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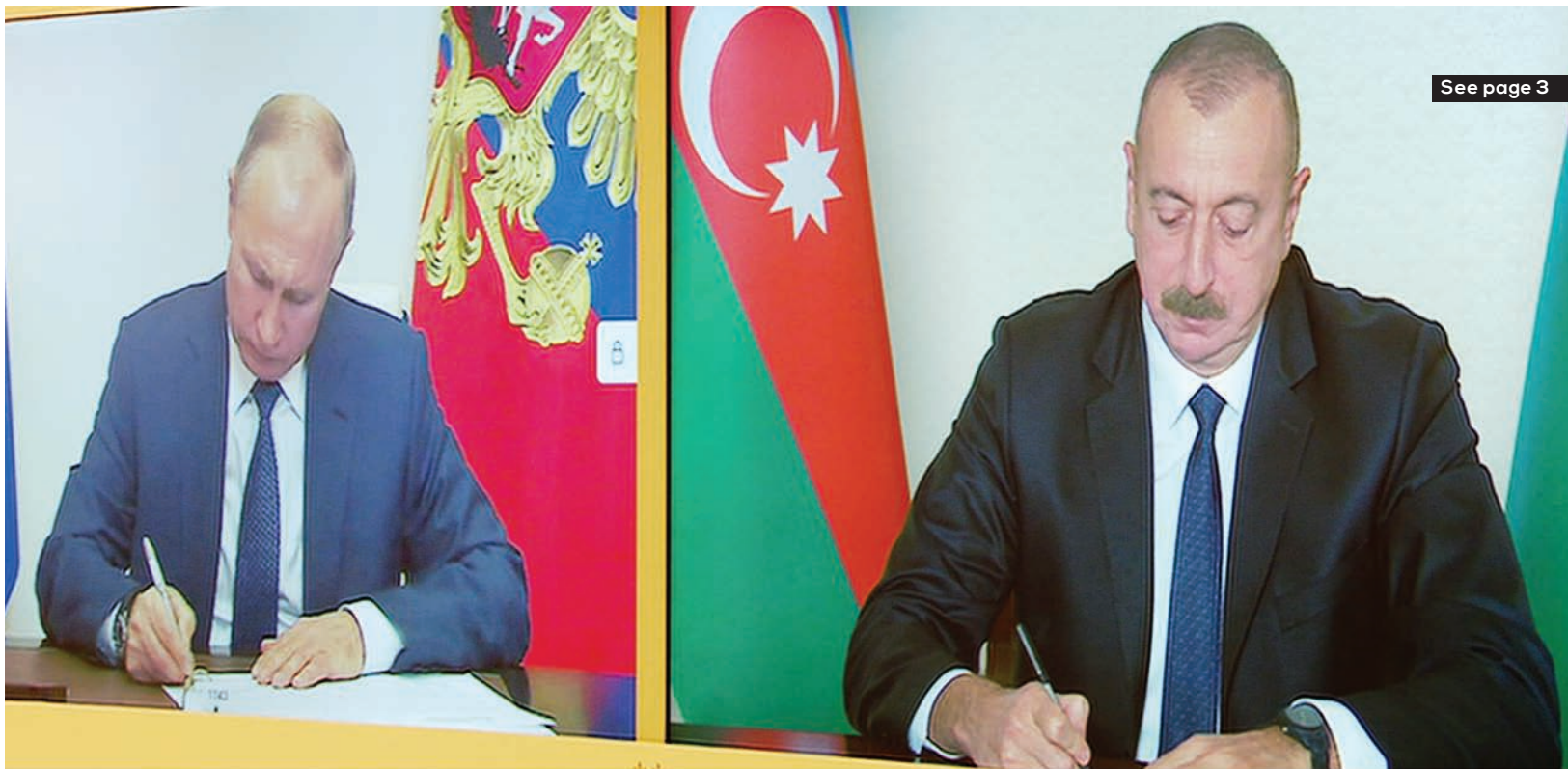
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## The hatred Trump injected into society pushed U.S. into a divided state: Kadkhodaei

**BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI**  
TEHRAN - Guardian Council spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhoda believes the hatred, especially racism, that Donald Trump has been injecting into the American society has pushed the United States toward a "divided state".  
In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Kadkhodaei points to the recent rift in the American society, saying "despite the economic growth" in the U.S.

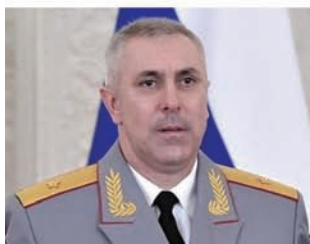
before the breakout of the Coronavirus pandemic, Trump's negative approaches have sparked "reactions which pushed American society to a divided state."  
According to Kadkhodaei, a law expert who has been serving in the oversight Guardian Council for many years, Trump has lost to himself "because of his own wrong policies" inside and outside the United States.  
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## Sponge iron production up 10% in 7 months yr/yr

TEHRAN — Production of sponge iron in Iran increased 10 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 previous year.  
More than 18.12 million tons of sponge iron has been produced in the seven-month period of this year.  
Iran's production of sponge iron has climbed six percent to 27.907 million tons

in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), from 26.359 million tons in its preceding year, according to the data released by Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).  
The country's export of sponge iron has also risen 77 percent in the past year.  
Meanwhile, sponge iron consumption in the country increased four percent to 26.965 million tons from 25.826 million tons on an annual basis.  
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# Vague peace in Nagorno-Karabakh



## Mourning at Home Short Film Festival honors winners

TEHRAN – Winners of the Mourning at Home Short Film Festival were honored during a ceremony held at the Rahe Iman Charity Organization on Saturday.  
The ceremony was attended by the executive secretary of the festival, Mohammad Rahbar, the president of the festival, Majid Majidi, and jury member Narges Abyar.  
The Mourning at Home Short Film Festival has been launched by the Rahe

Iman Charity Organization this year to encourage people to stay at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic and organize the rituals for their family members.  
The festival put its spotlight on short films covering the rituals Iranian families practiced in their homes to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) this year.  
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## Construction of PGSR a big step to nullify sanctions

**BY MAHNAZ ABDI**  
Persian Gulf Star Refinery in Iran's southern province of Hormozgan is the first of its kind designed based on gas condensate feedstock received from the South Pars gas field which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

Construction of the refinery started in 2006, but the project was delayed as the result of some mismanagement and also financial limitation due to the West-led sanctions against Iran.

As the largest processing facility for gas condensate in West Asia, PGSR is planned to play a big role to turn Iran into an exporter of gasoline.

This refinery has increased Iran's gasoline production to 110 million liters per day, while the country's consumption is 74 million liters.

PGSR has made Iran independent in gasoline production, while an exporter of the product, which has been a big step to nullify the U.S. sanctions.

The refinery's exported products during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) were 120 percent more than the products exported in the same period of time in the past year.

Such a noticeable increase has been achieved despite the sanctions, PGSR's Managing Director Mohammad-Ali Dadvar has stated.

Iran has always been considered an importer of gasoline in recent decades. As in the previous round of sanctions, one of the tools of pressure on Iran was the embargo on the sale of gasoline to the country.

Although those sanctions were lifted with the implementation of JCPOA (Iran's nuclear deal with the world powers, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), concerns about their return caused the construction of Persian Gulf Star Refinery to be pursued more rapidly and the different phases of this refinery to come into production one by one.

Finally, in January 2019, when the third phase of the refinery was inaugurated, Iran was able not only to eliminate the need to import gasoline but also to export surplus gasoline through the stock exchange and bring more income to the country.

Meanwhile, as Iran has expedited the development of the giant South Pars gas field, the PGSR will receive more feedstock and will produce more products as the result.

*Continued on page 4*

## Trumpism remains in American society as a deadly virus: historian

**BY MOHAMMAD ALI SAKI**  
TEHRAN — An American historian likens Trumpism to a "deadly virus" in the American society and politics that its efforts "have grown stronger in 2020".

Professor Ronald Grigor Suny says the presidential elections showed that a great number of American citizens don't approve of Trump's performance, however, he is refusing to concede defeat.

"The administration of Donald J. Trump is coming to an end, even though the president himself cannot bring himself to admit it," Suny tells the Tehran Times.

Although Trump lost the election, he won 71 million votes, leaving a deep divide behind him. "Even though voters knew who he is and the damage he has done," they voted for him, according to Suny.

President-elect Joe Biden narrowly defeat-

ed President Trump in Georgia, and Trump won North Carolina, as the two final states were called on Friday, a week and a half after Election Day.

Biden now has 306 electoral votes and Trump has 232. Biden became president-elect when he won Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes on November 7, passing the required 270-vote threshold.

On the reasons why a great segment of the Americans voted for Trump, the professor says these voters did not vote "out of ignorance but out of resentment at the liberal and urban and educated class that dominates" the United States' political world.

The history professor says, "The kind of America First (and to Hell with the rest of the world) nationalism represented by Trump has weakened the most powerful state in the world and made it an unreliable ally."

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## As Trump refuses to concede defeat, far-right groups show of support in Washington

Far-right groups and other backers of U.S. President Donald Trump plan to rally in Washington in a public show of support for his unsubstantiated claim of widespread voting fraud in the Nov. 3 election.

Republican Trump has refused to accept that he lost the election to Democrat Joe Biden, now president-elect, adding to tensions. Trump's supporters, including Republican lawmakers, have amplified his claims that the election was stolen from him, Reuters reported.

The protests in the nation's capital will bring together far-right personalities, including conspiracy theorist and Infowars broadcaster Alex Jones and self-described "American Nationalist" Nicholas Fuentes. The Oath Keepers militia and the far-right Proud Boys have also said their members are attending. Some left-wing groups are planning counterdemonstrations.

In addition to the Washington event, pro-

Trump protests and counter protests are planned in other major cities around the country.

"Heartwarming to see all of the tremendous support out there, especially the organic Rallies that are springing up all over the Country, including a big one on Saturday in D.C. I may even try to stop by and say hello," Trump wrote on Twitter on Friday.

Law enforcement had warned of potential violence around the election, including from extremist groups, which so far has not come to pass. Experts on extremist groups said that the Washington demonstrations had the potential to become violent if protesters clashed with counterprotesters.

Christopher Rodriguez, Washington's Homeland Security and Emergency Management director, said his agency was tracking about a dozen groups each made up of "about a dozen" people who had indicated they would attend on Saturday.

## Expert talks about FFIRI's chance of success in Wilmots's case

**BY FARROKH HESABI**  
TEHRAN — The Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran has recently issued a statement regarding the legal case of Marc Wilmots, the former head coach of the Iranian national team.

In October 2020, FIFA's Players' Status Committee sent a letter to the FFIRI, ordering the federation to pay a total sum of six million euros in compensation to the Belgian coach.

However, the Iranian football federation

decided to submit an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the FIFA's Players' Status Committee decision to dismiss the fine.

The FFIRI, in its statement, has declared that it has received the grounds of the decision on Nov. 3, 2020. So, the federation has 21 days to appeal against the decision to the CAS.

"The Football Federation has reviewed the grounds of the decision and has taken necessary measures to file a lawsuit. In this regard, the

federation will use all available legal capacities in the country, including the Deputy Minister of Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Sports and Youth, as well as Iranian sports lawyers," the statement reads.

Tehran Times asked an International expert lawyer, who has previously cooperated with the FFIRI, about the process of the appeal and the FFIRI's chance of success in its appeal against the FIFA's verdict.

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## India, Pakistan report deadly violence along Kashmir border

At least 10 civilians and five security personnel have been killed in cross-border shelling between India and Pakistan, in one of this year's deadliest days along the heavily militarized frontier separating the nuclear-armed rivals, officials said.

Indian officials said six civilians, three soldiers and a border guard were killed on their side, al Jazeera reported.

The Pakistan military said four civilians and one soldier were killed on the Pakistani side.

Twenty two others were wounded in the Neelum Valley region of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, a Pakistani civil administration official told Al Jazeera.

"Deaths and damage are being reported from across the Neelum Valley," said Safer Butt, the official.

Pakistan's foreign ministry has summoned a senior Indian diplomat to protest against the killings in Pakistan-administered Kashmir by Indian shelling, according to a statement.

The Indian diplomat was summoned to the foreign ministry in the Pakistani capital Islamabad to "underscore[e] that such senseless acts are in clear violation of the 2003 Cease-fire Understanding, and against all established humanitarian norms and professional military conduct", the statement said.

A day earlier, at least one Pakistani civilian, 55-year-old Muhammad Bashir, was killed due to Indian shelling the Rakhchikhri sector of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, about 80km (50 miles) southeast of the regional capital Muzaffarabad.

Three other civilians were wounded in Indian shelling in the village of Samni, roughly 150km (93 miles) southeast of Muzaffarabad, Pakistan's foreign ministry said.



## Blood donation in the time of corona

Iranian People all over the country are donating blood as the coronavirus pandemic has slashed the number of donors by around 20 percent over the past eight months.

Studies show that the plasma driven from recovered patients can be used in the treatment of COVID-19 with the help of the patient's immune system.

The best time for plasma donation is at least 14 and preferably 28 days after recovery, and donors should age 18 to 60 years.



## Iran dismisses report on Israeli killing of al Qaeda leader in Tehran

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh rejected on Saturday media reports claiming that Israeli agents shot al Qaeda's second-highest leader on the streets of Tehran.

Khatibzadeh strongly denied any presence of the terrorist group's members in Iran, advising the U.S. media not to be entrapped by the Hollywood-style scenarios invented by the U.S. and the Zionist regime's officials, Tasnim reported.

The New York Times reported on Friday that Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, accused of being one of the masterminds of the deadly 1998 attacks on American embassies in Africa, was killed in Iran three months ago.



Quoting unnamed intelligence officials, the Times said Abdullah, who went by the nom de guerre Abu Muhammad al-Masri, was gunned down on the streets of Tehran by two assassins on a motorcycle on Aug. 7, the anniversary of the embassy attacks. "He was killed along with his daughter, Miriam, the widow of Osama bin Laden's son Hamza bin Laden."

"That he had been living in Iran was surprising, given that Iran and Al Qaeda are bitter enemies," the Times claimed, adding, "American intelligence officials say that Mr. al-Masri had been in Iran's 'custody' since 2003, but that he had been living freely in the Pasdaran district of Tehran, an upscale suburb, since at least 2015."

According to Khatibzadeh, Al-Qaeda is a result of the wrong policies adopted by the U.S. and its allies in the region.

"In order to shirk responsibility for the criminal activities of that group and other terrorist groups in the region, Washington and Tel Aviv try every now and then to draw a link between Iran and such groups through falsification and the leakage of fabricated information to the media," the Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out.

"Although the U.S. has not refrained from leveling any false accusation against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past, such an approach has become a permanent modus operandi in the current U.S. administration, as the White House has attempted to make advances in implementing its Iranophobia plot by repeating such allegations," he added.

The spokesman further said such accusations are undoubtedly part of the full-fledged economic, intelligence and psychological war against the Iranian people, and the media should not act as a tribune for spreading the White House's purposeful lies about Iran.

## Three border guards martyred in clashes with terrorists

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Three Iranian border guards were martyred and two others were injured on Friday during a clash with terrorists in Iran's northwest region, according to a report by Iran's police.

The incident took place in the district of Targavar in West Azarbaijan Province, ILNA reported.

According to the report, the incident also caused major losses to the armed anti-Islamic Republic elements.

"With the dispatch of backup forces to the area and the border guards' resistance as well as their courage and self-sacrifice, the attack by the terrorists was repelled and their penetration into the holy land of the Islamic Republic was prevented," the report said.



Due to its borders with Iraq and Turkey, Iran's West Azarbaijan Province has been witnessing numerous clashes with elements of PJAK which is closely affiliated to the PKK terrorist group.

Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) regularly engage in clashes with terrorists attempting to infiltrate the Iranian borders in order to carry out acts of sabotage across the country.

The IRGC forces recently destroyed a team of terrorists in the vicinity of northwestern Iranian city of Maku in West Azarbaijan Province.

Back in May, the IRGC Ground Force in an operation destroyed a foreign-backed anti-revolutionary terrorist team in the western province of Kordestan.

According to the public relations department of the IRGC's Hamze Sayyid al-Shohada Base, its servicemen clashed with an eight-member anti-revolution team in Marivan, Kordestan province, killing two terrorists and wounding four others.

Earlier in May, the base had entered an armed clash with the terrorists near Divandareh, during which an IRGC serviceman was martyred.

In the same month, Iran's Intelligence Ministry forces identified and smashed two terrorist cells affiliated with "separatist" groups who had crossed the western border in the provinces of West Azarbaijan and Kordestan.

The forces arrested 16 members of the terrorist teams and confiscated 2 AK-47 rifles, 1 handgun, 2 grenades, and some ammunition.

# Biden to rejoin JCPOA if Iran returns to commitments: ex-Obama aide

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Robert Malley, a special assistant to former U.S. President Barack Obama, has said President-elect Joe Biden intends to join the Iran nuclear agreement (JCPOA) on condition that Iran comes back into compliance with the text.

"Iran says the same thing, namely that Tehran is ready to return under the JCPOA if the United States does the same. Both parties have an interest in it," Malley said in an interview with Le Point published on Friday.

He said the Islamic Republic wants an economic lull, and the Biden administration does not want another crisis with Iran.

"A priori, the laws of political gravity mean that the two countries will probably move in the same direction on this point," he added.

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018 and imposed the "toughest ever" economic sanctions on Iran. Trump's Iran policy has been described by observers as an abject failure.

Malley pointed out that there are still headwinds for the two countries to come closer, including Iran's demand of financial compensation because it did not benefit from the lifting of sanctions on the economic level.

He said it's highly unlikely that the Biden administration would accept that.

"Then there are different approaches to the sequence of American and Iranian returns under the nuclear deal and they will have to be reconciled. In addition, the Trump administration has built a wall of sanctions against Iran, and con-



tinues to do so as it is on its way out," he remarked.

"Admittedly, the elected president can cancel them, but these measures aim to make politically difficult an American return to the JCPOA," he added.

Malley, who is currently the president and CEO of the International Crisis Group in Washington, D.C., referred to Iran's upcoming presidential elections,

saying the upcoming polls risk making the domestic political scene more divided and less likely to accept a compromise.

He argued that the Trump experience proves to the Iranians that the commitments of one president can be easily erased by another, hence a lack of confidence.

But despite all these difficulties, he continued, "it seems to me that each side has more to gain from returning to the

**"There is a total lack of confidence on the part of the Iranians, who have the conviction, not necessarily illegitimate, that the next American president will hasten to tear up the agreement which will have been resuscitated by Joe Biden."**

## Iran placed no order to buy Russia's S400- missile system: advisor

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Mehdi Sanaei, a top advisor to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, says Iran has not placed an order to purchase S-400 missile systems from Russia.

In a TV interview on Friday evening, Sanaei said Iran and Russia enjoy close cooperation, which has led to Iran's purchase of S-300 missile system from Russia.

He said it is claimed sometimes that the Russians did not sell their S-400 missile systems to Iran. "This is while we've never placed an order to buy the S-400," added Sanaei, Iran's former ambassador to Moscow.

Back in March 2017, the Iranian Armed Forces successfully tested S-300 surface-to-air missile defense systems, which Iran imported from Russia after a decade-long delay due to sanctions over its nuclear program.

Iranian experts conducted a number of tests on the Russian missile systems during the drills, which were held at the presence of several military and government



officials in one of the country's defense units. The tests included all phases of performance, namely

detection, identification, interception and target shooting.

Last year, Russia said it was ready to deliver its S-400 air defense missile systems to Iran but added that it had not yet received any official request from the Islamic Republic for such a sale.

"We are open for discussions on delivering S-400 Triumph air defense systems, including to Iran. Especially given that this equipment is not subject to restrictions outlined in UN Security Council's resolution issued on June 20, 2015," a representative of the press service of the Russian Federal Service of Military-Technical Cooperation said in July 2019.

In a report published on May 30, 2019, Bloomberg claimed Russia had rejected Iran's request to buy S-400 missile defense systems, "concerned that the sale would stoke more tension" in West Asia.

But a Russian deputy prime minister later rejected the Bloomberg report.

## Israel after establishing ties with regional countries: Rezaee

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Secretary of Iran's Expediency Council Mohsen Rezaee has said with the role of the United States diminishing in the region, Israel is seeking to establish ties with regional countries, Mehr reported.

"The Zionist regime knows that in the future, after the diminishing of the U.S. role in the region, it will face a security vacuum, therefore it is after establishing relations with countries of the region," Rezaee said in a local ceremony on Friday.

He also said Iran's security strictly hinges on the security of the region, adding that if Iran fails to be present outside its borders, it will face problems inside the country.

Rezaee was referring to the U.S.-brokered normalization agreements between Israel and Iran's two southern neighbors, the UAE and Bahrain, which seek animosity with Iran.

Observers say the normalization deals were foisted upon the two Arab countries by Trump so as to boost his chances of re-election.

Since U.S. President Donald Trump assumed office in January 2017, Israel, Saudi Arabia and certain Arab countries have pushed for a harsher U.S. foreign policy against Iran.



They supported Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal — which was clinched under Barack Obama — and cheered the U.S. president for his subsequent sanctions on Tehran that caused more than two hundred billions of dollars in losses.

Seeing a probable end to the hawkish policies of the White House against Tehran, the Israeli regime warned earlier this month that there could be an Israel-Iran war if Biden wins the U.S. presidency.

"Biden has said openly for a long time that he will go back to the nuclear agreement," Israeli Settlements Minister Tzachi Hanegbi said on Wednesday, reported the Jerusalem Post. "I see that as something that will lead to a confrontation between Israel and Iran."

## Russia says not ruling out possibility of U.S. returning to JCPOA

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that Russia does not turn down the possibility of U.S. returning to Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Speaking in her weekly press briefing on Friday, she reiterated, "We do not reject the possibility of U.S. returning to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal, JCPOA."

In response to a question on the Russia's evaluation of the possibility of U.S. return to JCPOA and listing of anti-Iran sanctions, she said, "We do not rule out the possibility of U.S. return to JCPOA and we have not ruled it out in the past."

Over the past two years, "We have repeatedly emphasized the need for implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and also lifting of sanctions imposed by U.S. against Iran."

She reiterated that the possibility of reviewing and revising JCPOA should be eliminated and it should not be allowed issues outside the framework of this agreement to be raised, especially issues not related to Iran's



nuclear program."

Zakharova said that integrity of JCPOA and U.S. Security Council Resolution 2231 must be maintained, adding that Washington must fulfill all its obligations under JCPOA.

Donald Trump withdrew U.S. from JCPOA in May 2018 and reinstated sanctions which were lifted under the deal at two stages against the Iranian nation.

However, U.S. officials including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have recently claimed that the United States remains in JCPOA and called for an extension of arms embargoes on Iran and use of trigger mechanisms to reinstate sanctions against Iran that international community did not agreed with it.

## No particular tension between Iran, Bulgaria: envoy

**TEHRAN (IRNA)** — Iran's Ambassador to Bulgaria Mohammad Javad Rasouli said on Friday that bilateral relations between the two countries have always been friendly and respectful, and there has never been special tension between Tehran and Sofia.

Talking to Bulgarian National Radio on the occasion of 124th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, he congratulated the two nations and governments on the event, saying that relations between Iran and Bulgaria are historical and long-standing that even unofficial ties date back to centuries ago.

Iran was the first Asian country to recognize Bulgaria's independence, and Bulgaria was the first Eastern European



country to officially recognize the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said.

Despite some ups and downs in relations, the two countries have always enjoyed friendly and respectful bilateral relations throughout this 124-year period, and there has never been any particular tension between them, he said, noting that at present, the relations between the two countries are being strengthened in all fields.

Asked in what areas Iran and Bulgaria could deepen their future cooperation, he said that despite the great potential for cooperation in the field of economy, trade and tourism, collaboration in these fields has not progressed to the extent it has in political and cultural relations.



SPORTS

Expert talks about FFIRI’s chance of success in Wilmots’s case

➡ “Considering the grounds of the verdict, the important thing is to submit an appeal statement in due time. The appeal and the statement of defense must be legally comprehensive. The process of defense at the CAS includes both the verbal and written bill contrary to the FIFA’s disciplinary process, which is based on the non-attendance process,” the expert, who didn’t want to be named, said.

In its statement, the football federation asked the national media and press not to circulate and publish documents related to Wilmot’s case to avoid speculations and undue comments that might be used against Iran’s appeal by the CAS.

According to the FIFA verdict, the Iranian Football Federation will have to pay compensation in excess of six million euros (6,137,500 euros) to the 51-year-old coach as compensation for breach of contract plus 5% interest from 21 Jan. 2020 until the date of effective payment.

“The main reason for filing a complaint (by the former coach) is the complex problems related to the contract’s execution and failing to pay his salary on the due time,” the International sports lawyer said to Tehran Times.

Hamed Haddadi misses FIBA Asia Cup Qualifiers

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iranian center Hamed Haddadi will be absent for Window 2 of FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers.

The 35-year-old Iranian had a triple-double of 21 points, 22 rebounds and 16 assists to power the Sichuan Blue Whales past the Shenzhen Aviators 100-92 on Friday.



“Hamed Haddadi cannot join us because he has to accompany his Chinese team in CBA. We hope Behnam Yakhchali and Aaron Geramipour can enter the camp in the coming days,” Iran assistant coach Mehran Atashi said.

“We want to arrange at least a warm-up match ahead of the window. Syria have been strengthened for the competition and Saudi Arabia are an experienced team. We respect our opponents,” he added.

Iran are scheduled to meet Saudi Arabia and Syria on Nov. 27 and 30 in Doha, Qatar.

There are 24 teams competing in the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers. Once the three windows of the Qualifiers conclude, the top two teams in each group will qualify directly to Asia Cup 2021. The six last-placed teams in each group are eliminated.

Meanwhile, the six third-placed teams in each group will then play in a separate qualifying tournament. Teams will be placed into two different groups of three teams. The top two teams of those respective groups will then lock in their spots at Asia Cup 2021, completing the 16-team roster who will also compete in the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers.

FIFA President sends condolences for death of Mahmoud Yavari

SPORTS TEHRAN — FIFA President Gianni Infantino sent his condolences to the Iran Football Federation and to the family, friends and loved ones of Mahmoud Yavari.

Former Iran coach Yavari died on Nov. 10 at the age of 81.

“On behalf of the international football community, I wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Iran Football Federation, and to his family, friends and loved ones. Our thoughts are with all of you. We hope that these memories and our words of support may help bring some peace and solace at this difficult time” FIFA President Infantino said in his condolence message to Iran.

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

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

Bosnia match helped us improve: Saeid Ezatolahi

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iran national football team midfielder Saeid Ezatolahi says that the friendly match against Bosnia and Herzegovina helped them identify their weaknesses and strengths points.

Iran defeated the Bosnian team 2-0 in a friendly match on Thursday as part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers. Ezatolahi, who came off the bench in the 76th minute, assisted Mehdi Ghaedi to score a late goal.

“These kinds of the warm-up matches can be helpful for the coaching staff to know players more after the Asian qualifiers were postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic,” the Vejle Boldklub player said. “I hope the football federation can arrange more friendlies like this because it can help the coaches identify our weaknesses and strengths points,” he added.

“We have a difficult task ahead to qualify for the 2022 World Cup, but I am sure we can accomplish anything with determination and make our people happy. I think these training and friendlies can help us achieve more harmony,” Ezatolahi, who represented Iran at the 2018 FIFA World Cup, said.

“Our players showed dedication to the team against Bosnia and Herzegovina and did not stop trying until the very last moment of the game. This was our strengths point in this match,” Ezatolahi concluded.

Iran, Iraq defense ministers hold talks in Tehran

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iran’s Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami met on Saturday with his visiting Iraqi counterpart Juma Inad Saadoun.

Heading a high-ranking delegation of Iraqi military commanders, Inad Saadoun visited Tehran at the formal invitation of the Iranian defense minister.

During the meeting, Hatami said Iraq now enjoys better security than in the past, adding that Iran will continue to support the political process and the stability and security of Iraq and its territorial integrity.

According to the Iranian defense minister, good cooperation has been established between Iran and Iraq during the fight against terrorism, and Iran considers it a good model.

“We consider the development of Iraq as a prerequisite for establishing stability and security in that country, and we are ready to participate in the reconstruction and



development of Iraq,” Hatami was quoted by Fars news agency as saying on Saturday.

Hatami also pointed out that Iran believes that the countries of the region must

ensure and manage the security of the region themselves, and that stability and peace will not be possible as long as the trans-regional forces are present and involved.

He also took a jab at some regional countries that have recently established diplomatic relations with Israel, saying Iran views normalization deals between Israel and Arab countries as “a betrayal of all Muslim nations.”

Hatami also expressed Iran’s readiness to boost Iraq’s defense capabilities and meet the needs of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

For his part, Inad Saadoun appreciated Iran’s support for Iraq in the fight against the Daesh terrorist group, saying the Iraqi people will never forget the advisory and weapons support of Iran for Iraq during the fight against Daesh.

The Iraqi defense minister said the first goal of his trip to Iran is to boost and strengthen the relations between the two countries and the other goal is to get acquainted with the scientific and technological achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran and gain valuable experiences in defense.

Vague peace in Nagorno-Karabakh

Araghchi dispels rumors about Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire deal

POLITICAL TEHRAN — The Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement that has recently been reached between Azerbaijan and Armenia was so much ambiguous that promoted wild rumors and speculations in Iran, a move that prompted Iranian officials to provide clarifications on the agreement.

Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Iran’s deputy foreign minister for political affairs, dispelled rumors and speculations that Iran’s borders with Azerbaijan and Armenia have been affected by the recent Russian-brokered ceasefire deal between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Araghchi called these rumors “baseless,” saying that “there will be no change in Iran’s transit routes to Armenia or the Republic of Azerbaijan.”

“Unfortunately, disinformation and misleading information along with fake maps is being spread in cyberspace. Claims such as cutting Iran’s border with Armenia, creating a corridor inside Armenia or even inside Iran, changing the geopolitics of the region, etc. have been raised but they are fundamentally untrue and being spread for specific political and propaganda purposes,” the deputy foreign minister said in an interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) on Friday night.

On November 10, the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Russia issued a late-night joint statement declaring a Russian brokered agreement to put an end to the long-running conflict in the volatile region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The agreement, which ended the several-week-long deadly war between Baku and Yerevan, established a “complete ceasefire and a cessation of all hostilities in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh.”

The Azerbaijan-Armenia war broke out on September 27, when the troops of the two sides began exchanging fires along the contact line in Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed region internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but was controlled by ethnic Armenians. After nearly 44 days of fighting, Azerbaijan succeeded in taking back several areas in the region that were previously under Armenian control but it refused to advance further after taking the strategic city of Shusha. Armenia agreed to return the remaining cities to Azerbaijan in a few weeks.

According to the Russian-brokered peace agreement, “the Republic of Armenia shall return Kalbajar district to the Republic of Azerbaijan by 15 November 2020 and Lachin district by 1 December 2020, while retaining the Lachin corridor (5km wide), which shall provide a connection of Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia and shall not affect the city of Shusha.”

But the 9-clause agreement included another provision that sent shockwaves throughout the region. Clause 9 of the agreement stipulates that “all economic and transport links in the region shall be restored. The Republic of Armenia guarantees the safety of transport links between the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in order to organize unhindered movement of citizens, vehicles and goods in both directions. Control over transport shall be exercised by the bodies of the Border Guard Service of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia.”

It further stipulates that by agreement of Armenia and Azerbaijan, “the construction of new transport communications linking the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with the western regions of Azerbaijan shall be ensured.”

Long conversation

The agreement did not give further detail about the Nakhchivan-Azerbaijan corridor, a move that paved the way for some social media users to spread rumors and maps alleging that the corridor will cut Iran’s transit route to Armenia and therefore change the geopolitics of the region. One map that has been widely circulating on social media purportedly showed that the corridor cuts the transit route between Iran and Armenia but Araghchi said these maps are baseless and that there were no plans to create a corridor along Iran-Armenia borders. Araghchi himself posted a map on his Telegram channel showing Iran-Armenia borders were intact.

“As can be seen in this map, the much-discussed issue of creating a geographical corridor along the border between Iran and Armenia is completely unfounded,” asserted Araghchi, referring to the map he has published.

According to the Iranian diplomat, the corridor is yet to be completely known.

“What is stated in the Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire agreement is the creation of a road corridor, or rather a transit route, inside

Armenia from Nakhchivan to the mainland of Azerbaijan, the security of which will be guaranteed by Russia, and the exact route is still unknown,” noted Araghchi, adding, “This is not a new idea and it has a long history, and if it is implemented, which is dependent on a thousand of ifs and buts, it will not make any change in Iran’s transit routes to Armenia or Azerbaijan.”

Araghchi also said that he held “long” talks with the Russian ambassador to Iran in this regard on Wednesday evening.

“However, our consultations with all parties continue. On Wednesday evening, I had a long conversation with the Russian ambassador in Tehran about this,” Araghchi said.

Diplomacy in action

The deputy foreign minister recently undertook a shuttle diplomacy to help end the war in Nagorno-Karabakh. He embarked on a regional tour that included four countries involved one way or another in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to present an Iranian peace initiative. These countries were Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, and Turkey.

Visiting the four countries as the special representative of the Iranian president, Araghchi said, “The main purpose of the visit is to present the proposed initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to resolve this conflict and achieve a lasting peace between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan and, consequently, the region.”

He made these remarks shortly after arriving in neighboring Azerbaijan, adding that the Iranian peace initiative was “capable of bringing the situation to lasting peace and put an end to the existing disagreements and, of course, the occupation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.”

In Baku, Araghchi held detailed talks with the Azerbaijani leadership to help bring peace to the war-torn region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

“Introduced Iran’s Regional Initiative to Help in Ending the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict to H. E. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, in a positive and constructive long meeting,” the deputy foreign minister said in a tweet following a meeting with President Aliyev.

Hikmet Hajiyev, an assistant to the Azerbaijani president who met with Araghchi, said the Iranian diplomat held a “very fruitful” talks with the Azerbaijani officials.

“Araghchi, indeed [held] very fruitful meeting. Azerbaijan and Iran have strong ties of friendship and good neighborly relations. Thanks for your condolences to Azerbaijani martyrs who liberate our lands from occupation and civilians who become target of Armenia’s War Crimes,” Hajiyev said in a tweet after Araghchi left Baku for Moscow.

Azerbaijani highly valued Iran’s efforts to establish peace in Nagorno-Karabakh.

“We highly value the efforts of the friendly Iranian state to resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, including the visit of the Special Envoy of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi to the region and the initiative on the settlement of the conflict as soon as possible,” the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said in a statement in early November.

After Baku, Araghchi visited Moscow to make a pitch for peace in Nagorno-Karabakh. Then he left Moscow for Yerevan, where he met with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. On the final leg of his tour, the deputy foreign minister visited Ankara and met with his Turkish counterpart Sedat Onal.

Geopolitical redline

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in early November that Araghchi held ‘very good’ talks during his regional tour.

The chief Iranian diplomat said his aide “went on this trip with an initiative that was discussed in our country and approved by the relevant authorities, and after visiting the border area, he held very good talks with various officials” in Baku, Moscow, Yerevan, and Ankara.

Ensuring the people’s rights, establishing communication channels, creating a mechanism for countries of the region to monitor the implementation of the initiative were parts of the peace plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, according to Zarif.

The Iranian peace initiative was a result of many serious concerns in Tehran. The first concern has something to do with the presence of terrorist forces in the conflict zone which is located just a stone’s throw from Iran’s borders. Zarif has said that Iran is “almost certain” that the terrorists were present in

the conflict and that it has warned the countries involved in the conflict that it will not tolerate their presence on its doorstep.

“As for the terrorist forces, we are almost certain that they were present in the midst of the conflict, and we emphasized that this is not in anyone’s interest. In recent and even earlier negotiations, we have informed the authorities of Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as Russia and Turkey, that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not tolerate such a thing,” Zarif cautioned.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has also warned about the presence of terrorists in the conflict zone, saying reliable reports indicate some terrorists are involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

“If these terrorists operate near Iranian borders and if we feel they pose a danger to our country, they will definitely be dealt with seriously,” he warned. “They mustn’t come near Iran’s border.”

The second concern that Iran has clearly voiced over the course of the Nagorno-Karabakh war is directly related to the geopolitics of the region. In other words, Iran expressed concerns over the change of internationally recognized borders in the south Caucasus region.

Iran has deployed additional troops and military equipment along its borders with Armenia and Azerbaijan in an effort to prevent any change in the geopolitics of the region and international borders.

Senior Iranian military officials made it clear that Iran considers international borders of the regions as inviolable. Therefore, it will not accept any changes in the official international borders.

“Respecting the territorial integrity of countries and preserving the official international borders are among our well-known principles and we will not tolerate any changes in these borders. We have opposed these changes and will continue to do so,” said Major General Seyed Abdolrahim Mousavi, the commander of Iran’s Army, as Araghchi began his regional tour.

Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Ground Forces, also echoed the same red line while visiting Iran’s north-western borders.

“We will not accept change in the geopolitics of borders. This issue is the red line of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Pakpour asserted.

Despite these clear warnings, Iran has welcomed the Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement, which will lead to the creation of the Nakhchivan-Azerbaijan corridor. This corridor has concerned many analysts in Iran who say the corridor should not cut off Iran’s transit route to Armenia.

On the other hand, the countries involved in the corridor – Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan- did not provide any details as to where the corridor will be created and how it might affect Iran-Armenia and Iran-Azerbaijan trade.

Of course, Iran did not oppose the corridor. In fact, Iran welcomed the ceasefire agreement. The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Tuesday welcoming the trilateral peace agreement. The statement said that the agreement is similar to the peace initiative that Iran has recently presented to Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Armenia.

“Iran hopes the agreement whose principles had also been mentioned in an initiative put forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran will lead to final arrangements to establish lasting peace in the Caucasus region in such a way that it will bring tranquility and welfare for people in all regional countries and ease existing concerns,” the statement said.

The Foreign Ministry of Iran also used the opportunity to once again underline “the necessity for respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other countries” and “a lack of change in internationally recognized official borders.”

The Nagorno-Karabakh peace agreement is vague and lacks transparency. It’s not clear yet where the Nakhchivan-Azerbaijan corridor will be created and does it have something to do with the corridor linking Armenia to the Armenian enclave in Nagorno-Karabakh? Why did the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia decide to keep Iran in the dark about the ceasefire agreement while Iran shares long borders with both sides of the war and was directly affected by the conflict?

It remains to be seen whether the ceasefire agreement would continue this time or will soon collapse just like previous ceasefires, which failed because they were not reached through collective diplomacy among all players in the region.

G77, China reaffirm support for JCPOA

POLITICAL THERAN — A coalition of 134 developing countries, known as the Group of 77, and China have expressed support for a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, saying the nuclear deal “is a concrete case of a successful multilateral action for resolving outstanding global issues.”

“The Ministers reaffirmed the importance

of supporting and strengthening multilateralism, and, in this regard, recognized that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the other parties is a concrete case of a successful multilateral action for resolving outstanding global issues, stressed that such model sets a real example for further accelerating the achievement of sustainable development

including by strengthening international cooperation, through enhanced means of implementation,” the foreign ministers of the Group of 77 and China said in a ministerial declaration following a meeting via virtual platform on November 12.

According to the declaration, the ministers reviewed the world economic situation, discussed the effects of the COVID-19

pandemic, the recent developments in the world and the particular challenges faced by developing countries in the economic, social and environmental areas, recognizing that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, remains the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.



## Sponge iron production up 10% in 7 months yr/yr

**1 →** Three projects each with a capacity of 800,000 tons were launched in the country during the past Iranian year.

The projects were put into operation in the southeastern province of Kerman, South Khorasan Province in the east, and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province in the southwest of the country.

Iran is only second to India globally in terms of the volume of sponge iron production. The country is the 10th largest steel producer in the world.

Sponge iron is a metallic product produced through the direct reduction of iron ore in the strong state. It is a substitute for scrap and therefore is mostly applicable in making steel through the secondary route. The procedure of sponge iron making aims to expel the oxygen from iron ore.

## Construction of PGSR a big step to nullify sanctions

**1 →** As announced by Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of developing South Pars gas field, the company has delivered about 60 million barrels of gas condensate to PGSR during the first half of the current year.

Now, Persian Gulf Star Refinery, by which Iran became self-sufficient in gasoline production and became an exporter of this product, receives 375,000 barrels of condensate daily from South Pars gas field as the feedstock.

## TEDPIX gains 26,000 points on Saturday

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 26,516 points to 1.247 million on Saturday, which is the first day of the Iranian calendar week.



Over 5.039 billion securities worth 61.918 trillion rials (about \$1.474 billion) were traded in TSE on Saturday.

The first market's index climbed 23,810 points and the second market's index increased 36,372 points.

TEDPIX dropped 5.5 percent in the previous Iranian week.

The index lost 69,000 points to 1.221 million during the past week, while it had finally experienced a slight weekly growth (2,000 points, or less than one percent) in its preceding week.

## Alaei appointed as acting head of Iranian Privatization Organization

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Alireza Saleh has resigned as the head of the Iranian Privatization Organization (IPO), a source close to the government told ILNA.



Economic Affairs is in charge of implementing the country's privatization programs by setting prices and ceding shares to the general public and on the Tehran Stock Exchange.

## Copper cathode output increases 6%

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Production of copper cathode in Iran increased six 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 previous year.

Copper cathode output hit 162,730 tons in the first seven months of the present year.



Production of copper cathode, which stood at 250,000 tons in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), is planned to reach 280,000 tons in the present year.

Iran has seen its copper exports doubled in the past Iranian calendar year despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade of lucrative metals.

# Daily oil refining capacity reaches 2m barrels

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The secretary-general of Iran's Oil Refining Industry Companies Association (ORICA) put the country's oil refining capacity at two million barrels per day.

The country's refineries are now converting two million barrels of crude oil into petroleum products at full capacity on a full-time basis, Nasser Ashouri told IRIB.

He added: "The activities of the refineries, in addition to meeting the domestic need, have led to the export of surplus products, which plays a significant role in combatting the sanctions."

Refineries play an important role in the country's economy and prevent the sale of crude oil, he underscored.

The secretary-general of ORICA went on to say that in addition to the main products, 32 other special products are produced in the refineries, which are allocated with priority to domestic needs to supply feed to oil-related industries such as petrochemicals.

Ashouri further pointed to the role of refineries in employment and production



in the country and said that 32,000 people are directly employed in this sector and now all refineries are run by domestic ex-

perts and not a single foreign engineer is employed in this industry.

"Our country is one of the countries

with the highest consumption of refined products," he said, adding, "Despite the fact that we consume 75 to 110 million liters of gasoline per day, not a single liter of gasoline has been imported to the country since the second half of [the Iranian calendar year]1397 (September 2018), and today all the country's needs for the products such as gasoline are met domestically."

Ashouri also pointed to the quality of refining products and added: "The quality of domestic fuel is not comparable to the last four years and today the quality of our gasoline has increased so much that ordinary gasoline has replaced super gasoline, because in terms of quantity and quality the country's refining products are standardized."

Stating that today the country's refineries are operating at full capacity and full time, he said: "However, a percentage of this capacity is empty, which is used at the time of the periodical services of the refineries and also to have capability of producing various refining products."

## Iran-EU trade stands at nearly \$8.9b in 7 months

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** - The trade between Iran and European Union countries during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21) stood at \$8.807 billion, the spokesman of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Rouhollah Latifi put the volume of trade between the two sides at 15.91 million tons in the mentioned seven months, ILNA reported.

According to the official, Iran exported 5.605 million tons of commodities worth \$2.66 billion to Europe in the mentioned period, while importing 10.304 million tons of goods valued at \$6.741 billion.

As reported, Turkey, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom were respectively the major exporters to Iran while Turkey, Russia, Germany, and Italy were the top importers from the country in the said time span.

Iran exported commodities to 37 European countries such as Austria, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, France, Spain, United Kingdom,

Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Slovakia, Norway, etc. during the mentioned period.

Meanwhile, the country imported goods from 44 European countries including the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Ireland, Croatia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, etc.

The trade between Iran and the EU nations has decreased in the current Iranian calendar year due to the outbreak of the coronavirus and also as a result of the U.S. sanctions.

The data provided by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) indicate that in January 2020, when the coronavirus had not been widespread in different parts of the world, trade between Iran and Europe grew by more than 17 percent, but this figure decreased in the next month and fell to negative since March.

According to the mentioned data, the biggest drop in the trade between the two sides was reported for July



when the trade fell by about 20 percent.

As reported, Iran's exports to the EU increased by 45 percent and 42 percent in the first two months of 2020, respectively, however, the trend became negative in the following months.

## Coal concentrate output exceeds 760,000 tons in H1

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Production of coal concentrate in Iran reached 762,900 tons during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data show that 16.6 percent of the mentioned figure was produced in the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (August 22-September 21).

The country's coal concentrate production dropped 24,000 tons compared to the previous year's same period in which the figure stood at 786,900 tons.

As previously announced by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iranian coal mines produced 911,600 tons of crude coal during the mentioned time span.

According to IMIDRO data, a total of 1,585,531 tons of crude coal was extracted in the last Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19).

Iran extracted 1,749,599 tons of coal during the Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019). And the coal concentrate production in the mentioned year stood at 732,050 tons.

Due to the special conditions of coal mines in Iran, these mines are subject to tax exemption and any miners who need



mining machinery can use the facility and tax exemption in this sector to import their necessary machinery.

The country's average annual coal concentrate production is about 1.5 million tons, while the country's current demand has reached two million tons.

Currently, Iran's coal sector provides employment for 17,000 people, however, the capacity of the country's coal mines is much more than this figure and development of the mining sector and modernization projects can play an effective role in increasing employment in this sector.

Unofficial data indicate that there are 185 small and large coal mines in the country, of which more than 59 percent are currently active, while 10 mines are being equipped and prepared, and the rest are idle.

## Iranian petchem industry introduces 2 new products

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Karoon Petrochemical Company (KPC) has unveiled two new products that are going to save the country \$27 million, ISNA reported.

As reported, the production lines of two new grades of MTDI and KMT-10 were officially launched with the aim of meeting the needs of downstream sectors and completing the value chain of the country's petrochemical sector.

KMT-10 is produced by pre-polymerization of methyl phenyl isocyanate and by the formation of urethane groups. With the production of this new product, the petrochemical industry will practically eliminate the need to import similar grades which have been previously imported from China, Japan, South Korea, and Germany.

This strategic product has wide applications in the automotive, office, and home appliances industries.

Also, MTDI products include Aradur 830 CH, Aradur 850 CH, and Aradur 2963 CH. Karoon Petrochemical Company has introduced this product in order to meet the needs of downstream producers of paint, resin, and polyurethane and in order to complete the value chain of petrochemical products.

The petrochemical industry is playing a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, so that based on official data petrochemical



exports constitute the second-largest hard currency earner in Iran after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already make up nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

Head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Behzad Mohammadi said the country's petrochemical products basket is going to be more diversified by the Iranian calendar year of 1404 (starts on March 21, 2025).

The official noted that major development plans were underway for diversifying the country's petrochemical output considering the wide range of feedstock available.

"The macro development planning that the company is currently making for the petrochemical industry is beyond the second and third leaps of the industry, and we expect the company's projects directorate to follow up and help achieve these plans," Mohammadi said in early September.

## Annual passenger car tires output to surpass 20m by March 2021

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The annual production of passenger car tires will reach over 20 million in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), according to the spokesman of Iranian Tire Syndicate.

Mostafa Tanha said that despite the sanctions, Iranian manufacturers' performance has been outstanding in terms of tire production, especially passenger car tires.

He said over 12.528 million passenger car tires weighing 90,538 tons have been produced in the country during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year, showing 26 percent and 29 percent growth in terms of number and weight, respectively, compared to the same period of time in the past year.

If the above-mentioned positive trend continues, it will be possible to break the production record of 20 million tires by the end of this year, which will be achieved for the first time in the tire industry, Tanha underscored.

In early August, an official with Iran's Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry said that increasing the amount of investment making for the production of the tire in the country is a necessity.

Kamran Kargar, the acting head of planning, supplying, and market regulating office of the ministry, said the con-



sumption of tire is noticeable in Iran due to the country's big transportation fleet.

"Now the ground is properly prepared for the production of light and heavy vehicles tires in the country, and investment making will play a significant role both for the establishment of new production units and for launching development projects", the official noted.

Having an annual production capacity of 426,000 tons of tire, Iran accounts for 41 percent of tire output in the West Asian region, according to the deputy director of the non-metal industries office of the Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry.

Mohsen Saffari has said that 11 tire production units are active in the country creating jobs for 14,500 people.

He said 426,000 tons is the nominal capacity, while the real output is less than this figure as some units are working with 60-70 percent of their capacity.

"Iranian tire industry is dependent on foreign raw materials by 40 percent, so we are self-reliant by 60 percent in this field", the official announced.

In a bid to nullify the U.S. sanctions, Iran is determined to strengthen its domestic production to achieve self-reliance.

Selecting the motto of "Pickup in Production" for the previous Iranian calendar year (March 2019-March 2020), and the slogan of "Surge in Production" for the current year indicates the Islamic Republic's determination to achieve this goal.

To this end, the Iranian ministries besides the private sector have been outlining their programs for the surge in production.



# The hatred Trump injected into society pushed U.S. into a divided state: Kadkhodaei

➡➡ The following is the text of the interview:

■ What is your analysis of the recent events and disputes over election result in the U.S.?

A: There has been a lot of analysis about the recent U.S. election. Perhaps in the last hundred years, the United States has not faced a challenge like this; even the dispute between George W. Bush and Al Gore in 2000 was resolved quickly.

These quarrels are largely due to the U.S. administration's wrong policies in recent years, which are still going on. Although voter turnout was high in this election, as it reached the highest since 1908, Trump's approaches over the past four years have led to divisions in the United States; the old North-South challenges were revived.

Despite economic growth that was achieved under Trump's presidency, the wrong attitudes that he pursued and hatred, especially racism, that he injected into the American society triggered harsh reactions between rejection and endorsement (of his performance) which pushed American society to a divided state.

In short, the fact that Trump failed to win the required votes, he lost to himself because of his own wrong policies, especially his view of blacks and the South (Southern countries) and closing borders.

He also made many mistakes at international level, such as the assassination of Major General Soleimani, which showed that the United States does not adhere to what it claims about concept of global democracy.

The U.S. withdrawal from international treaties stemmed from the extreme unilateralist approach that Trump has been pursued during his presidential years.

Trump had imagined that he could bring the American people along with himself, but the election results show that Biden is leading the current president.

**Regardless of who wins the election, it makes no difference to the Islamic Republic, as Iranian officials have repeatedly stated. But the most important factor in Trump's defeat was the wrong policies he pursued, first inside the U.S. and second the extreme unilateralist approach that he adopted at the international scene; and during these four years he tried to impose his will on the other countries all around the world.**

■ Given the president's influence on the U.S. judiciary and the nomination of Supreme Court justices and their potential verdict on elections, it seems that the separation of powers in the U.S. political system is not well organized. What is your opinion?

A: Of course, we must analyze each country's political systems based on its own conditions and requirements. For example, the political system in Britain is different from France and the United States. They claim the Check and Balances system, in which the president nominates the judges of the Supreme Court and the judiciary. In the UK, instead of separation of powers, the system of fusion of powers prevails, where executive and legislative branches of government are intermingled.

But the people of these countries ask the question if this mix of structures could threaten the independence of powers? In the dispute between George W. Bush and Al Gore (in the 2000 elections), such an inference was made, whereas American society's perception was that since Bush appointed the judges, their approach was Republican, and the vote they cast was in favor of Bush.

Such an impression has always existed; however, it cannot



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be said that they will necessarily make the wrong decision. But if we want to study this political structure in terms of the principle of fairness and justice, it sounds flawed.

On the other hand, public and political spheres cannot be easily separated. What matters is the verdict that is issued. The appointment by itself is not wrong, but the appointment, the appointed person's opinion and decision must be independent.

There are many defects in the American political system. But the policies adopted by officials and governments have worsened the situation. That is, they do not adhere to the slogans they give and the principles they claim they uphold. For example, a discriminatory and supremacist view toward blacks still in the American society is amplified by the president.

This has nothing to do with the political system but is the wrong behavior of a political official. Or at the international level, we see that they withdrew from a lot of agreements, such as the Paris (Climate) Agreement and the JCPOA and UNESCO, which means ignoring the principles that they claimed they cherish. The U.S. government's wrong policies that have caused the current situation are not accepted by the American society.

■ What if one of the candidates claims election fraud? Is there any legal mechanism to verify the allegation?

A: Since the election is a socio-political issue in any country, then there are political considerations when we want to deal with it. It is not easy to measure political action by judicial and legal criteria. Also, this is the case in our country as well. For example, some expect the Guardian Council to decide based on political criteria, while we believe that our criterion is just law. In the United States and many other countries with a partisan system, most matters are dealt with within parties and by political criteria, but when it comes to claims such as election fraud, it requires the

involvement of the judiciary. Judiciary should enter as if Trump had filed several lawsuits to stop counting postal ballots, but finally, the Supreme Court is authorized to rule in this regard. In the United States, it is the judiciary that rules about election fraud.

But some European experts ask what if the judiciary takes the side of someone? That is, if only judges decide based on political affiliation, there will be a kind of judicial dictatorship. For example, France has resorted to a non-judicial solution to tackle political disputes. They have formed the Constitutional Council, just as we have the Guardian Council in Iran. Sometimes it is said that the Guardian Council should not handle election irregularities, and a judicial authority should rule in this regard. But we face two different political systems; a system like the one by the United States and the United Kingdom that resorts to the judiciary to resolve political disputes, while in some other countries, such as France or Iran, a non-judicial body does the job.

■ Why do Iranian officials say that the U.S. presidential election result will not affect Tehran's policy?

A: The Islamic Republic of Iran is an independent country thanks to the blood of the martyrs and the leadership of Imam Khomeini and Ayatollah Khamenei.

Independence not only has been the core idea of the Islamic Revolution but been pursued in practice. Dependence on a foreign country has its consequences and problems. Elections in the United States, like any other country, may change course at some point, but what we have seen from the United States over the past 41 years has been nothing but hostility; including supporting the deposed Shah and various terrorist groups, especially anti-Iran Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), who have carried out numerous assassination operations inside Iran. Add to this supporting Saddam during the eight-year war against Iran.

**These have made the U.S. record dark when it comes to Iran's history, and thus it does not matter to us whether a Democrat wins or a Republican. Both parties have committed destructive acts against the Iranian people in the same way. The assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani was the latest example of aggressive actions committed by Trump's administration. Whoever wins the election, major policies of the United States will not change fundamentally, and we must rely on the internal resources, Iranian people, and youth.**

■ Many experts believe that the Electoral College system is an outdated mechanism. What is your opinion?

A: We have nothing to do with America's domestic affairs. But establishing Electoral Colleges was more because ordinary people did not know about the candidates, so it was decided that the people would elect a number of political experts, and they would vote for the best candidate. Such a situation has made the election in America indirect. Today, due to recent developments, peoples' attitudes and knowledge level has improved. That is why some American experts believe that this mechanism (Electoral College) no longer is functional and should have been abolished a long time ago. Campaigns have also been launched to reform the Electoral College. But we cannot comment because we are outside (the United States) Therefore, the conditions and requirements of American society must be considered, and decisions made accordingly.

■ Now what qualifications are needed to run for the post of president candidate in Iran? Are women qualified to run for president in Iran?

A: We have to wait and see what the Islamic Consultative Assembly (the parliament) will decide. For some time now, the current parliament has been presenting an amendment to the presidential election law, which has been working for a long time, and is on the agenda of the parliament after the comments of experts.

Before commenting on it, we first have to see whether the qualifications included in the parliamentary amendment are acceptable to the members of the Guardian Council or not, including the definition *Rajol Siasi* (political-religious man) as a requirement to run for president. (According to Iran's Constitution anybody who runs for president should be a *Rajol Siasi*, an Arabic term which is interpreted in two ways: one interpretation says it means the hopeful should be a male as *Rajol* means male in Arabic, and the other one says it means that the hopeful should be a political figure.)

We have to see what the Majlis (parliament) will eventually ratify. I do not think that the amendment of the Majlis would address women's candidacy. Nevertheless, there is a big difference of opinion among experts, and it is not an issue that we can change with a minor amendment. Cultural considerations must also be taken into account, and we must see over time what new ideas are raised in order to comment on them.

## Afghan forces capture 'mastermind' of Kabul University attack

Afghan forces captured the "mastermind" of a brutal attack on Kabul University when fighters stormed classrooms and killed dozens of students earlier this month.

At least 22 people were killed and another 27 wounded when three gunmen rampaged through the university on November 2, spraying classrooms with bullets for several hours.

The brazen daylight assault came amid surging violence across the country that has only worsened in recent months despite the government holding peace talks with the Taliban in Qatar.

"The mastermind behind Kabul University attack has been arrested," Vice President Amrullah Saleh announced on his Facebook page on Saturday.

The assault, which ended after the three attackers were killed, was planned by a man called Adil, Saleh said.

Adil was recruited by the Haqqani network, Saleh said, giving only one name of the arrested man.

## UN-led Libya talks set December 2021 date for elections

Libya's warring sides have agreed to hold nationwide elections in December next year, the top UN official for the North African country said Friday in a sign of progress from the UN-brokered peace talks underway in Tunisia.

The gathering, which started on Monday, was aimed at setting a roadmap out of Libya's years long civil war. It is also the latest effort to end the chaos that engulfed the North African country after the 2011 overthrow and killing of dictator Moammar Gaddafi. Previous diplomatic initiatives have repeatedly collapsed, AP reported.

In a virtual press conference from Tunisia, UN acting envoy for Libya Stephanie Williams said the elections will take place on Dec. 24, 2021 and allow Libyans to "renew, really, the legitimacy of their institutions."

Earlier this week, she announced that the participants had agreed to hold elections no later than 18 months from now.

## Niger engaged in secret talks to forge full ties with Israeli regime

Niger is reportedly in secret discussions with Israel about normalizing their relations, months after the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Sudan signed agreements to establish full diplomatic ties with the Tel Aviv regime.

According to a report published by the Israeli Hebrew-language Yedioth Ahronoth daily newspaper on Friday, speculations are rife in the Israeli ministry of foreign affairs that Niger – the largest Muslim country in West Africa – is likely the next Arab country to normalize ties with Israel.

The news comes in light of Israeli media reports in recent weeks that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is encouraging Niger's officials to take the measure.

The Yedioth Ahronoth noted that the Israeli ministry of intelligence believed there would be a breakthrough in secret communications to conclude the normalization agreement between Israel and Niger if former interior minister and president of the Nigerian Party for Democracy and Socialism (PNDS-Tarayya) Mohamed Bazoum won the December 27 presidential election.

## Trumpism remains in American society as a deadly virus: historian

➡➡ The professor also predicts «the threat from the United States for Iran will be reduced once Trump leaves the White House as Joseph Biden is a centrist liberal, a man of the political establishment."

He says, "Biden will restore (or attempt to restore) the nuclear agreement with Tehran."

He concludes that politics will become duller in the United States, and the United States will be less erratic in the world, however, Biden and the liberals have no real and realizable solutions to the major problems of American society -- racism, the polarization of wealth, overweening corporate power, and climate change.

## Resistance News

### Palestinians denounce Pompeo's planned visit to Israeli settlement

**INTERNATIONAL DESK TEHRAN—** Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh and the resistance movement of Hamas have decried a planned visit by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank.

The visit is an attempt to "legitimize the settlements" and creates "a dangerous precedent that violates international law," Shtayyeh said during a meeting with Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Ekaterina Zakharieva in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah on Friday.


Pompeo is scheduled to visit the settlement of Psagot next week, becoming the first U.S. secretary of state to visit one of the settlements, which are illegal under international law.

The development comes one year after the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, who has lost the 2020 presidential election, announced that the U.S. was no longer considering Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank "inconsistent" with international law.

More than 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem al-Quds.

Since Trump took office in December 2016, Israel has stepped up its settlement construction activities in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which pronounced settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem al-Quds "a flagrant violation under international law."

All Israeli settlements are illegal under international law as they are built on occupied land.




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National Iranian Drilling Company	25.934.654	Tender No.: FP/12-99/ 88 Indent No.: 08-22-9845102	18,898,600,000

**• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers**

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**• Purchasing & Submitting**

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Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN 061-34148660 Room No. 431, 4 <sup>th</sup> floor, Oil central building No.8,Yaghma alley, Jomhori Islami st., Tehran – Iran
Submitting Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 190,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491( Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank.</li> <li>☐ Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.</li> </ul>
Closing date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ 35Days after the last time of Purchasing ) .closing date( )</li> <li>☐ The envelopes will be opened At . a.m On( )</li> </ul>
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Type of guarantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> <li>✓ Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 ( Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> </ul>
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تهران تایمز نویت دوم ۹۹/۱/۲۵



## Corona tests compulsory for travelers as of Nov. 18

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — The National Headquarters **d e s k** for Coronavirus Control has issued a directive, based on which corona tests will be mandatory as of November 18 upon entry and exit for passengers during air, land, and sea travels.



As of November 18, passengers with positive coronavirus tests won't be accepted in order to help break the spread of the pandemic, ILNA quoted Alireza Raeisi, a spokesman for the headquarters, as saying on Saturday.

Over the past couple of months, many countries, including Iran, have imposed travel restrictions to help curb the spread of novel coronavirus. In this line, flights have been suspended and road and sea travels restricted to a great extent.

## Croat cycling tourist publishes Iran travelogue

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Croatian musician and percussionist Hrvoja Rupcica has recently published a travelogue on his cycling tour across Iran.

Entitled "In the Land of Noble People", the book describes Rupcica's great motorcycle journey through the vastness of the ancient land of Iran, in which he questions the personal and collective values of the global world and calls it a spiritual journey.



The book has been published by the V.B.Z. d.o.o., a Croatian publishing company including bookstores and online sales, and is available online.

Last year, the deputy tourism minister, Vali Teymouri, announced that "foreign travelers with motorcycle above 250cc are allowed to enter and ride in Iran".

Many international travelers to the country say that traversing Iran equals an endless charm, as it embraces so many diverse cultures and

landscapes.

Iran has numerous tourist spots to offer foreign tourists such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

## Lightning, infrastructure improved at Jurassic-era cave

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Lightning and necessary **d e s k** infrastructure have been improved at Katala-Khor tourist cave, which is believed to date from the Jurassic times (199.6 million to 145.5 million years ago) in north-central Zanjan province.

Some 300 projection lights have been installed on the first floor of the cave during a two-month project, CHTN quoted provincial tourism chief Amir Arjmand as saying on Saturday.

With a budget of 3 billion rials (about \$71,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials), the project also included rebuilding access roads to the cave and installing information boards inside and outside the cave, Arjmand said.



Katala-Khor's interior space embraces huge hallways, corridors, and millions of stalagmites and stalactites, which are impressively lit by flashlights.

Some three-seventh of the prolonged cave have been explored so far. About three kilometers length of the cave is open to the public while another four kilometers is accessible to experienced cavers and researchers.

Literally meaning "Mountain of Sun", Katala-Khor bears lots of natural and artificial changes during this lengthy period. The cave was reportedly discovered some seven decades ago by a group of Iranian cavers.

Iran is geologically a part of the Alpine-Himalayan organic belt. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, the enigmatic evidence of human presence on the Iranian plateau is as early as Lower Paleolithic times.

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

# Sugar factory not to be built within World Heritage properties

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Following **d e s k** many ups and downs, the construction of a controversial sugar factory within the legal boundaries of UNESCO-registered Tchogha Zanbil, a prehistoric ziggurat in southwest Iran, is now cancelled.

It is decided that, as soon as possible, with the determination of a new piece of land by the provincial general department of Natural Resources and Watershed Management, the sugar factory to be built outside Tchogha Zanbil site, CHTN quoted deputy tourism minister Mohammad-Hassan Talebian as saying on Saturday.

A topmost tourist destination in Khuzestan province, the magnificent ruins of Tchogha Zanbil is considered by many the finest surviving example of Elamite architecture in the globe. It was made a UNESCO site in 1979.

Its construction started in c. 1250 BC upon



## National Museum of Iran launches guided virtual tours on early human relics, history

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — With regard to restrictions **d e s k** on museums due to the coronavirus pandemic, the National Museum of Iran has launched guided virtual tours on early human relics and history.

The tours highlight objects in the permanent galleries of the museum, a curator of the museum told the Tehran Times on Saturday.

The first guided virtual tour was presented by Fereidoun Biglari, head of the Paleolithic department of the museum, on the earliest evidence of human settlement in Iran. The first part of the tour was broadcast at 11.00 am, Tuesday, November 10, live on Instagram.

Biglari, on the tour, emphasized the importance of this long period of prehistory in Iran which compared to later historic periods is poorly known. He then talked about stone tools that are the most abundant archaeological remains in Paleolithic sites.

Using experimentally made artifacts, he briefly described different methods of stone tool production and how ar-

chaeologists distinguish a human-made stone tool from a naturally broken rock fragment. A core-tool discovered at a site called Kashafrud near Mashhad presented as an example of the earliest stone tools that are on display at the Paleolithic gallery.

A lower jaw fossil of a cave bear discovered in association with stone tools in the Darband Rashi cave in Gilan was described. Darband Cave is the earliest radio-metrically dated human occupation site in Iran.

The expert then spoke about Neanderthals and their archaeological and physical remains in Iran. A Neanderthal molar tooth on display that was discovered in the Wezmeh cave was introduced and discussed. He finally introduced some of the recent Museum publications that give further information about Iranian Prehistory and the Paleolithic gallery of the museum.

The National Museum of Iran has the richest Paleolithic collections on display among Iranian museums. The exhibit includes stone tools, animal fossils, a Neanderthal tooth,



and shell and tooth ornaments. The Paleolithic Department of the museum was involved in establishing a specialized museum for the Paleolithic period in the Kermanshah Province in the west of Iran in 2008.

The tour video can be accessed via the Instagram account of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

## Legacy of Iranians in Africa on the verge of destruction

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Kilwa Kisi- **d e s k** wani, a historical island in Tanzania, which was ruled by Iranians in the 11th century, is on the verge of destruction.

The island was sold to Ali bin Hasan, son of the ruler of Shiraz, in the 11th century. He married the daughter of the local African king and he later came to power, when formed a fortified city with international trade.

One of the highlights of the historical



structure of the island is the Great Mosque of Kilwa, which was founded in the 10th century and is one of the earliest surviving mosques on the Swahili Coast.

However, the mosque and other historical and ancient monuments are being ruined due to the ocean waves, humidity, and agricultural activities and grazing livestock in the surrounding areas, CHTN quoted Morteza Rezvanfar, a member of the scientific board

of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, as saying on Saturday.

Although the island was inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1981, its preservation is being neglected, he added.

The island can be reached by bus from Dar es Salaam and then by coastal aviation. However, visiting ancient ruins need a permit, which can be easily obtained from the local government.

## Soltaniyeh holds potential for being hub of tourism

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Soltaniyeh, an ancient city **d e s k** in west-central Zanjan province, holds the potential to become a tourism hub in the region, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Meaning "Town of the Sultans", Soltaniyeh was briefly the capital of Persia's Ilkhanid dynasty (a branch of the Mongol dynasty) during the 14th century.

The city, which is home to many historical structures, sites, and monuments including the UNESCO-designated Dome of Soltaniyeh, could be promoted to top tourist destination, provincial tourism chief Amir Arjmand said on Saturday.

Dome of Soltaniyeh, ("Soltaniyeh Cupola"), which is the highlight of the city's tourist attractions, is constantly being monitored and restored under the supervision of the provincial Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, the official noted.

Visitors to the World Heritage can be enriched with their excursions with additional tours of a nearby archaeological mount, monument, temple, and scenic natural landscapes amongst others, the official noted.

■ **A 14-century marvel of architecture**

The 14th-century structure is highly recognized as an architectural masterpiece particularly due to its innovative double-shelled dome and elaborate interior decoration. The



very imposing dome stands about 50 meters tall from its base.

The interior has long been under renovation, chock-full of scaffolding poles. However, its decoration is such impressive that scholars including A.U. Pope described it as 'anticipating the Taj Mahal'. It is the earliest existing example of the double-shelled dome in Iran.

A great-grandson of Hulegu, founder of the Il-Khanid dynasty, Oljaytu was a Mongol ruler who, after dabbling in various religions, adopted the Shia name Mohammed

Khodabandeh.

According to UNESCO, the Mausoleum of Oljaytu is an essential link and key monument in the development of Islamic architecture in central and western Asia. Here, the Ilkhanids further developed ideas that had been advanced during the classical Seljuk phase (11th to early 13th centuries), during which the arts of Iran gained distinction in the Islamic world, thereby setting the stage for the Timurid period (late 14th to 15th centuries), one of the most brilliant periods in Islamic art.

UNESCO says, "Excavations carried out in the 790-ha Mausoleum of Oljaytu property have revealed additional vestiges of the old city, and a large part of this property has retained its archaeological character. As the ancient capital of the Ilkhanid dynasty, Soltaniyeh represents an exceptional testimony to the history of the 13th and 14th centuries in Iran."

The very large dome is the earliest extant example of its type and became an important reference for the later development of the Islamic dome. Similarly, the extremely rich interior of the mausoleum, which includes glazed tiles, brickwork, marquetry, or designs in inlaid materials, stucco, and frescoes, illustrates an important movement towards more elaborate materials and themes.

## A brief history of Persian pottery

(Part 8/8)

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** The decorative scheme is **d e s k** reversed when the decoration is painted in white or light colors over a manganese-purple or tomato-red ground. Quite a number of these vessels are known today. They were excavated at several sites in Central Asia, Afghanistan, at Nishapur (modern Neyshabur, northeast Iran), Jorjan and even at Ghubayra in Kerman province.

Quite a different type, but an important group is the polychrome buff ware, decorated with human and animal figures, or rarely only with geometrical forms. The late Arthur Lane called this type of pottery "peasant ware" of Nishapur. This type of pottery was only produced in Nishapur, and was never imitated anywhere else in the world.

The decoration may give some indication of Samanid painting, of which we have only a few examples, namely the excavated wall frescoes of Nishapur. A sub-group of this polychrome buff ware was until recently known as "Sari ware". This is decorated with walking birds, large flowers, and occasionally with Kufic epigraphic characters. The term "Sari" cannot be really accepted, since there is no evidence of manufacture of such pottery in

the city of Sari, but recently such wares and kilns have been excavated at Jorjan.

■ **Seljuq era (1037–1194)**

At the beginning of the 11th century CE a new dynasty, the Seljuqs came to Iran and unified the country under their rule. This period under Seljuq rule in Iran lasted for hardly more than one and a half centuries, yet it witnessed great progress in literature, philosophy, in architecture and in all fields of the Iranian arts. The Seljuqs became great patrons of the arts and their patronage made it possible for Iranian artists to revive their pre-Islamic traditions and develop new techniques in metalwork and in pottery.

The most important achievement in pottery production was the introduction of a new composite white frit material. This new white body made the application of alkaline glaze easier; the actual body of the vessels was considerably thinner, almost translucent. Thus potters had nearly achieved the fineness of imported Chinese Song porcelain which potters of the Near East greatly admired.

Another type, which has to be added to these, is the unglazed ware, which has also gone through considerable changes and refinement. It should also be noted, that while

the Seljuqs were actually replaced by the Khwarizmshahian Dynasty towards the second half of the 12th century, artistically the same trend continued in the Greater Iran right up to the Mongol invasion.

■ **Il-Khanid period (1258-1334 CE)**

The Mongol invasions of 1220 and 1221 CE devastated large parts of Iran and in particular destroyed cities like Ray, Nishapur and Jorjan (old Gorgan), which previously were the most important centers of Iranian pottery. Kashan, although likewise destroyed by the Mongols, seemed to have quickly recovered and pottery production continued.

The Mongol governors, the Il-Khans, who ruled Iran on behalf of the Great Khan in Mongolia, soon separated themselves from the rest of the Empire and set up an independent dynasty. Their new capital was first at Maragheh and later at Tabriz in northwest Iran. They embraced Islam and assumed Iranian customs, culture and language.

However, recovery from the great devastation was rather slow. It was not until the end of the 13th century that new building projects were started. Rashid-al-Din Hamadani, the Persian prime minister of the Mongol Il-Khans at the beginning of the 14th century,

and also a scholar, was responsible among other cultural activities for the compilation of the famous Jami' al-Tawarikh (Universal History) manuscript which was richly illustrated with miniature paintings and written in Persian and Arabic.

As far as known today, it was mainly Kashan that continued manufacturing lustre, underglaze and overglaze-painted wares, as has already been mentioned. Towards the end of the 13th and beginning of the 14th century CE, however, new pottery centres emerged. One of these was in the northwest, probably at Takht-i Sulayman, where the Mongol Abaqa Khan (1265-1281 CE) built a palace for himself which as we have already seen was decorated with lustre and lajvardina tiles. Takht-i Sulayman, however, must have been connected with another major pottery producing area, namely the Soltanabad district (modern Arak), which included not only the town itself, but at least another twenty or thirty villages. Further south, Kerman became another centre and soon Mashhad pottery appears as well. Apart from these main centres there were several other, less significant, pottery producing areas, most of which haven't yet been located.



# Conservation plan underway for 18 wetlands nationwide

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — A comprehensive management program is now being implemented for 18 wetlands of the country, Ali Arvahi, the director of the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project, said on Saturday.

The comprehensive program for the protection of Parishan, Shadegan, Urmia, Qara Gheslugh, Qourigol, Miqan, Choghakhor, Zarivar, Hamoon, Bakhtegan, Alagol, Gavkhoni, Noruzlu, Soldoz, Kani Barazan, Haray Minab, Ne'or and Gandoman wetlands has been approved and is being implemented, he added, IRNA reported.

Two wetlands of Goater and Hilleh are awaiting approval and a plan is being prepared for 12 others, he noted.

During the last few years, the importance of wetlands and their protection came into consideration, and over time, the law on protection, rehabilitation, and management of wetlands was approved in the Iranian calendar year 1394 (March 2015-March 2016).

According to Article 5 of the law, the Department of Environment (DOE) is obliged to plan the ecosystem management of wetlands with the priority of critical and damaged ones with the participation of the ministries of energy, agriculture, and related bodies within two years, he explained.

Based on the law, a comprehensive management plan was developed and will be implemented for 34 wetlands of the country, along with the activation of a cross-sectoral management system.

The project aims to focus on better management of wetlands in accordance with climate change, improving the management of natural resources, and emphasizing the role of public participation and raising



**In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value with an area of over 3 million hectares have been identified, of which 25 wetlands are designated as wetlands of international importance (registered in the Ramsar Convention) covering more than 1.4 million hectares and four sites are biosphere reserves.**

awareness, Arvahi stated.

In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value with an area of over 3 million hectares have been identified, of which 25 wetlands are designated as wetlands of international impor-

tance (registered in the Ramsar Convention) covering more than 1.4 million hectares and four sites are biosphere reserves.

Of Iran's 25 Ramsar sites about one-third are under pressure or in a critical condition.

Chief of the Department of Environment (DOE) Issa Kalantari has said in order to restore wetlands in the country a budget of 600 trillion rials (nearly \$14 billion) is required.

**■ Important role of wetlands in ecosystem**

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

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

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

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

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

## Two illegal trawling ships seized at southern port

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Two illegal trawling vessels carrying 1,500 kilograms of aquatic species have been seized at Jask port, southern Hormozgan province.

Trawling is a method of fishing that involves pulling a fishing net through the water behind one or more boats. Trawling can be divided into bottom trawling and midwater trawling, depending on how high the trawl (net) is in the water column.

The border guards of Jask port naval base identified two trawlers and immediately seized the vessels and arrested the violators, said Ali Salehi, chief justice of Hormozgan province.

During the inspection of these vessels, the border guards discovered 1,500 kilograms of smuggled fish and an illegal trawl net, he added, IRIB reported.

The Department of Environment (DOE) has banned any trawling in the Persian Gulf in August.

However, after a while, the DOE in cooperation with the Fisheries Organization has developed the guidelines for trawling in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman; claiming that in some cases trawling is inevitable, like shrimp fishing which cannot be done in other ways, so we have to carry out trawling in certain ways trying to cause the least damage to the marine ecosystem.

The instructions for trawling in the



Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman specify which vessels can trawl in what area and at what time, he explained.

If a vessel trawls outside the specified time and place, it will be stopped by the order of the judicial authority, he said, noting that several online monitoring systems will be installed on the trawling vessels to be monitored continuously.

If these systems are turned off, heavy penalties for the vessel will be considered, such as revocation of the license, but in addition to this, fishermen training is very important which is on the agenda, he stated.

Trawling, which has been widely criticized for its use, causes damage to the seabed and coral reefs. It is estimated that each time the trawl net is pulled, about 5 to 25 percent of the seabed living environment is lost. Recently, the Fisheries Organization announced that about 134 trawlers are active in the country.

## Iran gets ready for two-week coronavirus closure

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control will implement a plan, according to which all occupations, except for emergency services and basic food suppliers, will be closed for two weeks in more than 100 cities in an attempt to curb the coronavirus.

Alireza Reisi, a spokesman for the Headquarters, said that "the plan will go into effect on November 21."

The plan divides cities into three levels of alert, according to which, if a city is in a state of high alert, all other occupations will be closed, except for the most essential jobs, which are related to the provision of basic necessities, security, and health.

Deputy health minister Iraj Harirchi has predicted that the COVID-19 death toll would double in the next two weeks.

"Unfortunately, daily deaths reached over 450 in the past 10 days, and an upward trend in infection, hospitalization, and death is predicted," he lamented.

Due to the high prevalence of the disease, officials at the Medical Council have written a letter to President Hassan Rouhani that the deplorable condition of the pandemic in the country, and the rising number of mortalities and new cases, requires a more serious review of the management methods of this crisis.

**■ COVID-19 cases, toll at high record**

In a press briefing on Saturday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 11,203 new cases of COVID-19



infection, raising the total number of infections to 749,525. She added that 552,747 patients have so far recovered, but 5,642 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, coronavirus daily deaths and new cases hit the record high, as 452 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 41,034, she added.

Lari noted that so far 5,464,191 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country. She said the high-risk "red" zones include provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, East Azarbaijan, South Khorasan, Semnan, Qazvin, Lorestan, Ardebil, Khuzestan, Kermanshah, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, Gilan, Bushehr, Zanjan, Ilam, Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Alborz, West Azarbaijan, Markazi, Kerman, North Khorasan, Hamedan, Yazd, and Kordestan.

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

## 8 Iranian coronavirus vaccines on WHO candidates list

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Eight homegrown COVID-19 vaccines have been listed among 48 promising candidates of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Eight Iranian-made COVID-19 vaccines are on the WHO list, and of course, eight others are likely to be included in the list as well, Kianoush Jahanpour, the spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, wrote on his Twitter account on Saturday.

Almost all possible strategies for developing coronavirus vaccine in Iran have passed the laboratory production stage, he added.

On Friday, Mostafa Ghane'ei, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology said that the human injection of the homegrown COVID-19 vaccine will be started in the Iranian calendar month of Khordad (May 22-June 21, 2021).

Iraj Harirchi, the deputy minister of health said that in Iran, 12 groups are making efforts to develop coronavirus vaccine, three of which have passed the animal testing.

Last week, Health Minister Saeed Namaki expressed hope that the country will introduce the home-grown COVID-19 vaccine by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2021).

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control will implement a plan, according to which all occupations, except for emergency services and basic food suppliers, will be closed for two weeks in more than 100 cities in an attempt to curb the virus, which will go into effect on November 21.

**■ Coronavirus cases, deaths on the rise**

In a press briefing on Saturday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 11,203 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 749,525. She added that 552,747 patients have so far recovered, but 5,642 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, coronavirus daily deaths and new cases hit the record high, as 452 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 41,034, she added.

Lari noted that so far 5,464,191 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country. She said the high-risk "red" zones include provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, East Azarbaijan, South Khorasan, Semnan, Qazvin, Lorestan, Ardebil, Khuzestan, Kermanshah, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, Gilan, Bushehr, Zanjan, Ilam, Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Alborz, West Azarbaijan, Markazi, Kerman, North Khorasan, Hamedan, Yazd, and Kordestan.

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



Kianoush Jahanpour, the spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration.

## Climate change causes landfalling hurricanes to stay stronger for longer

Climate change is causing hurricanes that make landfall to take more time to weaken, reports a study published November 11, in the journal Nature.

The researchers showed that hurricanes that develop over warmer oceans carry more moisture and therefore stay stronger for longer after hitting land. This means that in the future, as the world continues to warm, hurricanes are more likely to reach communities farther inland and be more destructive.

"The implications are very important, especially when considering policies that are put in place to cope with global warming," said Professor Pinaki Chakraborty, senior author of the study and head of the Fluid Mechanics Unit at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST). "We know that coastal areas need to ready themselves for more intense hurricanes, but inland communities, who may not have the know-how or infrastructure to cope with such intense winds or heavy rainfall, also need to be prepared."

Many studies have shown that climate change can intensify hurricanes -- known as cyclones or typhoons in other regions of the world -- over the open ocean. But this is the first study to establish a clear link between a warming climate and the smaller subset of hurricanes that have made landfall.

The scientists analyzed North Atlantic hurricanes that made landfall over the past half a century. They found that during the course of the first day after landfall, hurricanes weakened almost twice as slowly now than they did 50 years ago, Science Daily reported.

"When we plotted the data, we could clearly see that the amount of time it took for a hurricane to weaken was increasing with the years. But it wasn't a straight line -- it was undulating -- and we found that these ups and downs matched the same ups and downs seen in sea surface temperature," said Lin Li, first author and PhD student in the OIST Fluid Mechanics Unit.

The scientists tested the link between warmer sea surface temperature and slower weakening past landfall by creating computer simulations of four different hurricanes and setting different temperatures for the surface of the sea.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 57)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

حرف اضافه: از، با، تا، به، در، روی، زیر، نزدیک، در باره، بعد از،

قبل از. این حروف قبل از کلمه ها و عبارت های دیگر می آیند:

دانشجوها از دانشگاه یا اتوبوس به خانه می روند.

تمرین ۲. با حرف اضافه کامل کنید (هر کد را فقط یک بار):

۱. من امروز ..... کتابخانه درس می خوانم.

۲. ما ..... صندلی می نشینیم، نه ..... صندلی.

۳. پسر ..... ظهر نمی خوابد؛ ..... برادرش کار می کند.

۴. آنها ..... دانشگاه زندگی می کنند، نه دور ..... دانشگاه.

۵. او انشایی ..... خوابگاه نوشت و ..... من داد.

۶. همه از صبح ..... شب کلاس داریم.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## Mental health screening scheme to be launched at schools

A scheme to determine the prevalence and incidence of psychiatric disorders in students will be implemented at schools across the country by the next school year (starting on September 23), director for education department at the Ministry of Education has said.

Since last year, all students on seventh to ninth grades have undergone the mental health screening, so, we decided to conduct the tests on students on all grades, ISNA quoted Masoud Shokouhi as saying on Saturday.

"The scheme will be launched by the beginning of the next school year," he added.

For the current school year, screening of mental health was carried out in February and the results were presented to consultants for in-school or individual counseling, he said.

There are several types of screening that baseline testing is done by teachers, who record their observations on the system, he explained, adding, in the next step, specialist interventions will take place whether by the school counselor or counseling services outside the schools.

## غربالگری «سلامت روان دانش آموزان» کلیه مقاطع تحصیلی از مهرماه

مدیرکل امور تربیتی و مشاوره وزارت آموزش و پرورش، اعلام کرد که از مهرماه آینده غربالگری پایه سلامت روان برای همه دانش آموزان در کلیه مقاطع تحصیلی انجام می شود.

مسعود شکوهی در گفت و گو با ایسنا، افزود: تا سال گذشته همه دانش آموزان پایه هفتم، هشتم و بخشی از دانش آموزان پایه نهم مورد سنجش قرار گرفتند. وی اظهار کرد: غربالگری پایه سلامت روان برای همه دانش آموزان از سال تحصیلی جدید آغاز می شود.

مدیرکل امور تربیتی و مشاوره وزارت آموزش و پرورش ادامه داد: برای سال تحصیلی جاری، غربالگری اولیه سلامت روان بهمن ماه سال ۹۷ انجام شد و نتایج آن جهت استفاده مشاورین در برنامه ریزی های درون مدرسه ای و فردی در اختیارشان قرار گرفت.

شکوهی افزود: چند نوع غربالگری داریم که غربالگری پایه توسط معلمان انجام می شود و معلمان مشاهدات خود را در سامانه همگان ثبت می کنند. در مراحل بعدی در صورت نیاز مداخلات تخصصی از سطح مشاور مدرسه تا هسته های مشاوره در سطوح استانی و واحدهای مددکاری در بیرون آموزش و پرورش صورت می گیرد.



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**GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

Do not waste water even if you were at a running stream.  
*Prophet Muhammad (S)*

Mourning at Home Short Film Festival honors winners

→1 Shia Muslims commemorate the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions with rituals that begin every year from the first day of the lunar month of Muharram.



Mourning at Home Short Film Festival president Majid Majidi (C) and the winners pose for a photo during the closing ceremony of the event in Tehran on November 14, 2020.

“Pilgrimage” by Zahra Nik-khah won first prize, and second prize was given to “Fresh Air” by Ali Jaleh, and “Paternal Vows” won third prize.

Other winners were “Antenna” by Sina Shafiei, “Reconnect” by Mosayyeb Hanai, “Greetings to You from Afar” by Mehdi Shahsavari, “Tasua in Grandmother’s House” by Mahshad Vali, “Crossroads” by Ehsan Talebi, “New Floor” by Hossein Firuzeh and “Mother” by Ebrahim Ahmadi Moqaddam.

In addition, “Antenna”, “Greetings to You from Afar” and “Chehel Cheraagh” by Hossein Firuzeh won the people’s choice award.

Only one-minute-long films and movies under three minutes were allowed to participate in the festival.

The Rahe Iman Charity Organization has been established with contributions from Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Sistani to raise living standards among people living in poverty in the remote border towns of southeastern Iran.

Juan Pablo Villalobos’s “Down the Rabbit Hole” comes into Iranian bookstores

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of Mexican author Juan Pablo Villalobos’ debut novel “Down the Rabbit Hole” has recently been published by Cheshmeh Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Mohammadreza Farzad.

Long-listed for the Guardian First Book Award, “Down the Rabbit Hole” is the chronicle of a delirious journey to grant a child’s wish.

Tochtli lives in a palace. He loves hats, samurai, guillotines and dictionaries, and what he wants more than anything right now is a new pet for his private zoo, a pygmy hippopotamus from Liberia.

But Tochtli is a child whose father is a drug baron on the verge of taking over a powerful cartel, and Tochtli is growing up in a luxury hideout that he shares with hit men, dealers, servants and an odd, corrupt politician or two.

Villalobos’s debut novel is a smart variation on the recent vogue for Latin American “narcoliterature”.

“Down the Rabbit Hole” is told from the point of view not of a gangster or a cop, but that of a young child, ensconced in the cold and zany milieu of Mexican cocaine deals, political string-pulling and back-alley assassinations.

Narrator Tochtli is the son of a powerful drug lord known as “The King”. A witness to its horrors and yet too young to fully grasp its savagery, it is what Tochtli doesn’t quite comprehend that makes “Down the Rabbit Hole” so devastating. His limited understanding paradoxically conveys a deeper and more penetrating image of the darkness at the gang’s heart.

But Villalobos has greater ambitions still. In addition to the oblique entry he plots into this sinister world, he also intends to take on the idea of Mexico as merely a passive recipient of global machinations past and present.

Villalobos was born in Guadalajara, Mexico in 1973. He studied marketing and Spanish literature. He has researched such diverse topics as the influence of the avant-garde on the work of César Aira and the flexibility of conduits for electrical installations. He lives in Barcelona, Spain.

Iranian culture minister says no event will be canceled as coronavirus cases grow

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi has said that all art and cultural events will be held as planned, even as the coronavirus cases grow across the country.

“The festivals can be held in the two forms of physical and virtual, while we are trying to combine these two like what we experienced at the 14th National Festival of Youth Music, the 33rd International Film Festival for Children and Youth and the 13th Iran’s Regional Music Festival,” the minister told the Persian service of ISNA on Saturday.

“The COVID-19 situation has caused restrictions and damages but has also provided opportunities, which we can use for the upcoming festivals. For example, the children’s film festival had less excitement this year compared to the previous years, but it was not dedicated only to the children of Isfahan, and provided a chance for all the children of the country to watch the films,” he added.

“Since we are going to organize more



Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi in an undated photo.

festivals in the coming months, we will be heading towards a combination of virtual and physical events in the art and cultural

arena, and all the programs of the culture ministry that were held last year will be also be held this year, and even the Tehran

International Book Fair, which was cancelled in May, will be held in December,” he noted.

“If, at the time of the upcoming festivals, conditions are more favorable, the festivals will be held physically, but if not, the events will go online or be held as a combination of both with opening and closing ceremonies,” he noted.

“Events like the Fajr Festival of Visual Arts, which draws a relatively small number of visitors, can be held physically, observing health protocols and social distancing,” he added.

“And in the dramatic arts section, the plays can be recorded and go on stream on special platforms,” he noted.

“All the experience we have gained over the past months indicates that we will not have any cancellations and the programs will be held,” he concluded.

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has canceled all art, theater, cultural and cinematic events across the country several times since February in an attempt to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Movies from Iran line up for Herat women’s festival



Shabnam Moqaddami and Afshin Hashemi act in a scene from “Goodbye Shirazi Girl”.

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A lineup of 14 movies from Iranian filmmakers will be competing in the 6th Herat International Women’s Film Festival (HIWFF), which will take place in the Afghan city from November 16 to 19.

“Axing” by Behruz Shoeibi will be screened in the International Narrative Feature Films Competition. It is about Mahsa, an addicted woman who thinks that her girl is dead but when she finds out that her daughter is alive and lives with her father (Mahsa’s ex-husband), she decides to take her back. This forces her to face her ex-husband and his new wife.

“Goodbye Shirazi Girl” by Afshin Hashemi and “Just 6.5” by Saeid Rustai will also compete in this section.

“Khatemeh” by Hadi Zarei and Mehdi Zarei and “Wedding of Zinat’s Son” by Farhad Varahram have been selected to be screened in the International Documentary Feature Films Competition.

“Khatemeh” is about a 14-year-old Afghan girl named Khatemeh living in Iran with her family. She is forced to

marry the husband of her late sister who died by suicide, but after a while, she escapes from home to save her life from her husband and her brother’s torture and takes refuge in the Welfare Organization of Shiraz.

“Wedding of Zinat’s Son” is the story of the wedding of Zinat’s son, which is held over six days in Salkh Village on Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf.

“Birthday” by Atefeh Khademorreza, “A Trip to the Moon with High Heels” by Fatima Momeni, “On Foot” by Shokufa Karimi, “Funfair” by Kaveh Mazaheri, “The Visit” by Azadeh Musavi and “Beloved” by Yasser Talebi will be competing in the short film category.

In the animation film competition, “This Side, Other Side” by Lida Fazli and “Tangle” by Maleha Gholamzadeh will be screened.

“Anahid” by Hamidreza Alipur is the sole Iranian film selected to be screened in Special Screenings, a non-competition section of the festival, which is an iconic and the most prestigious women’s film event in the region.

Italian diplomat visits Iranian ceramic art exhibit in Tehran

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The first secretary of the Cultural and Press Section at the Embassy of Italy in Tehran, Yaroslava Romanova, has paid a visit to the 11th National Biennial of Contemporary Iranian Ceramic Art at Tehran’s Niavaran Cultural Center.

Ebadreza Eslami, the director of the center who is also an advisor to the deputy culture minister for artistic affairs, and Hirbod Hemmat-Azad, the director of the biennial who is also director of Iran’s Ceramic Artists Association, accompanied Romanova during the visit, the Niavaran Cultural Center announced on Saturday.

Romanova praised the artworks on display



Italian diplomat Yaroslava Romanova (C) and the organizers visit the 11th National Biennial of Contemporary Iranian Ceramic Art at Tehran’s Niavaran Cultural Center.

at the biennial and said that her country welcomes any suggestion from the Niavaran center to organize mutual art events.

She announced that her plans to expand cultural relations with Niavaran is a new season of cultural ties between Iran and Italy, which will begin after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eslami also stressed the need for an increase in mutual cultural relations with the European countries, and said, “I’m really interested in signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Niavaran and a major Italian historical center.”

“Such an MOU can help foster the collaboration and interaction between Iranian

and Italian artists,” he added.

The 11th National Biennial of Contemporary Iranian Ceramic Art opened on October 31 and will run until November 27 at the center located in northern Tehran.

The International Academy of Ceramics (IAC) is the “spiritual sponsor” of the biennial this year.

Located in Geneva, Switzerland, the academy was founded in 1952 by Henry J. Reynaud, who chaired the academy until his death in 1964.

The goal of the IAC is to stimulate friendship and communication between professionals in the field of ceramics in all countries.

Cinema Vérité to review world’s top docs

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A selection of documentaries acclaimed at 2020 international events across the world will be reviewed in a special program at the 14th edition of the Cinema Vérité festival in Iran.

The documentaries will be screened in a section named “World’s Best” during the event that is Iran’s major international festival for documentary films, the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC), which is the main organizer of the festival, announced on Saturday.

Earlier last week, the organizers announced that they will screen “Mother-Child” by the Argentinian-born filmmaker Andrea Testa at the Cinema Vérité this year.

The film won the Best Mid-Length Documentary Award at the Hot Docs in Toronto, Canada, and also received a special mention from the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) in 2019.

The 14th edition of the Cinema Vérité, which will



A poster for the Cinema Vérité festival.

be organized entirely online during December due to a spike in coronavirus cases in the country, also plans to screen the latest films by the world’s celebrated filmmakers in a section named “Special Screenings”.

American filmmaker Ross McElwee appears on Iranian TV

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — American documentary filmmaker Ross McElwee has appeared on an Iranian TV program on Friday, reviewing filmmaking in Iran.

The program named Nardeban is being broadcast from the Mostanad Channel, IRIB’s channel dedicated to screening documentary films.

The program covers issues on documentary cinema and photography in two sections for beginners and professionals.

McElwee elaborated on documentary filmmaking in the world and reviewed the situation of Iranian documentary cinema.

A number of Iranian filmmakers and documentarians also attended the program that discussed works by McElwee.

Documentarian Mehdi Baqeri discussed documentaries by McElwee, while McElwee’s documentary “Six O’clock News” was reviewed by Omid Balaghati on the program.

McElwee has made ten feature-length documentaries as well as a number of short films. His “Sherman’s March” has won numerous awards during international events, including the Sundance Film Festival.

“Sherman’s March” was also chosen for preservation by the Library of Congress National Film Registry in 2000 as a “historically significant American motion picture.”

“Bright Leaves” premiered at the 2003 Cannes Film Festival’s Directors’ Fortnight, and was nominated for best documentary by both the Director’s Guild of America and the Writer’s Guild of America.

McElwee’s “In Paraguay” premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2008, and he returned to Venice in 2011 to premiere “Photographic Memory”.

In 2005, complete retrospectives of McElwee’s films were presented at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and later in Paris, Brussels, Milan, Lisbon,



American filmmaker Ross McElwee in an undated photo.

New Zealand, Seoul, Quito, and Nyon, Switzerland.

Four of his films were featured in a selection of Western documentaries shown for the first time in Tehran.

In 2015, McElwee presented his films in Changchun, Guangzhou and Beijing, China.

In three of his films, “Backyard”, “Sherman’s March” and “Time Indefinite”, he experimented with a personal autobiographical approach to non-fiction filmmaking, filming as a one-person film crew and weaving into the final film a highly subjective narration along with on-camera experiences by the filmmaker.

His current work, “Six O’clock News” continues to explore ideas and issues of subjective non-fiction filmmaking. “Six O’clock News” recently was named best documentary at the Hawaii International Film Festival.

McElwee has been a visiting filmmaker at Harvard University for ten years and has been awarded fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Brazilian director Petra Costa, famous for her Oscar-nominated film, “The Edge of Democracy”, appeared on Nardeban in August.