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Iran, Iraq stride toward defense cooperation



Travel startups and efforts to survive coronavirus

BY AFSHIN MAJLESI

We are all aware of the impact of the novel coronavirus on tourism yet we know that the sector has proven giant, successful tracks of resilience before.

It already overcome vast challenges, the ones like SARS in 2003 and the financial crisis of 2009, after which the tourism industry saw a full decade of continuous growth.

Startup founders, shoulder to shoulder with hoteliers, tour operates and guides, craftspeople, museum owners, transport businesses, agents, and ordinary travel insiders, are still facing many challenges in the mid-pandemic.

Weighing tourism losses is not easy to gauge as the data changes rapidly and the virus behavior is less-known. However, one thing is evident; if the pandemic continues for the months to come, it will lead to the loss of tens of millions of jobs and billions of dollars in revenues in the global scene.

What's going on now in the coronavirus era is very different than tourism insiders expected before as a resilient sector in the face of various disruptions and crises. Some say the current challenges resemble past encounters faced by the sector but exponentially accelerated.

With 1.5 billion tourists, the tourism and hospitality sectors are amongst the most immense industries globally with their footprints being traced in the creation of many jobs, with women, young people, SMEs, and microenterprises playing key roles.

Startups are considered a streamline enabling society to benefit from new advances in a shorter time, and their flow of knowledge and investments is a novel paradigm for introducing state-of-the-art technologies to have tourism recovered. Entrepreneurship and digital transformation are two sides of the same coin facing the challenges of the coronavirus crisis.

Here we explore how entrepreneurs could be adapting to survive problems like changing business plans, markets, workplaces, and finding news investment.

The world we know is becoming more and more digital so entrepreneurs should make sure their services, products fit the markets, especially as the market shifts in the wake of changes in consumer behavior and restrictions of travel.

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Diabetes prevention on closer consideration amid COVID-19

BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI

TEHRAN – As long as people with diabetes are at higher risk of serious complications associated with COVID-19, diabetes prevention must come to a closer consideration than ever.

In 2007, UN General Assembly designated November 14 as World Diabetes Day emphasizing “the urgent need to pursue multilateral efforts to promote and improve human health, and provide access to treatment and health-care education.”

The theme for World Diabetes Day 2020 is Nurses Make the Difference. The campaign aims to raise awareness around the crucial role that nurses play in supporting people living with diabetes.

Diabetes burden to be heavier

Some 11 percent of Iranians above 25 years old, accounting for 5 million people, are suffering from diabetes, and 18 percent of the population

are pre-diabetic, health ministry official Alireza Mahdavi said in November 2019.

In Iran, 25 percent of people are not aware of their diabetes, which is 50 percent in the world; in West Asia and North Africa, 60 percent of people are unaware of their diabetes.

About 422 million people worldwide have diabetes, the majority living in low-and middle-income countries, and 1.6 million deaths are directly attributed to diabetes each year. Both the number of cases and the prevalence of diabetes have been steadily increasing over the past few decades. As it is expected that by 2030, 578 million people will develop diabetes, and the number of patients may exceed 700 million by 2045.

In 2019, 4.2 million people died of diabetes. And now, 50 percent of coronavirus patients were diabetic.

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Violence erupts as thousands rally behind Trump in Washington, DC

Supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump fought on the streets of Washington, DC with counter-demonstrators early on Sunday with several fistfights, at least one stabbing and 20 people arrested.

Several other cities on Saturday also saw gatherings of Trump supporters unwilling to accept Democrat Joe Biden's Electoral College and popular vote victory as legitimate. Cries of “Stop the Steal” and “Count Every Vote” continued despite a lack of evidence of voter fraud or other problems that could reverse the result, al Jazeera reported. After night fell, the relatively peaceful demonstrations in Washington turned from tense to violent. Videos posted on social media showed fistfights, projectiles thrown and club-swinging as Trump supporters clashed with those demanding they leave.

A variety of charges, including assault and weapons possession, were filed against those arrested,

officials said. Two police officers were injured and several firearms were recovered by police.

One person was stabbed and rushed to a trauma centre, a spokeswoman for the city fire and emergency medical services department said. The Washington Post newspaper reported the stabbing occurred amid a melee between Trump supporters – some carrying batons – and counter-protesters that broke out about 8pm (01:00 GMT).

‘Keep up his spirits’

Trump himself had given an approving nod to the gathering on Saturday morning by dispatching his motorcade through streets lined with supporters before rolling on to his Virginia golf club. People chanted “USA, USA” and “four more years” and many carried American flags and signs to show their displeasure with the vote tally and insistence that, as Trump has baselessly asserted, fraud was the reason.

Oxford professor says Trumpism has its roots in American society

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN – A professor of international relations at the University of Oxford believes that the “particular form populism” promoted by Donald Trump “has its roots in American society”.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Richard Caplan notes that “Trump has polarized the nation, leaving the country more divided than before.”

“To some Americans, he represents ‘real American values,’” he notes.

The following is the text of the interview:

How do you see the fate of Trump's refusal to accept Biden's victory in the presidential election?

A: Trump will eventually have to concede defeat. To date, he has offered no credible evidence to support his claims of voter fraud. Moreover, he is losing support among his Republican allies. With each passing day, Republican leaders are stepping forward to acknowledge Biden's victory. Meanwhile, world leaders have been lining up to extend their congratulations to Biden. There

has been some concern that Trump would refuse to leave the White House, but that becomes less and less likely as support for Trump's continued resistance diminishes.

What is Trump's legacy for America and the international community?

A: Trump's ‘America First’ policies have demonstrated to U.S. allies—including some of its closest allies—that they may no longer be able to count on the United States for support. Under Trump,

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Date harvest underway in Hormozgan

A man is picking fresh dates at a farm in Hajiabad county, southern Hormozgan province, November 15, 2020. The harvest season begins in early October and ends in mid-December.

More than 1.2 million tons of dates are produced each year in Iran, making the country the second largest producer and the fifth largest exporter in the world.

Iran's gasoline rationing scheme: from policy to practice

BY EBRAHIM FALLAHI

TEHRAN – These days last year, Iranians were surprised by the sudden news of the implementation of a program for rationing gasoline and also the increase in the fuel prices.

In a drastic policy shift on November 15, 2019, the Iranian government partly eliminated subsidies on gasoline and started rationing the highly subsidized fuel, saying it was planning to use the revenues for supporting underprivileged families.

Over the past few decades, the changes in the Iranian government's fuel supply policies have been due to a series of reasons which include controlling consumption through non-price methods, preventing smuggling, and increasing exports, reducing government subsidy costs, preventing dependence on fuel imports and finally, saving the environment and controlling air pollution.

Now that a year has passed since the implementation of the government's rationing scheme, the Tehran Times takes a look into the outcomes of the scheme to see how much the government has been successful in realizing the goals intended for this program.

To help us with the matter, energy expert and the Chairman of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Energy Committee Hamidreza Salehi also provided us with his insights.

Reducing consumption and increasing exports

One of the major goals of the rationing program was to reduce consumption and to cut the dependence of the country on importing gasoline and even to make Iran an exporter of the product.

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Iran has provided Iraq with defense products, says general

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri says the Islamic Republic has provided Iraq with necessary defense equipment on Baghdad's request.

"In the past, we've had cooperation in the field of defense and equipment and we've signed and implemented contracts in this regard," General Bagheri said on Sunday in a meeting with Iraqi Minister of Defense Juma Inad in Tehran.

Iran's Defense Ministry has provided Iraq with the military products it needed, he said.



"The armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq as two neighboring and brotherly countries have had long-term relations and interests which were thoroughly discussed in the recent trips," Bagheri added.

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

On Saturday, he met his Iranian counterpart Brigadier General Amir Hatami. 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."

Iran-Iraq cooperation guarantees regional stability
Also on Sunday, the Iraqi defense chief held talks with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani on bilateral, regional and international developments.

At the meeting, Shamkhani touched on defense and security cooperation between Iran and Iraq in their fight against terrorism sponsored by the United States and its allies in the region as well as the Islamic Republic's unwavering support for the liberation of Iraqi cities from Daesh occupation.

"This cooperation guarantees the stability and security of the region and should be deepened to strategic levels," he said, according to Press TV.

One of US objectives in the West Asia is to create rifts and conflicts among regional states, Shamkhani stressed, underlining the need for the regional countries to exercise vigilance against "the sinister plot."

He also underscored the importance of preserving security along joint borders, warning, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will deal decisively with any component of insecurity that intends to disturb the people of the two countries and their peace."

Shamkhani further hailed a decision by the Iraqi parliament to expel US troops from Iraq.

Khattab, for his part, hailed Tehran's support and assistance for his country in repelling terrorism and stressed expanding bilateral relations, especially in military and security sectors.

No third country can affect relations between Iran and Iraq, he said, noting that the experience of the two neighbors in the fight against Daesh showed that any crisis can be overcome through joint cooperation.

Trump admin doing utmost to kill JCPOA: Wendy Sherman

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Wendy Sherman, the former U.S. nuclear negotiator with Iran, has said the Trump administration is trying to do whatever they can, quite frankly, to make it more difficult for the Biden administration to return to the Iran nuclear agreement (JCPOA).



"But a lot of these sanctions are going to actually be similar to things that have already been done, with new names on them. But the underlying sanctions, I think, are not fundamentally going to change," Sherman said in an interview with the PRI published on Wednesday.

"So, a Biden-Harris administration is going to have to look at where we are. The president-elect has said he wants to reenter negotiations and build back better. So this will be a very complicated puzzle," she said.

The outgoing U.S. President Donald Trump has pursued the "maximum pressure" policy against Iran in order to force Tehran to succumb to its demands. The policy was implemented after Trump unilaterally pulled Washington out of the historic nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers.

Washington then slapped several rounds of harsh sanctions on Iran, claiming it was pursuing to negotiate a better deal with Iran than the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was clinched under his predecessor Barack Obama.

Meanwhile, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden has voiced support for the JCPOA, saying his administration will rejoin the deal.

"We're not in 2016. We're in 2020 and almost to 2021. Time has passed. Circumstances have changed. And even though the deal was kept together by our European allies and by Russia and China, in the last year, I would say it has started to unravel a bit," Sherman said.

"And although Iran has said it has taken reversible steps, nonetheless, we're not in the same place. So, this will be difficult, hard work. And I would suspect that President-elect Biden and his team will first start by talking with our European allies, with France, Great Britain, Germany, with the European Union, and then with Russia and China, to see what might be the best way forward," she added.

She also said one thing that she knows about Iranian negotiators is that they are very tough. They're going to put as many chips on the table as possible before sitting down to talk with the new administration, the former diplomat said.

IRGC pounds terrorist positions across Iran's northwestern borders

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced on Saturday that it has targeted positions of terrorist groups across the country's northwestern borders.

"The forces of the Guards' Ground Force targeted this morning the positions of anti-Revolution terrorist groups across the country's northwestern borders, and inflicted heavy losses on the anti-Revolution elements," the statement read, according to Mashregh news.

"As it has repeatedly been declared, maintaining national security, peace and comfort of the Iranian nation, especially the people living in border provinces, is the red line of the country's Armed Forces, especially the Guards' Ground Force," it added.

It came after 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 attack also caused major losses to the 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-Revolution 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 been engaged in 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.

Ghalibaf: Iran's fate not hanging on Arizona, Georgia, Michigan

Problems lie in mismanagement in Paestor and Baharestan, the parliament speaker says

1 → The parliament speaker said decisions regarding the housing sector, stock exchange, release of goods from customs, monetary and banking policies, budget planning, profiteering in foreign currency, gold and car markets, and inattention to domestic production as examples of mismanagement.

It is because of these mismanagements that have not produced desired results in establishing effective trade ties with neighbors, regional countries, and important countries in the world, especially Eurasians, added Ghalibaf, the former Tehran mayor.

Since assuming office in January 2017, Trump has pursued confrontational policies against Iran. He withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) in May 2018 and imposed the "toughest ever" economic sanctions in history on Iran. Trump's Iran policy has been described by observers as an abject failure.

In his latest move, the U.S. president notified Congress on Thursday that he was extending the state of national emergency with Iran that has been in place since 1979.

"Our relations with Iran have not yet normalized, and the process of implementing the agreements with Iran, dated January 19, 1981, is ongoing. For this reason, the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2020," Trump wrote in a letter to Congress.

Meanwhile, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden has voiced support for the JCPOA, saying his administration will rejoin the deal.

Ghalibaf, however, emphasized that in order to resolve the country's problems, the government should focus on domestic capabilities instead of waiting for the new U.S. administration to resolve Iran's problems.

"Do not give the wrong address to the people," he advised the officials.

Ghalibaf added, "It is quite evident that lifting of sanctions should be one of the aims of foreign policy, but to be realistic a lift of sanction without creating opportunities and increasing power is simplistic."

The senior lawmaker also said saying something the signals "weakness" to the enemy is just a loss of opportunity.

He said the Majlis believes that Iran should make economic pressure on the Islamic Republic "costly" for its enforcers.

Addressing Biden, Ghalibaf said, "The Iranian people, quite intelligently, will only look at decisions and not publicity and are only waiting for action and not words, and will give proper answers in accordance to them."

'Power shift in White House not important for Islamic Republic'

TEHRAN (MNA) — The spokesman of Parliaments' Independent Faction has said that any change in the white house doesn't matter to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the U.S. election doesn't exhilarate Iranians in no way.

The weekly meeting of the Parliaments' Independent Faction held with the presence of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, Jaber Ansari, and Deputy Foreign Minister for legal, consular, and Parliamentary Affairs, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji said.

"In this meeting, everyone agreed that the principled policies of the White House towards the Islamic Republic of Iran will not change, therefore, Iran must deal with every aspect of this issue with a more sensitive and accurate manner", he added.

Stressing that any change in the white house doesn't matter to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the U.S. election doesn't exhilarate Iranians, he said, "However, we must make the most of every possible opportunity ahead so as to meet our national interests."

Tensions soared between Tehran and Washington after the Trump adminis-

tration unilaterally walked away from the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018.

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

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

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

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



it were a lesson," he said. "The U.S., which for years hid its structural, social, political and economic problems with its media power, was exposed to the world's public opinion."

Ghalibaf said the real picture of the United States showed the declining trend of the country in front of the eyes of the world's oppressed people.

"As my dear brother Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah said a few days ago, we are happy with the defeat of the killer of Lieutenant General [Qassem] Soleimani and Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis," he remarked.

"We blame the corrupt regime in the United States for their misdeeds, and they must withdraw their forces from the region," he added.

In remarks on Wednesday, Rouhani said his administration will make use of every opportunity in order to lift the U.S. sanctions.

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

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

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

"We established good relations with certain neighbors such as Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Azerbaijan over the past years, as well as with other friendly countries like Russia, China and others. I feel that the atmosphere for closer relations with all of our friends is more prepared."

Rouhani also said the Trump administration that sought the fall of the Iranian establishment has faced a "humiliating" defeat itself.

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All bids in conformity with tender instruction should be submitted no later than Wednesday, November 25, 2020



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — As Iranian and Iraqi defense officials held talks in Tehran on Sunday to discuss ways to boost defense cooperation, an expert on West Asia told the Tehran Times that Iran and Iraq enjoy strategic relations because they have many things in common.

During his visit to Iran, the Iraqi defense minister sought to strengthen these relations, a move that was warmly welcomed by Iran.

Heading a high-ranking delegation of Iraqi military commanders, Iraqi Defense Minister Juma Inad Saadoun arrived in Tehran on Saturday at the formal invitation of his Iranian defense minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami. During the meeting, the two defense ministers discussed a variety of issues such as the fight against terrorism, boosting the defense capabilities of Iraq, and developments in the region.

During his meeting with Inad Saadoun, 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.

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

The Iraqi defense minister, for his part, appreciated Iran’s support for Iraq in the fight against the Daesh terrorist group, saying that the first goal of his trip to Iran was to boost and strengthen the relations between the two countries and the other goal was to get acquainted with the scientific and technological achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran and gain valuable experiences in the defense arena.

During the second day of his visit, the Iraqi defense minister also met with Chief of Staff of Iran’s Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri and Ali Shamkhani,



Safe Zone

Iran, Iraq stride toward defense cooperation

the secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council.

“So far, we have had and will have various discussions in all fields. The two countries have also prepared a document that is in the final stages and will be signed in the near future,” Bagheri said on Sunday at the sideline of the meeting with Inad Saadoun.

Bagheri added, “The minister of defense and the commanders of the Navy, Air Force, Air Defense, and some other Iraqi commanders came to our country and discussed how to develop and deepen defense and military cooperation.”

According to Bagheri, the Iraqi officials met with their Iranian counterparts and discussed several issues.

“During this meeting, issues related to the defense industry and security of the two countries’ shared borders, as well as issues related to cooperation and exchange of expe-

riences, joint military exercises and training issues were discussed, and God willing, this cooperation will be developed,” pointed out the military chief.

The general also noted that Iran has signed defense contracts with Iraq in the past and has provided it with the military products it needed.

Iran and Iraq enjoy “strategic relations” that are based on many commonalities, according to the Seyed Reza Sadr al-Hosseini, an expert on the Western Asia region.

Sadr al-Hosseini said these strategic relations derive from factors such as long shared borders, shared culture, and the fact that the two countries can play an effective role in the region.

“Expanding cooperation in various fields such as political, cultural and defense fields can be very effective in strengthening these strategic relations,” Sadr al-Hosseini told the

Tehran Times, adding that Iraq has lost its defense capabilities over the past decades and that it needs to boost its capabilities.

According to the expert, Iraq’s military incurred remarkable damage after the Iran-Iraq war because the United States heavily bombed Iraq and destroyed much of its military equipment. Sadr al-Hosseini also pointed to the impact that the war against the Daesh terrorist group had on Iraq’s defense capabilities, saying that during the war against Daesh Iraq’s military suffered serious damage.

“Increasing and deepening relations [with Iran] in all fields, especially in the defense sector, is currently very important to Iraq given the cordial cooperation that Iran had with Iraq in the fight against terrorism,” pointed out Sadr al-Hosseini, noting that Inad Saadoun’s visit to Iran is very necessary considering the existing agreements between Tehran and Baghdad regarding Iran’s efforts to provide Iraq with defense equipment.

The expert said that holding defense talks between Tehran and Baghdad is important given developments in the region.

Iran has strong relations with Iraq’s various political and military institutions such as the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) which played a crucial role in defeating Daesh with Iran’s support. Some media outlets in Iraq and beyond have sought to portray Iran’s dealing with the PMF as an improper relation that marginalizes Iraq’s conventional Army despite the fact that the PMF is a formal Iraqi institution on par with the country’s conventional Army.

Sadr al-Hosseini rejected the claim that Iran is favoring one Iraqi institution over the other as “rumors” that are “untrue.”

He said the PMF is an official Iraqi institution and Iran’s relations with it are in accordance with the rules of Iraq’s military.

“The Iraqi defense minister’s visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran can dispel these rumors while boosting the armed forces of the two countries,” noted Sadr al-Hosseini, underlining that these rumors are only intended to undermine Iran-Iraq relations.

Iranian, UK ambassadors discuss developments in Iraq

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iraj Masjedi, Iran’s ambassador to Iraq, met on Sunday with his British counterpart Stephen Hickey to discuss developments in Iraq and the region, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

The meeting was held at the Iranian embassy in Baghdad. During the meeting, the two ambassadors discussed the political developments in Iraq and the region, underlining the need for Tehran and London to cooperate with the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi.

The Iranian ambassador underlined the necessity for the United States to rejoin the 2015 Iran nuclear deal — officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — which the Trump administration unilaterally withdrew from two and a half years ago. Masjedi said it is essential for the U.S. to return to its commitments under the nuclear deal.



Masjedi’s meeting with Hickey came on the heels of his meeting with the Norwegian ambassador in Iraq. The Iranian ambassador met with his Norwegian counterpart on Saturday.

The British ambassador, for his part, called on all parties to the 2015 nuclear deal to uphold their commitments.

U.S. President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the JCPOA on May 8, 2018, reimposing sweeping economic sanctions on Iran in a bid to reach a new deal with Iran. Almost all parties to the Iran nuclear deal remained committed to the deal and opposed the U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Trump’s Democratic rival Joe Biden, who is on course to become U.S. president after he won enough electoral votes, had vowed to rejoin the JCPOA after moving into the White House. Biden did not make any comment on his pledge to reenter the nuclear deal since he won the U.S. presidential election but he is widely expected to rejoin the JCPOA in the coming months.

Iranian government should boost ties with the East: senior MP

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Seyed Amirhossein Ghazizadeh, the deputy speaker of the Iranian Parliament, called on the government of Hassan Rouhani to strengthen Iran’s relations with the East instead of tying the interest of the country to the United States presidential election.

“The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic to secure its political and economic interests must be based on the strategy of “look East” and strengthen its relations with neighboring countries and the region,” the deputy speaker told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

He added, “Unfortunately, in the eleventh and twelfth governments [the Rouhani government], little attention was paid to interaction and relations with African countries, and some government officials justify their shortcomings by saying that trade with African countries is not economically viable for us, but this is not the case and we could make a lot of money for the benefit of the people by increasing trade with Africans.”

The senior lawmaker also called on the cabinet of Hassan Rouhani to pay more attention to the East.

“So instead of tying the interests of the country and the people to the U.S. election, it is better to act in accordance with the strategy of ‘look East’,” Ghazizadeh said.

The lawmaker pointed out that there is no difference between Donald Trump and Joe Biden, underlining that the policies of the White House toward Iran do not change with the change of individuals.

“I have said on many occasions that we see no difference between Biden and Trump because the White House officials’ policies do not change when individuals change. The United States’ confrontation with the Iranian people has been exactly the same, not only in the last 40 years but throughout history,” asserted Ghazizadeh, adding that during the Obama administration the wall of sanctions against Iran did not crack and that, now with Biden, a fellow Democrat of Obama, assuming office, the wall is unlikely to crack.

According to the deputy speaker, the



fact that there is no difference between Republicans and Democrats in dealing with Iran has become clear not only to officials in the country’s diplomatic apparatus, but also to officials in other countries who acknowledge that there will be no change in U.S. policy toward Iran.

Ghazizadeh stated, “Despite repeated threats from the Americans, gasoline was successfully exported to Venezuela a few months ago, and not only did the Americans fail to stop it, but Iran’s trade with Venezuela also expanded, and this trade continues.”

The lawmaker said the only way to save the Iranian economy is to enhance the country’s capabilities, calling on the government to solve economic problems.

“The only way to save the country’s economy is to focus on the country’s internal capabilities. We have abundant resources that the youth of this country can use for the development of the country and overcome the problems; In addition, there are necessary bases for attracting foreign investment in Iran, and if the responsible agencies in this field are seriously active, they can also use foreign capital for the development and prosperity of the country; therefore, Iran’s policies, especially in the economic field, will not change with the change of U.S. presidents,” noted Ghazizadeh.

He also warned against repeating the mistake that the country’s diplomatic apparatus made during the Obama administration.

“The country’s diplomatic apparatus must be careful not to repeat the mistake it made during Obama’s presidency in the Biden administration, because we have passed the ‘trial and error’ stage and now is only the time to serve the people and try to solve economic problems,” pointed out the deputy speaker.

Iraq needs Iran support: Iraqi MP

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran is stable and militarily advanced and that Iraq needs its support, according to Amer al-Faez, a member of the Iraqi Parliament’s Foreign Relations Committee.

The lawmaker’s remarks came after the Iraqi Defense Minister, Juma Inad Saadoun, visited Iran on Saturday on an official visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Brigadier General Amir Hatami.

The Iraqi defense minister met with Hatami and other high-ranking Iranian officials including Chief of Staff of Iran’s Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri and Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council.

Al-Faez described the Iraqi defense minister’s visit to the Islamic Republic as part of the historical and necessary communication and military cooperation between the two brotherly countries, stressing that the Iranian and Iraqi peoples are one nation, and Iraq does not forget Iran’s distinguished and honorable position in purging the filth of Daesh from the land of Iraq.

“Communication between the two brotherly countries is necessary and in the interest of the two countries, and cooperation between the Islamic Republic and Iraq is a historical issue, especially the new Iraq after the fall of the dictatorial regime,” the Iraqi lawmaker told the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Al-Faez added, “The visit by the Iraqi defense minister to the Islamic Republic comes to consolidate this relationship and complete the previous process. This relationship is not new or unlikely. Rather, it is continuous communication and serves both countries, especially since the Islamic Republic today is stable and advanced militarily, and Iraq today needs the support and cooperation of friendly countries in the region, first and foremost the support of the Islamic Republic.”

“With regard to the fight against terrorism, the history testifies that the blood has been mixed and that when Daesh desecrated the land of Iraq, the position of the Islamic Republic was distinctive and honorable, and everyone admits that. It sent field



commanders, sent weapons, sent money, and trained Iraqi fighters,” said al-Faez.

He also said that the shared political, military, and economic interests encourage the leaders of the two countries to continue and strengthen cooperation between Tehran and Baghdad.

Commenting on Iran’s call for countries of the region to protect the region from foreign interference, al-Faez said, “The Iranian approach raises the morale of the region and strengthens the region’s position.... This means that Iran today calls on the countries of the region to be self-sufficient. Iran did not reach what it is today until after it became self-sufficient.”

He went further to say, “The statements of Imam Khomeini is a witness to history, when he said, ‘A country does not advance unless it relies on itself,’ and from this standpoint, he made Iran and the Iranians really depend on themselves by developing weapons and the economy and by rolling up their sleeves until today, Iran is one of the great powers in the region and on the course of the superpowers of the world.”

The Iraqi lawmaker stated, “The Islamic Republic’s call for the countries of the region to protect the region and keep it away from foreign interference, is really a liberation of the region, an increase in its stability and independence, and a non-interference of distant countries in the internal affairs of the region, especially since it is a rich region and all countries of the world are focused on it.”

Al-Faez called on the leaders of the region to cooperate in this regard if they can independently make decisions, adding that the European Union has become a strong power in the world because it confronted the American expansion and because they created unity among themselves.

SPORTS

Hamid Estili still coach of Iran U23 football team

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Hamid Estili remained as head coach of Iran U23 football team.

Under leadership of Estili, Iran U23 football team failed to bring an end to a 44-year Olympic qualification drought in January.



The Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)’s Youth Committee, headed by Mirshad Majedi, announced that Estili will remain as U23 head coach.

Estili was named as head coach of Iran U23 football team in October 2019.

IPL Matchweek 2 to be played as scheduled: official

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran Professional League (IPL) Matchweek 2 will be played as scheduled according to acting head of Iran Football League Organization Soheil Mahdi.

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 Nov. 21.

IPL Matchweek 2 will start on Nov. 19 and will continue until Nov. 21.

“We have not been ordered to postpone the league so far. So, the IPL Matchweek 2 will be played as scheduled,” Mahdi said.

Azerbaijan’s Sabail complete signing of Bakhtiar Rahmani

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian midfielder Bakhtiar Rahmani, who had been linked with a move to Esteghlal, joined Azerbaijani football team Sabail.

The 29-year-old attacking midfielder has joined Sabail for an undisclosed fee.

Iranian defender Peyman Keshavarzi in also a member of Sabail. Rahmani started his career in Foolad in 2007 and has also played at Sepahan, Esteghlal, Tractor, Zob Ahan and Sanat Naft. Rahmani has also played four matches for Iran national football team.

Sabail were established in 2016 and immediately joined the Azerbaijan First Division.

Three coaches shortlisted for Iran U19 football team

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Hamid Derakhshan, Ali Latifi and Davoud Mahabadi have been shortlisted to take charge of Iran U19 football team.

Parviz Mazloumi stepped down as coach of Iran U19 team in October to work as Iranian football club Esteghlal’s sporting director.

Mazloumi had been named as U19 coach in late July.

Now, the three coached have been nominated for the Iranian U19 team.

Seven Iranian players at ACL (West) Best XI

Just a few days before the 2020 AFC Champions League (East) resumes, the-AFC.com announced the all-star team, as voted by the fans, from the 2020 (West) edition.

It will come as no surprise that a number of the Persepolis side who have reached the 2020 AFC Champions League final made the line-up after their impressive displays throughout and the players are joined by five other standout performers.

Hamed Lak, Shoja Khilizadeh, Siamak Nemati, Saeid Aghaei, Kamal Kamyabinia, and Bashar Resan from Persepolis as well as Esteghlal forwards Mehdi Ghaedi and Amir Ahsan Motehary are in the favorite team.

Al Nassr striker and defender Abderrazak Hamdallah and Maicon and Al Sadd forward Baghdad Bounedjah are among the team as coach.

Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi has been also chosen as the best coach.

(Source: the-afc)

Iran wrestling coach Bana tests positive for COVID-19

Tasnim — Iran Greco-Roman wrestling team head coach Mohammad Bana has tested positive for coronavirus.

The 62-year-old trainer has been infected with coronavirus after receiving a positive test result.

Bana has led Iran national Greco-Roman wrestling team at London Olympics 2012 and Rio Olympics 2016.

Bana is regarded as the most successful coach in Iran’s Greco-Roman wrestling history. The Iranian wrestlers (Omid Norouzi, Ghasem Rezaei and Hamid Sourian) won three gold medals in London under his leadership.

More than 11,200 new coronavirus cases were detected in Iran during the previous 24 hours, the Health Ministry’s spokeswoman said Saturday.

Industry Ministry approves over \$1b of foreign investment in 7 months

1 → The highest volume of foreign investment approved in the industry, mining and trade sectors in the period under review were in the categories of chemical materials and products, base metals, coke, refined products and nuclear fuels, rubber and plastic products, respectively.

Germany, China, Turkey, and India were the countries with the highest volume of investment and Afghanistan, Turkey, China, and India were those with the largest number during the mentioned time span.

Also, Sistan-Baluchestan, Khuzestan, Tehran, Isfahan, and East Azarbaijan provinces were the top five provinces in terms of the volume of approved foreign investment.

As previously reported by the Industry Ministry, Iran expects a 10-fold increase of foreign investment in industry and mining sectors by the end of the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (March 2022).

Copper anode production up 12%

E C O N O M Y **TEHRAN** — Production of the copper anode in Iran has risen 12 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), from the same period of time in the previous year.

As reported, 205,110 tons of the product has been produced in the seven-month period of this year.

In early May, four development projects worth 40 trillion rials (about \$952.3 million) were inaugurated in the copper sector of Kerman Province in the southeast of Iran.

President Hassan Rouhani put the projects into operation through video conference.

The projects inaugurated in Khatoun Abad Copper Complex included increasing the capacity of copper smelting in the complex, building a copper concentrate storage, construction of a sulfuric acid production plant, and an oxygen supplying unit.

By putting the first project into operation, the complex's capacity for producing copper anode rises by 50 percent to 120,000 tons, and the country's copper smelting capacity rose to 400,000 tons.

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.

A senior official at Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has said that the value of exports for main copper products reached more than \$1 billion over the past year.

Over 387,000 tons of commodities traded at IME in a week

E C O N O M Y **TEHRAN**—More than 387,500 tons of commodities worth \$136 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), IME Public Relations and International Affairs Department reported.



Last week, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 98,160 tons of various products worth \$41 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 97,300 tons of steel, 80 tons of aluminum, 660 tons of copper, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrates as well as 16 kg of gold bar were traded by customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 288,776 tons of different commodities with the total value of \$96 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 73,300 tons of VB feed stock, 73,594 tons of bitumen, 38,366 tons of polymer products, 31,249 tons of chemical products, 54,000 tons of lube cut oil, 1,665 tons of insulation, 966 tons of base oil, 150 tons of argon as well as 15,320 tons of sulfur were traded.

Furthermore, 1,764 tons of commodities were traded on the side market of the IME.

As previously reported, over 2.462 million tons of commodities worth \$983 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange during October.

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

Basic goods import falls 27% in 7.5 months

E C O N O M Y **TEHRAN** — Iran's imports of basic goods during the 7.5-month period since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20) has decreased 27 percent, compared to the same period of time in the past year.

During the 7.5-month period of the present year, 14.8 million tons of basic commodities worth \$7.1 billion have been imported into the country, while the figures for the same time span of the previous year were 14.9 million tons valued at \$9.7 billion.

Among the imported goods, corn with more than 6.1 million tons worth \$1.4 billion, drugs and medical equipment valued at \$948 million, oilseeds valued at \$682.1 million and wheat with the worth of more than \$666.5 million were the top imported items.

In early October, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced that \$5.267 billion was supplied for importing basic commodities in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year.

Iran imported 25 million tons of basic goods during the previous Iranian calendar year, based on the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

According to the IRICA Head Mehdi Mirashrafi, 35 million tons of commodities were imported into the country in the mentioned year, of which 25 million tons were basic goods.

"This year, the trend [of trade] has slowed down, and we hope that with the measures taken by the central bank, the Industry Ministry, and IRICA, we will be able to minimize the deposition of goods in the customs before and after clearance", Mirashrafi said in June.

Iran's gasoline rationing scheme: from policy to practice

1 → According to Salehi, prior to the rationing scheme, daily gasoline consumption in Iran hovered around 90 million liters while the country's refineries hardly produced enough gasoline to meet the domestic demand and so despite having great hydrocarbon resources Iran was an importer of gasoline.

After the implementation of the program in November 2019, average daily gasoline consumption fell to 75 million liters in December, and later the outbreak of coronavirus in early March and April led to even further decline in consumption so that in some days of April the figure even fell to about 22 million liters.

This created a great opportunity for the government to export the surplus fuel to other countries so that gasoline became one of the top exported commodities during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21).

A look into the government's performance and the outcomes of the program, considering the mentioned two goals we can fairly say that although most of the decline in the consumption has been due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, still the results are significant.

■ People and pollution

A program on the national scale can be considered successful when it brings about general satisfaction; that is when the masses are happy with the results of the so-called program.

"People should see the positive results



of the rationing program in their lives to accept it as a positive act; for example, new jobs should be created with the revenues earned from the exports and subsidies, people's purchasing power must increase and etc.," Salehi said in this regard.

According to the expert, in order to move toward a dynamic economy, the government (and along with it the people) should change their approach and viewpoint regarding the energy subsidies.

"Based on the International Energy Agency (IEA) data Iran is among the world's top

countries with the most energy subsidies, this is not a good thing," he said.

In 2018 with \$69 billion of subsidies allocated for various types of energy consumption including oil, natural gas, and electricity, Iran holds first place among the world's top countries in terms of the number of subsidies which is allocated to energy consumption.

If carried out properly, purposeful elimination of energy subsidies and providing fuel with real prices would have great outcomes for people including more job opportunities, and less pollution.

Online intl. conference on fisheries, aquatic research to kick off this week

E C O N O M Y **TEHRAN** — Iran's 4th International Conference on Fisheries and Aquatic Research is due to kick off through videoconference on November 18, IRIB reported.

The three-day online event is organized by the Agriculture Ministry in collaboration with the Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute (IFSRI), Iran University of Medical Sciences, Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO), and Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science.

As reported, this congress will be an important step towards increasing the scientific level of the country's fishery and aquaculture sectors and ultimately boost the production of these industries.

Biology and assessment of aquatic resources, climate change and aquaculture, algae and aquatic plant breeding, aquaponics, and nutrition and live food in aquaculture, fish breeding, health, and diseases, as well as marketing and branding of fishery and aquaculture products are some of

the areas covered in this conference.

In this event, fishery researchers and experts from Germany, Australia, and Singapore will deliver speeches on aquatic biosafety, borderless aquaculture, and onshore and offshore ecology to share the latest scientific findings with participants.

Fishery production has increased noticeably in the country in recent years, according to IFO Head Nabiollah Khoun-Mirzaei.

According to the official, Iran's annual fishery output currently stands at about 1.28 million tons.

"The figure is anticipated to reach 1.37 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), and surpass 1.5 million tons in the next year," he said.

Khoun-Mirzaei has announced that the country's fishery export stood at 146,000 tons worth \$538.9 million in the past Iranian year, while the import was 29,000 tons valued at \$98.9 million, so Iran's fishery trade balance was \$440 million in the previous year.



According to the IFO Deputy Head Hossein Ali Abdolhay, some 12 aquatic species are already bred in Iran and the figure is planned to reach 17 by the end of the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (March 2021).

128 projects implemented under "A-B-Iran" scheme since March

E C O N O M Y **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said on Saturday evening that his ministry has implemented 128 projects with a total investment of 430 trillion rials (about \$10.2 billion) under the framework of a program called "A-B-Iran" since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Following "A-B-Iran", the Energy Ministry plans to inaugurate 250 major water and electricity projects worth 500 trillion rials (about \$11.9 billion) during the current year (ends on March 20, 2021), the Energy Ministry's portal Paven reported.

"We hope that until the end of the year, the inauguration of new projects will go on week by week and according to schedule, and we will do our best to fulfill this promise this year just like the previous year," Ardakanian said in an interview with the national TV.

Since the beginning of the first phase of the program in the previous Iranian calendar year every week several energy projects went operational across the country.

According to the minister, so far, seven dams, eight irrigation and drainage network projects, four large water treatment plants, seven large wastewater treatment plants, 448 water supply projects to rural areas and



seven supply projects to large cities as well as nine thermal power plants, 13 renewable power plants, five small scale power plants and 33 substations and transmission line projects have been implemented under the framework of the mentioned program.

The first phase of the A-B-Iran scheme [the acronyms A and B stand for water, electricity in Persian], was started in the previous year, during which 227 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion) went operational across the country.

According to the minister, during the 20 weeks of the mentioned program in the previous year, the minister made 31 trips to various provinces for inaugurating energy projects.

TCCIMA to host online business forum with Russia's Samara, Saratov next month

E C O N O M Y **TEHRAN** — Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) is going to hold an online business forum with the private sector representatives of the Russian cities of Samara and Saratov on December 1, to explore ways of expanding trade between the two sides.

Aimed at establishing new connections between the businessmen and the private sectors of the two countries, the event is mainly focused on the agriculture and foodstuff sectors.

Officials from the two sides are scheduled to deliver speeches at the event while company representatives from both sides are also planned to hold talks and have B2B meetings.

In early October, TCCIMA had organized another online forum in collaboration with Russia Export Center (REC), the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Samara Region, and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.

In this forum, Iranian traders and businessmen active in the fields of telecommunications, IT, training and technology transfer, oil and gas, agricultural machinery and products, medical equipment and



services, and metals also held B2B talks with representatives of 20 companies from the Samara region.

The business forum was the first event held following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between TCCIMA and REC for the expansion of trade relations between the two countries.

TCCIMA signed an MOU with the Russian Export Center (REC) for boosting the two countries' trade in early September.

Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, which used to hold business forums between Iran and other countries regularly, has not stopped such activity during the coronavirus pandemic, while the chamber is holding such events online.

Next year's budget mainly targeted at cutting direct dependence on oil: Rouhani

E C O N O M Y **TEHRAN** — Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said that the main goal of the national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1400 (begins on March 21, 2021) is to downsize the government and cut the direct dependence on oil incomes.

Speaking in a session of the Resistance Economy Headquarters on Sunday, the president said that the next year's budget bill will be drafted within the framework of the general program of reforming the budget structure and general policies of the resistance economy, Shana reported.

"The main goal of the 1400 budget is to reduce costs, increase revenues, downsize the government, develop e-government, cut the direct budget dependence on oil, pick up and surge in production, and the implementation of the general policies of the resistance economy", Rouhani further noted.

"The 1400 budget bill is formulated in the framework of the general plan to reform the budget structure, general



policies of the resistance economy, with long-term growth approaches by focusing on non-oil exports, actively countering the outbreak of coronavirus and reducing its negative economic effects, accelerate the completion of production

assets acquisition plans, improving the business environment, paying attention to people's livelihoods with the priority of basic goods and developing a model of public-private partnership", he added.

"The budget of the organizations should create new opportunities and sources of non-oil-dependent income for the country, without disturbing the balance of prices of goods and services in the same sector or other sectors and organization. Also, solve the challenges facing the country related to the budget and facilitate the budget plan implementation process", Rouhani stated.

"Strengthening and supporting domestic production and manufacturing and focusing on export development policy, especially non-oil exports, with special emphasis on neighboring countries and Eurasia as the target markets, and establishing long-term trade relations and reducing tariffs in bilateral or multilateral international agreements are the main tools to counter the sanctions", the president stressed.

Trump's base has largely supported his claims of fraud: political analyst

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — A Lebanese political expert says Donald Trump's base has largely supported his claims of voter fraud, "but his effort to convince more mainstream Republicans that the election was stolen suffered a big blow when Fox News, the conservative cable network that has been supportive of his presidency" declared his rival Joe Biden as the victor.

"Some Republicans did criticize Trump for making what they called 'baseless allegations' about voter fraud," Marwa Osman tells the Tehran Times.

The following is the text of the interview: ■ How do you see the fate of Trump's refusal to accept Biden's victory in the presidential election?

A: Donald Trump did not shock anyone when he refused to accept the result of the U.S. election, especially as he accused media outlets that called the race for Joe Biden of colluding with the president-elect is trying to steal the White House. The man even declared that "this election is far from over."

Trump's base has largely supported his claims of fraud, but his effort to convince more mainstream Republicans that the election was stolen suffered a big blow when Fox News, the conservative cable network that has been supportive of his presidency, also called the race for Joe Biden. Meanwhile, some Republicans did criticize Trump for making what they called "baseless allegations" about voter fraud; party leaders are in a difficult position because they know the president retains huge support among the party base. Keep in mind that Trump has received 70 million votes, over 7 million more than his final count four years ago. Trump said his campaign has started prosecuting his case in court to ensure that election laws are fully upheld. The rightful winner is actually seated, especially in the swing states that remained undecided. Either way, Trump is hoping for more success in Pennsylvania, where it has challenged a move by the state to accept postal ballots that arrived up to three days after the election. However, in Pennsylvania, election officials have said that the number of votes that arrived after election day was insufficient to alter the outcome, which means Trump has no legal chance of changing the results



of the ballots.

■ What is Trump's legacy for America and the international community?

■ The man is definitely poised to leave a legacy of chaos with his big last-minute decisions, one of which is the foreign policy move. The abrupt dismissal of the U.S. defense secretary, Mark Esper, and reported plans for multiple layers of new sanctions on Iran has made clear that Donald Trump's last ten weeks in the office could still prove a very bumpy ride for the rest of the world. Trump is seeking to demonstrate he is still in charge of foreign and defense policy, fueling fears about the impact a vengeful president might have on the U.S. role on the world stage over the coming ten weeks of transition. In recent months, the Trump administration's strategy has been to build up pressure on Iran to provoke a response from Tehran, which would make it clear to the incoming administration to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal. Trump could also go as far as formally withdrawing from the New Start Treaty with Russia, which limits the nuclear arsenals of both states and which is due to expire in February or seek to remove the U.S. signature from the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which the U.S. signed but which remains unratified by the Senate. An

incoming Biden administration could reverse those acts, but the whiplash effect would add confusion over Washington's standing and sap confidence around the world that the U.S. will stick to agreements it signs.

■ Can it be said that Trump is an exception in America's history? Or does he represent real American values?

Donald Trump branded the whistleblower, who first revealed reports about his effort to shake down Ukraine to dig up dirt on a political opponent, along with a list of institutions Donald Trump smeared, which includes: the intelligence agencies he once accused of using Nazi-type tactics, the news media, the foreign service, the military, and the Federal Reserve. So yes, he is an exception in that sense, especially when he waged vitriolic and systematic attacks to undermine such government institutions. As for American values, win or lose, Trump was the mirror America, and its so-called values needed. He lacks transparency and demonizes every institution or person he disagrees with. He regularly flaunts undemocratic values, and his narcissism seemingly knows no bounds. This is America for the rest of the world.

■ Do you expect a fundamental change in U.S. policies under Biden's administration? Biden makes no secret of the speed with

which he plans to bury "America First" as a guiding principle of the nation's foreign policy. He says he will re-enter the Iran nuclear deal, assuming the Iranians are willing to reverse course and observe its limits and that he would sign up for another five years of the only surviving nuclear arms treaty with Russia and double down on American commitments to NATO after four years of threats from President Trump to withdraw from the alliance. However, Biden said many times that he would make Russia "pay the price" for what he says have been disruptions and attempts to influence elections, including his own.

■ Do you expect a change in U.S. attitude towards Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia?

Biden is expected to continue the U.S.'s withdrawal from the region, even more so since championing a return to a more conventional foreign policy that is likely to play second fiddle to domestic emergencies such as the coronavirus pandemic and an American economy on its knees. Nonetheless, I do believe Biden will make his presence felt in the Middle East (West Asia). Biden's strategy for the broader Middle East region remains unclear; however, many observers conclude that Biden will proceed with the U.S. withdrawal that began under president Barack Obama and reached its peak under Trump. Moreover, Biden has also vehemently opposed pro-Palestinian initiatives from within his party. Biden's reaction to the UAE-Israel deal also displayed his support for Israel. He called the deal a "historic breakthrough" and promised to persuade more countries in the region to sign similar agreements. What sets Biden apart is his pledge to reverse Trump's withdrawal of economic and humanitarian assistance from the Palestinians and his pursuit to reopen the Palestinian Liberation Organization's mission in Washington, as well as the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem for Palestinian affairs. However, Biden's Israel policy is likely to be a continuation, while experts argue could sum up Biden's upcoming Middle East policy in general. As for Yemen, I don't think the country will be part of any discussions and aspirations that would drastically change the current situation.

Oxford professor says Trumpism has its roots in American society

"Biden will face a very difficult challenge to bring the country together"

➔ the United States has undermined multilateral efforts to combat global warming, contain the coronavirus's spread, restrain nuclear proliferation, and promote the rule of law. Even if Biden reverses many of Trump's policies, which I'm sure he will, U.S. allies will have learned the lesson that they may need to rely more on themselves going forward.

At home, Trump has polarized the nation, leaving the country more divided than before. Throughout his presidency, he has shown contempt for democratic norms and institutions with his attacks on the media, the judiciary, and Congress. Even his refusal to accept electoral defeat has undermined confidence in the integrity of the U.S. electoral process in the eyes of many U.S. citizens. Biden will face a very difficult challenge to bring the country together.

■ Can it be supposed that Trump is an exception in American history, or doe he represent real American values?

A: Trump can be said to be an exception insofar as we have not witnessed a U.S. president as divisive domestically and bullish internationally as Trump has been. However, Trumpism is homegrown: this particular form of populism has its roots in American society. To some Americans, he represents 'real American values,' but to many, he represents

a repudiation of those values—especially the values of compassion, fairness, and equality—however imperfectly realized they are in the American republic.

■ Do you expect a fundamental change in American policies when Joe Biden takes the helm at the White House?

A: With regard to foreign relations, we can expect greater U.S. engagement with multilateral organizations but also greater consultation with allies; greater support for collective efforts to reduce carbon emissions and inhibit climate change; more joined-up efforts to fight the spread of infectious diseases and to curb nuclear proliferation, including support for the Iran nuclear deal, which the Obama-Biden administration negotiated. In other respects, we can expect continuity: for instance, Biden will continue to confront China over trade, currency, and regional security, and he will build on Trump's achievements in bringing the (Persian) Gulf states and Israel

closer together.

As far as domestic policies are concerned, Biden will adopt a more concerted and coherent approach to the COVID pandemic than Trump pursued. He will seek to strengthen the Obama era healthcare reforms that Trump has sought to dismantle. He will pursue economic policies that are greener and seek to redress imbalances that have benefitted the rich above all. However, Biden will have to balance competing pressures from the left and the right, including resistance from a Senate that may remain in Republican hands (we are still awaiting the final electoral results). He may find he has limited room for maneuver.

■ Do you expect a change in U.S. attitude towards Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia? Is Biden able to end the war in Yemen while America has a big deal with Saudi Arabia to sell them arms?

A: I expect more consistency than a change in U.S. policy towards the Middle East (Arab



and non-Arab countries) with some notable exceptions. Biden will continue to support Israel but, contrary to Trump, he will discourage Israel's further expansion (annexation, Jewish settlements) into the West Bank. He will take a few steps back from Saudi Arabia, which Trump embraced warmly. On the campaign trail, Biden vowed to end U.S. support for the Saudi war in Yemen, suggesting that he would stop selling weapons to Riyadh. Biden will seek to re-join the nuclear accord with Iran (JCPOA), provided that Iran comes back into compliance with uranium enrichment limits. Improving relations with Iran is a much greater challenge in view of the fact that U.S. and Iranian interests in the region are not aligned.

"Trump can be said to be an exception insofar as we have not witnessed a U.S. president as divisive domestically and bullish internationally as Trump has been," Professor Richard Caplan says.

Pompeo's war on China, Iran and truth-telling

By Stephen Lendman

As point man for Trump regime foreign policy, illegal U.S. sanctions on targeted countries likely come at Mike Pompeo's urging.

On Monday, new U.S. sanctions were imposed on four Chinese and Hong Kong officials in connection with Beijing's legitimate National Security Law.

Pompeo falsely claimed it "threaten(s) the peace, security and autonomy of Hong Kong" — what's true about illegal US meddling in internal Chinese affairs and other hostile actions against its government, officials and enterprises.

If Biden/Harris replace Trump in January, U.S. war on China by other means will continue unchanged — the same true about other countries free of its control.

Separately on Thursday, Pompeo said "make no mistake about the work that we're doing to counter the threat from the Chinese Communist Party (sic)," adding:

Local officials "across America need to understand that the Chinese Communist Party is coming for them in ways that they may not appreciate (sic). They need to understand those risks (sic)."

"(T)he foreign policy establishment here in Washington

is coming to accept...that we have a responsibility to the American people to make sure (Beijing is) not continuing to rip us off, steal our stuff, and present a security risk to the United States (sic)."

China threatens no other countries. The U.S. and its imperial threaten everyone everywhere.

On Iran, Pompeo said new Trump regime sanctions targeted "six companies and four individuals for facilitating the procurement of sensitive goods, including U.S.-origin electronic components, for Iran Communications Industries (ICI)," adding:

"These individuals and entities were designated under Executive Order 13382, which targets proliferators of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or WMD delivery systems, and their supporters."

WMDs and their delivery systems apply to the hostile agendas of Washington, NATO, and Israel — not how Iran operates.

U.S. sanctions on targeted nations, entities and individuals have no legitimacy.

Yet time and again they're used as weapons of war by other means — even though their effectiveness is nil.

On November 10, Pompeo delivered the latest in his long

line of propaganda addresses.

It featured his usual litany of bald-faced Big Lies, distortion and mass deception.

He lied calling China a threat to U.S. security.

He falsely called Iran a "terrorist" threat.

He pretended that "might makes right" has nothing to do with Washington's agenda.

Reinventing belligerent USA, he lied claiming that "(n) ever before, in all of recorded history, was a nation founded on the premise that government's role is to protect those very rights, to secure them (sic)."

"And it's what makes us so special (sic). It's what makes us so good (sic)."

Based on the above remarks and similar ones earlier, can anyone anywhere take him seriously?

Or claiming "American exceptionalism" that's nonexistent now and earlier throughout the country's history.

He lied claiming Washington destroyed U.S. invented and supported Daesh.

He bragged about killing Iran's Quds Force commander General Qassem Soleimani, a renowned and beloved regional figure responsible for waging war successfully against U.S.-supported Daesh in Iraq.

Asia to form world's biggest trade bloc, a China-backed group excluding U.S.

Fifteen Asia-Pacific economies were set to form the world's largest free trade bloc on Sunday, a China-backed deal that excludes the United States, which had left a rival Asia-Pacific grouping under President Donald Trump.

The signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) at a regional summit in Hanoi, will be a further blow to the group pushed by former U.S. president Barack Obama, which his successor Trump exited in 2017, Reuters reported.

Amid questions over Washington's engagement in Asia, RCEP may cement China's position more firmly as an economic partner with Southeast Asia, Japan and Korea, putting the world's second-biggest economy in a better position to shape the region's trade rules.

The United States is absent from both RCEP and the successor to the Obama-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), leaving the world's biggest economy out of two trade groups that span the fastest-growing region on earth.

By contrast, RCEP could help Beijing cut its dependence on overseas markets and technology, a shift accelerated by a deepening rift with Washington, said Iris Pang, ING chief economist for Greater China.

RCEP groups the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. It aims in coming years to progressively lower tariffs across many areas.

Trump acknowledges Biden 'won' the U.S. election

Donald Trump appeared to acknowledge publicly for the first time on Sunday that Democrat Joe Biden won the Nov. 3 U.S. presidential election but asserted that it was "rigged", reiterating his false claims of widespread voting fraud.

Biden defeated Trump by winning a series of battleground states that the Republican incumbent had won in 2016. The Democratic former vice president also won the national popular vote by more than 5.5 million votes, or 3.6 percentage points, Reuters reported.

Trump seemed to acknowledge Biden's victory in a Twitter post in which he listed unsubstantiated allegations of fraud.

"He won because the Election was Rigged," Trump wrote on Twitter on Sunday morning, not referring to Biden by name. "NO VOTE WATCHERS OR OBSERVERS allowed, vote tabulated by a Radical Left privately owned company, Dominion, with a bad reputation & bum equipment that couldn't even qualify for Texas (which I won by a lot!), the Fake & Silent Media, & more!"

Pressure from sisterly countries to recognize Israel: Imran Khan

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan revealed that his country is under pressure from sisterly countries to recognize Israel.

In statements made on Friday, Khan announced: "We have been under pressure from friendly countries to recognize Israel, however, we will not do so without a fair settlement to the Palestinians."

He pointed out that there are matters related to the countries that recognize Israel, which he would not address "due to brotherly ties that we do not want to damage." It is likely that the Pakistani official was referring to Saudi Arabia.

Khan is considered to be one of the most prominent supporters of the Palestinian cause and has stated in previous interviews that Pakistan will never recognise Israel.

The Pakistani PM considers the Palestinian cause: "As a will of the great leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah whose soul flies with the soul of scholar Muhammad Iqbal, may Allah have mercy on them."

Azerbaijan extends Armenian pullout deadline from disputed area

Azerbaijan said Sunday it had agreed to extend a deadline for Armenia to withdraw from a disputed district as part of a peace accord that ended six weeks of fierce fighting over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Residents of the Kalbajar district in Azerbaijan, which has been controlled by Armenian separatists since a 1990s post-Soviet war, began a mass exodus in the days leading up to the initial withdrawal deadline on Sunday, AFP reported.

But a foreign policy adviser to Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev said his country had extended the deadline over humanitarian considerations.

Hikmet Hajiyev said the withdrawal of "Armenian armed forces and of illegal Armenian settlers" was delayed until November 25 following an appeal from Armenia and mediation with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Resistance News

Israel strikes Gaza after rockets target 'center' of occupied territories

INTERNATIONAL DESK **TEHRAN** — The Israeli military has attacked the Gaza Strip after rockets from the Tel Aviv-blockaded Palestinian territory targeted the "central" and "southern" parts of the occupied territories.

The Israeli strikes were carried out against infrastructure and positions belonging to the Gaza-based resistance movement of Hamas, Israeli paper The Jerusalem Post reported on Sunday, citing the military.

The aggression followed several rocket launches from the enclave that set off incoming fire sirens in the coastal town of Ashdod in the occupied territories, the daily said.

■ **'Rockets intercepted over Tel Aviv'**

Alleged footage, however, also showed the regime's missile systems intercepting rockets "over the Yad Eliyahu neighborhood in Tel Aviv," the occupying entity's economic hub and most densely-populated center.

Projectiles were also intercepted over the city of Holon and sirens went off in Kibbutz Palmachim, both located at the heart of the occupied territories.

The incidents came as the Israeli military has been put on high alert following the first anniversary of the regime's assassination of Baha Abu al-Ata, a senior commander of the Islamic Jihad movement, another Gaza-headquartered resistance group, Press TV reported.

The 42-year-old and his wife were killed in an Israeli aerial assault on his Gaza home on November 12 last year.

The atrocity was followed by a barrage of retaliatory rocket fire from the besieged coastal sliver.

Back then, the Islamic Jihad released a statement, pledging to continue in the footsteps of its assassinated commander in order to "complete the process of liberation of the entire beloved Palestine."

Travel startups and efforts to survive coronavirus

➔ **1** It's time to embrace new technologies to solve problems. Recent experiences have shown us many things that can go online. And it's also the time to be well prepared to demonstrate clear paths to try bright ideas.

Consider that many aspects of the travel industry are already dominated by giant high-spending companies so that the ground is fertile to hit niche pockets of the industry as the best places to find new opportunities.



Online travel experience is a vast opportunity now, rather than just a showcase for new technology. Here is a gold opportunity: ground transportation, due to the virus limitations, is still largely ignored by the established players of the industry.

Hygiene-based products will be more significant in the future, even beyond a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, with brands very sensible for healthy travels.

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

Special monument to be built in memory of Professor Mahmoud Hessabi

TOURISM DESK TEHRAN — A special monument is planned to be constructed in memory of the renowned Iranian nuclear physicist Professor Mahmoud Hessabi (1903 -1992) in his hometown Tafresh, central Markazi province.

A memorial monument for the late professor will be constructed adjacent to his tomb with a budget of 10 billion rials (\$238,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials), the provincial tourism chief announced on Saturday, CHTN reported.

With the completion of the project, the monument could be promoted as one of the region's tourist attractions, he noted.

Professor Mahmoud Hessabi, one of the most popular Iranian scientists, was a polymath, with five bachelor's degrees in literature, civil engineering, mathematics, electrical engineering, and mining engineering. He also held a Ph.D. in physics. He was well acquainted with traditional Iranian music as well as classical Western music and played piano and violin skillfully.

He was a senator and the Minister of Education from 1951 to 1952. He was also the founder of the Physics Faculty at Tehran University.

On a trip to Princeton in 1947, he had the opportunity to meet Albert Einstein, discussing his scientific activities with him. He is considered the sole Iranian student of Einstein. During his years of scientific research, he had meetings and discussions with other well-known scientists as well, such as Erwin Schrodinger, Max Born, Enrico Fermi, Paul Dirac, and Neils Bohr, and scholars such as Russell and Andre Gide.

Historical mansions in northern Iran demarcated

TOURISM DESK TEHRAN — A total of fifteen historical buildings have recently been demarcated in the city of Gomish Tape, northern Golestan province, in a bid to protect them from illegal constructions within their boundaries.



The demarcation projects also aimed at preserving the structures, which are all inscribed on the National Heritage list, CHTN reported.

Amongst the structures are Dolu House, Shirmohammadi House, Mostafaei House, and Talebi House, which are named after famed local owners, merchants, or dignitaries.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus — a one-millennium-old brick tower — amongst its most famous.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Female breadwinner crafters to receive support

TOURISM DESK TEHRAN — The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts and Keramat Razavi charity foundation have signed an agreement to support women heads of households who are active in the field of handicraft, especially during the coronavirus pandemic.

The ministry has secured an agreement with the Keramat Razavi Foundation to cater to low-interest loans, grants, domestic markets, and online sales to craftswoman in particular breadwinner ones.

A memorandum of understanding was inked in this regard by the deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian and the CEO of Keramat Razavi Foundation Mohammad Hossein Ostadaqa on Saturday.

According to deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian, establishing handicraft markets will be one of the most important measures to create sustainable jobs for artisans. "In this line, an online exhibition of handicrafts will be held in which all artisans from across the country can offer their products without the need to pay any fees."

The first phase of the plan will address women-headed households, whose jobs have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic in the eight provinces of Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan, North Khorasan, Kordestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Khuzestan, Lorestan, and Golestan, CHTN reported.

It aims to create and maintain jobs for 1,500 people through allocating 80 billion rials (some \$1.9 million) to around 400 women breadwinners, the report added.

Back in May, Mahmoudian noted that due



to the outbreak of coronavirus, suitcase exports of handicrafts were completely stopped since the month of Esfand (the last month of the year), and official exports of handicrafts experienced a steep decline.

"Some 295 fields of handicrafts are currently practiced across Iran with more than two million people engaging, majority of whom are women... Handicrafts also play an important role in the economy in our rural villages," she said.

In Iran, there are 3 million women-headed households, out of a total of 22 million families, and most of them can be found in

less developed areas of the country.

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

Support package approved for corona-affected tourism businesses
The National Headquarters for Corona-

Archaeologist accentuates proper maintenance of Achaemenid ‘masterpiece’

HERITAGE DESK TEHRAN — A senior Iranian archaeologist, who leads a survey examining the ancient Bostan Khani Dam in southern Iran, has urged the need for proper maintenance and conservation of the embankment monument that he describes as a "masterpiece" of architecture and water management in Achaemenid-era Iran.

"So far [valuable evidence of the] architectural structure has been obtained with the aim of recognizing and realizing the structure of the dam and its construction method," Hamidreza Karami said, CHTN reported.

He considered the monument the largest dam of the Achaemenid period that has been identified so far, saying it measures a crown height of 21 meters, a length of 170 meters, and a width of 70 meters.

According to the archaeologist, the embankment dam is still a source of inspiration for modern architects and engineers.

The neighboring plains of Pasargadae, morqab, Khor-

rambid, and Kamin embrace the most number of water structures being constructed during the Achaemenid era, he said.

Karami explained that waterways and water transmission networks are another part of their water management engineering, which is designed to bring water to the farthest possible areas of the region.

"This way, a very large volume of satellite hills have been harvested... different parts of the rocks have been cut in the mountainous paths and excavated in the flatlands to a large extent so that the result of this great work is what the designers and implementers of this system thought, that is, all areas related to the Achaemenid capital of Pasargadae being benefited from water," he explained.

"Excavations and surveys on Bostan Khani Dam can increase our knowledge and understanding of the methods and techniques of dam construction and architectural structure that is currently being practiced."

Located on a branch of the Polvar River, near the UNE-



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

The embankment dam has been registered in the National Heritage list.

Online handicrafts expo eyeing overseas buyers

TOURISM DESK TEHRAN — The 34th national handicrafts exhibition of Iran, which is being held virtually from November 3, is planning to lay the ground for offering products to foreign buyers.

"This issue is being studied and, if possible, we are planning to provide the online shopping opportunity for people outside the country," CHTN quoted tourism official Khashayar Nikzadfar as saying on Sunday.

So far, 800 crafters with 2,800 products have applied to attend the exhibition, he said.



Iran ranks first globally in the number of cities and villages registered by the

World Crafts Council (WCC), as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

In late January, cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qasemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

The country exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19). Of the figure, some \$273 million worth

of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and about \$250 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces, according to data provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

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

Six lesser-known historical bridges in Iran

(Part ½)

HERITAGE DESK TEHRAN — The age-old, eye-catching bridges of Iran that have carried the stories of hundreds of thousands of trampling feet throughout history, should not be left out when talking about Iran's tourist attractions.

Here is a brief look at some of the oldest and most important bridges in the ancient land:

■ Gavmishan Bridge

Another Sassanid bridge, Gavmishan (meaning buffalo) is located 30 km from Pol-e-Dokhtar, on the border of Lorestan and Ilam Province. The bridge is built from brick, stone, and mortar over the Seymareh River.

Situated on the border of two provinces, it is officially regarded as one of the attractions of Ilam by Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO).

Historians attribute its name to the buffalo breeding tradition among the locals of the area, or to the Mythraist tradition, which holds the Buffalo in high regard.

Gavmishan is 175 meters long, over 8 meters wide. Only six of its arches survive. Gavmishan has the largest span among all the bridges in Iran and is over 50 meters wide.

The whole construction is typical of the Sassanid style, but evidence of renovations during Safavid and Qajar can also be seen. It was inscribed on the national heritage list in 1998 in the vicinity of Ilam province.

■ The Old Bridge of Dezful

The Old Bridge of Dezful, or as it is famously known, the Sassanid Bridge, is the oldest bridge in the world, which was in use till years ago. It connects the two eastern and western sides of Dezful and was initially constructed in 260 CE to connect Jondishapur to Mesopotamia, according to irandeserts.com.

Jondishapur or Gondishapur was the intellectual center of the Sassanid Empire and the home of the academy of



A view of the ancient Gavmishan Bridge located 30 km from Pol-e-Dokhtar, on the border of Lorestan and Ilam province.

Gondishapur, which persisted for several centuries after the Sassanids, as a Muslim institute of higher learning.

Shapur I ordered the building of the bridge after defeating the Romans, to facilitate the transfer of captured Roman soldiers, and for this reason, the bridge is also known as Roman Bridge.

The bridge has been renovated several times during various dynasties, such as the Safavids.

■ Shapoori Bridge

Located in southern Khorramabad, Shapoori Bridge, another Sassanid bridge, connected the western part of Lorestan to the east, and Khuzestan province and Ctesiphon, the capital city of the Parthian and the Sassanid Empires.

Lorestan with more than 77 registered bridges from different eras of Iran history — ranging from Sassanid to Qajar

— is known as the homeland of Iran's Historical Bridges. Some archaeologists believe that after Egyptian pyramids, Lorestan's stone bridges are the oldest stone structures from ancient times.

The bridge, also called 'Tagh-e Pil-Eshkesah' is 312 meters long and 10.75 meters high. It has 28 arches and 27 piles, each 61 square meters. Five of its arches are intact; the others have been destroyed by natural factors. The arches are shaped like wishbones. The piles and breakwaters are in the form of six lateral lozenges made of stone.

It is thought that the bridge may also have been used to distribute water. As construction materials, mainly river stones were used, with stone chips in the arches, and truncated stones in the piles. The floor is paved in red block stones whose square shape has been eroded.

■ Kashkan Bridge

Built over a river of the same name, Kashkan Bridge is situated along the ancient route of Shapurkhash (today's Khorramabad) to Tarhan, a district in Koudasht county in Lorestan province. In the ancient writings, Kashkan is called Kazhaki. The local Lors of the region call it Kashkoo.

There are tablets with Kufic Arabic scripts on remains of the bridge, dating back to the 9th century CE. According to one script engraved on the base of the bridge was built in 392 AH (around 10 century CE), but archaeological excavations and architectural evidence dates back to the Sassanid era. It is thought that the date on the tablet could have been the date of one of the early renovations.

The bridge is 300 meters long, and originally had 11 columns and 12 arches, some parts of which are in a ruined state and have not survived. The highest point of the bridge is 26 meters high and the lowest, 10.

Kashkan Bridge is one the most spectacular attractions of Lorestan province which is also registered on the list of National Heritage.

Diabetes prevention on closer consideration amid COVID-19

1 → About 90 percent of diabetics are diagnosed with type 2 diabetes worldwide. Education, self-care, and following a healthy lifestyle, and using medication are effective in controlling the disease.

Type 2 diabetes is preventable and in some cases can be cured early. Lack of access to insulin, failure to early diagnosis of type 1 diabetes leading to diabetic ketoacidosis is a common cause of death in children and adolescents.

Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke, and lower limb amputation. A healthy diet, physical activity, and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. In addition, diabetes can be treated and its consequences avoided or delayed with medication, regular screening, and treatment for complications.

■ Nurses play a vital role

Nurses currently account for over half of the global health workforce. They do outstanding work to support people living with a wide range of health concerns. People who either live with diabetes or are at risk of developing the condition need their support too.

People living with diabetes face a number of challenges, and education is vital to equip



nurses with the skills to support them.

As the number of people with diabetes continues to rise across the world, the role of nurses and other health professional support staff becomes increasingly important in managing the impact of the condition.

Healthcare providers and governments must recognize the importance of investing in education and training. With the right expertise, nurses can make a difference for people affected by diabetes.

Nurses make up 59 percent of health workers

as the largest group of this career. The world nursing workforce is 27.9 million, more than 19.3 million of whom are professional nurses.

About 90 percent of the nursing workforce are women.

■ National diabetic week

In Iran, the national diabetic week is held on November 14-20 in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The health ministry has assigned each day of the week with a special theme as follows: Saturday, November 14: the role of self-care in the control of diabetes

Sunday, November 15: the role of nurses in the diagnosis and control of diabetes

Monday, November 16: 100th anniversary of discovering insulin

Tuesday, November 17: the role of health workers and health ambassadors in diabetes prevention and control education

Wednesday, November 18: the role of digital technology in self-care and diabetes control Thursday, November 19: the role of healthy nutrition and physical activity in the prevention and control of diabetes

Friday, November 20: the role of optimal diabetes control in reducing the risk of COVID-19 complications

First identity card issued for child born to Iranian mother, foreign father

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Thanks to the child citizenship law, the first identity card has recently been issued for a child born to an Iranian mother and a foreign father.

"Thanks to efforts made to approve and implement the law, the first Iranian identity card was issued for a child born to an Iranian mother and a foreign father," Masoumeh Ebtekar, vice president for women's and family affairs, wrote on her Twitter account on Saturday.

Mansour Haji, director of citizens and foreign immigrants of Tehran governorate, said that through the implementation of the child citizenship law, 18,300 applicants have been registered on the website for citizenship.

Of the people who requested citizenship, 1,551 cases have been approved for the issuance of Iranian identity cards, and 1,400 cases are awaiting approval, he stated.

He went on to add that now the first Iranian identity card in the country was issued for a child.

In October 2019, the Guardian Council ratified a bill amending the law on conferring citizenship on children born to an Iranian mother and a foreign father regardless of where they are born.

According to article one of the law, children of Iranian women and non-Ira-



nian men who were born before or after the law can be an Iranian citizen in case the Iranian mother requested if they have no security problem before the age of 18.

These children, after reaching the age of 18, can apply for Iranian citizenship if not requested by the mother, then will be granted Iranian citizenship in case of no security problem.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees also has welcomed the law as a step toward reducing statelessness around the world.

Worldwide, statelessness affects millions of people, leaving them without the basic rights and official recognition that most of us take for granted. Some 3.9 million stateless people appear in the reporting of 78 countries, but UNHCR believes the true total to be significantly higher.

Mashhad to host national festival on water, hydraulics

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The first national festival of water and hydraulics inventions will be held at Ferdowsi University of Mashhad on January 17-18, 2021.

With the support of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, the event aims at identifying innovators in this field to enter the industry.

This festival will be held concurrent with the 19th National Hydraulic Conference with the aim of commercializing the top inventions in the water industry and awarding the first three top projects.

The event, supported by the National Elites Foundation and the specialized working group on water, drought, soil erosion, and environment of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, is organized by the Iranian Hydraulic Association.

■ Technology dealing with environmental issues

In September, Sourena Sattari, the vice president for science and technology, told the Tehran Times that the knowledge-based firms have so far been developing advanced technologies to address different environmental issues, such as wastewater treatment, water purification, fighting sand and dust storms, alternative cultivation patterns, etc.

Hi-tech tackling environmental issues highly depend on environmental economics which is a sub-category of economics concerned with environmental issues.



Particular issues include the costs and benefits of alternative environmental policies to deal with air pollution, water quality, toxic substances, solid waste, and global warming, he suggested.

Environmental economics emphasizes strong sustainability and rejects the proposition that human-made (physical) capital can substitute for natural capital, he added.

"We can never have an environment-based economy if we do not price environmental problems, and the government must enter to tackle any issues, but when there is an economic solution, people will engage and the issue is solved sustainably.

For example, to control a sand and dust storm hotspot, if the government enters, it can solve the problem by mulching for a while, but if businesses enter, an economic aspect will be formed and they can generate revenue and counter the environmental problems."

Iran, Russia to hold first joint sociology conference

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The first joint Iran-Russia Sociology Forum will be held online in Moscow on November 16-18, IRNA reported.

Organized by the Russian Academy of Sciences, the conference aims to exchange views and discuss the social,

economic, and demographic dimensions of the two countries' development in the context of global challenges (including the coronavirus epidemic).

On the first day, at the opening ceremony of the forum, Nahal Nafieci, commissioner of the International cooperation of the

Iranian Sociological Association, will make a short speech.

The first social atlas of Iran and Russia will also be unveiled at the conference.

The officials and representatives of the two countries will participate in the event and make speeches.

Scientists link record-breaking hurricane season to climate crisis

Climate scientists say that this year's record-breaking hurricane season and the "unprecedented" double blow for Central America has a clear link to the climate crisis.

"In a 36-hour period [Eta] went from a depression to a very strong category 4," said Bob Bunting, CEO of the non-profit Climate Adaptation Center. "That is just not normal. Probably it was the fastest spin up from a depression to a major hurricane in history."

The evidence of the influence of the climate crisis is not so much in the record-breaking 30 tropical storms in the Atlantic so far this

year, but the strength, rapid intensification and total rainfall of these weather systems.

"The warmer ocean waters that climate change brings are expected to make the stronger storms stronger and make them rapidly intensify more frequently and at a greater rate," said Dr Jeff Masters, a meteorologist and contributor to Yale Climate Connections. "These things have already been observed, particularly in the Atlantic, and it's going to be increasingly so in coming decades."

Central America has been one of the regions most affected by the climate crisis to date,

first with Hurricane Mitch, and in recent years with more extreme weather patterns, particularly in what's known as the dry corridor, which extends from northern Costa Rica all the way to southern Mexico.

"Heat is energy," said Masters. "Depending on the prevailing weather conditions you're going to intensify those conditions."

In the dry corridor, that has meant more frequent, prolonged and intense droughts as well as heavier rainfall when it does come, often causing flash flooding that washes away crops.

Subsistence farmers in the region have struggled to adapt to the new reality, and many in the region have simply given up and left. The climate crisis – and the hunger it brings – is increasingly being recognized as a major driver of emigration from the region.

"I don't see a lot of options for Central America to deal with the global warming issue," said Masters. "There are going to be a lot of migrants and in fact, a lot of the migration that's already happening in recent years is due to the drought that started affecting Central America back in 2015."

Is the climate crisis pushing the world towards a 'point of no return'?

If global greenhouse gas emissions stopped tomorrow, how much warmer would the world get?

It's a question with no simple answer. Even if humans quit polluting the world overnight, scientists say it would take many decades for the Earth's climate to reach a new equilibrium. This is largely linked to how heat is stored in the world's oceans, which can, in turn, have an influence on air temperatures.

Matters might be complicated further by potential "tipping points" in nature that might be triggered by global warming, the Independent reported.

For example, rising temperatures are causing permafrost, frozen ground found in high northern latitudes that stores vast amounts of carbon, to thaw out. This thawing causes more carbon to be released into the atmosphere, which, in turn, is adding to rising temperatures. There is a worry that such positive "feedback loops" could ultimately lead to rapid heating, and limiting global warming is important for avoiding such feedbacks.

A new study, published today in the journal Scientific Reports, makes the bold claim that, hypothetically speaking, we could "already [be] past a point of no return for global warming".

Using a simplistic mathematical model, it simulates what would happen in a hypothetical world where greenhouse gas emissions were stopped in 2020. It finds that, in the simulations, the world continues to heat up for hundreds of years as a result of positive feedback loops such as permafrost thaw.

However, leading climate scientists from across the UK and beyond have urged people to take the results of the new study with extreme caution.

Prof Richard Betts MBE, chair of climate impacts of the University of Exeter and the Met Office, told The Independent: "Having talked to various colleagues, we don't think there's any credibility in the model.

"Feedbacks are important. The possibility of eventually becoming committed to long-term climate change is important. But there is no real evidence that this has already happened."

Because the model used in the new study is simplistic, it does not well simulate important climate feedback loops, Prof Betts explains.

In addition to permafrost thaw, the melting of Arctic sea ice is also an important potential feedback. Warming of the world's oceans and atmosphere is causing the ice to melt at an astonishing rate. Bright white ice reflects away sunlight, and, once it disappears, the exposed dark ocean begins to absorb more sunlight, heating the ocean further – leading to further ice melting.

Though this feedback is important to take into consideration, the model used in the new study does not well simulate how it works, says Prof Betts.

The results also stand in contradiction with the findings of the upcoming assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an independent group made up of the world's leading climate scientists.

"The results presented in the paper are interesting but are really at odds with the science community's understanding of how the climate is changing," says Prof James Renwick, head of the school of geography, environment and earth sciences at the Victoria University of Wellington.

"The latest round of climate model simulations show that if greenhouse gas emissions were to stop immediately, there is likely to be very little further increase in temperatures and no sign of warming resuming in future."

The models used by the IPCC are more advanced and better able to simulate the behaviour of the Earth's feedback loops, says Prof Mark Maslin, a climate scientist at University College London.

"These results do need to be confirmed by more complex climate models used in the IPCC reports, because these results come from one model which has not undergone the rigorous cross checking and testing that is usual for climate models," he says.

In their paper, the authors note the simplicity of their model by saying that they "encourage other model builders to explore our discovery in their [bigger] models, and report on their findings".

It is important to understand that it is not too late to take actions to address the climate crisis, says Prof Betts: "I really wouldn't want people to take [the research paper] seriously and start getting worried that the climate catastrophe is now unavoidable."

Claims that the world is "doomed" to suffer extremely high levels of warming can be detrimental to global efforts to tackle the climate crisis, explains Leo Barasi, author of the Climate Majority.

"Claims the world is irreversibly doomed to runaway warming, and no amount of emission cuts can help us, can always find an audience, just like claims that climate change is nothing to worry about," he told The Independent.

"But these assertions usually rest on outlying studies or data that's been taken out of context and ignore all the opposing evidence.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 58)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

■ Multiphonous Letters

■ خُرُوفِ چَندصِدَا

Among the 33 Persian letters, **و**, **الف**, **ی** and **ه** are pronounced in more than one way; each of the remaining 29 letters has a single sound. In the absence of phonetic spelling, the pronunciation of multiphonous letters is made simple with vowel signs as used in the present book:

الف /ā, a, e, o/			
is	/a/	آست	that, it /ā/ آن
professor	/o/	اُستاد	name /e/ اِسْم
و /v, u, o, ow/			
far	/u/	دور	time /v/ وَقْتُ
new	/o/ یا /ow/	نَو	two /o/ دُو
ه /h, e, a/			
three	/e/	سه	also /h/ هَم
Final /a/ is frequent in speech.) no /a/ نَه			
ی /y, i, ey/			
who	/i/	کِی	or /y/ یَا
		when	/ey/ کِی

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ↔ ع

Tehran to host autism conference

The 4th conference on autism disorder with a theme of empowering human resources and families will be held in Tehran on February 20. The event is organized by the Charity Foundation for Special Diseases in cooperation with the Special Education Organization, the Ministry of Health, the Welfare Organization and the Health Psychology Association.

Empowering human resources, discussing academic topics revolving around autism, and describing the parent's role in promoting and improving the autistic patient's condition will be among the subjects to be discussed in the conference.

برگزاری همایش اوتیسم در تهران

چهارمین همایش «اُتیسم، توانمندسازی نیروی انسانی و خانواده» اول اسفند ماه در تهران برگزار می‌شود.

این همایش توسط بنیاد امور بیماری‌های خاص و با مشارکت سازمان آموزش و پرورش استثنایی، وزارت بهداشت، سازمان بهزیستی، و انجمن روان‌شناسی سلامت ایران برگزار می‌شود.

محورهای این همایش، وضعیت منابع انسانی و سرفصل‌های دانشگاهی حوزه اوتیسم در ایران و نقش والدین در ارتقاء و بهبود وضعیت افراد با اختلالات طیف اوتیسم است.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Do not wish to be like anyone except in two cases. The first is a person, whom Allah has given wealth & he spends it righteously; (the second is) the one whom Allah has given wisdom and he acts according to it and teaches it to others.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Ebrahim Hatamikia fills in for director in TV series on Moses (AS)

→1 In a press release published on Sunday, IRIB announced that it has reached an agreement with Hatamikia to implement the project after two months of negotiations.

He is currently rewriting the screenplay to commence making the series as soon as possible.

Speaking to IRIB, Hatamikia called his agreement for making the series a debt of gratitude to Salahshur and added, "In addition, among the numerous stories I've made, I see there is an absence of a Quranic story, therefore, I fervently take on this heavy responsibility."

Hatamikia has previously made the TV series "The Red Soil" and "The Green Ring" for IRIB.



Director Ebrahim Hatamikia attends a press conference after the premiere of his movie "Exodus" during the 38th Fajr Film Festival at Tehran's Mellat Cineplex on February 7, 2020. (Jamaran.ir/Fatemeh Rajezi)

Producer Seyyed Ahmad Miralai also said that a team is currently searching for an appropriate actor to cast in the role of the Prophet Moses (AS).

He also noted that a cast of Iranian and foreign actors will be working in the serial, which will be produced in 50 episodes.

In 2018, when Shurjeh was selected to replace Salahshur in the TV series, IRIB announced that that the script of 44 episodes of the project had been written by a cleric named Hoojatoleslam Saeid Bahmanpur.

In addition, Shurjeh had spoken about his plan to pick an obscure stage actor who was familiar with Quranic teachings to star as Prophet Moses (AS).

In a meeting with Salahshur in 2011, Egyptian actor Abdel Aziz Makhyoun had said that he was eager to play the role of the Prophet Moses (AS).

Iranian platform to stream "Cinema Donkey"

A R T T EHRAN — Upera, a major Iranian platform for online movie screening, will be streaming the Iranian comedy "Cinema Donkey" directed by Shahed Ahmadi next month.

Starring Mohammadreza Davudnejad, Hassan Rezaei and Puria Shakibai, the movie satirizes professional misconduct in Iranian cinema. It is about the making of a movie and the need to find a donkey for the shoot.



A scene from "Cinema Donkey" directed by Shahed Ahmadi.

The movie has been acclaimed in several festivals. It won the Corall d'Or for best picture at the 6th Begur International Comedy Film Festival in the Costa Brava, a coastal region of Catalonia in northeastern Spain in October.

The dark comedy was showcased during the Cannes Film Market – Marché du Film during May 2019.

"How Much Do You Want to Cry?" is Ahmadi's feature-length film debut. His credits include the short films "The Crew", "Charlie Is Sad", "The Photographer's Studio", "The Watchtower", "The Young Directors" and a number of mini-documentaries made behind the scenes of other films.

IIDCYA publishes encyclopedia of stories on Yalda Night

C U L T U R E T EHRAN — An encyclopedia containing studies on traditional Persian stories about Yalda Night, the longest night of the year, has recently been published by the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) in Tehran.

"Encyclopedia of Studies on Stories about Yalda" has been published in 16 volumes, which contain over 8,000 stories collected by a team of 70 experts, researchers and editors under the leadership of Ali Khanjani within five years.

All the stories in this collection have been collected from over 220 different sources, Khanjani has said.

"The collection also contains detailed information about the original narrators, writers and collectors, and the primary and secondary messages of the stories," he said.

"Other information such as prayers, oaths and curses are also offered in this collection," he added.

"Introducing the hidden values of Persian culture in the venerable tales to international assemblies, world researchers and folklorists are among the main goals of this collection," he noted.

He added that each story has its own international code based on Aarne



A poster for "Encyclopedia of Studies on Stories about Yalda" published by the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

Thompson Uther Index (ATU Index).

The ATU Index is the product of a series of revisions and expansions by an international group of scholars, originally composed in German by Finnish folklorist Antti Aarne (1910). The index was translated

into English, revised and expanded by American folklorist Stith Thompson (1928, 1961), and later further revised and expanded by German folklorist Hans-Jorg Uther (2004). The ATU Index is an essential tool for folklorists.

The collection is available at the IIDCYA bookstores.

Yalda, the last evening of autumn and the beginning of winter is a ceremonious, auspicious time for Iranians and lovers of Iranian traditions everywhere on earth.

Nationally called "Shab-e Yalda" or "Shab-e-Chelleh", it literally means the night of the forty. This refers to the first forty days of winter that are often the coldest and toughest to bear.

The story of Yalda may perhaps be interpreted as a tale of courage and effort during darkness, a triumph of light and human warmth that ultimately causes the spring to bloom in hearts.

People on Yalda Night are usually served with fresh fruits and a mixture of dry fruits, seeds and nuts in floral bowls. To Iranians, fruits are reminders of abundance in summer. Watermelon and pomegranates, as symbols of bounty, are the traditional fresh fruits of this night. It is believed that eating watermelon before the arrival of winter can immunize the body against illness.

Following a hot dinner, many people often recite poetry, narrate stories, chant, play musical instruments or just chat cozily until midnight or so.

Cinéma Vérité to spotlight Chilean documentary cinema



A poster for the Cinéma Vérité festival.

A R T T EHRAN — The Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) as the main organizers of Cinéma Vérité announced on Sunday

that the 14th edition of the major Iranian documentary festival will review the Chilean documentary cinema during a special program.

A lineup of top documentaries from Chilean filmmakers will be screened and reviewed by critics and film experts during the festival, which will be held totally online during December due to a spike in the COVID-19 cases in the country.

Documentaries by Chilean filmmakers have been screened in the various categories of previous editions of the festival, which will also be non-competitive this year.

"The City of Photographers" ("La Ciudad de los Fotógrafos") by Sebastian Moreno competed in the 1st edition of the festival in 2007.

The film, which was selected as best feature documentary at the festival, is a photographic indictment of the Pinochet dictatorship brilliantly captured by the photography and the camera work of David Bravo and Sebastian Moreno.

The 9th edition of the Cinéma Vérité festival also screened Chilean filmmaker Marcia Tambutti Allende's "Beyond My Grandfather Allende" in the international competition.

The movie is about Salvador Guillermo Allende Gossens who was a Chilean physician and politician, better known as the first Marxist to become president of a Latin American country through open elections.

The festival earlier announced that it will review a selection of documentaries acclaimed at 2020 international events across the world in a special section named "World's Best".

Due to the pandemic, the organizers have made changes in the festival's regular program this year.

Accordingly, they plan to organize a review of movies acclaimed in previous editions of the festival.

In addition, a lineup of documentaries on the pandemic and COVID-19 will be screened in a special category, which has so far received over 130 submissions.

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

A highlight of this year's festival is a virtual master class that will be held by Polish filmmaker Hanna Polak.

She will be discussing filmmaking in a crisis at the master class.

Iran's "Eaten" wins honorable mention at Golden Beggar filmfest

A R T T EHRAN — Iranian director Mohsen Rezapur's short movie "Eaten" has won an honorable mention at the 26th Golden Beggar International Film Festival in Slovakia.

The story of "Eaten" is set on a mysterious, unknown planet, where a rabbit-like creature is eaten by a wolf. It meets another rabbit-like creature in the wolf's stomach and they begin a new life with each other, but that's not the end of the story.

"A surreal voyage into the outside of the inside, over and over again," the jury wrote in its statement for the movie.

"An animated film with a logic all of



"Eaten" by Iranian director Mohsen Rezapur.

its own, where you might be safer inside rather than outside. Until you end up inside again, and so on, ad infinitum. As

so many of us say about relationships: 'It's complicated,'" the statement added.

Produced at Iran's Experimental and Documentary Film Center, "Eaten" has been screened at numerous festivals around the world.

In March 2019, it won the special jury award at the 11th Tehran International Animation Festival, which is organized by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults every year.

The Golden Beggar International Film Festival took place in Kosice, the largest city in eastern Slovakia, from November 5 to 7.

The Grand Prix Golden Beggar Award

for Local Television went to "I Need the Handshakes", a co-production between Poland and Belarus by Andrei Kutsila.

"The Saverini Widow" by French director Loic Gaillard won the Grand Prix Golden Beggar Award for Production Company.

Austrian director Martin Winter's "Day Release" received the Grand Prix Golden Beggar Award for Young Author.

German director Emanuel Rotstein's "The Invisible Line" co-produced by the German History Channel was honored by the Association of Serbian Journalists.

Children's jury award for best animation went to "Thatching Eggs" by Max Marlow from the United Kingdom.

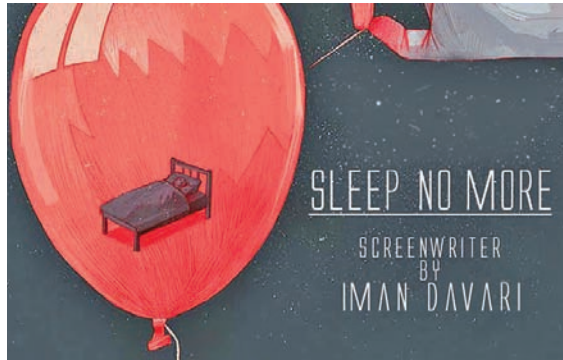
"Sleep No More", "Homa and Sisters" receive nominations at LA Asian Film Festival

A R T T EHRAN — Iranian films "Sleep No More" and "Homa and Sisters" have received nominations at the 2nd Annual Golden Diamond Awards of the Asian Film Festival in Los Angeles.

Written by Iman Davari, "Sleep No More" was nominated for the Golden Diamond Award for best screenplay, while Sahra Asadollahi received a nomination in the best actress category for her role in "Homa and Sisters" by Homa Bazrafshan.

The 2nd Golden Diamond Awards announced the nominees last week. The virtual festival ceremony will go on stream on the official website of the festival.

"Sleep No More" centers on the year 2221. A year in the future when the impossible has become possible. To free the society from evil and immoralities, the Sleep Golden Triangle, controlled by Father, runs a program in which people work in sleep and help Father control people's minds, thoughts and dreams. Therefore, sleep time has become the common currency to pay for the things you buy or the services you get. The symbol of the Sleep Golden Triangle consists of three concepts:



A poster for "Sleep No More".

Father, black box and people.

Davari received first prize in the screenplay competition of the Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) for "Sleep No More" in 2019.

"Homa and Sisters" is about Homa, a depressed girl whose lonely life has left her mentally disturbed and confused. To escape her loneliness, she is living with the false memories that she has borrowed from her sisters' lives. Although this mind-boggling adventure is enjoyable at first, she gradually learns to live with a past that is as uncertain and ambiguous as her future. She cannot tolerate it and decide to finish this mental adventure but this is not mental anymore.

Other nominees in the best screenplay category are "Allegiance" written by Phillip Hollins, "Klaus; Witch Killer" by Christopher Joseph Washington and "StarPeople: Our Evolution" by Kelly LaCombe, all from the U.S., and "Whispers in the Wind" by Ensadi Djoko Santoso from Indonesia.

The nominees for the best actress award are Zicheng Li for "A Sunburnt Summer" from the U.S., Nhi Do for "Hope And Grace" from Canada, Sofiee Ng for "Apart" from China and Hong Kong, and Jessica Park for "Trust Me" from France.

Bernd Schroeder's "We're All There" published in Persian

C U L T U R E T EHRAN — A Persian translation of Bernd Schroeder's "We're All There" (Wir sind doch alle da) has recently been published by Panus Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Mahshid Mir-Moezzi.

Mahshid Mir-Moezzi is sixteen. After an accident, he lies unconscious in the hospital. People who otherwise have little to do with each other gather around his bed,

Ines and Michael, his parents, actually never wanted to meet again.

Else and Ferdinand are the grandparents with whom Benny has lived for a long time. His friend Willi found him after he went to the ski hut alone. They all stand there with their memories and conflicts, new jealousies and old arguments.

The story leads the readers to wonder who will be waiting for Benny when he finally wakes up again. Moving, with wit and irony,

Bernd Schroeder writes about the people whom no one chooses, but who determine everyone's life.

Schroeder was born in Aussig, the Czech Republic. He lives in Berlin. As the author and director of numerous radio and television plays, he received the Adolf Grimme Prize in 1986 and the German Film Prize in 1992.

"Old Love", "To America" and "Waiting for Goebbels" are among his other books.



Cover of the Persian translation of Bernd Schroeder's "We're All There".