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© Getty Images

Sectarianism is associated with the country King Salam rules

**BY MOHAMMAD ALI SAKI**  
Speaking at the so-called Shura Council on November 12, Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud accused Iran of "fostering of terrorism" and "fanning the flames of sectarianism".

It was a joke to hear such words from King Salman whose country's name is synonymous with intolerance, sectarianism, hatred, Wahhabism, Takfirism, terrorism, etc.

Senior analysts and certain officials have been openly saying that the Saudi religious and education system has been planned in a way that germinates and nurtures extremism.

The Saudi-funded madrassas, that were training and still maybe training Wahhabism, are famous around the world. Those educated in these madrassas consider anyone except themselves as infidels.

During the Afghan jihad against the Soviets (1979-1989), these madrassas, that recruited students from many countries, started training terrorists.

Salman knows well that his country is the birthplace of al-Qaeda, which its outgrown version is now Daesh (ISIS). He also knows well that 15 of the 19 September 11 hijackers were Saudi citizens.

In an interview published on the PBS website, Vali Nar, a Middle East expert who served as an adviser to President Obama's administration, says violent "interpretations of Islam are being propagated out of schools that receive organizational and financial funding from Saudi Arabia."

Nasr says, "In fact, I would push it further: that these schools would not have existed without Saudi funding. They would not have proliferated across Pakistan and India and Afghanistan without Saudi funding. They would not have had the kind of prowess that they have without Saudi funding, and they would not have trained as many people without Saudi funding."

Citing examples, the distinguished scholar says, "For instance, in one madrassa in Pakistan, I interviewed 70 Malaysian and Thai students who are being educated side by side with students who went on to the Afghan war and the like. These people return to their countries, and then we see the results in a short while."

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## Biden will return to JCPOA but won't lift sanctions swiftly: George Washington University professor

**BY JAVAD HEIRANNIA**

TEHRAN – A professor of international business at the George Washington University says he thinks Joe Biden will restore the 2015 nuclear agreement (JCPOA) in order to make his former boss Barack Obama happy and strengthen ties with Europeans who feel "betrayed" by the United States.

However, Professor Hossein Askari says Biden will not remove sanctions on Iran all of a sudden and he will try to build on the sanctions that Donald Trump imposed on Iran.

"He will not remove the sanctions imposed by Trump in return for Iran destroying any excess enriched fuel that they have accumulated and addressing any other infraction after Trump's withdrawal from the treaty," Askari tells the Tehran Times.

One year after the Trump administration formally pulled out of the nuclear agreement, on May 8, 2019, Iran said its "strategic patience" is over and started to gradually remove limits

on its nuclear activities.

Professor Askari also says Iran should not budge on its defensive missile program as the country is "surrounded by the U.S. and its allies."

Following is the text of the interview:

**As Joe Biden is poised to become the president of the United States, do you think he will move quickly to restore the nuclear agreement (JCPOA)?**

A: I think Biden will want to get the agreement back and on track again for a number of reasons. This agreement was the singular success and legacy of the Obama era. Biden would bring a smile on the face of his former boss. It would also strengthen relations with U.S. allies in Europe who feel they have been betrayed by the United States. And it would show that the U.S. will honor its agreements and restore some confidence in the international system that has been shattered by Trump.

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## IRGC chief vows to avenge Soleimani killing 'in the field'

TEHRAN — Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami has vowed to avenge the cold blood killing of Iran's top anti-terror general Qassem Soleimani "in the field".

"We will definitely avenge the blood of martyred Lieutenant General Haj Qassem Soleimani in the field," Salami said in a meeting with Iraqi Minister of Defense

Juma Inad Saadoun in Tehran on Sunday. He said the revenge is not related to Iran's legal proceedings of the killing through international bodies.

"We are certain that the children of the great Iraq will also avenge the blood of their respected general, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis," he added.

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## Iran's agricultural exports increase 13.8%

TEHRAN — The value of Iran's agricultural products export has risen 13.8 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Mehrdad Jamal Orounaqi, the IRICA deputy head for technical and customs affairs, put the value of exported products

at \$3.1 billion in the seven-month period of the present year, ISNA reported.

The official said the weight of agricultural products exported in the mentioned period has risen 26.7 percent to stand at 4.537 million tons.

According to Orounaqi, 3.599 million tons of agricultural products worth \$2.7 billion had been exported during the first seven months of the previous year.

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## Doc reveals Quds Force role in breaking ISIS siege of Amerli

TEHRAN — The Islamic Revolution Documentary House in Tehran has recently produced a film that underlines the key role Iran's Quds Force played in breaking the 89-day siege of the northern Iraqi town of Amerli by the ISIS terrorists.

"Liberation of Amerli" has been directed by Hamed Hadian and Mehdi Motahhar is the producer of the documentary that will be competing in the Cinéma Vérité festival, which

will be held online from December 8 to 15.

Amerli, an Iraqi town of Shia Turkmen located in the Tooz District of Saladin Governorate, was besieged by the ISIS terrorists from June 2014, cutting off access to food, electricity and water.

On August 31, the Quds Force, the overseas arm of the IRGC under the commandship of Qassem Soleimani,

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## U.S. protests: Nearly 2 dozen arrested in Trump protests in Washington

Demonstrations over U.S. President Donald Trump's loss at the polls have resulted in charges against nearly two dozen people in Washington, including a person accused of setting off a commercial firework and four people accused in an assault that left the victim unconscious on the street.

The arrests came during and after protesters and counterdemonstrators clashed Saturday in Northwest Washington. Several thousand people rallied during the day in support of Trump, whose motorcade briefly drove by the gathering protesters Saturday morning on the way to the president's Northern Virginia golf club.

Trump supporters marched from Freedom Plaza to the Supreme Court Building, across from the Capitol, during the day. Their activities and those of counterdemonstrators grew increasingly tense and took a violent turn in the early evening. Videos posted to social media showed numerous incidents of shoving and punching as well as a fireworks explosion and a

man shoving and knocking down one person before being shoved and punched unconscious himself by others, AP reported.

A 26-year-old District of Columbia man was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon after discharging the firework at several people, the Metropolitan Police Department said in a news release Sunday.

Police said in another statement that four people, all but one confirmed as District residents, were arrested on various charges related to a man being knocked unconscious by one person and then assaulted by the others. Whether that incident was depicted in social media video was not clear.

Police also reported a stabbing victim was treated at a hospital for nonlife-threatening injuries. Four police officers were injured as they responded to the unrest, and eight firearms were recovered, the department said.

## The troubled summer: The U.S. is teetering on the brink of renewed violence

**BY ANTHONY TUCKER-JONES**

There were very real fears of widespread unrest and politically motivated violence in the run up to the U.S. election on 3 November. This was perhaps understandable when many feel their country has not been so politically polarised since the days of the Vietnam War. A YouGov poll showed that almost 60 per cent of Americans believed the election would be lighted by trouble on the streets. U.S. retailer Walmart alarmed at the prospect of looting during the election even took the step of removing firearms

from the shop floor. Other businesses were boarded up and some moved their stock into secure storage. Things have not got any better. Alarmingly after the election another survey showed that up to 70 per cent of Americans fear the transition period will see conflict.

President elect Joe Biden has to wait over two months before he is sworn in as the 46th President of the United States of America. In the meantime, Donald Trump's Republican administration refuses to concede defeat. This puts the U.S. in a chaotic

position and is not a good advertisement for American democracy. The democratic process is far from perfect, but it only works if the loser accepts they have lost. Republican allegations of large-scale electoral fraud, which have yet to be substantiated, do little to engender public confidence in voting and indeed the federal government. The U.S. rather than being held up as a shining light of democratic principles now finds itself embarrassingly labelled a banana republic.

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## Persepolis confirmed as 2020 ACL finalists

**BY FARROKH HESABI**

TEHRAN – Iran's Persepolis FC have been confirmed as the finalists of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)'s Champions League by the decision of the confederation's Appeal Committee.

The Iranian giants sealed their spot at the final match of the prestigious clubs' competitions, to be held on Dec.19 in Doha, after a magnificent performance in the 2020 AFC Champions League (West), which was also played in a centralized format in Doha.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Appeal Committee on Monday dismissed the appeal lodged by Al Nassr, Saudi Arabia, against the decision of the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee (DEC).

The Saudi club, Al Nassr, who lost to Persepolis in the 2020 AFC Champions League semi-final match, had claimed that the Iranian club had committed blatant violations of FIFA rules by using "several illegal players" in their squad during the AFC's Champions League (ACL) semi-final.

However, in October 2020, the AFC DEC dismissed the protest lodged by Al Nassr, according to Article 59 of the AFC Champions League 2020 Competition Regulations.

Al Nassr appealed the decision. It went to the AFC Appeal Committee, which confirmed the DEC's primary decision and rejected the Saudi club's claims regarding certain Persepolis players' eligibility.

However, as it is said in some Saudi media, Al Nassr FC have not given up and intend to take the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and once again appeal to the issued verdict.

Alireza Ghadir, Iranian legal expert, who has cooperated with the Persepolis club's legal team in the above-mentioned case, talked to Tehran Times in this regard.

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© ISNA / Moein Azari

## Remdesivir production line comes on stream

A pharmaceutical plant in northern Gilan province is producing remdesivir, a drug which is given to hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

Research shows that when patients with moderate COVID-19 receive remdesivir, their symptoms improve more quickly.

The drug has also been shown to shorten the duration of patient hospital stays. Among severely ill COVID-19 patients, remdesivir has been associated with fewer deaths.

## Twitter suspends Iranian oil minister's account

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Twitter has suspended the account of Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh, claiming the account violated the website's rules against impersonation. "The account was suspended for violation of the Twitter rules against impersonation," Bloomberg quoted a spokesperson for the social media company as saying.

The spokesperson did not give any more details. According to Twitter's website, "accounts that pose as another person, brand, or organization in a confusing or deceptive manner may be permanently suspended under Twitter's impersonation policy".



Last month, the U.S. sanctioned Zanganeh and some related entities amid heightening tensions between the two countries before the U.S. presidential election.

Upon announcing the sanctions against Zanganeh, the U.S. Treasury Department accused Iran of using its oil industry to fund activities of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and its Quds Force.

"The Iranian regime continues to prioritize its support for terrorist entities and its nuclear program over the needs of the Iranian people," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin claimed in a statement.

The Trump administration ramped up its pressure on Iran ahead of the Nov. 3 election, partly to help ensure that a Joe Biden administration would find it more difficult to ease sanctions. The U.S. announced new sweeping restrictions on Iran's financial sector last month, as well as blacklisting 18 banks that had escaped earlier sanctions.

In response, Zanganeh dismissed the measures as a sign that U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts to eliminate Iranian crude exports had failed and said they wouldn't hamstring the country's oil industry.

"Imposition of sanctions on me and my colleagues is a passive reaction to the failure of Washington's policy of reducing [Iran's] crude oil exports to zero," he tweeted on October 26.

"The era of unilateralism is over in the world. Iran's oil industry will not be hamstrung," Zanganeh added.

On Thursday, Zanganeh said the unfair U.S. sanctions have barred Iran's access to billions of dollars in oil revenues.

Addressing the 22nd annual ministerial meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), Zanganeh stated that the U.S. withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the illegal imposition of unilateral economic sanctions on Iran was nothing but bullying his country and the international community.

"U.S. sanctions on Iran violate the specific policies of many countries in the international community but they cannot do anything about it just because the U.S. is dominating the global financial and banking system," he said.

"Despite all these challenges, we have made significant progress in the energy sector; by relying on our human resources, technology and investment, we have achieved the sustainable production of one billion cubic meters of gas per day," he added.

## Sectarianism is associated with the country King Salam rules

At best, they become hot-headed preachers in mosques that encourage fighting Christians in Nigeria or in Indonesia. And in a worst case, they actually recruit or participate in terror acts."

What is quite clear is that these graduates, each of who naturally brainwashed some others, later found their way in Iraq and Syria, committing indescribable crimes under the names of Daesh, al-Nusra, etc.



According to Al Jazeera, the Saudi king also condemned what he alleged was the Houthi movement's "deliberate and methodological" targeting of civilians inside Saudi Arabia via drones and missiles.

Contrary to what Salman claimed, it is the Yemeni citizens who are being dismembered by the Saudi-led aerial raids and wedding ceremonies are turned into tragic scenes.

It is better that the 84-year-old king ask himself that who initiated this unprovoked war on Yemen in March 2015, which the United Nations has said it has caused the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

On September 2, 2018, the Human Rights Watchdog (HRW) said a Saudi-led coalition airstrike that killed at least 26 children and wounded at least 19 more in or near a school bus in the busy market of Dhahyan, in northern Yemen, on August 9, 2018, is an apparent war crime.

Bill Van Esveldt, senior children's rights researcher at the HRW, said, "The Saudi-led coalition's attack on a bus full of young boys adds to its already gruesome track record of killing civilians at weddings, funerals, hospitals, and schools in Yemen." Tribal leaders in Riyadh cannot whitewash their record by leveling accusations against Iran.

If they are caught in the Yemen swamp it is not because of Iran. If they were wise enough, Iran showed them the road of how to get rid of the self-created mire in the first months of the war.

Such accusations are the result of their hatred of Iran as was best exemplified in their disdain to the 2015 nuclear deal -JCPOA- and their \$400 billion trade reward to Donald Trump to undermine the agreement.

Despite all these useless attempts, the name of their country is still and will remain synonymous with extremism and terrorism.

# Top judge criticizes 'wrong signals' to U.S.

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi has criticized "wrong signals" on the Iranian side toward the United States, saying the Iranian people are not weak in the face of Washington's pressure.

"The message of the Iranian nation is not a message of weakness, but it is a message of struggle in the path of their goal ... And the Iranian nation will disappoint the enemy through perseverance and resistance," Raisi said on Monday, according to ISNA.

He said the enemy is trying to dominate the Iranian people's minds, but the Americans' smile will not fool the people.

The chief judge was referring to the victory of Joe Biden in the U.S. presidential election, which has been welcomed by the Iranian government due to the prospects of lifting harsh economic sanctions against Iran by the incoming administration.

Since assuming office in January 2017, outgoing U.S. President Donald 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, President-elect Biden has voiced support for the JCPOA, saying his administration will rejoin the deal. Biden served as vice president in the Barack Obama administration, under which the nuclear deal was reached.

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 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.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Sunday that Iran's economic problems are related to mismanagement in "Pasteur and Bahrestan" rather than the result of U.S. election in the states of Arizona, Georgia, or Michigan.

Pasteur is the seat of the president in Iran and Bahrestan is the seat of the Majlis (parliament).

"Although we are happy over [U.S. President Donald] Trump's defeat but people's life and livelihood should not be tied to the victory or defeat of anyone in the White House," Ghalibaf said in remarks at the parliament.

He 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.

He also said it is true that Biden is different from Trump "but we should know that in the best case he will not be different from Obama who was the architect of the so-called crippling sanction."

## Iran urges Saudi Arabia to avoid slipping into deeper isolation

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Tehran has slammed Riyadh for "baseless allegations and hate-mongering", urging Saudi Arabia to change course to avoid becoming further isolated.

"As long as Saudi rulers do not change course and fix their wrong approach, there will be no prospects for improvement of Saudi Arabia's isolation even in the Persian Gulf region," Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said at a press conference on Monday.

The remarks came after Saudi Arabia's King Salman

bin Abdulaziz Al Saud urged the world to take a "decisive stance" to address Iran's efforts to develop its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

"The kingdom stresses the dangers of Iran's regional project, its interference in other countries, its fostering of terrorism, its fanning the flames of sectarianism and calls for a decisive stance from the international community against Iran that guarantees a drastic handling of its efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction and develop its ballistic missiles program," the king said in

an annual address to a government advisory body, according to Al Jazeera.

In response, Khatibzadeh said it was not "unnatural" for Saudi rulers to make such remarks, because they repeat the same sentences which they have memorized.

He said Riyadh must know that peace cannot be attained by killing the Yemeni people, the region cannot be ruled through propagating Wahhabism and takfiri groups, money cannot be spent to lobby, and resources of the Muslim world cannot be spent to betray Palestine.

## IRGC chief vows to avenge Soleimani killing 'in the field'

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

In the early hours of January 8, the IRGC attacked Ain al-Assad airbase in western Iraq, where U.S. forces were stationed, as part of its promised "tough revenge" for the U.S. terror attack. Iran has asserted that taking revenge for the assassination is not over.

Salami said the two martyrs played the most significant role in the defeat of Daesh (ISIS) and the defeat of plots hatched by the Zionists and the Americans in the region. "Martyr Soleimani began the defeat

of Daesh from Iraq," he said, stressing that the Americans were envious of such grandeur and decided to kill him.

The Iranian commander pointed to the expulsion of the Americans from Iraq, saying such a move, which is a demand of the Iraqi people, should be done through the Arab country's parliament.

He also said preservation of Iraq's integrity, unity and territorial integrity as well as cooperation between Tehran and Baghdad for the security of common borders is Iran's policy.

"And having a great, united, free and independent Iraq from the will of the powers is our great wish," he pointed out.

During the Sunday meeting, the Iraqi defense minister said the Islamic Republic has helped his country ever since Daesh



emerged in Iraq.

"Our brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran helped us in the fight against Daesh's terrorism and they gave us whatever we needed at the time," Inad Saadoun said. "We will not forget this."

He also said his visit to Tehran aimed at expanding bilateral relations and ask for necessary military equipment from Iran.

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.

He also met with Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri and Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani.

## Biden will return to JCPOA but won't lift sanctions swiftly: George Washington University professor

### "Biden will not be a panacea for Iran's ongoing problems"

But I don't think that Biden would say, okay let's go back and assume that the agreement was fully in force. Namely, he will not remove the sanctions imposed by Trump in return for Iran destroying any excess enriched fuel that they have accumulated and addressing any other infraction after Trump's withdrawal from the treaty. Biden will want more. Biden will ask for a dramatic curtailment of Iran's missile program, for Iran to cut ties with Syria, Hezbollah, Houthis, militias in Iraq, with Hamas and who knows who else and demand that Iran pulls its advisors and forces from anywhere outside of Iran's borders. He will tie all these to restoring the nuclear agreement and lifting sanctions, and even then, only step by step and not with total removal of sanctions.

So don't think that Biden will be a panacea for Iran's ongoing problems. Trump has done Iran much harm. And Trump, as all U.S. presidents before him, says that he is doing this to bring freedom and human rights for the Iranian people.

Let's look at the possible but new U.S. conditions one by one. Is the U.S. justified to make such demands? Let's begin with Iran's defensive missile program.

Well, at the outset let me say that the Trump administration, Israel and a number of others have falsely said that Iran's missile program was covered in the JCPOA. It was not. Lies are the hallmarks of the Trump presidency. Iran needs to defend itself. Just recall the invasion of Saddam Hussein and how the international community stood idly by, supported the aggressor and trashed the most important article in the UN Charter. Iran cannot rely on international agreements and the United Nations for its security. It needs strong defensive and deterrent capabilities surrounded by the U.S. and its allies.

As important, how can Biden with a straight face demand all these when the United States has armed Israel and the Persian Gulf countries who are members of the PGCC to the teeth and has its own military capabilities poised in the region? It is duplicity to the max. Iran must not even entertain any such discussions.

How about Iran's association with certain elements in the region that the U.S. has labelled as hostile? A: It is ironic that the United States talks about Iran's associations with undesirable elements, while it embraces the worst possible rogue elements and states in the region. Let's start with Mohammad bin Salman or MBS and how he has treated his own people and had a U.S.-based journalist, Khashoggi, butchered to death and pours down bombs indiscriminately on civilians in Yemen. Yet, the U.S. President has nothing but praise for Saudi Arabia. Look at Israel, a country that tramples on international law every day by confiscating Palestinian lands to build Israeli settlements, oppresses Palestinians and blockades the people of Gaza to deprive them of much-needed humanitarian assistance. The U.S. embraces the dictator Sisi in Egypt who helps Israel in oppressing the people of Gaza and tramples on the rights of all Egyptians. Look the U.S. is in no position to lecture anyone about their misplaced associations.

Lastly, what about a demand that Iran should pull out its advisors from anywhere in the region? A: Look the U.S. is some 7,000 miles from the Persian Gulf but surrounds Iran with its own forces and with the help of its allies. It carries out special operations into every country. Yet Iran cannot advise its allies in the region? Let's get serious. This demand should be dismissed until the United

States withdraws all its forces from the entire Middle East.

Do you think Iran should seek justice for the assassination of General Soleimani?

A: Absolutely. Iran should launch a complaint with the International Court of Justice. And even with the International Criminal Court, which the U.S. does not recognize. Also, Iran should have list of all those involved in any way with this assassination and if they ever travel outside the U.S. Iran should attempt to have them arrested and extradited or brought in front of the International Criminal Court.

Do you think Iran should be compensated for the economic hardship caused by the U.S. pullout from the international nuclear agreement and imposing sanctions?

A: Yes. The U.S. broke an international agreement to which it was a signatory. Iran had not deviated from the agreement. As a result, Iran has suffered human and economic losses. The International Court of Justice is the appropriate venue if the U.S. will not address Iran's complaint.

What can Iran and Iranians abroad do to alleviate the pressures imposed by the United States?

A: Iran must address its economic woes. Iran has wasted much time and many opportunities after the Iran-Iraq War. Economic reforms and addressing Iran's economic shortcomings becomes harder with each passing day.

At the same time, Iranians living in the U.S. and in Europe should show more compassion towards Iran and the Iranian people who have suffered so much. Whether Iranians living abroad agree or disagree with the regime in Tehran, they should have compassion for all Iranians. Some Iranians in the U.S. are against the Democratic Party in the U.S. as they believe Jimmy Carter was behind the toppling of the Shah by his participation in the Guadeloupe Conference. They must let go of this and not be prisoners of their past, things that happened some 40 years ago. They should not support the likes of Trump in the hopes that he might attack Iran so that they could come back in triumph. This is morally wrong and only hurts ordinary Iranians.

**"The International Court of Justice is the appropriate venue if the U.S. will not address Iran's complaint" about the damages caused by sanctions, says the professor.**

# Iran offers condolences on passing of Syria FM

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN – Several Iranian officials have expressed sympathy with the people and government of Syria over the passing of Syria's Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem.

In a message addressed to Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Syrian Arab Republic Hossein Arnous, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif expressed condolences on the passing of Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem, Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Monday morning.

"I received the news of the passing of the late Walid al-Muallem, Syria's Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, and with great regret and sadness," Zarif said in the message, offering his condolences to Arnous, the family of the late foreign minister, and his colleagues in the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

Zarif praised al-Muallem's role in serving his country, saying that the late foreign minister "played important role in serving and defending the national interests and security of Syria."

Al-Muallem served in many positions, including as Syria's top diplomat since 2006 while also serving as the country's deputy prime minister since 2012. He was appointed as Syria's ambassador to the United States



from 1990 to 1999. The late foreign minister also wrote several books on Syria and the broader West Asia. His books are as follows: Palestine and Armed Peace in 1970, Syria in the Mandate Period from 1917 to 1948, Syria from Independence to Unity from 1948 to 1958, and The World and the Middle East [West Asia] from the American Perspective. He was married and is survived by three children.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament

condolences on the passing of al-Muallem.

"Working for many years in various positions in the field of defending the interests of the Syrian government and people, he was a clear example of standing up and fighting against the bullying, hostilities, and crimes of terrorist and takfiri groups and their Western, Arab and Hebrew supporters," Velayati said of al-Muallem. "He confronted and opposed the disgraceful deal of Camp David within the front of the resistance in the Arab world, and then joined the resistance front, and until the end of his life, he stood firm and remained committed to fulfilling the covenant he had made in this direction. He will always be greatly remembered by the resistant people of Syria."

Velayati also pointed to his friendship with al-Muallem, saying that his friendship with the late foreign minister dates back to the early years of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

The Leader's advisor said their friendship continued and deepened during Syria's recent tough and complicated years.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported on Monday that Syria's Presidency of the Cabinet and the Foreign and Expatriates Ministry have mourned the death of Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign and Expatriates Minister Walid al-Muallem who passed away on Monday at dawn.

Ali Akbar Velayati, an advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution on international affairs, also issued a statement offering

## SPORTS

### Persepolis confirmed as 2020 ACL finalists

**1→** "After receiving the first complaint by Al Nassr club, we had less than 48 hours to serve and declare Persepolis' defense bill to the AFC disciplinary committee. It was a hard job, but with the cooperation between the club and the Iranian football federation, we prepared a good defense bill in due time. The same happened after the appeal by the Saudi club to the AFC Appeal Committee, and Al Nassr's appeal was rejected again," he said.

Regarding the Al Nassr's appeal before CAS, Ghadir said: "Normally the process of appealing before CAS takes a long time. The Asian Football Confederation has confirmed Persepolis as the finalists of the AFC Champions League. It is unlikely that Al Nassr's appeal will be resolved before the final game," he concluded.

### Iran reaches agreement with Vladimir Alekno, source says

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic of Iran Volleyball Federation (IRIVF) has reached an agreement with Vladimir Alekno.

IRIVF Secretary General Milad Taghavi has confirmed the news and said that the Russian coach will be named as Iran coach within the next few days.



Daniel Castellani, Andrea Giani, Ferdinando De Giorgi, Lorenzo Bernardi and Vladimir Alekno were among the five candidates in the running to take the helm of Iran and the members of the federation's technical committee reached a joint agreement on Castellani and Alekno last week.

On Monday, Taghavi has confirmed that Alekno is the final choice to lead Iran.

"The federation has reached an initial agreement with the Russian coach and he will be named as Iran coach within the next few days," Taghavi said.

Iran volleyball team are without a coach since parting ways with Igor Kolakovic in March.

In the Olympic Games, Iran have been drawn in Pool A along with Japan, Poland, Italy, Canada and Venezuela.

Pool B consists of Brazil, USA, Russia, Argentina, France and Tunisia.

### Iran volleyball leagues postponed due to coronavirus

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — All volleyball leagues in Iran have been postponed until further notice due to Covid-19 pandemic.

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.

Now, the Iranian volleyball federation has announced that the all leagues in the country have been postponed until further notice.

Iran Volleyball Super League had been previously postponed due to the third wave of COVID-19 in early October.

The men's league was supposed to resume on Nov. 25 in Tehran as centralized venue but it has been postponed for a second time.

### Persepolis complete signing of Mehdi Mehdikhani

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Persepolis football team completed the signing of Mohammad Mehdi Mehdikhani.

The 23-year-old forward has joined the Iranian giants on a two-year contract.

Mehdikhani has joined Persepolis from the Croatian top-flight team Varaždin.

"First of all, I have to thank Persepolis coaching staff because they trusted me. Persepolis have claimed Iran Professional League over the past four years," Mehdikhani said.

"I want to win with this team. I have already worked with Mr. Golmohammadi in Shahr Khodro. I hope I can help Persepolis to continue their winning way," he added.

He started his playing career in Shahr Khodro in 2017 and has already worked with Persepolis current coach Yaya Golmohammadi in the Mashhad based football team.

Persepolis forward Isa Alekasir was handed a six-month ban after making an 'eye-slant' celebration in the match against Pakhtakor at the AFC Champions League.

Ukraine's Olimpik Donetsk striker Shahab Zahedi and PEC Zwolle forward Reza Ghoochannejhad also were on the Persepolis' radar.

### Taremi's transfer fee to Porto revealed

**PLDC** — Rio Ave President Antonio da Silva Campos has revealed the fee of Mehdi Taremi's contract with Porto FC.

Under the tutelage of Carlos Carvalhal, Rio Ave showed promising performance in the 2019-2020 season of the Primeira Liga. However, Carvalhal left the team for Braga.

The team also sold Iranian striker Mehdi Taremi to Porto and Nuno Santos to Sporting.

In his latest interview with a Portuguese outlet, president Silva Campos announced that the club has earned €8.7 million by selling these two players.

The value of players is not a secret, he said, adding that Taremi and Santos have been sold respectively for €5 and €3.7 million. "I am sure that if the coronavirus outbreak had not happened, we could have earned more money because many European teams eyed these players."

## Parliament to review 'strategic bill to lift sanctions' at first opportunity

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — The Iranian Parliament's strategic bill to lift the United States sanctions on Iran will be submitted to the Parliament's presiding board at the earliest opportunity, a senior lawmaker sitting on the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA) on Monday.

"The strategic bill to lift the sanctions will be submitted to the presiding board as soon as possible after approval by the National Security Committee," said Abbas Moqtadaee, the deputy head of the parliamentary committee.

Moqtadaee was referring to the recent bill put forward by Iranian lawmakers in early November that aims to make the U.S. lift sanctions on Iran by doubling down on nuclear activities.

According to the 9-article bill, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) will be required to produce and store at least 120 kilograms of enriched uranium with 20 percent purity level at the Fordow nuclear facility every year, and to fulfill the country's peaceful industrial demands with uranium enriched above 20%, Tasnim news reported on November 2, adding that once ratified, the bill will oblige the AEOI to increase the monthly output of enriched uranium for various peaceful purposes with different purity levels by at least 500 kg.



## Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire raises questions in Iran

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — The ceasefire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia that was brokered by Russia was short of details and raised questions and speculations over the impact that it would have on the geopolitics of the region.

In what appeared to be a bid to relieve concerns among analysts about the impact of the ceasefire agreement on the geopolitics of the region, Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, said on Monday that the country's borders did not change and will not change in the future.

The spokesman was responding to speculations over a transit corridor that will be established as per a Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia to connect the autonomous republic of Nakhchivan to mainland Azerbaijan.

Last week, the leaders of Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan signed the 9-clause ceasefire agreement, putting an end to a 45-day long bloody war between Baku and Yerevan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to the agreement, "transport links" will be established inside Armenia to connect the western regions of Azerbaijan to the landlocked exclave of Nakhchivan.

The ninth clause of the carefully-worded agreement stipulates that "All economic and transport links in the region shall be restored. The Republic of Armenia guarantees the safety of transport links between the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in order to organize unhindered movement of citizens, vehicles and goods in both directions. Control over transport shall be exercised by the bodies of the Border Guard Service of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia."

It further stipulates that "By agreement of the Parties [i.e. Azerbaijan and Armenia], the construction of new transport communications linking the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with the western regions of Azerbaijan shall be ensured."

Following the establishment of the ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh, wild rumors and speculations swept social media in Iran that the country has lost its transit route to Armenia as a result of the newly-established ceasefire agreement. These speculations have prompted Iranian officials to provide

clarifications on the agreement.

Speaking at his weekly press briefing on Monday morning, Khatibzadeh dispelled these speculations, refuting any changes in Iran's borders.

"The geographical borders of the Islamic Republic in this region did not change at all and will not change in the future. Our perception of what has been announced is just a simple transit route, the security of which should be discussed and the Islamic Republic of Iran is following the issue closely," the spokesman said. "Iran is located on the highway of many transit routes. Iran is both aware of its geopolitical position and uses it to help its friends."

He also once again welcomed the ceasefire agreement, underlining that respecting international borders should be part of any solution to the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has played and will continue to play a strategic role in all equations in the region. The only permanent solution to this crisis is to pay attention to the principle of fairness, the sovereignty of countries, and the upholding of borders, and we welcome anything that helps in this direction. A ceasefire and an end to the current conflict may not be the final answer to the crisis, but it is a very effective step," Khatibzadeh remarked, adding that Iran welcomes any permanent solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis.

The spokesman stated, "No subject can be formed outside the normal routine; as no player outside the region can set foot in this region and we have said it explicitly and those who should get the message have taken it. Outside of this path, it is natural that no process will take place."

Khatibzadeh reiterated that the peace initiative that Iran has recently presented to the four countries involved in the conflict — Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, and Turkey — is remarkably convergent with the Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement.

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

ease existing concerns," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on November 11.

The statement also underscored the necessity for respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other countries and a lack of change in internationally recognized official borders.

Iran has clearly voiced concern over the potential change in official borders in the region, especially the Iran-Armenia border, which gives Iran a strategic trade advantage in its economic relations with Azerbaijan, Armenia, and to some extent Turkey. This may be the reason why the ceasefire agreement sparked rumors and speculations over the impact that this agreement would have on the Iran-Armenia border.

As Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia announced the ceasefire agreement, maps circulating on social media platforms in Iran purportedly claiming that the Nakhchivan-Azerbaijan transport corridor, which Iranian sources estimated to be five kilometers wide, cut off Iran's transit route to Armenia, a claim that prompted Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the deputy foreign minister of Iran for political affairs, to break his holiday on Friday to refute the "baseless rumors" about the ceasefire agreement's impact on Iran-Armenia border in a statement to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

"Unfortunately, disinformation and misleading information along with fake maps are being spread in cyberspace. Claims such as cutting Iran's border with Armenia, creating a corridor inside Armenia, or even inside Iran, changing the geopolitics of the region, etc. have been raised but they are fundamentally untrue and being spread for specific political and propaganda purposes," Araghchi told IRNA on Friday night.

The ceasefire agreement itself was so short that it did not give information on where and when the Nakhchivan-Azerbaijan "transport links" will be established. This ambiguity paved the way for social media users to spread rumors and maps alleging that the corridor will cut Iran's transit route to Armenia and therefore change the geopolitics of the region. One map that was widely circulated on social media purportedly showed that the corridor cuts the transit route between Iran and Armenia but Araghchi said these maps

metallic uranium factory in Isfahan within 5 months and restoration of a 40-Megawatts heavy water reactor in Arak, which was supposed to be re-designed and optimized under the JCPOA. The bill requires the Iranian government to prevent any foreign access and monitoring beyond the Additional Protocol.

The bill, which was discussed in the parliamentary committee according to Moqtadaee, also requires the government to suspend the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) three months after the ratification of it if the parties to the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), failed to uphold their obligations under the JCPOA.

Moqtadaee said this bill will enable the Islamic Republic of Iran to lift the "cruel sanctions" of the U.S.

"In the strategic plan of action to lift sanctions on Iran, we seek to ensure the maximum interests of our country," the lawmaker said. "Now that the Western parties have not fulfilled their obligations, the Parliament decided to realize the lost rights of the Iranian people within the framework of its oversight and legal duties through this plan."

He added, "It will be submitted to the presiding board as soon as the details are finalized and approved by the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee."

## ICCIMA representative attends 34th CACCI Annual Conference

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — As the Deputy Head of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), representative of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Pedram Soltani attended CACCI's 34th annual conference which was held through video conference.



The member countries attending the conference dubbed "Achieving Sustainable Growth in a Turbulent and Disruptive Global Market" were gathered virtually to discuss a variety of issues including current trends in the global market, challenges, the volatile global market environment, geopolitical perspectives, and the role of governments and businesses in mitigating the effects of the current situation and the global economic and trade turmoil.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, this year, the event was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Participants in the conference also discussed policies adopted by governments and chambers of commerce to combat the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

They underlined a 0.7 percent slowdown in the economy of Asian developing countries, noting the sharp decline in intra-regional trade growth and GDP as unprecedented in the past six decades.

Speaking in the conference, Soltani noted that the outbreak of the coronavirus has imposed a great threat to the global economy, saying: "Chambers of commerce and industry are trying to adapt and apply new business models to the existing risks."

"Based on the definition of the principles of risk and risk management, chambers of commerce and industry should be in a position to consider themselves as representative of small and medium industries (SMEs), that is, they have to consider SMEs as their priority," he stressed.

Further in the meeting, the dangers of a long-term pandemic were examined and the participants stated that the more the pandemic prolongs (first wave and subsequent waves), the harder the economic recovery would be, and this could even create a crisis in some economies.

The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry is a regional association principally composed of the national chambers or associations of commerce and industry in Asia and the Western Pacific.

## SP complex supplies 40% of feedstock for gasoline production

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Managing Director of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of developing Iran's giant South Pars gas field, said the field accounts for 40 percent of the feedstock that the country receives for gasoline production, IRNA reported.

"While South Pars gas production capacity has increased 2.5 times in the last seven years, part of the field's gas condensate output is sent to the Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR) as feedstock, and 40 percent of the country's gasoline is currently supplied by this field," Mohammad Meshkinfam said.



The field's condensate production, depending on natural gas output, is about 600,000 barrels per day, which is mainly transported to the PGSR as feedstock, while the refinery supplies 40 percent of the country's gasoline so we can say that 40 percent of the country's gasoline is supplied from South Pars, he explained.

According to Meshkinfam, during the 20 years of South Pars' development \$80 billion has been invested in this field.

He noted that although the complex's production capacity is over 700 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d), the field's output is regulated according to the demand and currently 630 mcm of natural gas is produced in this field on a daily basis.

Mentioning the onshore development of the complex, POGC head said: "out of 13 South Pars refineries, 12 refineries have gone operational so far and Phase 14 refinery is the last onshore processing facility belonging to the massive joint gas field that is being developed and we hope to put it into operation by yearend (March 2021)."

The official further said that except for phase 11, the offshore section of the field is fully operational and 36 platforms of the field's total 39 platforms are currently active.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf water, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

# Iran's agricultural exports increase 13.8%

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iran exported over \$5.8 billion worth of agricultural and foodstuff products in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), Head of Agriculture Ministry's Planning and Economic Affairs Department Shahrokh Shajari has announced.

According to the official, about 7.104 million tons of such products worth \$5.821 billion were exported to foreign destinations last year.

In the mentioned period, over 6.941 million tons of agricultural and foodstuff products worth \$6.392 billion were also imported into the country, according to Shajari.

Watermelons, apples, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, and shallots were the top five exported products in the previous year in terms of weight, while in terms of value, pistachios, apples, tomatoes, pistachio kernels, and watermelons were the five



major exported items. Shajari further pointed to the major imported items in terms of weight, saying, corn, barley, soybean meal, soybean, and

untreated sugar were the top five imported items, while in terms of value livestock corn, rice, barley, and soybeans were the top imported products.

## Cement production up 14.4% in H1

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iran's cement production hit 35.639 million tons in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), up 14.4 percent compared to the same period last year, IRNA reported.

Based on the data provided by the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, the country's cement production stood at 25.153 million in the first half of the previous calendar year.

Production of the mentioned commodity was reported to be 6.058 million tons in the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (August 22-September 21), 5.3 percent less than the figure for the previous month in which the output stood at 6.397 million tons.

Currently, there are 96 cement production lines active in 74 factories across Iran, most of which are less than 10 years old. This is an indication that new production units have a greater share of the total output in this sector.

Iranian cement production units managed to produce 53 million tons of cement in 2018 which, considering



the country's total production capacity, indicates that 62 percent of the country's factories were active in the mentioned year.

The country's cement production capacity is currently 85 million tons and the domestic demand is 65 million

tons. Iran is now one of the seven largest cement producers in the world.

According to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported over 5.847 million tons of cement worth \$127.99 million during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year.

India, Afghanistan, Russia, Iraq, Qatar, Kenya, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, and Oman were among the countries importing Iranian cement during the mentioned five-month period.

Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan were the top importers of cement from Iran in the said time span.

Iran has exported about \$7 billion worth of construction materials in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

As recently announced, the production of major items in the construction industry is more than double the country's demand for such commodities.

## Commodities worth \$104m exported from Qom Province

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Commodities valued at \$104 million and with the weight of 92,000 tons have been exported from Iran's central province of Qom during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), according to a provincial official.

Mahmoud Sijani, the head of Qom Province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, mentioned copper wire, plastic materials, metal products, machinery, mechanical tools, aluminum and its products, fuels and mineral oils, shoes, organic chemical products, fats and vegetable and animal oils, and polyester fibers as the major exported products, and Iraq, Afghanistan, China, Turkey, UAE, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia as the main export destinations during the mentioned time span.

The official further said that 27,600 tons of commodities worth \$130 million have been imported to the province during the first seven months of the current year.

He named machinery, mechanical equipment, spare parts for road-building machinery, electrical components, synthetic fibers, plastic products, tea and spices, optical instruments, medical devices, cosmetics, and nickel products as the main imported items, and China, Turkey, UAE, Italy, India, Oman, Ukraine, Japan, Iraq and France as the top countries exporting products to the province during the said period of time.

Iran has exported 65.5 million tons of



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

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

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

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

## 121 mining zones to be offered to investors in South Khorasan Province

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The acting head of Industry, Mining, and Trade Department of Iran's western province of South Khorasan announced that 121 mining zones in the province will be offered to the investors in the next Iranian calendar month (starts on November 21).

Abbas Jorjani said that the zones are offered for conducting exploration operation in line with implementing the instructions issued by the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade and with the follow-ups done by his department.

As announced by Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company (IMPASCO), 50 trillion rials (over \$1.1 billion) worth of mining projects were handed over to the private sector in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

According to IMPASCO, which is a subsidiary of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), last year, tenders were held for awarding 12 mining projects in which domestic investors as well as companies from China, Tajikistan, Iraq and Georgia participated.

As reported, contribution of the private sector in the country's mining sector is going to improve the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current Iranian calendar year which is named the year of surge in production.

Utilizing the private sector's resources, the mining sector is going to generate more employment, production and value



added for the country.

In late May, IMIDRO Head Khodadad Gharibpour announced that IMIDRO is contributing to \$1.93 billion worth of projects that are going to be implemented by the private sector.

"IMIDRO and its subsidiaries are going to implement 31 projects, worth \$2.276 billion, in a variety of fields including steel, copper, gold, antimony, nepheline syenite, phosphate and also mining infrastructure in the current year", the official said at the time.

Due to the significant role of the mining sector in the country's non-oil exports, the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry has provisioned operational targets in the mining sector's three major areas of exploration, extraction and processing in the current year.

According to Deputy Industry Mining, and Trade Minister Darioush Esmaili, the mining sector accounted for 25 percent of the country's non-oil revenues in the past Iranian calendar year.

## Europe-Iran Business Forum to run next month

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — A conference on investment opportunities in Iran, aimed at attracting the European investors who want to tap Iranian markets if the U.S. sanctions are again lifted, will take place next month, Bloomberg reported.

The Europe-Iran Business Forum, which is funded by the European Union, will run during December 14-16 and will be the first of its kind in two years, according to a statement by its organizers.

International conferences on Iran's economy, trade and banking sectors had surged following the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran, the U.S., European Union, Russia and China,

but they virtually disappeared after Trump pulled the U.S. out of the accord in 2018 and renewed sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

President-elect Joe Biden has pledged to return the U.S. to the Iran accord, which was brokered by the Obama administration when he was vice president. He's said that he wants Iran to return to full compliance to the deal in exchange for the U.S. doing the same and lifting sanctions.

The investment conference is being run by the U.N.'s International Trade Center -- an agency jointly managed by the United Nations and the World Trade Organization -- and the Iran Trade Promotion Organization.



The Milan-based European House-Ambrosetti is also supporting the event, which will be hosted on the company's online conference platform, the statement said.

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

Last month, European Commission spokesperson for foreign affairs issues, Peter Stano, told the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview that the removal of sanctions is an "essential part" of the 2015 nuclear agreement.

He points to EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell's remarks in a debate in the European Parliament on October 7 in which he said, "Iran had legitimate expectations that the 'nuclear deal' would result in more concrete economic benefits."

## Iran gains 100% of projected tax income

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The head of Iran's National Tax Administration (INTA) said the country's planned tax income has been completely collected in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21).

According to Omid-Ali Parsa, the mentioned achievement was realized as a result of the implementation of various programs for smartening the country's tax collection system.

"One of the most important achievements of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs in recent years has

been the smartening of the tax system, the most important outcome of which has been the complete realization of the tax income plan in the previous years," he said.

The realization of tax income plans in recent years has taken place in the condition that the country is facing severe economic sanctions, he underlined.

"The full realization of tax incomes was achieved without increasing tax rates and putting pressure on current taxpayers, and only by focusing on identifying new taxpayers, combating tax evasion and smart collection of the taxes," Parsa added.

According to Parsa, Iran's tax revenue increased 31 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

Putting the country's tax income at 1.43 quadrillion rials (about \$34.04 billion) in the previous year, the official said, "We could collect 250 trillion rials (about \$5.9 billion) as value-added tax (VAT)".

The country also managed to collect 1.09 quadrillion rials (about \$25.952 billion) of tax revenues during the Iranian calendar year of 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019), showing that the country's annual tax income plan came true by 97 percent.

# Systematic targeting of Pakistani Shias start in UAE days after the Israel-UAE deal

By Huda Z

"We just feel like Muharram is still continuing in our household; it's that upsetting. It's that frustrating," says Faizah\*, a recent electrical engineering graduate from Habib University, Karachi.

It's been three weeks since her dad, Hussain\*, a resident of the UAE for the past forty years, was arrested in his Deira workplace without any explanations or warrants provided.

"My dad generally tells us his Google passwords, for you know, security purposes. ... Thursday morning, I tried to locate his phone through his Google ID, and that's how I got to know that on Wednesday around 1 pm, when he was taken (into custody) from his workplace, he was actually taken to Al-Aweer (Jail), which is in the outskirts of Dubai, and it's primarily an immigration center ... that is the last update that we have about his whereabouts."

Faizah woke up on the morning of Wednesday, October 21st, to continue with her day's agenda, unaware of the fact that this day would be bringing in a lot of frustration and anger for the whole family, which would stay for more than just a few days. Like everyone else in her family, she was informed of about eight to ten hours after the incident took place, and that too because of her aunt's condolence call.

"She called us for the purpose of condolence, and we are like, oh, we don't know anything about it. So that was the first time we actually got to know. ... Then we called his employer as well and said hey, what's up, there's something we've been hearing, and he's like, yeah, it happened in front of us."

Hussain's employer was able to provide Faizah the details of what exactly happened. At around noon, four men came to his office in Deira. One of them went to the security room to turn off all the cameras. Then, the men - dressed in plain clothes - took him and his phones in custody, and his coworkers never heard from them again.

"Later, at night, his phone was taken to his residence in Deira at 4 am (sic) on Thursday, October 22nd. His entire floor (mates) in the building were all taken out from their apartments and (they were) asked about their relationship with my father and my father's apartment was raided," she would later describe in a viral tweet with the hashtag #MissingShiasUAE, which prompted more people to come forward with stories of their brothers, cousins, friends, and relatives in the UAE being similarly abducted by security agencies - never to hear of them again.

Hussain's peculiar arrest would have been way more surprising for Faizah than it was, had she not known that a crackdown targeting Pakistani immigrants, a majority



of them belonging to the Shi'a denomination, is currently going on in the UAE. Ever since the UAE secured the normalization deal with Israel back in September, news of a crackdown on the members of the diaspora community has been rife.

"Yeah, there's this one person who was again, taken away (into custody in the UAE) in a very similar fashion, and he came back like a few weeks ago. So we were talking to him. ... He was, again, deported, and then he came to Rawalpindi - he lives in Rawalpindi. We talked to him, and he told us that (when he was in custody), a policeman over there agreed that Israel has asked them to deport all Pakistanis."

Now it's not very unclear why this might be the case. The Pakistani government has held a very strict stance against the acceptance of the settler state over the rights of Palestinians for as long as it has existed. Just a few days after UAE officials announced the normalization of ties with Israel back in August, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, announced that Pakistan would not recognize Israel's existence. "When you talk of Israel and Palestine, we need to think, will we be able to answer (God) if we abandon those people who have faced every kind of injustice and whose rights were taken away? My own conscience will never allow me to do this; I can never accept it," added Khan.

"He accepted that Israel has asked us to do this, and that's why we're doing this," said Faizah, audibly distressed over the phone interview as the absence of her father has stretched to almost a month. Faizah has reasons to believe the deportee acquaintance, as there is nothing else her father could have done that stimulated this arrest, and that too - in such a mysterious way. Hussain has been living and working in the Persian

Gulf state for the past forty years and no prior criminal charges.

"That's mainly because of the job prospects," said Faizah, explaining the reason for Hussain's being in the UAE.

The family hadn't been sitting all this time idly. Faizah's aunts in the UAE have been on the lookout for their brother in different jails and detention centers, while also complaining to the Pakistani embassy in the UAE. When she was asked whether someone was following up on the matter in the UAE, she replied, "Yeah, so my aunts have been doing that for, like, ever since it happened."

"So for a good 17 - 18 days, but then, like two-three days ago, they finally filed the FIR. So, initially, when my aunt would go there, they would say that no, we don't have him. And they would literally say to her face to wait for the call."

But there was never a call. And when she went back to follow up, a brigadier turned up to misbehave with her.

"There are so many immigrant families there ... they don't even treat them properly. ... And the last time when my aunt went to the police station, that was the day after they filed the FIR. One of the brigadiers came in, and they told my aunt, 'don't ask us about these detainees anymore. You are a woman and a (UAE) national, which is why we're letting you go. Had you been someone else, we would have had arrested you too."

"And someone else reached out to me through Twitter again, that oh, this happened to my uncle. Obviously, we've been helping each other out when they finally filed the FIR for my father, so I told those people that I knew (who had been going through a similar situation) that they are finally filing the FIR, so maybe you should now pursue that. So this one person, whose uncle had been arrested, he told me that, he asked someone

he knew to go to the police stations and ask for his uncle and, even he, the person who went (to follow up on his uncle), was taken away (and detained) as well. So I mean, it's just, it's happening on a crazy, crazy, crazy level right now."

When Faizah tried to reach out to the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis to ask for help, it seemed she was talking to a wall.

"We were trying to reach out different officials over here, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis, and at that time, all they said all honestly, all they said it's not in our hands, it's an international crackdown, so it's not in our hands."

"And then one of these days, my aunt went over there (to the Pakistani embassy in the UAE), and she was told that they have around 700 complaints ... they asked her to write down her complaint as well."

With no other options left in front of her, she finally opened up about this on Twitter a week after the incident, inducing prayers, sympathies, retweets, and different people reaching out to her with a relatable story.

"So, again, we did not know where to go, who to talk to. ... And at that time, no one had talked about it on social media. So no one actually knew on how massive a level this was happening. So it's only after I did that so many people are now reaching out to me (with personal stories.) We tried to do it to create, you know, media pressure. But then I had to stop because of my workplace regulations. ... Before my dad was taken away, someone else in his circle was also taken away. And we knew about that. So we knew it was happening to so many people, too. So we wanted to gather more stories as well because we knew for a fact that it's happening on a massive scale."

Faizah might have been strong enough to follow up on her dad's case here and there, but the rest of her family members - including her 27-year-old sister who's been married off in another country - weren't able to muster up much strength.

"(My sister is) very light-hearted, and she takes things on her nerves a lot. So believe me when I say this, that she has been calling us after every 30 minutes since and it's the third week, and she just calls and she cries every time ... so this is honestly what my house is like right now."

When she was asked if she could think of a reason this tragedy had befallen their family, she was quite sure of the answer.

"We think it's happening because of the UAE's very recent acceptance of Israel as a state. And again, when you do that, you have to serve back to that state as well."

\*Names have been changed to protect identities.

## The troubled summer: The U.S. is teetering on the brink of renewed violence

Trump has proved one of the most divisive presidents in U.S. history. Thanks to the west and east coasts largely voting Democrat and middle America voting Republican this has resulted in stark comparisons with the North-South divide during the American Civil War. Such talk may seem far-fetched, but most Americans acknowledge their country has lost its way. The right to bear arms means that every citizen could act as a potential militiaman in order to defend themselves from what they see as the corrupted deep state. The troubled summer in the U.S. shows how quickly civil unrest can escalate.

The country has yet to recover from the Black Lives Matter protests, sparked by the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis earlier this year. According to the New York Times protestors took to the streets in over 2,000 cities and towns across the country involving millions of people. Not all were peaceful. In many places the U.S. National Guard was deployed to assist the authorities to disperse crowds and protect public buildings. The National Guard reported that some 41,500 personnel were activated in 33 states and Washington D.C. in response to BLM related 'civil unrest.' In many places though Guardsmen showed solidarity and sympathy with law-abiding protestors. Traditionally the National Guard is intended to protect the American homeland and to assist during natural disasters. The role of it providing assistance to the civil powers to maintain law in order is never a terribly popular task.

The destruction in American cities caused by rioting and looting resulted in an estimate \$2 billion worth of damage and the loss of over thirty lives. Police in Chicago resorted to surge tactics to reassert control of lost neighbourhoods; city wide police units were also established; though previous similar initiatives were quickly abandoned. The BLM protests rippled around the rest of the world in a show of solitary triggering more unrest and acts of civil disobedience.

Trump fostered a corrosive 'us' and 'them' approach to politics. This convinced him that he should only recognise political loyalists, thereby rejecting Americans who do not support him. This further convinced Trump that thanks to the growing political divide the country is on the brink of civil war and that if he lost the election it must have been rigged by his enemies. The idea of civil war seems preposterous, but in the coming months America faces a difficult transition of power both on the domestic front and internationally. Abroad Trump could further sabotage relations with Iran, Russia and NATO to make life difficult for Biden and to hamper reversing his alienating policies. Few could see the merits of Trump withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement and the Iran nuclear deal. The latter did little to reassure America's West Asian allies.

Biden's experience as President Obama's vice-president and in the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, where he served as chairman of its NATO Observer Group and its Subcommittee of European Affairs bodes well for the future of America's international relations. A lot though depends on how the U.S. Senate looks after 5 January 2021. At home, Biden needs to re-establish public confidence in the federal government - this has taken a terrible battering under Trump's leadership. His constant musical chairs with senior government officials have undermined the standing of the White House.

Trump's lack of political nuance constantly made him look not only amateurish but also unprofessional; some Americans though liked his plain talking no nonsense stance. However, telling his supporters that he was robbed of the presidency does little to defuse a looming sense of confrontation.

Biden needs to urgently address the longstanding issues underlying the BLM protests and the U.S. domestic economy. Putting the National Guard back on the streets any time soon will do little to help either. Now is the time for all sides of the political divide to be reflective if they want to move forward in an orderly manner. The U.S. is either on the brink of more trouble or a fresh start, only the Americans can decide which. Frustratingly for Biden all he can do is play for time while Trump still holds the keys to the White House.

\*\*\*\* Anthony Tucker-Jones is an author, commentator and writer, with well over 50 books to his name. His work has also been published in an array of publications and online. He regularly appears on television and radio commenting on current and historical security matters.

## Resistance News

### EU reasserts illegality of Israel's settlement construction

TEHRAN— The European Union (EU) has reiterated its firm position against Israel's illegal settlements and expansion activities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

This came in a statement released on Sunday by Josep Borrell, EU high representative for foreign affairs and security policy in response to Israel's new expansion plan in the settlement of Givat Hamatos.

"I am deeply worried by the Israeli authorities' decision to open the bidding process for the construction of housing units for an entirely new settlement at Givat Hamatos," Borrell said in his statement.

"This is a key location between Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. Any settlement construction will cause serious damage to the prospects for a viable and contiguous Palestinian State and, more broadly, to the possibility of a negotiated two-state solution in line with the internationally agreed parameters and with Jerusalem as the future capital of two states."

"The EU has repeatedly called on Israel to end all settlement activity, and to dismantle outposts erected since March 2001. It remains the EU's firm position that settlements are illegal under international law."

"The announced settlement activity will lead to the continuing weakening of efforts to rebuild trust and confidence between the parties which is necessary for an eventual resumption of meaningful negotiations."

"The government of Israel should instead show vision and responsibility and reverse these negative decisions at this critical and sensitive time."

## Moderna Covid vaccine candidate almost 95% effective, trials show

The race for a coronavirus vaccine has received another shot in the arm with the U.S. biotech firm Moderna becoming the latest to reveal impressive results from phase 3 trials of its jab.

An interim analysis released on Monday, and based on 95 patients with confirmed Covid infections, found the candidate vaccine has an efficacy of 94.5%. The company said it now plans to apply to the U.S. regulator, the Food and Drug Administration, for emergency-use authorization in the coming weeks. In the analysis, 90 of the patients received the placebo with the remaining five the vaccine.

The results are the latest encouraging news to emerge from the breakneck effort to develop a vaccine against coronavirus and follow a similar interim analysis earlier this month from a collaboration between Pfizer and the German firm BioNTech, which suggest its vaccine is 90% effective at preventing illness, Guardian reported.

## Walid al-Muallem dies, Syria mourns top diplomat

Syria's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Walid al-Muallem has died at the age of 79.

Syria's official news agency SANA reported that Muallem died at dawn on Monday.

According to the report, he would be laid to rest later on Monday in Damascus.

There were no details on the cause of his death, but Syria's top diplomat had for years been suffering from a heart condition.

According to a source close to the Damascus government, it is widely expected his deputy, Faisal Mekdad, will succeed him as foreign minister.

Muallem first took on the portfolio of the foreign minister in 2006. He was also designated deputy prime minister in 2012.

The veteran diplomat held a succession of top diplomatic posts, including ambassador to the United States.

In his last statements, Muallem denounced the persisting and unilateral economic sanctions against the Syrian nation, saying on October 25 that the sanctions have deteriorated the economic situation, particularly with the COVID-19 pandemic raging across the globe.

**Call for public tender (First/Second publish)**  
**Two Stages (semi compressed) tender**  
**Subject of Tender: (CERAMIC DISK ASSEMBLY).**

National Iranian Drilling Company

**• Tender descriptions:**

| The Tender holder                 | Registration No. through national electronic tendering system | Tender No. / Indent No.                               | Estimated value (Rial) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| National Iranian Drilling Company | 26905600                                                      | TenderNo. PFP/KISH/99/001<br>Indent No: 48-22-9922005 | 28/285/426/000         |

**• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers Method**  
Based on minimum scoring (50) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.

**• Purchasing & Submitting**

|                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tender Document Distribution by Company</b> | The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Distribution Place</b>                      | A) Hall No.: 316, 3th floor, Foreign Procurement Dept. (DRILLING PROJECTS), National Iranian Drilling Company, After Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. 06134148329                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Submitting Method</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of ..... Iranian Rials under account number) 4001114004020491 Shaba No. IR520100004001114004020491 (in name of " NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund "issued by I.R. Of Iran Central Bank.</li> <li>• Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Documents Receiving Method</b>              | <p><b>Closing date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 Days after the last time of Purchasing.</li> </ul> <p>Hall NO.107,1st floor, Tender committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company ,Airport square ,Ahwaz ,IRAN.<br/>Tel:++98-61-34148569 ++98-61-34148580</p>                                                                              |

**• Tender Guarantee**

|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Value of guarantee</b>                 | 1,415,000,000 Rial / 4,485 Euro                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Type of guarantee</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> <li>✓ Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number) 4001114006376636 Shaba No. IR350100004001114006376636 (in name of " NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> <li>"NIDC saving account "by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Duration of credit &amp; quotation</b> | Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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تهران تایمز نوبت دوم ۹۹/۸/۲۷

## Handicraft courses to provide jobs for inmates

**TOURISM TEHRAN** — Training courses in different fields of handicraft are scheduled to be held in the north-central province of Semnan with the aim of providing job opportunities for prisoners.

The courses also aim at creating sustainable employment for the prisoners after their release as well as motivating them and promoting handicraft fields as sources of income, Ali Akbar Zarei, a provincial tourism official, said on Sunday.



He also noted that the prisoners will be provided with facilities and equipment as well as information on marketing and sustainable employment.

### Tourism ministry helps empower inmates

In late October, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism signed a memorandum of understanding with the Prisons, Security, and Corrective Measures Organization with the aim of creating jobs and making income for prisoners.

The MOU also aimed at implementing special educational and promotional programs, identifying talented prisoners, and improving their social status.

The deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian said that handicrafts products made by prisoners have been displayed in various exhibitions, and the income generated from selling these products has been returned to the prisoners and their families.

Iran exported \$523 million worth of handicrafts during the past calendar year 1398 (ended March 19).

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

## Safavid-era relics unearthed in west-central Iran

**TOURISM TEHRAN** — Some historical relics have recently been unearthed in the village of Oshtoran, near Tuyserkhan, west-central province of Hamedan, while workers were digging a water well in one of the houses of the village.



A pitcher and few pieces of broken pottery, which are estimated to date back to the Safavid era (1501–1736), were handed over to the cultural heritage experts, ISNA quoted Es'haq Torkashvand as saying on Sunday.

The villagers are suffering from a lack of drinking water and are digging wells to solve it, however, since the discovery of the historical relics, they need to get a permit from the province's cultural heritage department to do construction works, the official added.

A unique village, Oshtoran has several historical structures and buildings, four of which have been inscribed on the National Heritage list.

## Basket weaving in Tehran to be revived

**TOURISM TEHRAN** — Basket weaving, a forgotten field of handicraft that was once flourished in the village of Sangon, Tehran province, is planned to be revived in the near future.

Holding basket weaving training courses and updating its handmade products is on the agenda of Tehran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, deputy provincial tourism chief Parvaneh Heidari said on Sunday.



With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

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 ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

# Coronavirus cuts Iran tourist arrivals by 72%: UNWTO

**TOURISM TEHRAN** — International tourist arrivals to Iran plunged 72% during the first eight months of the year when compared to 2019, the World Tourism Organization reported, highlighting the severe impact of COVID-19 as the main factor.

Restrictions on travel introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to hit global tourism hard, with the latest data from the UNWTO showing a 70% fall in international arrivals for the first eight months of 2020.

Iran, however, has experienced different rates of downfall for inbound passengers over the past months. In the first three months of 2020 (January, February, March), the tourism industry of the country recorded negative rates of 90, 92, and 94 percent, respectively, compared to the same period last year, according to the organization, ISNA reported.

"The fall reached 96 and 97 percent in April and May. And in June, a negative 84% was recorded. But the interesting point in the statistics published by the World Tourism Organization is a steep slope of the improvement of Iran's tourism arrivals during the last two months, as such growth has leaped 35% in July and August.

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.

According to the newest UNWTO Ba-



A view of Shah-e Cheragh ("King of Light") --- a major mausoleum and pilgrimage site in the touristic city of Shiraz, southern Iran.

rometer, international arrivals plunged 81% in July and 79% in August, traditionally the two busiest months of the year and the peak of the Northern Hemisphere summer season. The drop until August represents 700 million fewer arrivals compared to the same period in 2019 and translates into a loss of US\$ 730 billion in export revenues from international tourism. This is more than eight times the loss experienced on the back of the 2009 global economic and financial crisis.

"This unprecedented decline is having dramatic social and economic consequences, and puts millions of jobs and businesses at risk," warned UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili. "This underlines the urgent need to safely restart tourism, in a timely and coordinated manner".

### Short-lived recovery

All world regions recorded large declines in arrivals in the first eight months of the year. Asia and the Pacific, the first region to suffer from the impact of COVID-19,

saw a 79% decrease in arrivals, followed by Africa, and West Asia (both - 69%), Europe (-68%), and the Americas (-65%).

Following its gradual reopening of international borders, Europe recorded comparatively smaller declines in July and August (-72% and -69%, respectively). The recovery was short-lived, however, as travel restrictions and advisories were reintroduced amid an increase in contagions. On the other side of the spectrum, Asia and the Pacific recorded the largest declines with -96% in both months, reflecting the closure of borders in China and other major destinations in the region.

Demand for travel remains largely subdued due to the ongoing uncertainty about the pandemic and low confidence. Based on the latest trends, UNWTO expects an overall drop close to 70% for the whole of 2020.

### Rebound expected by Q3 2021

UNWTO's Panel of Experts foresees a rebound in international tourism in 2021, mostly in the third quarter of 2021. However, around 20% of experts suggest the rebound could occur only in 2022.

Travel restrictions are seen as the main barrier standing in the way of the recovery of international tourism, along with slow virus containment and low consumer confidence. The lack of coordinated response among countries to ensure harmonized protocols and coordinated restrictions, as well as the deteriorating economic environment, were also identified by experts as important obstacles for recovery.

## Investment in tourism industry continues despite coronavirus

**TOURISM TEHRAN** — Investment in the tourism sector and boosting tourism infrastructure hasn't stopped despite the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan has said.

Over the past years, a large number of tourism projects have been commenced across the country, some of which have come on stream, CHTN quoted Mounesan as saying on Sunday.

This volume of investment indicates that investors have high hopes for the future of this industry in the post-coronavirus era and for the next years to come, the tourism minister said.

Referring to the eco-lodges inaugurated across the country he noted that increasing the number of the units could create job opportunities in rural areas and boost tourist arrivals in these regions.

He also noted that promoting ecotourism can help reverse migration and attract more foreign tourists.

Apart from eco-lodge units, there are also boutique hotels and traditional accommodation centers which could flourish the tourism sector and provide infrastructure in these regions, Mounesan mentioned.

Last week, the tourism ministry announced that 1,370 trillion rials (around \$32 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials), has been invested in over 2,400 tourism-related projects across the country.

These projects create job opportunities for 475,000 people during their implementation and for 112,000 people once they come on stream.

### Critical situation

In October, Mounesan warned that Iran's cultural heritage and tourism will be in a critical situation if the crises caused by the outbreak of the coronavirus continue.



Ali-Asghar Mounesan

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

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

"Many tourism projects have been completed, or are being implemented, showing that a very good capacity has been created in the field of tourism in the country and [this trend] should not be stopped," he explained.

The minister said the coronavirus pandemic should not bring traveling to a complete standstill. "Corona is a fact, but can the virus stop tourism? Certainly not. For us, the coronavirus is a new experience in dealing with crises that teaches tourism experts around the

world how to deal with such a disaster, and thankfully governments are turning this into an opportunity for better planning."

### Packages of support

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Iran to extend travel restrictions as of Nov. 21

**TOURISM TEHRAN** — Iran will extend restrictions on non-essential travels as of November 21, attempting to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan called on [colleagues in various] provinces to comply with the new rules set by the National Headquarters for Coronavirus, urging they should inspect tourist and accommodation places more seriously, ISNA reported on Sunday.

This time, the minister apparently didn't accentuate his previous stance which encouraged travels but not mass, unplanned and irresponsible ones, the report added.

He made the remarks days before implementing a plan for a two-week lockdown as of November 21 for over 100 cities to curb the disease. The plan divides cities into three levels of alert, according to which, if a city is in a state of high alert, all other occupations will be closed, except for the most essential jobs, which are related to the provision of basic necessities, security, and health.

Mounesan announced early in November that smart and responsible traveling should replace "do not travel" recommendations, adding "In our country, Corona has caused problems in the tourism industry and the worrying point is the continuation of this trend."

"We are well aware of what the Nation-



al Headquarters for Coronavirus Control proclaims [the health protocols], hence as a proposal, we have formulated some smart, responsible travel packages by the implementation of which we could have secure travels."

Days before, the deputy health minister Iraj Harirchi predicted the COVID-19 death toll would double in the next weeks, adding "Unfortunately, daily deaths reached over 450 in the past 10 days, and an upward trend in infection, hospitalization, and death is predicted."

The headquarters has also issued a directive, based on which corona tests would be mandatory as of November 18 upon entry and exit for passengers during air, land, and sea travels.

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

## Webinar to explore ancient life, arts and architecture in Rey

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** — A scientific webinar will be held with the aim of exploring the history, human life, arts, and architecture of Rey, which is one of the oldest cities in the central Iranian plateau with some 8,000 years of human settlements.

A number of historians, archaeologists, and experts will exchange views on the ancient city of Rey in a webinar named "Rey in Parthian era", CHTN reported.

Rey has been one of the most important cities in Iranian history including the Parthian era (247 BC – 224 CE), the

official added.

The history of Rey, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica is featured in the Avesta (the original document of Zoroastrianism, an Iranian religion) as a sacred place, and it is also mentioned in the book of Tobit, of the biblical Apocrypha, and by classical authors.

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



# Gorgan Bay: a late solution to speed up valuable reserve's demise

By Faranak Bakhtiari

**TEHRAN** — The latest assessment of the National Cartographic Center shows that more than one hundred square kilometers of the Gorgan Bay has dried up, and delay in finding a solution will accelerate the destruction of the valuable reserve.

Covering an area of about 400 square kilometers, the Gulf of Gorgan also known as Gorgan Bay is the largest gulf in the Caspian Sea. It is located at the south-eastern shore of the Caspian Sea near the cities of Behshahr, Gorgan, and Sari and is separated from the main water body by the Miankaleh peninsula and extends until the Ashuradeh peninsula.

Experts on climate change and global warming believe that uncontrolled water withdrawal of aquifers, reduced rainfall, and increased evaporation are the most important reasons for the drying up of Gorgan Bay.

According to the latest scientific data presented by the National Cartographic Center, the drying rate of Gorgan Bay is worrisome.

Faezeh Salami, a cartographic expert, said that the Bay's area amounted to 400 square kilometers, 100 square kilometers of which have dried up, which means that 27 percent of the bay is lost over the recent years.

For each centimeter decrease of the water level of the Caspian Sea, about one square kilometer of the area of Gorgan Bay has shrunk; so that with the increasing trend of global warming and climate change, sea level reduction, the need for continuous monitoring of the Caspian Sea and Gorgan Bay is more important.

**How to survive?**

Hamid Alizadeh Lahijani, the president of the national institute for oceanography and atmospheric science, said that lack of attention to the reduction of the Bay level due to factors such as the Caspian Sea shrinking level, closure of communication routes, high accumulated sediments, and



**Covering an area of about 400 square kilometers, the Gulf of Gorgan also known as Gorgan Bay is the largest gulf in the Caspian Sea. While uncontrolled water withdrawal of aquifers, reduced rainfall, and increased evaporation caused 100 square kilometers of the reserve to dry up, which means that 27 percent of the bay is lost over the recent years.**

seagrass growth will turn this bay into an inland wetland.

The rate of evaporation is twice as much as the amount of rainfall, and the inflow of rivers entering the Bay, even under natural conditions, is not enough to compensate for its water shortage. Under these circumstances, facilitating the exchange of water in

Gorgan Bay from natural routes is necessary to prevent the dryness, he emphasized.

Issa Kalantari, head of the Department of Environment also in October announced the management and rehabilitation of Miankaleh wetland and Gorgan Bay as one of the priorities of the national headquarters for wetlands conservation and management

and emphasized the Caspian Sea inflow into Gorgan Bay.

Kalantari also considered the use of new technologies and especially remote sensing knowledge in determining the exact volume of reservoir water in the country's wetlands in order to grant the water right of the wetlands and determining the ecological effects of water fluctuations, as well as data produced in different months of the year.

**\$2m earmarked to revive Gulf of Gorgan**

However, earlier in July, a budget of 9 trillion rials (nearly \$2.1 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been earmarked to revive the Gulf of Gorgan.

The Ports and Maritime Organization, the Department of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Energy are tasked with taking executive measures to save Gorgan Bay within 5 years.

According to the oceanographic studies, the most important solution to save Gorgan Bay is dredging canals, dredging the rivers leading to the Gulf of Gorgan, and providing water rights of the rivers will be other executive strategies to save the Gulf.

**Valuable ecological complex in the world**

Gorgan Bay was designated as a Ramsar site (defined by the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value) along with Miankaleh Wetland.

The bay and its surrounding area are recognized as a valuable ecological complex in the world which had a direct impact on the livelihood of local communities in addition to conserving the marine life cycle.

Ashuradeh Island, which hosts a variety of native and migratory birds throughout the year, was also introduced and registered as one of the world's first biosphere zones in 1975.

## COVID-19 outpatient facilities to increase fourfold

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — Health Minister Saeed Namaki announced that the number of centers offering healthcare services to COVID-19 patients will increase from 1,200 to 5,000 in the future.

In outpatient facilities, the diagnostic tests will be free of charge, in addition to the medicines needed by patients.

People who are quarantined at home or in quarantine centers are visited daily by a doctor and health care team.

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



**COVID-19 cases, deaths skyrocketing**

In a press briefing on Monday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 13,053 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 775,121.

She added that 564,699 patients have so far recovered, but 5,677 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, coronavirus daily deaths and new cases hit the record high, as 486 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 41,979, she added.

Lari noted that so far 5,545,444 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country. She said the high-risk "red" zones include provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, East Azarbaijan, South Khorasan, Semnan, Qazvin, Lorestan, Ardebil, Khuzestan, Kermanshah, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, Gilan, Bushehr, Zanjan, Ilam, Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Alborz, West Azarbaijan, Markazi, Kerman, North Khorasan, Hamedan, Yazd, and Kordestan.

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

## Smugglers of fuel, livestock fined \$570m

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — Smugglers of fuel and livestock have been fined 24 trillion rials (about \$570 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21).

The figure represents a 47 percent increase compared to the same period last [Iranian calendar] year.

Out of a total of about 42,000 smuggling cases, about 28,000 are related to export smuggling, of which 20,000 are related to the smuggling of fuel and petroleum products, mostly to Pakistan and Afghanistan, and to a lesser extent to Turkey and Iraq.

A number of these cases are related to livestock trafficking. Most of the cattle are smuggled to Iraq, and then to the

Persian Gulf countries.

President Hassan Rouhani has urged systematic fight against smuggling "from the start to the end point", citing the fight a key factor in improving Iran's economy in July 2019.

Rouhani said while Iran is under sanctions, extra care should be given to stopping the smuggling of "hard-won" currency.

Every year, \$20-25 billion are smuggled in and out of the country, which, if stopped, will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, Hassan Norouzi, member of the Parliament said.

In the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017- March 2018), \$12 billion was smuggled into Iran and \$900 million out of the country, according to the Headquarters for Combating the



Smuggling of Commodities and Foreign Exchange.

According to some reports, over ten million liters of gasoline are smuggled out of Iran on a daily basis, adding up to 3.65 billion liters every year. Other reports put the number higher. On December 19, 2018 a government spokesman said everyday 11.5 million liters of gasoline

is smuggled out of Iran. Ali Adyani, a member of the Iranian Parliament's Energy Committee has quoted various sources as putting the figure at 10, 15 and even 20 million liters a day.

Mohammad Hassan Nejad, another member of the committee, says the smuggled fuel amounts to 22 million liters per day. With a 50 cent per litre profit, the total daily income adds up to 400 trillion rials annually or \$3.3 billion, nearly the same as the country's annual development budget.

In addition to gasoline smuggling, other fuels such as kerosene and diesel are also smuggled; not in lesser quantities.

Earlier in June, the first phase of the national anti-smuggling plan has been implemented with the priority of customs, tobacco, and transit goods nationwide.

## FAO to strengthen disaster risk management in rural areas of Iran

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, started the implementation of a Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) project to enhance the resilience of rural communities and agricultural systems.

The project also contributes to the prevention and mitigation of the effects of extreme climatic events.

Funded by FAO, the project is focused on improving the knowledge and capacities of Iranian stakeholders for soil and water management in four target provinces: Golestan, Khuzestan, Lorestan, and Sistan and Baluchestan. The Organization lends its expertise to the Iranian parties to strengthen the national disaster risk management systems and mechanisms.

In this regard, FAO organized an inception workshop, bringing together different stakeholders of the project, including experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Energy, Meteorological Organization; Forests, Rangeland and Watershed Management Organization, the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO); provincial officials and local communities, to establish an operational national agriculture monitoring system to take necessary steps for the implementation of the project.

Participants discussed the project's implementation requirements and challenges, and the progress made so far in the inception phase. The experts also examined the shared inputs for provincial-level strategies for climate-resilient soil and water management and disaster risk management.

Mentioning the extensive damages caused by the 2019 floods to the country, FAO's Representative to Iran, Gerold Bödeker, in his opening remarks at the event emphasized that "the project strengthens stakeholders' capacities in climate-risk informed soil and water management, flood-risk management systems and mechanisms, and water and soil resources rehabilitation measures to address and mitigate the damages and losses to the agriculture sector caused by floods."

Bödeker added, "all these activities are aimed at reducing risks and enhancing the resilience of stakeholders, enabling them to cope with future extreme events and consequently improving food and nutrition security of flood-affected agricultural communities in the target provinces."

Promoting the establishment of enabling policies for climate change action, FAO provides support to strengthen member-country capacities to plan, implement, and report on climate change adaptation and mitigation and build the resilience of the agriculture sector.

## Tehran to host Climathon 2020

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — Tehran Municipality plans to hold online programs in line with Climathon 2020 on November 20- December 1, looking for optimal solutions for issues such as climate change and global warming.

This year, for the third time, the global event will be held with the theme of transformational ideas for "reducing greenhouse gases, urban adaptation, and resilience in the face of climate change in the metropolitan area of Tehran."

With a powerful solutions-hackathon at its core, Climathon is a year-round program, which powers a global wave of change-makers and innovators to help humanity achieve zero emissions in 20 to 30 years.

Climathon has grown to over 100 cities and with a global reach in the millions. By 2022, it will unite over 1,000 cities, 100,000 participants, engaging 1 million citizens, and reaching over 100 million.

Mobility, retrofitting old buildings, sustainable urban food systems, changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, addressing water shortage, emission reduction, resilience against natural disasters, curbing air pollution, and waste management are the main issues addressed by Climathon 2019.



## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 59) (Source: saadifoundation.ir)

● Exercise 3. Some of the letters are similar but they differ only

in the number and place of dots. Write all similar letters:

1. be : \_\_\_\_\_
2. dāl : \_\_\_\_\_
3. jim : \_\_\_\_\_
4. sin : \_\_\_\_\_
5. re : \_\_\_\_\_
6. sāḍ : \_\_\_\_\_
7. tā : \_\_\_\_\_
8. ?eyn : \_\_\_\_\_

▣ **جدول (با عدد بنویسید)** ▣

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ۱ | ۲ | ۳ | ۴ | ۵ | ۶ | ۷ |
| ۱ |   | ک |   |   | ک |   |
| ۲ |   | ک |   | ک |   |   |
| ۳ | ک |   | ک |   |   | ک |
| ۴ |   | ک |   |   | ک |   |
| ۵ |   | ک |   | ک |   |   |
| ۶ | ک |   | ک |   | ک |   |
| ۷ |   | ک |   |   | ک |   |

**آفتی**

۱. هفت + هشت = هجده × دو  
 ۲. یازده + یازده = چهل - سه × دو  
 ۳. سه + پنج = نهم × چهار  
 ۴. یک + چهار = هفت × چهار  
 ۵. نود + شش = پنجاه و چهار × سه  
 ۶. دو + ده = سی و دو × چهار  
 ۷. هفت × سه = بیست و یک

**عمودی**

۱. نود + پنج = صد و چهار × دو  
 ۲. بیست و یک + هفده = هشتاد و هفت - چهل و شش × چهار  
 ۳. هشتاد و هفت × چهار = سی و دو × ده  
 ۴. شش + پنجاه = شصت و یک  
 ۵. شش - پنجاه = بیست و یک × ده  
 ۶. نود و شش - چهل و شش = هفتاد و دو × چهار

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Kish to host World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2019

The 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting will be held on April 29-30 in the Persian Gulf island of Kish, IRNA reported on Monday.

Ali Jafarian, international president of World Health Summit 2019, said that it is the first regional meeting in West Asia and North Africa to host 700 participants, including 150 foreign guests. Pointing out that playing host to the event is an important opportunity for the country, he added that over 100 health experts from different countries have expressed readiness to attend the meeting.

## نشست منطقه‌ای مجمع جهانی سلامت در کیش برگزار می شود

به گزارش روز دوشنبه ایرنا هفتمین نشست منطقه ای مجمع جهانی سلامت در روزهای ۹ و ۱۰ اردیبهشت ۹۸ در جزیره کیش برگزار می شود.

علی جعفریان نماینده دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تهران در مجمع جهانی سلامت گفت: این نخستین نشست منطقه‌ای در غرب آسیا و شمال آفریقا است که قرار است ۷۰۰ شرکت کننده از جمله ۱۵۰ مهمان خارجی در آن حضور یابند.

جعفریان، میزبانی از این نشست منطقه‌ای را برای جمهوری اسلامی ایران فرصتی مهم دانست و گفت: حدود ۱۰۰ نفر از افراد سرشناس حوزه سلامت کشورهای مختلف جهان به عنوان سخنران برای شرکت در این نشست اعلام آمادگی کرده اند.

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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Every religion has its distinct characteristic, and the distinct characteristic of Islam is modesty.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

## Resistance festival announces jury for official competition

**A R T** TEHRAN — The 16th Resistance International Film Festival has announced the members of the jury for the official competition.

The jury is composed of cinematographer Mohammad Davudi, actor Farhad Qaemian, editor Bahram Dehqani, producer Mohammad Khazaei, and directors Jamal Shurjeh, Mohammad-Hadi Karimi and Australian Shia convert Christin James.

James is a graduate of European modern Literature from Oxford University, a graduate of law from Law University of London, and a teacher of foreign languages at Brunel University of London.



A combination photo shows the jury members of the official competition of the 16th Resistance International Film Festival.

A lineup of 12 films will be competing in the official competition category.

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

"Abadan 11, 60" by Mehrdad Khoshbakht is about the people's fight against Iraqi forces in the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan during the early months of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

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

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

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

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

Also included are "Selfie with Democracy", "When the Moon Was Full", "The Undercover", "Red Square" and "23 Individuals". "Selfie with Democracy" by Ali Atshani is about the Iran-Iraq war. It is a sequel to Atshani's 2010 movie "Democracy in the Daylight".

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

"The Undercover" by Amir-Abbas Rabei is about the activities of the Tudeh Party of Iran during the 1980s.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Persian publisher to review Arabic version of "In the Tumult of Silence"

**CULTURE** TEHRAN — The Persian publisher of "In the Tumult of Silence" will hold a review session for the Arabic translation of the book, which will be streamed online on TeamLink on Tuesday.

The book is a biography of Abbas Varamini, the commander of the 27th Mohammad Rasulullah Division of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

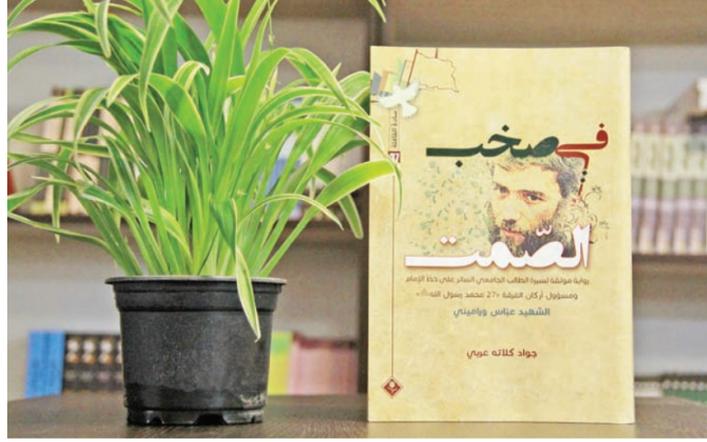
Written by Javad Kalateh-Arabi, Revayat 27, a Tehran-based publisher, released the book in 2018.

The book translated into Arabic by Maryam Safieddin and Hura Sajjadi was published by the Al-Maaref Islamic Cultural Association in Lebanon in August.

Revayat 27 director Maziar Hatami, the writer and the translators will attend the online meeting, which will begin at 2:30 pm on TeamLink, one of the world's most advanced platforms for video and web meetings that enables anyone to work together with teams and partners from anywhere.

Varamini was an educated individual different from his companions. He was a coordinator in the process of capturing the American Embassy in Tehran.

After the formation of the IRGC, there



An Arabic copy of Iranian writer Javad Kalateh-Arabi's "In the Tumult of Silence".

was a necessity to recruit experienced experts and forces, and Varamini entered the IRGC and later participated in several operations during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

He was martyred during an operation on

the Panjvein frontline in November 1983.

The book contains four seasons named "Unforgettable District", "Years of Tension", "Towards the University of Frontline" and "In the Tumult of Silence".

The book was selected by the Al-Maaref Islamic Cultural Association for Arabic translation at a book fair held in Beirut in 2019.

The association has also published an Arabic translation of the book "Saji" on the resistance of women in the southwestern Iranian city of Khorramshahr during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

"Saji" contains memories of Nasrin Baqerzadeh, the widow of Iranian commander Bahman Baqeri, written by Behnaz Zarrabzadeh.

Somayeh Yusef is the translator of the book into Arabic.

The southwestern Iranian city of Khorramshahr was captured by Iraqis on October 26, 1980 during the early months of the Iran-Iraq war and it was liberated on May 24, 1982.

The original version was published this summer by Sureh-Mehr, an affiliate publisher of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization (IIDO).

Baqerzadeh narrates how they spent the very first days of the invasion, but later they were forced to leave the city with the family to Shiraz while the men stayed in Khorramshahr to defend the city.

## Doc reveals Quds Force role in breaking ISIS siege of Amerli



Quds Force chief Qassem Soleimani and a number of his comrades in an undated photo.

joined the Kurdish Peshmerga fighters and the Popular Mobilization Units - Hashd al-Shaabi, breaking the siege, which was described by some top analysts as Iraq's biggest victory against ISIS.

Soleimani was assassinated during a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad on January 3.

After his martyrdom, Soleimani has become the subject of several films, theaters and festival programs.

Earlier last week, young filmmaker Behnam Bahadori announced that he has made a short documentary named "Green Zone" about the good conduct of Commander Qassem Soleimani toward children.

The Children's Department of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization is the

producer of the film.

The 38th Fajr Film Festival announced it would honor films on resistance and jihad with an award named after Soleimani.

The award went to "Abadan 11, 60" directed by Mehrdad Khoshbakht about the people's fight against Iraqi forces in the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan during the early months of the Iran-Iraq war.

In addition, the 16th Resistance International Film Festival, which will be held during December, plans to review films on Commander Qassem Soleimani's role in awakening people of the region and the world in a special section named "Prominent Resistance Martyr Section".

## Iranian children's publisher releases bestsellers in braille

**CULTURE** TEHRAN — Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults has published four books from its bestseller list.

One of the books is a Persian translation by Puran Solhekol of Swedish writer Maria Gripe's 1968 story "The Night Daddy" ("Nattpappan").

The story is about Julia's mother who is a nurse, working the night shift. A young writer eagerly signs up for the job as a babysitter. At first, Julia is furious about the arrangement, but is gradually won over by the kind, though eccentric, young man and calls him her "Night Daddy". They are sharing midnight snacks, training his pet owl and tending an exotic tropical plant known as the Queen of the Night.

"No One Dare to Do That", a thriller by



A combination photo shows the four books published by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in braille.

Hamidreza Shahabadi, is another book of the collection.

It is about a teenage boy who joins his friend to help him take care of his grandfather who is suffering from an illness.

"A Smile for Sophia" by Mohammadreza Marzuqi has also been published in braille. It is about the story of the Polish people migrating to Iran during World War II.

The collection also includes "Island of the Rude", which is about the silly behavior of a royal family living in a museum, which was previously a palace. The book has been written by Shahram Shafiei in three volumes.

The IIDCYA also published a Braille version of a selection of nine books earlier in July.

Two collections of poetry by Khatun

Hosseini from Iran and Akiko Kageyama from Japan were among the books.

The poetry collection "An Umbrella of Petals" by Afsaneh Shabannejad, "Yellow Crow" by Nasser Keshavarz and "Once There Was a Dog, There Was a Jungle" by Mostafa Rahmandoust were also included.

"The Hunger of the Little Man" by Pierre Delye, "God's Cookies" by Claire Joubert and "Tickle" by Sepideh Khalili were seen in the collection.

Also included was "Carriage-Riding Sun" by Hossein Bokai.

The young adults can also enjoy "In the Silence of Sands" by Kamal Shafiei, "Goodbye on Autumn Street" by Maryam Eslami and "I Am Less a Man and More a Sparrow" by Habib Nazaari.

## Cinéma Vérité to screen Gregory Monro's "Kubrick by Kubrick"

**A R T** TEHRAN — "Kubrick by Kubrick", a documentary by the French filmmaker Gregory Monro will be screened at the 14th edition of Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major international festival for documentary films.

The Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) as the main organizer of Cinéma Vérité has selected a variety of top documentaries to screen during the festival, which will be held totally online from December 8 to 15 due to a spike in the COVID-19 cases in the country.

"Kubrick by Kubrick" is a rare and transcendent journey into the life and films of the legendary filmmaker Stanley Kubrick, featuring a treasure trove of unearthed interview recordings from the master himself.

Kubrick was an American motion-picture director and writer whose films are characterized by his dramatic visual style, meticulous attention to detail, and a detached, often ironic or pessimistic perspective. An expatriate, Kubrick was nearly as well known for his reclusive lifestyle in the English countryside as for his painstaking approach to researching, writing, photographing and editing his infrequent but always much-debated films.



"Kubrick by Kubrick", a documentary by the French filmmaker Gregory Monro.

"Stanley Kubrick's mark on the legacy of cinema can never be measured. He was a giant in his field, his great works resembling pristine pieces of art, studied by students and masters alike, all searching for answers their maker was notoriously reticent to give. While he's among the

most scrutinized filmmakers that ever lived, the chance to hear Kubrick's own words was a rarity until now," the Tribeca film festival wrote in a statement for the documentary where it had its world premiere in spring in New York.

"Unspooling exclusive new recordings of detailed interviews with the mythic director spanning 30 years that ruminate on his philosophies, documentarian Gregory Monro weaves a tapestry of archival footage with the rhythm and care of a consummate historian relishing in his discoveries. No stranger to investigating legends of the screen, Monro's exuberant and lyrical cinematic essay is vital. Taking viewers on a journey beyond Jupiter, "Kubrick by Kubrick" celebrates the essence of what film means to those who make it, and those who watch," the statement added.

Monro is an International Emmy nominee for his documentary "Michel Legrand", and "Let the Music Play".

He also directed the documentaries "Calamity Jane: Wild West Legend", "James Stewart/Robert Mitchum", "The Two Faces of America" and "Jerry Lewis: The Man Behind the Clown".

## Thomas Nagel's "Equality and Partiality" appears in Persian

**CULTURE** TEHRAN — A Persian translation of American philosopher Thomas Nagel's "Equality and Partiality" has recently been published by the Now Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Javad Heidari.

This book is based on Thomas Nagel's "John Locke Lectures" delivered at Oxford early in 1990.

The conflict between the claims of the group and those of the individual is one of the most fundamental problems in moral and political theory.

Nagel attempts to clarify the nature of the conflict and to show that its reconciliation is the essential task of any legitimate political system.

Within each individual, Nagel believes, there is a division between two standpoints,

the personal and the impersonal. Without the impersonal standpoint, Nagel says, there would be no morality, only the clash, compromise and occasional convergence of individual perspectives.

It is because a human being does not occupy only his own point of view that each one of us is susceptible to the claims of others through private and public morality. Political systems, to be legitimate, must achieve an integration of these two standpoints within the individual.

Nagel contends that the problem of designing institutions that accomplish this has not yet been solved. Communism, which exalted the 'impersonal' value of equality has clearly failed, but the individualism of democratic capitalism has perpetuated morally unacceptable levels of economic and social inequality.

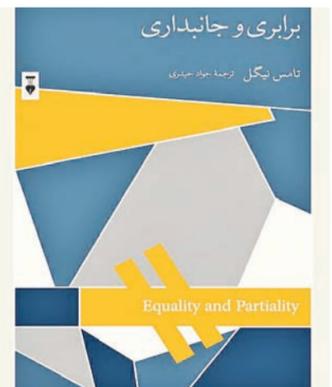
Nagel points to the problem of

balancing equality and partiality as the most important issue with which political theorists are now faced.

Nagel is currently a university professor of philosophy and law emeritus at New York University, where he has taught since 1980. His main areas of philosophical interest are philosophy of mind, political philosophy and ethics.

Nagel is well known for his critique of reductionist accounts of the mind, particularly in his essay "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?", and for his contributions to deontological and liberal moral and political theory in "The Possibility of Altruism" and subsequent writings.

Continuing his critique of reductionism, he is the author of "Mind and Cosmos", in which he argues against a reductionist view, and specifically the neo-Darwinian view, of the emergence of consciousness.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Thomas Nagel's "Equality and Partiality".