثیر گذار گفت: متأسفانه استان مازندران نیز مانند سایر استان‌های کشور درگیر تغییرات اقلیم شده و خشکسالی نیز بر این استان تأثیر گذار بوده است به همین دلیل قسمتی تالاب میانکاله کاملاً خشک شده است. وی در ادامه افزود: علاوه بر تغییرات اقلیمی و کمبود نزولات آسمانی، نبود مدیریت صحیح منابع آبی برداشت غیرمجاز از چاه‌ها و و مناع آب زیرزمینی و کشاورزی ناپایدار در منطقه، وضعیت این تالاب بحرانی است.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The faithful are tied in kindness and affection together like members of a body, one's pain and hardship affect the others.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Resistance festival unveils official competition lineup

→1 “Pinocchio, Amu Sardar and Raisali” by director Reza Safi tells the story of Homayun, a young adult who begins to carry out research work on a national hero to win the best memory writing award at school.

“The Daughter of Iran” by Jalal Ashkezari is set in the 1980s, which is one of the most nostalgic eras of Iran’s history.

“Day of Chaos” by Behruz Shoeibi tells the story of Emad, a well-known cleric who committed grave errors in his individual and social responsibilities.

Also included are “Selfie with Democracy”, “When the Moon Was Full”, “The Undercover”, “Red Square” and “23 Individuals”.

“Selfie with Democracy” by Ali Atshani is about the Iran-Iraq war. It is a sequel to Atshani’s 2010 movie “Democracy in the Daylight”.

“When the Moon Was Full” by Narges Abyar tells the story of a woman from Tehran who marries a man from an Iranian province near the border of Pakistan. Soon after, she discovers that her new brother-in-law is a religious extremist trying to recruit her husband for his bloody cause.

“The Undercover” by Amir-Abbas Rabiei is about the activities of the Tudeh Party of Iran during the 1980s.

“Red Square” by Hassan and Hossein Seyyedkhani centers on the bloody bombardment of a football field by the Iraqi air force in the Chavar region, in Ilam Province in 1986.

“No Fly Zone” by Amir Dasargar is about three teenagers who are trying to make a drone to take part in an important competition. While they are preparing for the competition a cheetah appears in the area they are working in. They decide to find and save the cheetah.

“23 Individuals” by Mehdi Jafari is an epic movie about 23 young Iranian volunteers who were captives during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

“The Blood of Palm” by Syrian filmmaker Najdat Ismail Anzour will also be screened in the international competition.

The movie narrates the last days of the archaeologist Khaled al-Asaad, director of Palmyra antiquities who was publicly beheaded by ISIS because he refused to hand over the maps of the ancient sites in the city.

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

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

Valerie Trierweiler’s “We Give Each Other Some News” appears in Persian

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of Valerie Trierweiler’s book “We Give Each Other Some News” (“On se donne des nouvelles”) has recently been published by Qoqnu Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Abolfazl Allahdaadi.

For thirty years the fate of Valerie Trierweiler has been interwoven with the history of Paris Match, where she entered as a young journalist.

Accompanying twenty of her most unique articles, mixing reports and personal memories, she scrolls through her Match years, marked by exceptional encounters.

The game of memory and feelings leads her to confide her doubts and her joys, her commitments and nostalgia for the days before. She also tells of her reconstruction since the tornado of her departure from the Elysee Palace, until today experiencing “such a beautiful tomorrow.”

In this generous and tender book, the journalist interweaves her life, Paris Match and the collective history. Always honest, sometimes surprising, Trierweiler reveals herself and thus gives the readers the news.

Trierweiler is a French journalist and author. She has hosted political talk shows and has contributed to Paris Match.

She studied history and political science and obtained a Diplome d’etudes superieures specialisees in political science from the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne.

In 2017, Trierweiler published her first novel, “Le secret d’Adele”. The book is about the life of Adele Bloch-Bauer, best known for Gustav Klimt’s “Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I”.

Qajar-era paintings by Aqa Lotfali Suratgar added to National Cultural Heritage list

A R T TEHRAN — A collection of works by Aqa Lotfali Suratgar, a leading painter of the Qajar period who lived during the nineteenth century in Shiraz, has been inscribed on the National Cultural Heritage list.

The collection includes 16 artworks in the various fields of the Persian painting – miniature, which is preserved at the Pars Museum in Shiraz, the hometown of the artist, the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry (CHTHM) announced on Wednesday.

He had his own unique style in Persian painting, and was very skillful in drawing the floral motifs in this field.

He illustrated many stories from the Shahnameh, the epic masterpiece of Persian poet Ferdowsi, some of which have been selected for the collection registered by the CHTHM. The Reza Abbasi Museum alone holds 55 paintings of Shahnameh stories by Suratgar.

Several pen cases embellished with floral motifs by Suratgar are preserved in some Iranian collection, including the Reza Abbasi



A Persian painting by Aqa Lotfali Suratgar illustrating a story from Ferdowsi’s Shahnameh.

Museum in Tehran.

In addition, his paintings also enrich collections that are on display in museums in Leningrad, Paris and several other cities.

Most of the great ceiling paintings decorating the porch in Narenjestan Garden, a Qajar-era monument in Shiraz, were created by Suratgar.

His art also embellished covers of several rare books, which are kept at the Malek National Library and Museum, Golestan Palace, and the National Library and Archives of Iran.

He left the sense of art in his family as a legacy. His son, Mirza Mohammad-Ali Kahn, who was also known as Masud ul-Molk, was an outstanding calligrapher in Shiraz. In addition, his grandchild who was named after his grandfather Lotfali Suratgar, was a renowned poet and translator.

Aqa Lotfali Suratgar died in ca. 1870 and is buried in the Dar us-Salam Cemetery in Shiraz.

The CHTHM has recently registered two paintings by Mohammad-Hossein Shirazi, another artist who lived during the Qajar period, on the National Cultural Heritage list.

The artworks are also preserved at the Pars Museum.

Works by Iranian poet Garus Abdolmalekian published in Kuwait



Copies of “A Bridge That Doesn’t Lead Anybody to Home” containing the Arabic translation of Persian poet Garus Abdolmalekian’s works.

CULTURE TEHRAN — A selection of works by Iranian poet Garus Abdolmalekian has been published in Arabic in Kuwait.

Asghar Alikarami is the translator of the collection “A

Bridge That Doesn’t Lead Anybody to Home” released by Takween, a publishing house and bookshop in the country that has published works by world-renowned poets such as Rainer Maria Rilke, Anna Akhmatova, Sylvia Plath and Fernando Pessoa.

The collection is composed of 34 poems, including “World’s Pale Colors”, “Holes” and “Acceptation”.

Several Arab poets have made comments about the collection.

“This is the genuine poetry that takes us to the world of shadows, where there is no light except the light of poetry,” Kuwait-based Iraqi poet Mohammad Majed al-Etabi wrote and said that Abdolmalekian’s works are examples of such poetry.

Kuwaiti writer Hussain al-Motawa wrote, “If people ask me about poetry, certainly I tell them to read Abdolmalekian’s collection, an example of easy and discreet poetry.”

Bahraini poet Mahdi Salman said, “Garus Abdolmalekian enjoys an amazing imagination, which easily captivates the readers.”

The collection has been introduced by Takween at the Sharjah International Book Fair, which is currently underway in the third largest and third most populous city in the United Arab Emirates.

Takween has previously published works by Iranian poets such as Forugh Farrokhzad and Sohrab Sepehri.

An Arabic translation of the Persian novel “Prison for the Criminals” written by Kayhan Khanjani came out by the publisher in August.

Abdolmalekian’s poetry also appeals to publishers from other cultures. His poems have been translated into Arabic, French, German, Kurdish and Spanish.

He is presently the editor of the poetry section at Cheshmeh Publications in Tehran and the executive editor of publications at the Youth Poetry Office in Iran.

Penguin Books has published a selection of his poems in English in “Lean against This Late Hour” translated into English by Idra Novey and Ahmad Nadalizadeh.

A Swedish translation of a selection of his work was published in Sweden under the title, “Raderna byter plats i mörkret” in 2016.

He has not been unsympathetic toward what goes on in the world around him.

War, love and loneliness inspired his collection “The Middle East Trilogy: War, Love, Loneliness”, which was composed between 2014 and 2018.

The front cover of the book bears a picture by Iraqi photographer Ali Fahdawi, depicting a girl from Mosul who was fleeing along with her family from ISIS forces. The publishing house has bought the copyright to the picture, which was later titled “Mona Lisa of Mosul”.

Majid Majidi’s “Sun Children” to compete in Macao

A R T TEHRAN — Majid Majidi’s child labor drama “Sun Children” will be competing in the 5th International Film Festival & Awards, which will take place in Macao from December 3 to 8.

The film will go on screen in the Panorama section of the festival where celebrated directors and award-winning films from major international film festivals take part.

“Sun Children” has been selected to represent Iran during the 93rd Academy Awards in the best foreign-language film category.

The movie tells the story of 12-year-old Ali and his three friends. Together, they work hard to survive and support their families,



“Sun Children” by Iranian director Majid Majidi.

doing small jobs in a garage and committing petty crimes to make fast money. Everything changes, however, when Ali is entrusted to find a hidden treasure underground but must first enroll at the Sun School, a charitable institution that tries to educate street kids and child laborers.

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

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

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

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

“Another Round” by Thomas Vinterberg from Denmark, “A Balance” by Yujiro Harumoto from Japan, “Never Gonna Snow Again” by Malgorzata Szumowska and Michal Englert from Poland, “First Cow” by Kelly Reichardt from the U.S., and “My Little Sister” by Stéphanie Chuat and Véronique Reymond from Switzerland are among the films competing in the Panorama section of the festival in Macao.

Ebrahim Hassanbeigi’s “Muhammad” published in Ecuador

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Spanish translation of Iranian writer Ebrahim Hassanbeigi’s novel “Muhammad” has recently been published in Ecuador.

The book has been translated into Spanish by Angelica Maria Rojas and El Faro International Publishing House is the publisher of the book.

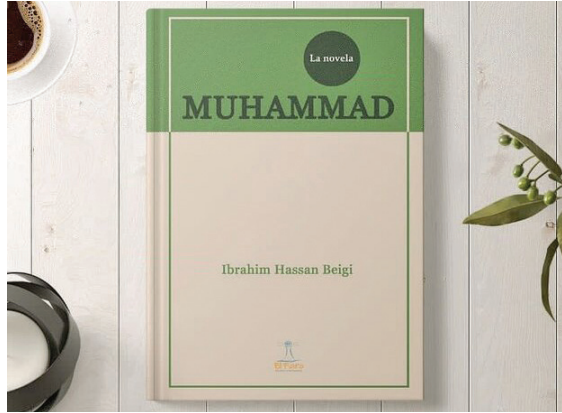
The book was published by El Faro in the Colombian capital of Bogota last year.

Venezuela will be the third destination of Hassanbeigi’s novel “Muhammad”.

In the novel, a Jew presents himself as a scientist, chosen by the Sanhedrin, the supreme council of Jews that controlled civil and religious law, to go to Mecca to kill the Prophet Muhammad (S) and to challenge his ideology.

“Muhammad” consists of 15 chapters and has been translated into Arabic, English, French, Turkish and several other languages.

The republishing of the book takes place in response to



Front cover of the Spanish version of Iranian writer Ebrahim Hassanbeigi’s novel “Muhammad”.

the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo’s republication of cartoons insulting Prophet Muhammad (S).

In September, Charlie Hebdo republished the cartoons to mark the start of the terrorism trial of the people accused as accomplices in the attack.

Afterward, French President Emanuel Macron exacerbated the anger among Muslims by supporting the cartoon and insisting on displaying it in public places, a move that was widely denounced in the Muslim world as promoting hatred against Muslims and creating fissures between Muslims and Christians.

Tehran strongly condemned Charlie Hebdo, saying any insult to the prophet of Islam and other divine prophets is not acceptable at all, while Muslims around the world, including political and religious leaders, condemned in the strongest terms the insulting cartoon, with some leaders even calling on Muslims to boycott French products in response to Macron’s insistence on displaying the blasphemous cartoons in public places.

“The Snake Tree” comes to Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — A new Persian translation of German writer Uwe Timm’s novel “The Snake Tree” by Hossein Tehrani has recently been published in Tehran.

Cheshmeh is the publisher of the book, in which Wagner’s luck changes and he becomes engulfed in a web of mayhem after running over an Acaray snake in South America.

A Persian translation of the book by Omid Ejtemaei Jandaqi was released by Ofoq in Tehran in 2010.

After working as a furrier, Timm studied philosophy and German in Munich and Paris, achieving a Ph.D. in German literature in 1971 with his thesis: The Problem of Absurdity in the Works of Albert Camus.

During his studies, Timm was engaged

in leftist activities of the 1960s. He became a member of the Socialist German Student Union and was associated with Benno Ohnesorg. From 1973 to 1981, he was a member of the German Communist Party.

He has also been a lecturer at universities in Paderborn, Darmstadt, Lüneburg and Frankfurt.

Timm started publishing in the early 1970s and became known to a larger audience in Germany after one of his children’s books, “Rennschwein Rudi Rüssel”, was turned into a movie.

Today, he is one of the most successful contemporary authors in Germany. His books “Die Entdeckung der Currywurst” (“The Invention of Curried Sausage”) and “Am Beispiels meines Bruders” (“In My

Brother’s Shadow”) can both be found on the syllabi of German schools.

His readers usually appreciate Timm’s writing style, which he himself calls “die Ästhetik des Alltags” (“the aesthetics of everyday life”).

Timm imitates everyday storytelling by using everyday vocabulary and simple sentences, and generally tries to imitate the way stories are orally told.

His works often indirectly link with each other by taking up minor characters from one story and making this character the main character of another work. For example, a minor character like Frau Brücker from “Johannisnacht” is taken up as a main character in his book “Die Entdeckung der Currywurst”.



Front cover of the Persian translation of German writer Uwe Timm’s novel “The Snake Tree”.

His works also tend to have autobiographical features and often deal with the German past or are set in the German past.