



Iran warns to respond to any melancholy adventure by Trump *Page 3*



Davoud Mahabadi named Iran U19 coach *Page 3*

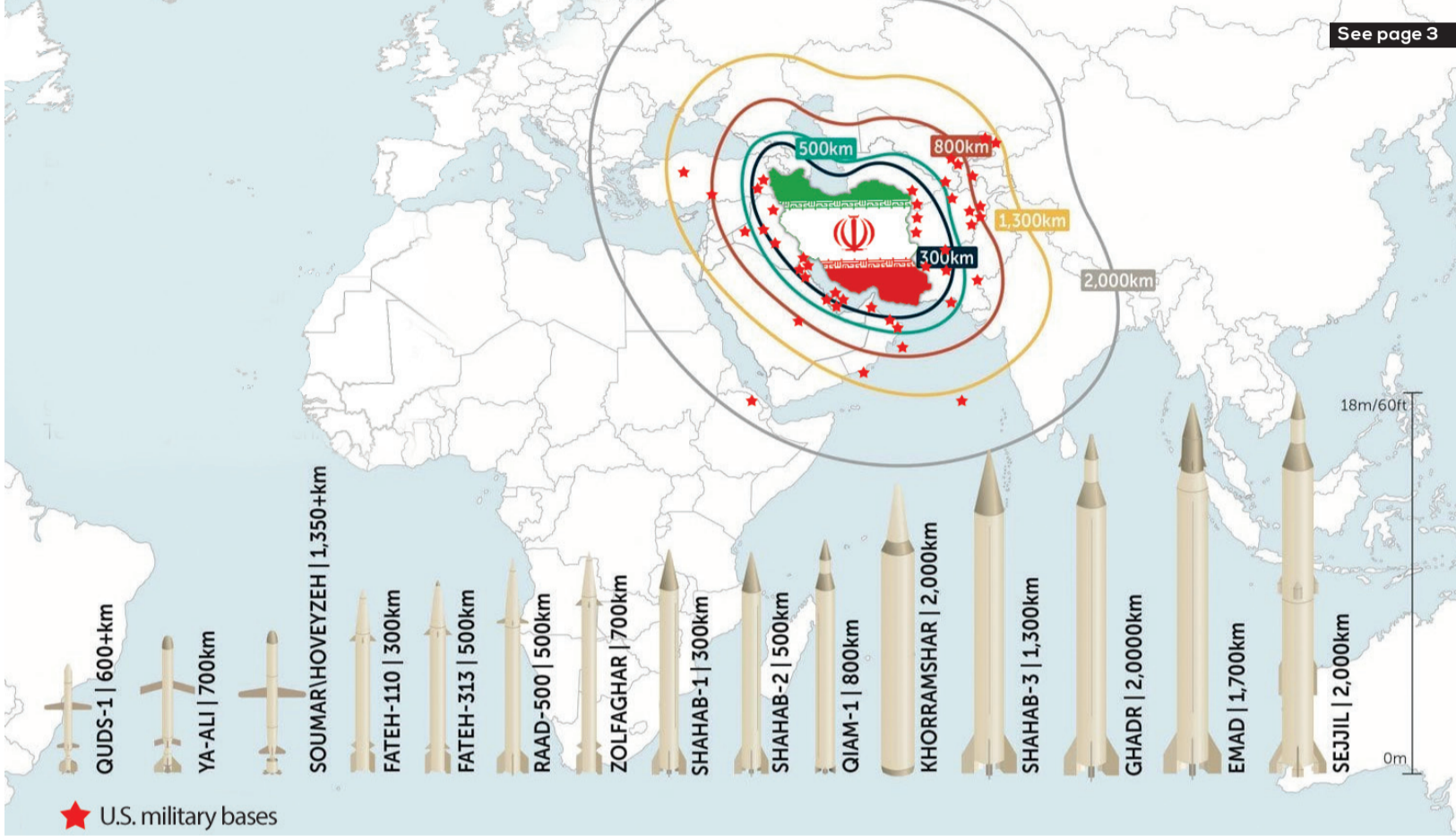


Qatar chides UAE, Bahrain for normalization with Israel, calls for unity *Page 5*



Iranian photog's "Rest" wins FIAP Gold Medal at Tajik exhibit *Page 8*

Back off!



See page 3

Tehran, Kabul make 'significant' progress in finalizing comprehensive document

TEHRAN – As two neighbors Afghanistan and Iran have made considerable progress in finalizing a document that will ensure comprehensive cooperation between the two countries, according to a statement issued by Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry. The progress was made as a result of intense negotiations that were held during a recent visit by Mirwais Nab, the deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan, to Iran. Nab met with his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi to

discuss a variety of issues pertaining to bilateral relations.

"During this visit, Mr. Nab held intensive talks with Mr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the deputy foreign minister for political affairs, on a comprehensive document on long-term cooperation between the two countries, which resulted in significant progress in finalizing this document," Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Continued on page 3

Over 3900km of new railways, roads to be built by Mar. 2022

TEHRAN – Some 3956 kilometers of roads and railways worth 240 trillion rials (about \$5.7 billion) are going to be inaugurated throughout the country by the end of the Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 2022), Iran's Deputy Transport Minister Kheirollah Khademi said.

According to Khademi, over 3400 km of new railways are under construction across the country, of which eight projects with a

length of 1560 km are the Transport Ministry's priority, IRIB reported. Meanwhile, in the road sector, 1345 km of freeways and 7,800 km of highways are also under construction.

Based on Iranian law, railways and highways must be built entirely by using government funding, and freeways can be constructed with the participation of the government and the private sector.

Continued on page 4

Winners of Sacred Defense Book of the Year awards honored

TEHRAN – Winners of the 18th edition of Iran's Annual Sacred Defense Book of the Year awards in various categories were announced on Monday at the Sacred Defense Garden Museum in Tehran.

The awards are presented by the Foundation for the Preservation and Publication of Sacred Defense Works and Values to honor the latest offerings on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and its relevant issues.

"Mirage of Freedom" was awarded in the Domestic Plots Section. In this book, Maryam Sanjabi, a former member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), reveals how the terrorist group lures youths into joining the organization by empty promises. In the Story Section, "Man Washing", a short story collection by Nosratollah Mahmudzadeh won the award.

Continued on page 8

Iran, Afghanistan join hands to broaden all-out ties

BY EBRAHIM FALLAHI

TEHRAN – Having shared historical, cultural, political, and economic backgrounds, Iran and Afghanistan have been allies for many years and the strategic cooperation between the two countries has been broadened especially over the past two decades.

Since the removal of Taliban from power in 2001, the two governments started to work on new strategies to establish constructive ties for helping the war-torn country get back on its feet and build a self-reliant economy.

Over the past two decades, Iran and Afghanistan have held numerous rounds of joint economic committee meetings during which officials from the two sides have traveled to the two countries to facilitate the expansion of ties, and also a great number of trade and political delegations have been exchanged between the two sides.

The two neighbors are currently cooperating in a variety of important areas including energy exchanges, joint ventures in water and related industries, environmental issues, railways, infrastructure, customs, transit and etc.

As one of the latest official visits, in late July 2019, the Iranian Minister of Energy, who heads the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee, visited Kabul to hold talks with senior Afghan officials in order to discuss expansion of economic ties.

During his one-day visit, Reza Ardakanian met with the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, the country's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah and the Afghan minister of water and energy as well as the country's finance minister.

In October, Chairman of Afghan Peace Council Abdullah Abdullah visited Tehran, during which he met with Ardakanian and called for the expansion of trade ties.

In the meeting, Ardakanian referred to the agreements reached between the two sides during his visit to Afghanistan last year and said: "During that visit, President Ghani issued the necessary orders to implement electricity projects, including renewables, solving banking problems, etc., but unfortunately so far no definite measure has been taken to realize those agreements."

Continued on page 4

Biden is unlikely to end military involvements, professor says

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN – Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) at Georgetown University says that President-elect Joe Biden "is not the right person" to end the endless American wars as liberals think America has a global mandate to intervene and "spread its gospel of truth".

"I don't think Biden is likely to end America's military involvement," Mehran Kamrava tells the Tehran Times, describing Biden and his team as "liberal interventionist".

The following is the text of the interview: **Some media outlets talk about Biden's readiness to roll back the Trump policies with a blitz of executive actions. Is it a realistic view?**

A: Usually, American presidents are judged by their accomplishments in the first one hundred days in which they all have executive and legislative agendas. There won't be a blitz as

such, but there would be a whole host of initiatives coming from the Biden administration in its first one hundred days. These include measures, design to contain the spread of the corona pandemic, measures to repair relations with European Union, repair trade relation with China and also other measures including probably starting to discuss options with Iran and this may not necessarily be direct with Iran and first could be through the European Union or the P5, but that would be an option.

So, I don't think there would necessarily be a blitz of actions, but in the first one hundred days, we can expect measures related to the coronavirus pandemic, related to the economy, related to improving relations with the EU and entering some of the multilateral agreements that Trump administration has withdrawn from, including the Iran nuclear agreement and Paris Climate Accord, etc.

Continued on page 5

Trump supporters in Oregon hold rally to protest election

upporters of President Donald Trump gathered in Oregon for a rally to protest what they perceived as flawed or fraudulent results of the Nov. 3 election.

The event in Salem Saturday was billed by organizers as a "Defeat the Steal" rally and coincided with similar demonstrations across the U.S., KOIN-TV reported.

A crowd of 100 to 200 people gathered at the state Capitol, where many demonstrators said they do not believe the election results naming Joe Biden as the nation's president-elect.

Attendees said they came to express their love for Trump and to exercise their First Amendment guarantee of free speech. Many said they want a legal fight over the results.

One protester arrived with a metal-cast statue that was previously erected in Portland to support the Black Lives Matter Movement. The statue known as "Nightmare Elk" replaced a city-owned statue that was removed over fears of damage by

protesters. The elk statue was stolen Oct. 10.

Biden defeated Trump by topping the 270 electoral vote threshold needed to clinch the presidency. As of Sunday, Biden had 77.5 million votes, the most ever by a winning candidate, to Trump's 72.3 million votes.

Trump v Fox News, again

As is increasingly common, Donald Trump has taken a shot at his erstwhile friends at Fox News who, he says, like "the Fake News Networks aren't showing these massive gatherings" in Washington DC.

"Instead they have their reporters standing in almost empty streets. We now have SUPPRESSION BY THE PRESS. MAGA!"

Apart from the observation that Trump's claim the press is somehow suppressing him might in one admittedly rather sophomoric way make him a sort of President Dennis the Anarcho-Syndicalist Peasant, it should also be said that it isn't remotely true. News coverage of events in DC in support of Trump today has been constant, if not wall-to-wall.

Trump achieves none of his Iran goals: Fitzpatrick

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN – Mark Fitzpatrick, an associate fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), says Donald Trump achieved "none of his goals" by quitting the 2015 nuclear deal, noting that Trump "only made the situation more dangerous."

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Fitzpatrick says pulling out of the JCPOA, the official name for the nuclear deal, was one of Trump's "worst mistakes".

According to Fitzpatrick, the head of the Nonproliferation & Nuclear Policy Program, Trump

is trying to make Joe Biden unable to revive the nuclear pact now that he has failed to secure a second presidential term.

"Even after his electoral defeat, he is trying to prevent his successor from being able to restore the agreement," Fitzpatrick points out.

The following is the text of the interview: **How do you assess Trump's policies over the last four years, especially his withdrawal from international deals, including the JCPOA?**

A: Trump will go down in history as one of America's worst presidents ever, both for his inept management of the pandemic and for his disastrous foreign policy.

His instincts were not all bad. On the positive side, he stood up to China, kept the U.S. out of foreign wars, reduced tensions in northeast Asia by engaging directly with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. But the list of negatives is longer and more consequential.

Continued on page 5

University of Tehran to host archaeological museum

TEHRAN – A specialized archaeological museum is planned to be built at the University of Tehran, which has long been contributing to countless archaeological surveys across Iran.

"We intend to construct an [specialized] archaeological museum next to the Dehkhoda [Lexicon] Institute at the University of Tehran," Mehr quoted Mostafa Dehpahlavan, the director of the university's archaeology institute, as saying on Tuesday.

"Archaeological excavations currently come to a halt, but now we have on agenda the construction of a specialized archaeological museum next to the Dehkhoda Institute," he said.

Two private sector investors are willing to cooperate in the tourism field [regarding the museum] and restaurant space will be handed to the investors for bringing them income, he noted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the senior archaeologist said the museum will be beneficial to people knowing their ancestors and cultural heritage.

"[Many] people do not know what archeology is [exactly]. They think that archeology is only antiquity, underground, and treasure. We want to introduce archaeological topics such as archaeological applications, archaeological parasites, biological archeology, etc."

"If we utilize the science of archeology in today's world, which are in fact human experiences, we would not bring such a disaster to our land as the experience of the past regarding qanats (subterranean aqueducts)."

The experts explained how digging deep wells have ruined water resources in the semi-arid land.

"If we knew it was not necessary to dig deep wells, we would not have so much barren land [now]."

Iran among top five producers of COVID-19 rapid antigen-detection kits

TEHRAN – Iran is one of the top five manufacturers of coronavirus antigen-based rapid detection kits in the world.

Homegrown antibody rapid test, which can detect coronavirus in 15 to 20 minutes, was unveiled on Tuesday in Tehran in the presence of First Vice-President Es'hag Jahangiri.

Alireza Zali, head of coronavirus control working group in Tehran, said that Iran, along with the United States, China, South Korea, and Britain, has achieved this advanced technology.

Continued on page 7



Iranian, British foreign ministers discuss JCPOA

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has talked with his British counterpart, Dominic Raab, to discuss bilateral cooperation within the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In a phone call on Monday, Zarif and Raab also conferred on other issues of mutual interest, including bilateral relations and certain humanitarian issues, the Foreign Ministry website reported.



The JCPOA, commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, was reached on July 14, 2015 between Iran and six world powers, including the United States, Britain, France, Russia, China, and Germany.

However, U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled his country out of the JCPOA in May 2018 and re-instated the sanctions that had been lifted under the pact. He also imposed secondary sanctions on third parties that sought to do business with Iran, effectively targeting the European parties to the agreement.

Verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran remained fully compliant with the JCPOA for an entire year, waiting for the co-signatories to honor their commitments and offset the impacts of the U.S. withdrawal.

But, as the European parties continued to renege on their obligations, the Islamic Republic moved to scale down its commitment to the JCPOA in a gradual format and based on the provisions of the accord itself that addressed a party's legal rights in case of non-performance by other sides.

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.

Wendy Sherman, the former U.S. nuclear negotiator with Iran, has said the Trump administration is trying to do whatever they can to make it more difficult for the Biden administration to return to the JCPOA.

"The president-elect has said he wants to reenter negotiations and build back better. So this will be a very complicated puzzle," Sherman said in an interview with the PRI published on November 11.

MPs laud Intelligence Ministry for capturing terrorist ringleaders

TEHRAN (FNA) — The Iranian lawmakers in a statement praised the Intelligence Ministry for arresting Farajollah Chaab, the ringleader of Harakat al-Nidhal al-Arabi terrorist group, a Saudi-sponsored outfit that carried out the 2018 deadly terrorist attack in the Iranian city of Ahvaz, and Jamshid Sharmahd, the ringleader of an anti-Iran monarchist terrorist group based in the U.S.

"We, the members of the Majlis, condemn the direct and indirect support of the sworn enemies of the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian nation, spearheaded by the criminal U.S., the usurping Zionist regime and their extensions and agents in the region, and we felicitate the Supreme Leader and the noble Iranian nation over this courageous and revolutionary act and other recent achievements, including the capturing of Jamshid Sharmahd and other heavy blows struck at the terror cells which act against the Iranian nation," the statement said on Tuesday.



They reiterated support for the ministry forces' decisive and revolutionary acts, and declared preparedness for any measure to fully annihilate agents of terrorist groups and inimical cells.

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry confirmed in a statement last Thursday that Farajollah Chaab, has been arrested.

The statement said that the leader of the separatist and terrorist group, which had planned several other large-scale operations in Tehran and Khuzestan in recent years, was planning a new terrorist operation.

"This terrorist group, which is directly supported by the Saudi intelligence services and the Zionist regime, has been managing terrorist operations in Iran despite the issuance of international arrest orders for the group's leaders," it added.

"The main perpetrator of the bloody terrorist attack in Ahvaz is now in the hands of the Intelligence Ministry; he also has revealed details of other terrorist and bloody operations of this group," the statement said.

Farajollah Chaab, also known as Habib Osivad, is the former leader and the current vice-president of the Al-Ahwaziya terrorist group, which claimed responsibility for the September 2018 terrorist attack on a military parade in Ahvaz, southwest of Iran, which killed 26 and injured 69 others.

The terrorists attacked the bystanders watching the annual Armed Forces' parades, marking the start of the Sacred Defense Week, commemorating Iranians' sacrifices during the 8 years of the Iraqi imposed war on Iran in 1980s, in disguise of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and Basij (volunteer) forces, killing and wounding several people, including innocent women and children.

Iran backs a balanced enlargement of UN Security Council

Ambassador Ravanchi slams use of Security Council for domestic interests

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, has said Iran strongly rejects the use of UN Security Council as a tool to pursue national political interests and agenda.

"Necessary measures must be taken to ensure that the decisions of a reformed Council will be made not based on national interests of its members but on the common interests of the entire United Nations membership," Takht-Ravanchi said at the UN General Assembly meeting on Monday, according to IRNA.

"The international community continues to call for the Security Council reform. This call stems from the fact that the Council is not keeping pace with the significant changes of our time, its actions often have not been consistently in conformity with the Charter and it is not truly representative, transparent, accountable and rules-based," he remarked.

He said in many cases, the Security Council has been inactive and ineffective, and in certain cases, its actions have been ultra vires, and it also has been seriously exploited by certain permanent members.

The Council's legitimacy and credibility as well as its serious trust and confidence deficit is the direct result of this situation, the envoy said, adding that the promotion of multilateralism is a high priority for the overwhelming majority of member states, and a truly reformed Council can greatly contribute to multilateralism.

"Nevertheless, in carrying out this highly sensitive task, all five core issues must be discussed comprehensively within a package and none should be considered less important than others," he said.

"This must be done with utmost prudence while taking into account the lessons learned



and the realities of our time. For example, if we cannot ensure that the members of a reformed Council are accountable for their action or inaction, we will certainly face the same problems that we want to address now," Takht-Ravanchi added.

The Iranian envoy also argued in favor of an expanded Security Council, saying an expanded Council will be useful only if the enlargement can transform it into a truly democratic, representative, transparent, efficient, effective and, above all, rules-based and accountable body.

The composition of an expanded Council must also be balanced, both geopolitically and geographically, he said.

"While the Group of Western Europe-

an and other States is overrepresented in the Council, the other regional groups are poorly represented in terms of number and enjoy fewer rights and privileges in terms of the permanent membership," the ambassador pointed out.

"To prevent the domination of a certain regional or geopolitical group over the Council, this disproportionality and injustice must be addressed and rectified and providing equal opportunities for all States to become a Council member must also be ensured," he added.

It is also critical, he continued, to ensure that a reformed Council will be prevented from considering situations that do not constitute a threat to international peace

"It is essential to reform the Council's working methods to ensure its transparency and accountability."

Envoy urges IAEA to guarantee implementation of nuclear-related co-op

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, has stressed that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should guarantee effective implementation of nuclear-related technical cooperation programs.

During a meeting of the Agency's Cooperation and Technical Assistance Committee, which was held via video conference on Monday, Gharibabadi said the efforts by the IAEA chief to ensure the effective implementation of technical cooperation programs are very important and their realization requires high solidarity and cooperation at all levels in the world.

"It must be guaranteed that today's challenging situation does not have a detrimental effect on the implementation of the Agency's technical cooperation programs, and most importantly, that these projects have sufficiently guaranteed resources," he stated.

In order to address the commotion created by the United States and its allies over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, Tehran signed a nuclear deal with six world powers in 2015. Under the deal, Iran agreed to limit its nuclear activities in exchange for a termination of sanctions.

However, President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018 and imposed the harshest sanctions in history against Iran in line with his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

Iran has also signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) — whose aim is to prevent the spread of nuclear arms and weapons technology — in July 1968 and ratified it in February 1970.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly said that it has never sought and will never seek to build nuclear weapons. The decision, Tehran says, is based on a fatwa (religious decree) issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The fatwa bans the production, possession and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Last month, Gharibabadi criticized the head of the IAEA for using irrelevant terms in his remarks on Iran's nuclear program, saying such terms have no place in the IAEA's documents.

"Drawing self-made criteria such as 'breakout' and 'significant quantity' for countries which are enriching uranium under the IAEA's surveillance is non-relevant



and has no status in the IAEA legal documents," he said.

The remarks came after IAEA chief Rafael Grossi said Iran is not in possession of enough enriched uranium to develop nuclear weapons.

"The Iranians continue to enrich uranium, and to a much higher degree than they have committed themselves to. And this amount is growing by the month," Grossi said in an interview with Austrian paper Die Presse.

Iran's nuclear activities are subject to the most intrusive inspections by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog.

Tehran criticizes Guterres for ignoring U.S. violation of Iranians' rights

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Head of the Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights, Ali Bagheri-Kani, has strongly criticized UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres for ignoring U.S. violation of Iranians' rights through inhumane sanctions, while at the same time attacking Iran's human rights performance.

In remarks on Monday, Bagheri-Kani condemned certain countries for attempting to pass an anti-Iran rights resolution at the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee, highlighting bleak rights records of the sponsors of the draft resolution.

He said Canada, which is the main driving force behind rights resolution against Iran, has a record of systematic violation of human rights, including against the country's native population while being among top countries in terms of violence against women and girls.

"Those who are behind this resolution are the same countries, which have given



refuge to terrorist groups that have killed thousands of Iranians ... or have been following suit with the United States'

"maximum pressure" campaign by implementing Washington's unjust and illegal sanctions against the Iranian nation," the official said, Press TV reported.

The human rights official then noted that the Canada-drafted resolution is based on a report by Guterres, which "suffers from many shortcomings and contradictions."

"There is no logic behind inattention of the secretary general's report to violation of the Iranian nation's rights through imposition of sanction by the U.S. regime, which are also being observed by other Western countries, and their impact on the economic and livelihood situation of the Iranian people," he added.

Last week, Iran censured the United

"There is no logic behind inattention of the secretary general's report to violation of the Iranian nation's rights through imposition of sanction by the U.S. regime."

Iran, Iraq Air Force commanders discuss joint action against terrorism

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — The air force commanders of Iran and Iraq weighed plans at a meeting in Tehran for joint operations in the battle against Takfiri terrorists and other sources of threat to the security of the two nations.

Iranian Air Force Commander Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh and his Iraqi counterpart Lt. Gen. Shahab Jahid Ali Al Shakarachi held a meeting in Tehran on Tuesday to assess plans for closer military cooperation between the two neighbors.

The two commanders talked about ways for operational collaboration in the fight against Takfiri terrorists and other forces that threaten sustainable security in Iran and Iraq.



They also stressed the need for constructive interaction between the air forces of the two countries considering the suitable grounds for joint operations, technical cooperation, interaction in the repair and maintenance of fighter aircraft and drones, and training the military staff.

Gen. Shahab Jahid Ali Al Shakarachi was accompanying Iraqi Defense Minister Lt. General Juma Anad Saadoun in an official visit to Tehran.

In a meeting with his Iraqi counterpart on Saturday, Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami expressed the country's readiness to strengthen Iraq's defense power and supply its demands for military equipment.

SPORTS

Davoud Mahabadi named Iran U19 coach

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Davoud Mahabadi was named as new head coach of Iran U19 football team on Tuesday.

Mahabadi was appointed as head coach and ex-Persepolis coach Hamid Derakhshan has been named as the team's technical director.



The 47-year-old coach has most recently worked as Iran's First Division team Fajr Sepasi.

Mahabadi replaced Parviz Mazloumi in the post. Mazloumi stepped down as coach of Iran U19 team in early October to work as Iranian football club Esteghlal's sporting director.

Mahabadi will have to prepare the Iranian team for the 2021 AFC U19 Championship in Uzbekistan.

Mehrdad Mohammadi ruled out for one month

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Al Arabi football team winger Mehrdad Mohammadi has been sidelined for one month.

The Iranian player underwent a foot injury at Aspetar Hospital in Doha on Monday.

The Qatar club have announced that Mohammadi will be sidelined for at least four weeks.

Mehdi Torabi is another Iranian player of Al Arabi. Al Arabi sit ninth in the Qatar Stars League 12-team table.

Iran basketball team to play Al Rayyan

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran national basketball team are going to meet Qatari club Al Rayyan in a friendly match.

The Iranian team will leave Tehran Monday night for the for Window 2 of FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers.

Iran are scheduled to meet Saudi Arabia and Syria on Nov. 27 and 30 in Doha, Qatar, but are going to play a friendly match with Al Rayyan ahead of the window.

Al Rayyan are one of the most successful basketball clubs in Qatar, with many domestic and international titles to their name.

Sichuan Blue Whales center Hamed Haddadi cannot join Iran since travel restrictions. Samad Nikkhah Bahrami will also miss the matches because he has recently recovered from Covid-19.

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

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

Sanat Naft beat Pakan in Iran Professional League

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Sanat Naft came behind from a 1-0 defeat to beat Paykan 2-1 in Matchweek 1 of Iran Professional League.

Hojjat Haghverdi gave the visiting team the lead in the 23rd minute from penalty spot.

Taleb Reykani made a brace in the 76th and 83rd minute.

Matchweek 2 fixtures:

■ **Thursday:**

*Nassaji – Tractor
*Sepahan – Aluminum
*Naft Masjed Soleyman – Saipa

■ **Friday:**

Mes Rafsanjan – Gol Gohar
*Machine Sazi – Zob Ahan
*Foolad – Esteghlal

■ **Saturday:**

*Paykan – Shahr Khodro
*Persepolis – Sanat Naft

Amir Ghafour linked with Verona: report

Iran international opposite Amir Ghafour has been linked with a move to Italian top-flight club Verona.

The 29-year-old player was a member of Italian club Volley Lube last season.

Italian site larena.it has reported that Hellas Verona has shown interest in signing Ghafour.

Ghafour is without a team since parting company with Lube.

Hungarian player Arpad Baroti who has most recently played in Polish team Zaksa is another candidate to join Verona.

(Source: Larena.it)



Back off!

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — U.S. President Donald Trump has reportedly asked his aides to provide him with options for attacking Iran's nuclear program, a move that, if made, will certainly be met with an Iranian response, according to an expert on West Asia.

President Trump asked senior advisers in an Oval Office meeting on Thursday whether he had options to take action against Iran's main nuclear site in the coming weeks, The New York Times reported on Monday, saying the meeting occurred a day after international inspectors reported a significant increase in the country's stockpile of nuclear material.

Citing four current and former U.S. officials, The New York Times claimed a range of senior advisers dissuaded the president from moving ahead with a military strike, saying the advisers — including Vice President Mike Pence; Secretary of State Mike Pompeo; Christopher C. Miller, the acting defense secretary; and Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — warned that a strike against Iran's facilities could easily escalate into a broader conflict in the last weeks of Trump's presidency.

"First of all, these advisers warned Trump that if he attacks Iran, he will put all U.S. interests in danger throughout the region. Second, they told him that all U.S. military bases in the region will be within the range of Iran's missiles. Third, they told him that America's friends in the region — Persian Gulf's southern littoral Arab countries — will incur serious damages. Furthermore, they warned about the scope of the war and the spillover effect of it. They warned about a possible crisis in the Strait of Hormuz and an oil crisis," Seyed Hadi Seyed Afghahi, an expert on West Asia, told the Tehran Times.

Pompeo and General Milley have warned about military action against Iran, according to The Times, adding that After Pompeo and General Milley described the potential risks of military escalation, officials left the meeting believing a missile attack inside Iran was off the table.

However, the publication raised the

possibility that Trump might still be looking at ways to strike Iranian assets and allies, including groups in Iraq.

In what appeared to be a steady process of putting the spotlight on Iran, the American publication also claimed that a smaller group of national security aides had met late Wednesday to discuss Iran, the day before the meeting with the president.

Reuters also confirmed the account of the meeting in The New York Times, citing a U.S. official on Monday. The news agency reported that Trump, with two months left in office, last week asked for options on attacking Iran's main nuclear site, but ultimately decided against taking the dramatic step.

Iran rejected the U.S. media saber-rattling, saying it has military options at its disposal to prevent or respond to any aggression by the U.S.

Alireza Miryousefi, the spokesman for Iran's mission to the United Nations in

New York, said Iran's nuclear program is purely for peaceful purposes and civilian use and Trump's policies have not changed that.

"However, Iran has proven to be capable of using its legitimate military might to prevent or respond to any melancholy adventure from any aggressor," he told Reuters.

Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei also threatened the U.S. with a "crushing" response if it attacked Iran. "Any action against the Iranian nation would certainly face a crushing response," Rabiei said in remarks on Tuesday.

But the spokesman said he personally doesn't think a U.S. attack on Iran is probable.

Afghahi said inside the U.S. government, including Congress and the White House, there are sage people who would prevent Trump from launching an attack on Iran that will likely set the whole region

Iran warns to respond to any melancholy adventure by Trump

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — In its first reaction to a New York Times report alleging that President Donald Trump has asked for options on attacking an Iranian nuclear site, an Iranian diplomat said the Islamic Republic is ready to use its military power to respond to any military aggression.

Alireza Miryousefi, spokesman for Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York, said Iran's nuclear program is purely for peaceful purposes and civilian use and Trump's policies have not changed that.

"However, Iran has proven to be capable of using its legitimate military might to prevent or respond to any melancholy adventure from any aggressor," he told Reuters.

Citing four current and former U.S. officials on Monday, The New York Times reported that President Trump asked senior advisers in an Oval Office meeting on Thursday whether he had options to take action against Iran's main nuclear site in the coming weeks. A range of senior advisers dissuaded the president from moving ahead with a military strike, said The New York Times, adding that the advisers — including Vice President Mike Pence; Secretary of State Mike Pompeo; Christopher C. Miller, the acting defense secretary; and Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — warned that a strike against Iran's facilities could easily escalate into a broader conflict in the



last weeks of Mr. Trump's presidency.

The American publication also claimed that any strike — whether by missile or cyber — would almost certainly be focused on Natanz, where the International Atomic Energy Agency reported on Wednesday that Iran's uranium stockpile was now 12 times larger than permitted under the nuclear accord that Trump abandoned in 2018.

Administration officials told The New York Times that after Mr. Pompeo and General Milley described the potential risks of military escalation, officials left the meeting believing

a missile attack inside Iran was off the table.

However, the American publication claimed that the U.S. president might still be looking at ways to strike Iranian assets and allies, including groups in Iraq.

Reuters also confirmed the claim, citing a U.S. official that claimed Trump last week asked for options on attacking Iran's main nuclear site, but ultimately decided against taking the dramatic step.

"He asked for options. They gave him the scenarios and he ultimately decided not to go forward," Reuters quoted the official as saying on Monday.

The news agency suggested that a strike on the Natanz facility could be an effort to burden Joe Biden with new foreign policy challenges at the start of his contested presidency. A strike on Iran's main nuclear site at Natanz could flare into a regional conflict and pose a serious foreign policy challenge for Biden, Reuters said.

Trump has pursued an aggressive foreign policy toward Iran over the past four years. In addition to imposing sweeping sanctions, he threatened to attack Iran on many occasions, including after Iran downed a U.S. drone that had violated the Iranian airspace over the strategic Strait of Hormuz on June 20, 2019. At that time, Trump claimed that he ordered attacks on Iran but he called off the attacks minutes before they were launched.

Trump's Iran agenda is about to end in failure: Washington Post

Just days after President Trump's inauguration, the battle lines were drawn. At the White House, then-national security adviser Michael Flynn said the new administration was "officially putting Iran on notice" for its alleged catalogue of destabilizing activities throughout the Middle East. Flynn's political scandals would see him soon lose his job and later plead guilty to lying to FBI investigators. But Trump and his allies pressed ahead, launching a campaign of "maximum pressure" that strangled the Iranian economy and upended the nuclear deal forged in 2015 between Tehran and world powers.

With just two months left in his presidency, Trump has little to show for four years of anti-Iran hawkishness. Contrary to his administration's pitch, the reimposition of sanctions did not bring Iran back to the negotiating table to hash out a tougher deal. "Maximum pressure" also didn't curtail Iran's influence in its neighborhood. It maintains its significant footholds in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria whose positions are in some instances stronger now than a few years ago.

The Trump administration declared that it "restored deterrence" with Iran after a U.S. targeted strike killed Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, an influential Iranian commander, at the beginning of the year. But that belied the series of escalatory actions carried out by Iran-affiliated forces that followed. It became clear that some ideologically-driven Trump administration officials viewed "maximum pressure" as a

strategy to eventually collapse the regime in Tehran. The U.S.'s "maximum pressure" tactics, meanwhile, only strengthened Iran's camp of hard-liners ahead of presidential elections next year.

"Trump came into office with a strong, effective nuclear agreement that the U.S. painstakingly negotiated alongside our allies," tweeted Matt Duss, foreign policy adviser to Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). "Trump could've chosen to enforce it while pressing forward on other issues. But DC's anti-Iran fanatics had other ideas, and here we are."

And while economic sanctions have inflicted deep pain on the Iranian economy and ordinary Iranians, they compelled Iran's rulers to resume building up their stockpile of enriched uranium, which may now exceed 12 times the limit set by the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran is theoretically closer to creating a nuclear weapon than it was when Trump took office. "According to a range of intelligence assessments, that deal was achieving its intended goal of restricting Iran's enriched uranium supply," wrote Post columnist Jason Rezaian. "But then Trump ordered the United States to withdraw from it unilaterally in 2018. Rarely has a foreign policy failure been so obvious."

Parts of the world have tired of Trump's act. European investors are slated to convene at a business conference next month funded by the European Union that will explore new opportunities to tap the Iranian market after President-elect Joe Biden takes office. If Biden

makes good on his commitment to reenter the nuclear deal, that may necessitate lifting the threat of sanctions on European business entities considering investing in Iran.

Meanwhile, Iran is already finding ways to flout U.S.-imposed restrictions, with not-so-secret oil shipments reaching places such as Venezuela and China. "The volume represents a more than tenfold increase since the spring, analysts say, and signals what experts see as a significant weakening of the 'maximum pressure' sanctions imposed by the Trump administration since it withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018," wrote Washington Pot journalists Joby Warrick and Souad Mekhennet. "Other countries, many of them scornful of Trump's unilateralism on Iran, are showing increasing reluctance to enforce the restrictions."

Robert Litwak, senior vice president of the Washington-based Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, says Trump's bruising approach to confronting Iran — including a failed gambit at the United Nations to snapback sanctions under the terms of a deal the United States had already reneged — had "diplomatically isolated the United States, not Iran."

Biden may inherit an even messier situation. In a final throw of the dice, the Trump administration plans to slap new sanctions on Iran possibly every week till inauguration day. The New York Times reported Monday the president had to be dissuaded last week from a missile strike on Iran's nuclear facil-

Tehran, Kabul make 'significant' progress in finalizing comprehensive document

1→ On Tuesday, Nab also met with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to discuss a variety of issues of mutual interest, including the comprehensive cooperation document between Tehran and Kabul.

Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement of Tuesday that Zarif welcomed the progress made concerning the cooperation document.

"We want to sign a comprehensive document that

best serves the interests of the two nations and raises the level of relations between the two countries," the Tuesday statement quoted Zarif as saying in a meeting with Nab.

TEDPIX gains 23,000 points on Tuesday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 23,107 points on Tuesday.

Over 10.222 billion securities worth 116.917 trillion rials (about \$2.783 billion) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first market's index gained 33,608 points, and the second market's index lost 18,520 points.

TEDPIX dropped 5.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar week (ended on November 13).

Trade with Africa exceeds \$180m in 7 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value of trade between Iran and African countries reached \$180.432 million in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

Rouhollah Latifi put the volume of trade between the two sides at 959,848 tons in the mentioned seven months.

During the said time span, Iran exported 951,549 tons of goods worth over \$160.113 million to African countries, while importing more than 8,299 tons of commodities valued at over \$20.318 million.



As previously announced by IRICA, Iran has exported 65.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$18.2 billion during the first seven months of the current year, registering a 17.5-percent fall in terms of weight, compared to the figure for the previous year's same period.

During the said time span some 19.3 million tons worth \$20 billion of goods have been imported into the country, of which 13.8 million tons were basic goods.

Non-oil products worth \$800m exported from Arvand Free Zone

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Non-oil commodities valued at \$800 million have been exported from Arvand Free Trade Zone in Iran's southwestern province of Khuzestan during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), according to an official with Arvand Free Zone Organization.

Seyed Ali Mousavi, the deputy head of Arvand Free Zone Organization for investment and economic affairs, mentioned fishery products, minerals, foodstuffs, fruits and vegetables, steel and various construction materials, as the major exported items, and said: "Most of these goods were exported to Iraq and the Persian Gulf countries."

The official said that commodities worth \$183 million have been exported from the zone during the seventh month of this year.

Mousavi has also said that investment making by both Iranian and foreign investors has highly increased in Arvand Free Trade Zone.

Last week, he said that the zone has attracted 12 trillion rials (about \$285.7 million) of domestic investment since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), which has been 48 percent higher than the figure of the same period of time in the past year.

The official put the domestic investment in the zone at eight trillion rials (about \$190.4 million) during the same time span in the previous year.

Saying that the investment making has been mainly made by the private sector in different sectors including industry, production, development, trade, and services, Mousavi expressed hope that the trend of investment making will be preserved by the year end.

He also announced that \$50 million has been attracted in the Arvand Free Zone since the beginning of this year in the form of approved foreign investment projects.

Mousavi said: "Despite all the problems in the world, country, province and region due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, as well as the U.S. sanctions, the investment situation in the Arvand Free Zone is favorable and this year we managed to increase the volume of foreign investment in this free zone compared to the last year."

He added: "This amount of foreign investment in the Arvand Free Zone compared to \$2 million investment in the same period last year shows a significant growth."

Mousavi said: "According to this year's motto of surge in production, 13 production and industrial projects in Arvand Free Zone have been inaugurated and it is predicted that by the end of this year, this number will reach 20 projects, which will greatly help the growth of investment in the free zone."

Arvand is one of the seven major free trade zones of Iran.

The zone with an area of 37,400 hectares is in the northwest of the Persian Gulf, including the cities of Abadan, Khorramshahr and Minushahr (Minu Island). It is located at the confluence of Arvand and Karun rivers. The region is in the neighborhood of Iraq and Kuwait.

Considering the important role that the free zones play in promoting the country's export and employment, Iran is seriously pursuing development of its existing free zones and establishment of new zones as well.

More development measures in this field have been taking since the U.S. re-imposition of sanctions on the Iranian economy in November 2018, as Iran is reducing its dependence on the oil income while elevating its domestic production and non-oil exports.

Although the sanctions have disrupted Iran's economic activities, they could not impede the development of Iranian free zones; in fact, the development of these zones has been even accelerated.

Many strides made for increasing activities in the free zones have played a significant part in boosting the country's non-oil exports and brought prosperity in the other economic sectors.

Over 3900km of new railways, roads to be built by Mar. 2022

1→ Khademi who is the head of Iran's Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC), mentioned Khaf-Herat railway, Tehran-Qom-Isfahan railway, and Isfahan Eastern Freeway as some of the major projects underway in the mentioned sectors.

The official noted that the Khaf-Herat railway project is going to be inaugurated in the near future.

"The Iranian side was ready to put this route into operation in November, but due to the unpreparedness of the Afghan side,

the operation of this route was postponed," he explained.

"This route has a capacity of transferring three million tons of goods in the first year of its twenty-year horizon, this capacity will increase by one million passengers and six million tons of cargo per year."

Back in May Khademi had announced that seven prioritized railway projects with a total length of 1,660 kilometers were going to be inaugurated by the end of the year 1400.

According to the official, Chabahr-Za-



hedan railway, Yazd-Eghlid, Bostana-bad-Tabriz, and Khaf-Herat railways were among the top prioritized projects for the next two years.

He also said that six prioritized freeways projects with a total length of 550 km were planned to be inaugurated by the mentioned year.

"With these new freeways going operational, the length of the country's freeways will increase by nearly 25 percent," he had said.

Khademi further noted that of the country's total 38,000 kilometers of arterial roads, about 18,000 kilometers are highways and about 2400 kilometers are freeways.

Iran, Afghanistan join hands to broaden all-out ties

1→ Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, the official talks between the two sides are taking place mostly through videoconference and in this regard several virtual meetings have been held in order to follow up on the previously reached agreements and to discuss new strategies and programs to alleviate the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the economic relations between the two sides.

On Monday evening, Ardakanian held talks with Afghanistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Mirwais Naab, and also Mohammad Esa Qudrat, the country's deputy finance minister for customs and revenue.

During the online meetings, the officials discussed holding the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting.

The two sides also exchanged views on pursuing projects in the field of renewable energy and building wind farms on the border between the two countries and discussed signing an agreement to start the implementation of these

projects.

Customs, transit, banking, and cooperation in free zones were also among the areas of mutual interest for cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan.

In late September, Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mehdi Mirashrafi said that Iran and Afghanistan have put facilitating trade and customs relations on the agenda.

"Facilitating trade, exchanging customs information, solving border problems and developing transit are on the agenda of Iran and Afghanistan," he said after a video conference meeting with his Afghan counterpart.

Following his meeting with the Afghan official, Mirashrafi said: "The two sides decided to prepare a comprehensive strategic economic document, considering the determinations of the two countries for strategic cooperation."

The Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in

Afghanistan (UNAMA) Deborah Lyons also visited Iran earlier this month and held a meeting with Ardakanian to discuss the expansion of cooperation between the two sides.

The officials discussed issues regarding the economic cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan and the role of this international organization in facilitating this cooperation.

Also in early October, Ardakanian held talks with Afghan Acting Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar through video conference in which the two sides discussed issues regarding the holding of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting.

In this online meeting, the ministers agreed to prepare their proposals on a range of important issues in bilateral relations, including the application of preferential tariffs on commodity items desired by the Afghan side and the issues pertaining to the border markets as well as customs cooperation.

Passenger cars manufacturing increases 20%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Manufacturing of passenger cars in Iran has increased 20.4 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 the data released by Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data indicate that 478,800 passenger cars have been manufactured in the country during the seven-month period.

Iranian carmakers have also manufactured 46,797 vans during the first seven months



of the present year, which was 22.7 percent higher than the figure for the same time span

of the past year.

According to the ministry's data, 996 buses and minibusses have been also manufactured in the mentioned time span, indicating a nine percent drop, while 11,273 tractors have been manufactured, showing 4.6 percent growth.

Three major Iranian carmakers, namely Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), SAIPA Group, and Pars Khodro, manufactured 863,263 vehicles during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

During the previous year, IKCO manufactured 393,812 vehicles, of which 35,953 were

produced in the last month Esfand (February 20-March 19).

Production by SAIPA stood at 363,379, of which 23,696 vehicles were manufactured during the last month.

Pars Khodro manufactured 106,072 cars during the past year. Production in Esfand reached 9,300 vehicles.

Iran has been following a program for supporting domestic manufacturing of auto parts since due to the U.S. sanctions the country's automakers have been facing some problems in supplying their needed parts and equipment.

Tehran, Berlin stress expansion of banking ties

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Masoud Khansari met with Germany's Ambassador to Tehran Hans Odo Motzel to discuss ways of expanding economic ties.

The officials emphasized establishing new financial channels and banking ties in order to ensure the expansion of trade relations in the future, TCCIMA portal reported on Monday.

In the meeting, Motzel emphasized his country's interest in broadening economic cooperation with Iran at all levels, noting that the U.S. presidential election and the new developments in the U.S. mark the beginning of a new chapter in relations between the two countries and German companies and businessmen are ready for expanding their

activities in Iran.

"The German embassy is also ready to cooperate with the Tehran Chamber of Commerce to identify common commercial and industrial areas for cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries," the ambassador said.

In this meeting, which was also attended by the Head of German-Iranian Chamber of Commerce (AHK Iran) Dagmar von Bohnstein, Motzel suggested that the two countries should launch a second phase of the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) to facilitate the trade exchange between the two countries.

Khansari for his part criticized the European Union's performance in implementing the INSTEX, calling it a great failure for the European side.

Noting that the new developments in the White House

have raised hopes for lifting sanctions, Khansari added: "In the current situation, we should think about creating financial and banking channels and platforms between Iran and its trading partners beyond INSTEX."

"With Trump leaving the White House a good opportunity will be presented for Germany as one of Iran's main trading partners to take the lead in establishing banking relations with Iran," he added.

In the current situation when hopes for the revival of the JCPOA have increased, Iran and Germany can open a new chapter in their economic cooperation, and in this regard, TCCIMA is ready to take all necessary measures to facilitate cooperation with the German Embassy in Tehran and the country's private sector to strengthen relations, Khansari said.

Next year's budget bill to be submitted to Majlis on Dec. 2

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year (starts on March 21, 2021) will be submitted to the Majlis (Iranian parliament) on December 2, the deputy head of Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) announced.

Making the remarks in an open session of the parliament on Tuesday, Hamid Pour-Mohammadi said that Majlis will start investigating the bill on December 5.

President Hassan Rouhani has said that the main goal of the national budget bill for the next year is to downsize the government and cut the direct dependence on oil incomes.

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

the resistance economy, Shana reported.

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

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

the resistance economy, with long-term growth approaches by focusing on non-oil exports, actively countering the outbreak of coronavirus and reducing its negative economic effects, accelerate the completion of production assets acquisition plans, improving the business environment, paying attention to people's livelihoods with the priority of basic goods and developing a model of public-private partnership", he added.

Exports from Qazvin Province drop 36%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Commodities worth \$161 million have been exported from Qazvin Province in northwest of Iran during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), which shows 36 percent decrease compared to the figure for the same period of time in the past year, according to a provincial official.

Azizollah Afzali, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, put the weight of the exported products at 328,000 tons, which was 34 percent less than that of the previous year.

The official named steel products, milk powder, eggs, disposable containers and glass containers as the main exported products, and Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Oman as the major export destinations.

Afzali further said that 69,000 tons of commodities worth \$353 million have been imported to the province during the first seven months of the present year, showing 18 percent drop in terms of weight, while six percent growth in terms of value.



The official mentioned raw materials for the production units, and refrigeration compressor as the main imported items, and China, Oman, and Uzbekistan as the importers of the products to the province in the said time span.

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

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

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

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

Trump achieves none of his Iran goals: Fitzpatrick

“Unfortunately, Trump saw self-interest as what was good for himself personally, not what was good for the country”

➔ His withdrawal from mutually beneficial treaties and organizations undermined the global government and America's leadership and credibility. He antagonized U.S. democratic allies and looked up to foreign despots. His rejection of the Paris Climate Accord and his denial of climate change science and facts was his worst mistake. Withdrawing from the JCPOA, which was working fine, was his second-worst blunder. Achieving none of his goals for Iran, he only made the situation more dangerous. Even after his electoral defeat, he is trying to prevent his successor from being able to restore the agreement.

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif has set certain conditions for a U.S. return to the nuclear deal. One of the conditions is that the U.S. should compensate for the losses caused by the sanctions imposed during the Trump presidency. What is your comment?

A: It is politically impossible for any U.S. leader, Democratic or Republican, to meet the demand for compensation, which is not required under the JCPOA. Nobody in Washington is talking about compensating Iran. It will not happen. If Iranian political dynamics require some kind of compensation, then I encourage policymakers to be creative in what they consider to be compensation.

For example, the Biden Administration should be able to support Iran's request for a \$5 billion IMF loan from the IMF.

Americans would not call this “compensation,” but if Iranians want to



call it “compensation,” then fine.

Regardless of who will be the next president, if the United States decides to join the nuclear deal, would you think that the negotiations will be easy this time?

A: If the two sides want to return to the JCPOA as it was, without additional conditions, then the negotiations should be relatively straightforward. As a technical matter, it would not be difficult for Iran to return to the nuclear limits of the JCPOA and for the United States to return to granting all the sanctions relief called for in the deal. There are two difficulties. One is how to address the advances that Iran has made in uranium enrichment research

and development the past year since the knowledge gained by exceeding the R&D limits cannot be reversed. Another difficulty concern sanctions that Trump newly applied, which were not covered under the JCPOA and which, in some cases, are not nuclear-related. As for the second part of the question, many U.S. experts believe that the timelines in the deal will need to be extended. Another alternative is to extend the limits via a follow-up negotiation after the JCPOA is restored.

How can the United States give guarantees that it will not pull out of a possible nuclear deal again?

A: The best guarantee would be if any renegotiated deal has bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress and is ratified by a 2/3rds vote of the Senate. I find it hard to imagine what kind of deal would be acceptable to skeptics in both Iran and the United States. Iran therefore, should not insist on such a guarantee. The best

way is to structure a deal so that both parties continue into the future to receive benefits. If politics operate logically, then self-interest should guarantee neither side will pull out. Unfortunately, Trump saw self-interest as what was good for himself personally, not what was good for the country.

Do you think the nuclear deal was catastrophe as Trump described it? Why some Arab countries oppose the deal?

A: Far from being a catastrophe, the 2015 nuclear deal was beneficial for all parties involved. It was not perfect, of course, but it was the best deal that could be negotiated at the time. Arab countries opposed it not because of concerns about Iran's nuclear program but because the deal granted Iran international legitimacy, which Arab states saw as making them relatively weaker.

Are there meaningful differences between Democrats and Republicans when they negotiate with Iran?

A: Of course! There is a huge difference. Democrats almost all supported the JCPOA; Republicans almost all opposed it. Democrats prioritize peaceful solutions reached through multilateral diplomacy; Republicans generally seek regime change for Iran.

“His (Trump) withdrawal from mutually beneficial treaties and organizations undermined the global government and America's leadership and credibility.”

Putin approves establishment of naval base in Sudan

Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved the establishment of a major naval base in Sudan, which will improve Moscow's ability to operate in the Indian Ocean and expand its influence in Africa.

In a decree, Putin announced that he had approved a Russian government proposal to set up a naval logistics hub in the North African country and ordered the Russian Defense Ministry to sign an accord to go ahead with the venture.

According to a draft document related to the agreement and unveiled earlier this month, the naval facility would be able to moor no more than four ships — including nuclear-powered vessels — at the same time.

The document further said the hub would also be used for repair and resupply operations as well as a resting place for Russian naval service members.

Resistance News

World urges Israel to scrap illegal Quds settlement plan

Israel's plans to build more than 1,200 new settler units in occupied Palestinian territories have drawn further international condemnation, with the Arab League calling it a “dangerous” move that needs to be addressed properly.

In a statement released on Monday, Saeed Abu Ail, the Arab League's assistant secretary-general for Palestine affairs and occupied Arab territories, urged the international community to express their outright rejection of the Tel Aviv regime's contentious decision.

He called for greater pressure on Israeli officials in order to force them into abandoning such projects, which are being implemented in defiance of the international community's will, international law as well as relevant United Nations resolutions.

Abu Ali highlighted that settlement expansion projects imperil the viability of a so-called two-state solution to the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Separately, France on Monday censured the Israeli announcement, which was made despite the blatant illegality of such a project, Press TV reported.

“France condemns the announcements relating to the construction of 1,257 homes in the Israeli settlement of Givat Hamatos, in East Jerusalem (al-Quds). The expansion of this settlement is a direct challenge to the viability of a future Palestinian state, as the EU has repeatedly reaffirmed,” the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Egypt joins chorus of condemnations
Moreover, Ahmed Hafez, spokesperson for the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in a statement that Cairo is concerned that Israeli regime's settlement expansion policies will undermine chances of a “two-state solution”, isolate East Jerusalem al-Quds from its Palestinian environs, and obstruct efforts to end the stalemate in the Palestinian issue.

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

Biden is unlikely to end military involvements, professor says

➔ What will be the consequences of the claims of voter fraud on the future of American democracy?

A: Not much. American elections have always featured a certain amount of irregularities like all other elections. These irregularities become consequential when elections are close. For example, in 2000, there were irregularities and disputes as what we see in 2020. Trump is not taken seriously even by the Republican establishment itself, and as a result, the accusation of fraud is dismissed.

Is Trump an aberration in America's history, or does he have a social base in the country?

A: Trump, the person, is an aberration. There are lots of people like Trump. There are individuals like that in Congress, in the House of Representatives, specifically in the Senate. But no one like that has become the president since the middle of the 20th century.

However, Trump doesn't have a significant social base; this is mid-America, people in the Midwest, people who are usually in the lower economic bracket, and people who are not college-educated. These are the people who fall in the lower middle classes. Usually, they are white, and their social and economic standing has declined and has slipped in the last decade. They are the ones who are likely to support Trump's message of American nationalism. Trump is an American nationalist, and the message of “America First” resonates with a significant chant of the population.

Given the social gap which the U.S. is facing, how can the next president bridge these divides?

A: Biden has already started saying that he is not the president of Democrats or Republicans; he is the president of all Americans. What the next president needs to do is to speak exactly to demography that I just described white underprivileged lower middle-class Americans in mid-America in Midwest in Oklahoma, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas in not necessarily in states



“Trump is not taken seriously even by the Republican establishment itself, and as a result, the accusation of fraud is dismissed.”

on the edges of the United States but in the states in the middle of the United States. Those are the people who have been subject to the greatest pressures economically. They are the ones who feel socially disadvantaged, and Trump spoke to them directly and directly was a populist, and his message resonated with them, and that is the crowd that Biden and the new administration need to connect with.

It is not Nancy Pelosi. It is not the New York elite. It is not the California elite but the average person in Oklahoma, in Kentucky, in Arkansas, in Middle America that the next president needs to connect with.

Do you believe that Biden can end the endless American wars?

A: No, I don't believe Biden is the right person for that; these liberals think America has a mandate globally to intervene and spread its gospel of truth and gospel of good. So, these are liberal interventionists, and I don't think Biden is likely to end America's military involvement.

With the Biden win, what will happen to relations between the U.S. and Arab states, especially Saudi Arabia, which received overt support from the Trump administration?

A: Biden has been a greater supporter of multilateralism compared to Trump's preference for bilateralism. Trump has paid far greater attention to bilateral relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia; the U.S. and the United Arab Emirates; the U.S., and Egypt at the expense of a bigger picture of the Middle East (West Asia), for example, the U.S. and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council. So, this had a number of consequences for the U.S. I think the change will not necessarily be in the substance of the U.S. relations with these countries, but the style of U.S. relations may change.

We might see a greater degree of tension in countries like Kuwait, especially Qatar, to some of the other parts of the Middle East (West Asia), but we are not going to see a fundamental shift in U.S.-Israeli relations. We are likely to see even countries like Qatar, Kuwait, and Oman normalize ties with Israel under the Biden administration, probably even Saudi Arabia, and probably Biden will be more likely to engage with Iran, but whether Iran is ready to engage with the Biden administration is a different issue.

Do you predict comprehensive talks between regional players in West Asia, for example between Iran and certain Arab states?

A: Iran has been advocating discussions with various Arab parties, especially Saudi Arabia, but the Saudi has not necessarily been keen on the dialog, and probably with encouragement by the Biden administration, they might be more willing to have that discussion.

“Iran has been advocating discussions with various Arab parties, especially Saudi Arabia, but the Saudi has not necessarily been keen on the dialog, and probably with encouragement by the Biden administration, they might be more willing to have that discussion.”

Gas-For-All-Generations; Let's Consume Gas Optimally

Free

National Plan for Correction and Optimization of Engine House of Residential and Trade Units

Regulating flare
Installing sediment remover
Insulating engine house

Eligible companies working on facilities as well as household-trade subscribers, owning engine house, can log on the following website address:

www.nigc.ir

and register in this national plan.

Implementation of this national plan for subscribers is **free** of charge.

1399.1020

Photo exhibit to showcase rural landscapes in southwest Tehran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — An online photo exhibition is being arranged to showcase landscapes in villages of Robat Karim county sprawling on the southwest edge of Tehran province.

The photo exhibition will be featuring a selection of 20 villages in Robat Karim, CHTN reported on Monday.



The villages are home to many historical and cultural monuments due once being on the important historical Silk Roads. The showcased photographs will be published in a book to be offered to avid travelers and researchers, the report said without providing a date for the event.

When it comes to rural tourism Iran, which has many pristine yet diverse natural settings, has many to offer to nature lovers. Rural tourism as well as agritourism and farm-stays can be regarded as a win-win both for local communities, and post-modern travelers who are tracing unique experiences.

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

Book exploring history of Sistan-Baluchestan goes out of print

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A book on Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan region, its history, arts, and anthropology has recently been published in the country.

Authored by Iranian archaeologist, Seyyed Mansour Sajadi, the book also contains the latest archaeological achievements conducted in the southeastern Iranian province under the supervision of the author, IRNA reported.

Titled "Eight words on archeology and history of Sistan-Baluchestan", the Persian-language book also represents discoveries made in and on the outskirts of the UNESCO-registered Shahr-e Sukhteh (Burnt City), which its antiquity dates back to the 5th millennium BC and the 3rd millennium BC.

The Burnt City was once a junction of Bronze-Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau and I am associated with four rounds of civilization, all burnt down by catastrophic sets of fire.

Seljuk, Safavid objects unearthed in northern Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Relics of some historical objects have recently been discovered during a construction project in Gorgan, northern Golestan province.

The relics include candlesticks, incense burners, and lights mainly made of bronze, which are estimated to date back to the Seljuk era (1037–1194) and the Safavid dynasty (1501–1736), provincial tourism chief Ahmad Tajari announced on Sunday.



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

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

Iranian police seize ancient relics from smugglers

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A number of historical objects have recently been confiscated from three smugglers in Shiraz, southern Fars province, a senior police official in charge



of protecting cultural heritage said on Monday, CHTN reported.

During the control of passing vehicles at the entrance of Bushehr-Shiraz road, a vehicle, which was passing through Shiraz from Bushehr, was suspected, Mohammadreza Bahmani said.

The objects, which were recovered from the car, include a clay jar dating back to the Islamic era, wooden utensils, and some stone inscriptions, the official added.

The official, however, did not refer to the exact age of the relics.

The culprits were detained and surrendered to the judicial

system for further investigation, he noted.

Iran mulling to join Blue Shield to protect cultural heritage

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Iran is mulling to join the Committee of the Blue Shield — an international organization committed to the protection of heritage across the world, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said on Monday.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Vienna's ambassador to Tehran, Stefan Scholz, who has recently paid visits to several Iranian provinces to follow up on the establishment of a Blue Shield national committee in the country.

The Blue Shield network, often referred to as the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross, works globally to protect cultural heritage in emergency situations.

This includes museums, monuments, and archaeological sites, as well as natural areas and intangible heritage.

■ Cultural cooperation

Referring to the cultural cooperation between the two countries, Mounesan noted that the coronavirus pandemic shouldn't be allowed to reduce holding joint cultural events and programs.

"Considering the current situation, joint cultural events could be held observing strict health protocols."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister pointed to the flourishing health tourism in the country and said that although Iran is under lots of pressure due to the unfair sanctions, which also include medicine and food, the country enjoys good doctors and medical equipment that makes it a favorite destination for even Europeans as the cost of treatment and services is cheap, while the quality is high.



Despite the sanctions, the country witnessed an increase in foreign tourists' arrivals before the outbreak of the coronavirus, he noted.

He also noted that Iran was introduced by United Nations World Tourism Organization as the world's second-fastest-growing tourist destination in 2019.

Pointing to ecotourism as a new branch of tourism in Iran, he said that there are over 2200 eco-lodge units across the country, which generate job opportunities for the local people.

■ U.S. sanctions 'no obstacle'

Last October, Scholz said that he believes U.S. sanctions against Iran will be no obstacle in the path of Austrian tourists to travel to

the Islamic Republic.

"Austrian arrivals in Iran are not affected by the sanctions and threats," the envoy told ISNA.

In an interview with the Tehran Times last September, the ambassador referred to commonalities and the history of relations between the two nations, saying "Austria and Iran have a long history in common. It's an incredible special profile that distinguishes us from many other countries. We have 700 years of documented contacts, 500 years of partnership, and about 60 years of full diplomatic relations."

■ Corona may cause critical situation

In October, Mounesan warned that Iran's

Ancient coffins discovered in southwest Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Two ancient clay coffins have recently been discovered in Jubaji, a historical site in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province.

The coffins were transferred to a safe place to be studied, restored, and preserved by a number of cultural heritage experts and archeologists, CHTN quoted cultural heritage official Atef Rashnui as saying on Monday.

The exact historical era the coffins belong to is still unknown due to incomplete studies, he said.

Back in 2007, an Elamite tomb containing two female skeletons in two bronze sarcophagi from the sixth century BC was discovered by construction workers at the site, which was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2008.

The princesses had been provided with objects for their journey to the next world including luxurious objects, mainly gold jewelry and bracelets.

The Elamites mostly settled in the lowlands located in the southwestern region of present-day Iran.



Research plan approved for Habakkuk mausoleum's landscaping

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A research plan has been approved for expanding the structure and surrounding landscape of Prophet Habakkuk's mausoleum, located in Hamedan province, west-central Iran.

Maintenance, beautification of green space, and new lighting of the area are amongst landscaping plans scheduled

for the surroundings of the brick tomb tower, which is capped by a conical dome in an octagonal pattern.

The antiquity of the tower dates back to the Seljuk era (1037–1194). Sources quite unanimously assert that almost nothing is known about Habakkuk, aside from what is stated within the book of the Bible bearing his name,

or those inferences that may be drawn from that book.

Narratives say that Habakkuk's main prophecy was directed against the kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, and Media, which were later to grow into world powers, conquering some Mediterranean lands and the rest of the ancient world.

Six lesser-known historical bridges in Iran

(Part 2/2)

HERITAGE ■ Latidan Bridge

The bridge emerged like a Phoenix from the ashes, when in 1993 a flood-hit Nim Kar village in Khamir county, Hormozgan province, and washed away tons of dust. It is built over the Kol River as part of a Safavid road built for Caravans connecting Shiraz to Bandar Abbas.

Latidan Bridge is considered one of the longest historical bridges in Iran. It is over a kilometer long and has in the region of 233 piles. It is three times longer than Siosepol in Isfahan.

Constructed during the Safavid era, it contradicts the general style of the period in which bridges were built with brick, and is from amorphous stone. It is undoubtedly one of the masterpieces of bridge architecture in the history of the country.

It was mainly built for military purposes during the war with the Portuguese, during the reign of Shah Abbas. It was then transformed into a merchant corridor when the conflict ended.

Considering the river's high water level during the rainy season, renovation projects are underway to fortify the structure, to help it endure. The valuable national heritage is



A view of Veresk Bridge in northern Iran

nevertheless still at risk and in dire need of investment and protection.

■ Veresk Bridge

One of the largest viaducts in Iran, Veresk is undoubtedly a masterpiece of engineering which became officially oper-

ational in 1936. It is located in Veresk district, Savadkuh, Mazandaran province.

It connects Tehran to the northern areas through railroad and is built on 110 meters deep valley with a span of about 66 meters and was built by German and Austrian engineers with the Austrian Walter Inger, the chief engineer, leading the construction project.

The structure is considered very strategic particularly during World War II and was named 'Pol-E Piroozi' (Victory Bridge) at that time.

Underneath the bridge is a memorial structure built-in memory of all the construction workers who lost their lives in the course of building the Veresk Bridge and its nearby tunnels. Walter Inger, following his wishes, is buried at this location.

To this day, it has been over 70 years that Veresk Bridge is in use by passenger, cargo, and fuel trains and apart from its significance in Iran's transportation system, it is among the major tourist attractions of the country.

The bridge is registered on the country's national monument list in 1977 and its name is also recorded in Guinness Book of World Records under the section of bridges with more than 60 meters of height.

Khorjins: Tribal, rural weaves from Iran

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Even though Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari is one of the smallest provinces of Iran, it is the home of two of most important tribes of Bakhtirai and Qashqayi and has affected the handicrafts of other cities and has been affected by them in return.

Besides their usage in everyday life, Khorjins, which are a kind of saddlebags, can have other uses, too. In the culture of nomadic society, the Khorjins have been turned into a way of expression and beautifying and helped bring diversity to the monotone and repetitive rhythm of seasonal migration.

The nomads use the Khorjins as sacks, baggage and crates. Khorjins are popular and come in many different sizes. They

can be divided into small, medium and big. The small and medium Khorjins consist of two parallel squares that have been sewed to each other on a rectangular piece. But big Khorjins which are specifically used by nomads consist of two big rectangular pieces and are positioned in front middle of each other.

The small Khorjins are called "Akbe" and usually contain documents, valuable objects, personal things and jewelries. Some of them are particularly used by women riders when they hang the Akbeh Khorjins on the saddle to carry their items.

Most commonly those Khorjins that are hanged in front of the animals have two wide pieces of fabric as long as sixty

centimeters and buttons are sewed on all over them. They have patterns and pom poms as decorations. The pom poms, also known as Varaneh, move around when the animal is trotting and prevent the stings of bees and other insects, and reduce the risk of the horse tilting its head to move away from the flies.

The second Khorjins are medium, they are sewed in one hundred in fifty centimeters and are used to carry edibles and common tools. The people of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari also use them to carry their daily stoppings. The third group are big Khorjins and are more popular with Bakhtiari tribe.

They are one hundred in one hundred and fifty centimeters and have pockets



in the form of rectangular which means they are wider than they are tall. Darjuneh, Chelgard, Kuhrang and other cities are some of the most important centers where Khorjins are sewed.

Germany contributes \$1.2m to WFP activities in Iran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Germany supported the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) with a supplementary contribution of €1 million (approximately \$1.2 million) towards its assistance program in Iran.

This contribution is in addition to a contribution of €1 million received in April 2020. It will benefit Afghan and Iraqi refugees living in settlements in Iran.

At the same time, it allows WFP to assist vulnerable Iranians affected by natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, locust infestation, and the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Government and people of Germany have steadfastly supported us since 2014 with funds for our refugee assistance program,” said WFP Representative and Country Director in Iran Negar Gerami. “Allowing us this year to use a portion of these funds for an emergency response to large-scale natural disasters gives us more flexibility to fulfill our mandate and for that, we are extremely grateful.”

WFP will primarily use the funds to



provide both cash and food assistance to address the most pressing nutrition needs

of refugee families. A portion of the funds will be used to locally procure monthly

emergency family food packs for distribution in areas hardest hit by locust infestation and COVID-19, the combination of which has jeopardized the livelihood of the tens of thousands of vulnerable people in a number of provinces in Iran.

“WFP has been a close partner for Germany for many years to help those who are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Especially during the Covid pandemic, it is important not to forget the most vulnerable,” said German Ambassador to Iran, Hans-Udo Muzel “That is why Germany will continue to support WFP here in Iran with another one million Euro to provide cash relief and food assistance for refugees and specially affected communities.

This is part of Germany’s engagement for multilateralism.”

Over more than three decades, Iran has been hosting around one million refugees—the sixth-largest refugee population in the world. Iran is also one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, hit hard in recent history by earthquakes, floods, locust invasion, and COVID-19 pandemic.

Iran among top five producers of COVID-19 rapid antigen-detection kits

1 → This test was performed on approximately 500 patients under the supervision of the Pasteur Institute of Iran and is completely approved clinically, he added.

Noting that this will increase the per capita coronavirus testing in the country, he said that “this kit has gone through all the appropriate research processes and standards with over 85 percent detection power, which is higher than PCR tests.

This kit can be used for outpatients and provides access to people in remote and deprived areas of the country.

Sourena Sattari, vice president for science and technology, told the Tehran Times in September that some of the knowledge-based companies reached a production capacity of more than 200-300 thousand diagnostic kits per day, which surpassed the country’s need for diagnostic kits, and there is a great export potential.

Pointing out that multiplying the production of COVID-19 equipment led to significant measures that led to foreign currency saving for the country, he said “it also helped us cope with problems and not to run out of equipment because no matter how much money we gave, no country had the equipment to sell.”

He also announced that two types of diagnostic kits are now mass-produced by knowledge-based companies, first one is the RT-PCR tests, 8 million of which are being produced per month; while the other is serology-based tests that a total of 400,000 are being manufactured monthly and is expected to reach up to 2 million.

At present, 40 advanced ventilators are manufactured daily in the medical equipment sector, he explained.

Knowledge-based companies can produce any medicine effective in countering coronavirus or approved by the scientific committee within a week to 10 days, he noted.

Mehdi Kashmiri, director for technology and plan-



Iranian knowledge-based companies reached a production capacity of more than 200-300 thousand diagnostic kits per day, which surpassed the country’s need for diagnostic kits, and there is a great export potential. About 450 knowledge-based companies were active in the country for manufacturing protective equipment and treatment products to fight the coronavirus.

ning at the science ministry, said in July that about 450 knowledge-based companies were active in the country for manufacturing protective equipment and treatment products to fight the coronavirus.

Production of more than one million face masks per day, production of more than 1.5 liters of disinfectants per day, diagnostic kits, non-contact thermometers, protective clothing, ventilator are among the produces manufactured by these companies, he added.

Iranian-made innovative products in the field of diagnosis, screening, and fighting coronavirus were also unveiled to combat the disease, namely, ozone generator, nanotechnology face shields, disinfection gate, and molecular COVID-19 diagnostic kits.

COVID-19 cases, deaths skyrocketing

In a press briefing on Tuesday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 13,352 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 788,473. She added that 570,774 patients have so far recovered, but 5,691 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, coronavirus daily deaths and new cases hit the record high, as 482 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 42,461, she added.

Lari noted that so far 5,586,141 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.

Climate crisis: Arctic sea ice freezing at latest date on record

It is mid-November and the Arctic has already been plunged into 24-hour darkness for the winter, but two months after the normal point at which the sea ice begins to refreeze into the huge sheets which cap the top of our planet, enormous areas of open water remain.

The record-breaking delay comes after the average ice extent for October was the lowest in the satellite record, and means current ice coverage is roughly the same as it was during the height of the summer, when melting after the previous winter was well underway.

The lack of ice means the Arctic sea ice extent is currently the lowest for this time of year, for at least a thousand years, scientists have said, though refreezing has now begun.

Professor Martin Siegert, co-director of the Grantham Institute at Imperial College London told The Independent: “This year is an unusual Year. The lowest recorded sea ice extent in the summer was in 2012, but this year is really unusual for two reasons. The first is that at the start of the summer, the sea ice melted away really quickly. Much

more quickly than in 2012, but it didn’t continue. It sort of bottomed out above the 2012 level. But whereas in 2012 it started to freeze back more quickly, in 2020 it has taken its time getting back.”

He added: “For this time of year - in November - it’s the least amount of sea ice we’ve ever seen. Just as in May and June it was the least amount of sea ice we’d ever seen at those times, but not in August and September, so we haven’t broken the 2012 minimum record, but at other times of the year we certainly have.”

The total Arctic sea ice volume for October 2020 was about 58 per cent below the 1979-2019 average, meanwhile the October 2020 global land and ocean surface temperature was the fourth highest in the 141-year record, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa).

The key area of concern is the Laptev Sea, north of Siberia, which is known as a main “nursery” of Arctic sea ice. The sea is a vital area for sea ice formation which then moves up to the north pole.

The ice formed in this area is also a vital resource for a wide array of arctic species, as



ice formed in the Laptev sea transports nutrients westward which feed Arctic plankton, which in turn supports the fish and marine mammals further up the food chain.

The sea, which is also known as the “birth-place of ice,” also thawed earlier in 2020 than in any previous year since records began.

As the ice is lost, opening up ever larger tracts of open water to direct sunlight, more and more of the Sun’s energy is absorbed, warming the ocean further, amplifying global heating, and inevitably altering the food webs upon which innumerable species depend to survive.

Dr Isobel Lawrence, a research fellow at the University of Leeds, told The Independent this could have an impact on a global scale.

She said: “Sea ice plays a pivotal role in regulating Earth’s climate. There are processes we understand very well, like how the bright surface of sea ice reflects incoming solar radiation back into space. This means that the loss of sea ice drives further warming, a positive climate feedback known as the albedo feedback.

“There are other processes that we understand less well, like sea ice’s role in global ocean circulation. This means that losing the sea ice will have longer-term consequences for the global climate that we can’t currently predict.”

The delayed refreezing of the sea ice comes after Siberia saw a record-breaking heatwave earlier this year, with the highest temperature ever known inside the Arctic Circle, recorded in June when 38C was recorded in the town of Verkhoyansk.

Meanwhile other parts of the Arctic saw temperatures soar above 30C and unprecedented wildfires set new emissions records. The blazes emitted a record 244 megatonnes of carbon dioxide a rise of 35 per cent from 2019, which was also a record setting year.

1% of people cause half of global aviation emissions – study

Frequent-flying “super emitters” who represent just 1% of the world’s population caused half of aviation’s carbon emissions in 2018, according to a study.

Airlines produced a billion tonnes of CO2 and benefited from a \$100bn (£75bn) subsidy by not paying for the climate damage they caused, the researchers estimated. The analysis draws together data to give the clearest global picture of the impact of frequent fliers.



Only 11% of the world’s population took a flight in 2018 and 4% flew abroad. US air passengers have by far the biggest carbon footprint among rich countries. Its aviation emissions are bigger than the next 10 countries combined, including the UK, Japan, Germany and Australia, the study reports.

The researchers said the study showed that an elite group enjoying frequent flights had a big impact on the climate crisis that affected everyone.

They said the 50% drop in passenger numbers in 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic should be an opportunity to make the aviation industry fairer and more sustainable. This could be done by putting green conditions on the huge bailouts governments were giving the industry, as had happened in France.

Global aviation’s contribution to the climate crisis was growing fast before the Covid-19 pandemic, with emissions jumping by 32% from 2013-18. Flight numbers in 2020 have fallen by half but the industry expects to return to previous levels by 2024.

“If you want to resolve climate change and we need to redesign [aviation], then we should start at the top, where a few ‘super emitters’ contribute massively to global warming,” said Stefan Gössling at Linnaeus University in Sweden, who led the new study.

“The rich have had far too much freedom to design the planet according to their wishes. We should see the crisis as an opportunity to slim the air transport system.”

Dan Rutherford, at the International Council on Clean Transportation and not part of the research team, said the analysis raised the question of equality.

“The benefits of aviation are more inequitably shared across the world than probably any other major emission source,” he said. “So there’s a clear risk that the special treatment enjoyed by airlines just protects the economic interests of the globally wealthy.”

The frequent flyers identified in the study travelled about 35,000 miles (56,000km) a year, Gössling said, equivalent to three long-haul flights a year, one short-haul flight per month, or some combination of the two.

The research, published in the journal Global Environmental Change, collated a range of data and found large proportions of people in every country did not fly at all each year – 53% in the US, 65% in Germany and 66% in Taiwan. In the UK, separate data shows 48% of people did not fly abroad in 2018.

The analysis showed the US produced the most emissions among rich nations. China was the biggest among other countries but it does not make data available. However, Gössling thinks its aviation footprint is probably only a fifth of that of the US.

On average, North Americans flew 50 times more kilometres than Africans in 2018, 10 times more than those in the Asia-Pacific region and 7.5 times more than Latin Americans. Europeans and those in the Middle East flew 25 times further than Africans and five times more than Asians.

The data also showed a large growth in international flights from 1990-2017, with numbers tripling from Australia and doubling from the UK.

The researchers estimated the cost of the climate damage caused by aviation’s emissions at \$100bn in 2018. The absence of payments to cover this damage “represents a major subsidy to the most affluent”, the researchers said. “This highlights the need to scrutinise the sector, and in particular the super emitters.”

The figure for the social cost of carbon emissions was actually a bit conservative, Rutherford said.

A levy on frequent fliers is one proposal to discourage flights. “Somebody will need to pay to decarbonise flight – why shouldn’t it be frequent flyers?” Rutherford said. But Gössling was less enthusiastic, pointing out that frequent flyers were usually very wealthy, meaning higher ticket prices may not deter them.

“Perhaps a more productive way is to ask airlines to increase the share of [low carbon] synthetic fuels mix every year up to 100% by 2050,” Gössling said. A mandate for sustainable aviation fuel starting in 2025 is backed by some in the industry.

LET’S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 60)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

Question Words

کلماتِ سؤالی

Question words may appear at the beginning or in the middle of the sentence, preceding the verb: workbook

چند نفر غایبند؟ شما دیروز بعد از ظهر کجا رفتید؟

درک

← کتاب کار

● تمرین ۱. “من” یا “تغ” یگزارید و غلطها را درست بنویسید:

۱. () مریم پارسا دوست یانگ جو است.

۲. () دختر عثمی مریم فروشنده است.

۳. () مینو حدود بیست سال دارد.

۴. () کتابفروشی پدر مینو کوچک است.

۵. () مادر مینو در کتابفروشی کار نمی‌کند.

۶. () مینو در کوچی پروین زندگی می‌کند.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

11m ha of plains require aquifer, watershed management

Some 11 million hectares of the country’s plains need watershed and aquifer management plans, so they must be prepared in this regard, director of watershed management at Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization has said.

Over the past 10 years, the country experienced 11 millimeters of rainfall decline while evaporation rate increased by 54 millimeters, ISNA quoted Khoshroo Shahbazi as saying on Thursday.

یازده میلیون هکتار از دشت‌های کشور نیازمند آبخوانداری است

معاون آبخیزداری، مراتع و بیابان سازمان جنگلها و مراتع و آبخیزداری، گفت: یازده میلیون هکتار از دشت های کشور نیازمند اجرای طرح های آبخیزداری و آبخوانداری است.

به گزارش ایسنا، خسرو شهبازی گفت: طی ۱۰ سال گذشته به طور متوسط در کشور ۱۱ میلیمتر کاهش بارندگی و ۵۴ میلیمتر افزایش تبخیز و تعریق را شاهد بودیم.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com
 ■ Managing Director: Mohammad Shojaeian
 ■ Editor-in-Chief: Ali A.Jenabzadeh

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
 info@tehrantimes.com
 » Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
 » Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
 » Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
 » Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
 » Printed at: Jame Jam Barta Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
 P.O. Box: 14155-4843
 Zip Code: 1599814713




When two persons are together, two of them must not whisper to each other, without letting the third hear; because it would hurt him.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Iranian photog's "Rest" wins FIAP Gold Medal at Tajik exhibit

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian photographer Ahmad Mohammad-Taghi Shirazi's work named "Rest" has won the FIAP Gold Medal at the Aqua International Salon of Photography as the organizers have announced the winners in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.



"Rest" by Iranian photographer Ahmad Mohammad-Taghi Shirazi won the FIAP Gold Medal at the Aqua International Salon of Photography in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The photo, which received the honor in the Water category, shows the charcoal burners drinking water during their break time. Several other Iranian photographers have also been honored in the various sections of the exhibition organized with the patronage of the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP) and the recognition by the Photographic Society of America (PSA) in five other categories of Open Monochrome, Open Color, People, Landscape and Travel.

In the Water category, Mehdi Zabolabbasi's "Rinse" also won an honorable mention.

In the Open Color Section, the FPC Trophy went to Seyyed Mojtaba Sadiqi for his photo named "Freedom", while Hadi Dehqanpur's "Jamkaran" won the FIAP Ribbon.

"Coronavirus" by Mohammad Bakhtavar received an honorable mention in this category.

The FPC Trophy in the Landscape section was presented to Yones Hemmatinia for his "Morning Fog".

Mohammadreza Masumi's photo "Cold Road" was honored within the Travel section with the FPC Trophy.

In the Open Monochrome section, Iranian photographers only garnered several honorable mentions. The photographers are Khashayar Laknezhad, Hamid Mohamadhosseinzadeh-Hashemi and Amir-Ali Navadeshahla.

The awards will be mailed by January 8, 2021, when the winning photos and a selection of the submissions will be showcased in an exhibition in the Tajik capital.

Chan Ching Ching from Hong Kong won the Best Author Award — FIAP Light Blue Badge, the grand prize of the exhibition.

Korea's CICA hangs works by Iranian artists

A R T **TEHRAN** — Works by a number of Iranian artists were showcased in a group exhibition at the Czong Institute for Contemporary Art (CICA) in Gimpo, South Korea.

Sahar Mohammad-Alizadeh, Atefeh Farajollahzadeh, Mitra Asghari, Golnar Qasemi, Maryam Kobari and Narges Soleimanzadeh were the Iranian artists whose works went on show at the exhibit from October 28 to November 15.

The exhibit entitled "Form 2020" also put on display works by Fabiane Aleixo, Fiorella Angelini, Hugo Nakashima Brown, Krystle Brown, Antonia Giordano, Rachel Henriksen, Jason Hopkins, Holland Houdek, Keojin Jin, Catalin Soreanu, Gilles Tarabiscuite, Coco Wewenda and several other artists from other countries.

With its beginnings in sculptor Czong Ho Kim's studio in 1994, the Czong Institute for Contemporary Art has become a unique cultural space founded and cultivated by artists.

Czong Ho Kim has designed and built the art complex with a distinctive style, consisting of five buildings in Gimpo.



A poster for "Form 2020" at the Czong Institute for Contemporary Art.

Winners of Sacred Defense Book of the Year awards honored

→1 The characters of the stories in the collection are mostly the survivors of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war who are currently suffering from the pressures of the false structure of life in postwar Iran.

"Where Is Abu Ali?", a biography of Morteza Atai, an Iranian soldier, also known as Abu Ali, who was martyred in the war against ISIS in Syria, was honored in the Defenders of the Holy Shrine Section. The information for "Where Is Abu Ali?" was compiled by Mohammad-Mehdi Rahimi, and Navid Noruzi is the writer of the book.

The warriors who fought against Daesh are called "the defenders of the holy shrine" in Iran due to the fact that Damascus is home to the shrine of Hazrat Zainab (SA), daughter of Imam Ali (AS).

"Fiction and the Iran War", a book by Mehdi Saeidi and "We vs. Us" by Sajjadeh Taqizadeh shared the award in the Literary, Cultural and Social Research Section.

The award in the Political and Military Research Section went to "Surge of Endeavors to Conquer al-Faw" by Mehdi Ansari and



A writer (R) accepts his award from Academy of Persian Language and Literature director Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel at the 18th Sacred Defense Book of the Year awards at the Sacred Defense Garden Museum in Tehran on November 16, 2020.

Hamidreza Farhani.

The book scrutinizes the battle Iran fought on al-Faw in Iraq in 1986 to capture the peninsula, cutting off Iraqi access to the Persian Gulf in the process.

In the Oral History section, "The Heavenly Roads" by Farzad Bayat-Movahhed and "From Abadan to Halabja" by Ali Shirkhani shared the award.

The following is a list of the other winners: Visual Arts Section: "War Photographers" by Maryam Kazemzadeh and "The Valiant" by Seyyed Abbas Mirhashemi.

Documentary Section: "The Greif of Reed" by Majid Karimian.

Dramatic Arts Section: "Letters of Devotion" Mehdi Nasiri.

Art Management Section: "The Eternal" by Mehdi Safari, "The Life of a Devotee of Imam Mahdi (AS)" by Seyyed Hossein Motavallian and "Khorram Shar, the City of Trees" by Majid Shafiei.

Biography Section: "Lapis Lazuli Ring" by Ezzatollah Alvandi and "Mohammad, the Jesus of Kordestan" by Nosrattollah Mahmudzadeh.

Iranian director Narges Abyar on panel of Herat women's film festival



Iranian director Narges Abyar speaks during the opening ceremony of the 6th Herat International Women's Film Festival in Afghanistan on November 16, 2020. (HIWFF)

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Narges Abyar is among the members of the jury at the 6th Herat International Women's Film Festival (HIWFF), which opened on Monday in the Afghan city.

Abyar, director acclaimed Iranian drama "Track 143", "Breath" and "When the Moon Was Full", American

producer Heidi Basch-Harod and Indian actress Bijaya Jena will judge the films in the International Narrative Feature Films Competition.

Earlier in 2018, she was also selected for the International Jury of Children and Youth Films Competition — Listapadzik at the 25th Minsk International Film Festival Listapad underway in Belarus.

Iranian female filmmakers have always been frequent visitors to the Herat festival, which is the most prestigious women's film event in the region. In 2019, director Rakhshan Bani-Etemad was the president of the jury of the festival.

She also received an award for her lifetime achievements during the 4th edition of the event, where actress Fatemeh Motamed-Arya was a member of the jury.

Iranian cinema at Herat festival

This year's festival in its various categories is also featuring a lineup of 14 Iranian films.

"Axing" by Behruz Shoeibi, "Goodbye Shirazi Girl" by Afshin Hashemi and "Just 6.5" by Saeid Rustai are competing in the International Narrative Feature Films Competition.

"Khatemeh" by Hadi Zarei and Mehdi Zarei and

"Wedding of Zinat's Son" by Farhad Varahram have been selected to be screened in the International Documentary Feature Films Competition.

"Khatemeh" is about a 14-year-old Afghan girl named Khatemeh living in Iran with her family. She is forced to marry the husband of her late sister who died by suicide, but after a while, she escapes from home to save her life from her husband and her brother's torture, and takes refuge in the Welfare Organization of Shiraz.

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

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

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

"Anahid" by Hamidreza Alipur is the sole Iranian film selected to be screened in Special Screenings, a non-competitive section of the festival, which will run until November 19.

Resistance festival announces documentary lineup

A R T **TEHRAN** — The 16th Resistance International Film Festival announced on Tuesday the lineup for the documentary competition.

Among the films are "Kohanz Devotees" by Majid Rastegar, "Women with Gunpowder Earrings" by Reza Farahmand, "Badieh Memories" by Sassan Fallahfar, "Fire in Golestan" by Hojjatollah Es'haqi and "Bullets" by Morteza Payehshenas and Hossein Momen.

Also included are "Children of Night" by Behruz Nuranipur, "Mosul after Fire" by Mahyar Zahed, "Mehdi, Kill Iraqi Force" by Abdolreza Nematollahi, "Gaza", a co-production of Ireland, Canada and Germany by Garry Keane and Andrew McConnell, and "Forgotten on Sinjar" by Igal Hecht from Canada.

"Women with Gunpowder Earrings" received the award for best feature-length documentary at the first part of the festival which was held in September.

The film tells the story of Nur, a female journalist who covers stories about Syrian



"Gaza", a co-production of Ireland, Canada, Germany by Garry Keane and Andrew McConnell.

and Iraqi women and children in the war against the ISIS terrorists.

"Gaza" is a portrait of a people attempting to lead meaningful lives against the rubble of perennial conflict and going beyond the reach of television news reports to reveal a world rich with eloquent and resilient characters.

"Forgotten on Sinjar" centers on the overlooked and almost forgotten genocide of the Yazidi people. It sheds light on a remarkable story of Christians, Muslims and Jews, who came together to save women and children that the world had forgotten.

The short documentaries include "Sangarban" by Ayyub Marvanipur, "Daddy Came" by Siamak Mokhtari and Jamal Oud Simin, "World Is Mine Al-Fuah" by Asieh Jalali and Zeinab Khattat, and "Simulation of Mr. Yellow" by Mahan Khomamipour.

"Sirus" by Reza Safi, "Mahrokh" by Hamed Hashemi, "Kolthum" by Abolfazl Gofgarm, "Cross" by Ahmad Rahmani, "My Body" by Hossein Homayunfar and "Socotra, the Invisible Island" by Georgi Kozhuharov and Rumyana Hristova from Qatar are also on the list.

In addition, the organizers have released the names of the members of the jury panel who will be judging the films in the documentary section.

Documentary and Experimental Film

Center (DEFC) director Mohammad Hamidi-Moqaddam, directors Mohammadreza Eslamlu and Hamid Mojtahedi, documentarian Mehrdad Oskui, Press TV anchor Marzieh Hashemi and American social activist John Ubele.

The jury members for the official competition are 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.

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.

Cinéma Vérité to screen Cannes winner "Cordillera of Dreams"

A R T **TEHRAN** — "The Cordillera of Dreams", the winner of the 2019 Golden Eye Award for best documentary film at the 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival, will be screened at the 14th edition of Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major international festival for documentary films.

"The Cordillera of Dreams" is the 78-year-old Chilean filmmaker Patricio Guzman's third and final instalment in his Chilean trilogy, in which he meditates on the past and future of his home country and the aftershocks of Pinochet's coup d'état.

The documentary talks about the 1973 coup d'état carried out by Augusto Pinochet, as well as the repression during the dictatorship.

Guzman left Chile when Pinochet came to power and lived in exile for the past 40 years.

"The Cordillera of Dreams" opens with breathtaking views of the Andes Mountain ranges as seen from Santiago, the city of his birth. The beauty of these



A scene from the documentary "The Cordillera of Dreams" by Patricio Guzman. (Pyramide Films)

images is undeniable, if also a little deceptive.

Contemplative, analytical and troubling, this is a nature film refracted through a historical trauma, a

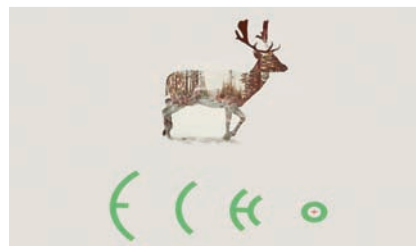
compilation of visual wonders that doubles as an act of remembrance.

Like Guzman's earlier nonfiction works "Nostalgia for the Light" (2010) and "The Pearl Button," (2015) it takes an indelible feature of Chile's landscape and treats it as a gateway into a deep and painful consideration of the country's recent history.

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", a documentary by the French filmmaker Gregory Monro has also been selected to go on screen at the festival.

"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.



A poster for "Echo" by Barzan Rostami.

Hungary's Faludi festival picks Iranian films

A R T **TEHRAN** — A lineup of 12 films have been selected to go on screen at the Faludi International Non-Professional Film Festival and Photo Competition running in the Hungarian capital from November 18 to 21.

"Burned" by Fatemeh Mohammadi, "Behind the Glasses" by Mehdi Irvani, "Music

+ Me" by Amir Parsian Mehr, "Talker" by Mehrshad Ranjbar and "Tanur" by Payam Ghanipur are the film selected for the competition section.

In the Outlook program category, the Iranian films are "Echo" by Barzan Rostami, "Defenders" by Farhad Ayatollahi, "Last Breath" by Farshid Ayyubinejad, "Recursion"

by Maedeh Rafiei, "The Recess" by Navid Nikkhah Azad, "Under The Black Sky" by Parinaz Kangavari and "A Voice in Deep Blackness" by Reza Hassanzadeh.

The organizers received 368 films from about 40 countries, out of which 51 films have been selected for the competition, while 68 films will be screened in the Outlook program.