



Rocket lands inside Iran embassy in Kabul *Page 3*



Persepolis victorious over Sanat Naft: IPL *Page 3*



Yemeni soldiers, allied fighters wrest control over major base in Ma'rib *Page 5*



Resistance festival opens with tribute to Commander Qassem Soleimani *Page 8*

Traditional medicine comes to fight COVID-19



See page 7

Pompeo whitewashes Israeli crimes: Tehran

TEHRAN – Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has said U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has a doctrine of white-washing Israeli crimes and formalize the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. “The #PompeoDoctrine 101: Put Bi-bi’s interest above that of even Americans who put him in office; Formalize Israel’s occupation & whitewash Israeli crimes- no matter what,” Khatibzadeh

wrote in a tweet on Friday. Khatibzadeh added, “Silence criticism with bogus ‘anti-Semitism label’; Waste US taxpayers money on private family tours.” It came after Pompeo reiterated Washington’s support for Israel’s settlement activities in a Thursday visit to a settlement project in the occupied West Bank. *Continued on page 4*

Govt. offers new support packages for corona-affected businesses, households

TEHRAN – Vice President for Economic Affairs Mohammad Nahavandian said the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control has come up with 14 financial plans to support households and businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of the government’s economic coordination headquarters on Saturday, Nahavandian said: “Two of these 14 decisions are re-

lated to households and nine are for all businesses, while three are pertaining to the businesses that have been severely affected by the negative impacts of the pandemic.” According to the official, the support packages for households will be provided for those without fixed-income who live in red-zones, IRNA reported. *Continued on page 4*

Persian novel explores relatives’ supportive role in life of Prophet Muhammad (S)

TEHRAN – Iranian writer Maryam Rahi has underlined the supportive role a number of the relatives played in the life of the Prophet Muhammad (S) in her latest novel. “Tell Amin I Love Him” has recently been released by Neyestan Publications in Tehran, and it is a novel for adult readers, she told the Persian service of IRNA on Saturday. Abd al-Muttalib, the grandfather of

the prophet of Islam, his uncles Abu Talib and Hamza, and his cousin Ja’far ibn Abi Talib, have been considered as the early supporters of the prophet in this book. The book gives a brief glance at Khadijah (SA), the wife of the Prophet (S), because her supportive role has widely been studied in Rahi’s previous book “Yawma” published by Neyestan in 2015. *Continued on page 8*

Capital gains tax still under debate

BY MAHNAZ ABDI
The recent shift of liquidity from production to the unproductive markets in Iran has caused high inflation and damage to some industries in the country. As many experts believe, the imposition of capital gains tax (CGT) is the only way to exit the liquidity from the unproductive markets and lead it to production. As defined by the Investopedia, capital gains tax is a levy assessed on the positive difference between the sale price of the asset and its original purchase price. Long-term capital gains tax is a levy on the profits from the sale of assets held for more than a year. Short-term capital gains tax applies to assets held for a year or less, and is taxed as ordinary income.

While CGT prevents the wealth to be owned just by a few people, it leads the liquidity toward production, and help re-distribution of wealth and income in the society.

It was in the middle of the Iranian calendar year 1391 (March 2012-March 2013) that economic officials apparently thought of passing a capital gains tax law.

Finally, this plan was sent to the cabinet by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs in February 2019, after a seven-year delay, and reached the parliament after 10 months.

Leaving aside the daily promises of the Economic Committee of the parliament and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs regarding the approval and implementation of this plan, we come to the last promise of Mehdi Toghiani, the spokesman of the Economic Committee of the parliament, who said on October 24 that the plan would be decided by the MPs in the open session of the parliament in two weeks.

The plan has not been approved yet and a group of MPs has opposed the passage of the law.

In late June, Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi, the chairman of the Economic Committee of the parliament, had said, “The parliament does not intend to impose a tax on stocks and bank deposits; our priority in capital gains tax is on the income of the real estate, and the issue of cars is not on our agenda at the moment.”

According to the MP, if this plan is finalized, the housing brokerage market will disappear and as a result, housing prices will decrease.

Continued on page 4

One wonders why S. Arabia is so envious of Iran

BY M.A. SAKI
TEHRAN – Tribal leaders in Riyadh have gone to the extreme in their envy of Iran. Their resentment of Iran is entering a new stage as their highly favored president, Donald Trump, will leave the White House in two months. For example, the Saudi minister of state for foreign affairs, Adel al-Jubeir, has said the kingdom reserves the right to arm itself with nuclear weapons if Iran cannot be stopped from building atomic arms. “It’s definitely an option,” al-Jubeir told the DPA news agency in a recent interview. Jubeir, who is pretending as a fool, talked in a way as if Iran is on the path to build nuclear weapons. Obviously, he is quite aware of the nature of Iran’s nuclear program. He knows that Iran’s nuclear activities are subject to the most intrusive inspections in the history of the United Nations’

International Atomic Energy Agency. Al-Jubeir is making such remarks just because he and certain other officials in the region are unsettled that President-elect Joe Biden has said he plans to return to the 2015 nuclear deal – JCPOA - that Trump illegally abrogated and imposed the harshest ever sanctions in history against Iran. The deceiving remarks by al-Jubeir, whose country along Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu cheered Trump’s exit from the JCPOA, are primarily intended to put pressure on the incoming U.S. president whose administration is legally tasked to honor the nuclear agreement. As a person who has served as the Saudi ambassador to the United Nations in New York, al-Jubeir knows that the JCPOA is endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and its observation is obligatory.

Continued on page 2

U.S. protests: Pro-Trump supporters rally in Atlanta

Supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump gathered in front of Georgia’s governor mansion in Atlanta, to protest what they perceive as election fraud. The protesters held signs in support of Trump and waved American flags. One of the protesters addressed the crowd saying, “brothers and sisters, we are here because we love President Trump, we love this nation. We will never let it perish.” Meanwhile, Joe Biden’s narrow victory in Georgia has been officially certified by Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. It comes as legal efforts by Donald Trump’s allies to challenge his defeat were dismissed in three other states. The Democrat beat his Republican rival in Georgia by 12,670 votes, according to the audit required by state law. Raffensperger on Friday said he was disappointed that his party lost but that “numbers don’t lie”.

Biden is set to take office in January as the 46th US president. Biden’s victory margin in the public vote overall stands at more than 5.9 million. His victory in the U.S. Electoral College system, which determines who becomes president, is projected to be 306 to 232 - far above the 270 he needs to win. Trump has so far refused to concede and has made allegations of widespread electoral fraud, without providing any evidence. The latest defeat comes as he has summoned Michigan state lawmakers to the White House on Friday ahead of that state’s deadline to certify election results. White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany denied that Mr Trump was holding a campaign “advocacy meeting” with the lawmakers, saying it was instead a routine check-in with local officials.

Yazd hotels ready to shelter coronavirus patients

TEHRAN – Hotels across the central Iranian province of Yazd are ready to be turned into shelters for coronavirus patients and those with mild symptoms, Yazd hoteliers association’s president says. In the health system, there are two sections of hoteling and treatment.... so that hotels, if being well equipped in terms of medical needs and instruments, can also house both for patients and health care staff, ISNA quoted Seyyed Amir Nasser Tabatabaai as saying on Saturday.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan announced last week that his ministry is ready to help turn certain hotels into shelters for coronavirus patients based on a plan proposed by the health ministry. Although it isn’t a mandatory plan for hotels and tourist facilities, they are eager to cooperate with the ministry of health in the fight against coronavirus, Tabatabaai explained. The scheme, however, needs prerequisites such as hotels being properly equipped in collaboration

with Iran University of Medical Sciences, he added. Some experts say such quarantine hotels could help those who are battling the coronavirus but live in crowded conditions and want to isolate, and for health care workers who do not want to infect their families. The hotel space allows patients to recover from the virus and self-isolate appropriately, minimizing the risk of transmission to others without compromising the quality of patient care. *Continued on page 6*

Israel is behind serial assassinations of Kennedy brothers: Laurent Guyenot

TEHRAN – Laurent Guyenot, who has co-authored a new documentary on Israel’s role in the assassinations of both John and Robert Kennedy, tells the Tehran Times that the “true American Deep State” is Israel, which had a crucial role in the assassinations of the Kennedy brothers. “There are indeed in the United States, as in most democracies, hidden centers of power, totally immune from democratic accountability, capable of steering the country’s foreign and military policy by various means such as corruption, propaganda, blackmail, and other more criminal means, but the most influential of these power centers are not ‘American’ in any real sense: the true American Deep State, if you will, is Israel,” notes says Guyenot, author of *JFK-9/11: 50 Years of Deep State*. Guyenot, who is a French author and anthropologist, says, “Israel has lodged itself like a parasite in all of America’s power structures. And it is precisely Israel that, in my opinion, is behind the serial assassinations of the Kennedy brothers.” Here is the text of the interview with him : **Today is the 57th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination. You have directed a French documentary on the assassinations of both John Kennedy and his brother Robert, which is now available in English. Can you first tell us how your research began?** A: My view of the world was turned upside down in 2011, when I realized that the founding event of the 21st century, the 9/11 terror attacks, was a Big Lie designed to start a new world war. *Continued on page 4*

Darugheh House bears hallmarks of Russian architecture

If you take a tour of the back alleys of Mashhad, you will discover myriads of attractions hidden behind in the northeastern Iranian metropolis. The 19th-century Darouqeh House may dazzles you with its seductive appearance. Covering some 1,100 square meters in area, it bears the hallmarks of Russian architecture, which sets it apart from many other ones. The historical mansion bagged a UNESCO conservation award in 2016. According to UN cultural body, the conservation of Darugheh House was reinstated a significant component of the historic townscape in Mashhad.



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No one tried to aggravate IAEA board meeting, says Russian envoy

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, has said the discussion of verification in Iran at the November session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s Board of Governors was relatively quiet, without anyone trying to aggravate the situation.



"The discussion of verification in #Iran at November session of #IAEA BoG was relatively quiet. Many expressed concerns about deviations of Tehran from ^JCPOA requirements, but nobody tried to aggravate the situation," Ulyanov wrote in a tweet on Saturday.

"Looks like states want to see how events will develop in 2021," the Russian diplomat noted.

A meeting of the 35-nation Board of Governors was held on Friday.

During the meeting, Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, said the IAEA director general's new report on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) illustrates the body's ability to verify Iran's commitments under the deal and its utmost level of cooperation with the Agency.

"The Reports on this agenda item during the past five years have an identical paragraph which, regardless of the differences among the JCPOA participants on the level of implementation of the reciprocal commitments, is a good testament of the level of cooperation between Iran and the Agency," Gharibabadi said.

He said the director general's report confirm that "since 16 January 2016 (JCPOA Implementation Day), the Agency has verified and monitored Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments in accordance with the modalities set out in the JCPOA..."

"It means that the Agency was even able to verify and monitor the steps taken by Iran in accordance with paragraphs 26 and 36 of the Deal. The reports even confirm that the Agency has not observed any change in the level of cooperation by Iran and despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency has continued to maintain its smooth verification and monitoring activities in Iran," the Iranian envoy added.

In another tweet on Saturday, Ulyanov said the United States proudly states that the "maximum pressure" campaign had a devastating effect on Iranian economy.

"But this is one side of the coin. The other side- humanitarian sufferings, weakened non-proliferation regime and total failure of the declared goals (Pompeo's 12 demands)," he explained.

Earlier, Democratic Senator Chris Murphy had said that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has made 12 demands of Iran as part of a campaign to put maximum pressure, while not a single case has been met.

Iran signed a nuclear deal with six world powers, including the U.S., the UK, France, Russia, China, and Germany, in July 2015 which was ditched by U.S. President Donald Trump in 2018 in pursuit of a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

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

Executives of Construction Party lists possible nominees for 2021 presidential polls

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – The head of the council of the Executives of Construction Party has said the political party has come up with a list of possible nominees for the 2021 presidential election.



"In the meetings of the Executives of Construction Party, it was decided that the party should get involved as one of the leading reformist parties in the presidential election and support the [reformist] camp's candidate," Mohsen Hashemi said on Saturday.

Hashemi, who is the chairman of the Tehran City Council, also said that some twenty nominees are in the party's list, including Hassan Khomeini, Es'hagh Jahangiri, Mohammad-Reza Khatami, Mohammad-Reza Aref, Mohammad Javad Zarif, Ali Motahari, Reza Ardakanian, Ali Larijani, Masoud Pezeshkian, Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, Mohammad Bagher Nobakht, Sorena Sattari, Abdolnaser Hemmati, Ali Akbar Salehi, Mohammad Sadr, Majid Ansari and Abdolvahed Mousavi Lari.

He added that Masoumeh Ebtekar and Shahindokht Molaverdi, two female politicians, are also in the list.

It does not necessarily mean that the figures mentioned as potential candidates would accept to run for president, Hashemi added.

So far, Zarif has categorically rejected presidential candidacy, saying he is not the right person for the job. Recently, it was also reported that Jahangiri, who currently serves as first vice president, has refused to accept candidacy.

Presidential elections are scheduled to be held in Iran on June 18, 2021. It will be the thirteenth presidential election in Iran.

In remarks in August, Jamal Orfi, the deputy interior minister in charge of election headquarters said with the Guardian Council's approval, June 18 was set for holding presidential, council and midterm parliamentary and Assembly of Experts elections.

Candidates hoping to run in the next elections are to apply in early April for approval. The final list is to be announced by the Guardian Council in early June.

Under Iran's law, an incumbent president cannot run for a third term if he has already served for two consecutive terms in office. Rouhani was first elected in 2013 and reelected four years later.

Parliamentary faction slams Western abuse of human rights notion

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – The human rights and citizenship faction of Iran's Parliament has strongly condemned the political resolution of three European states against Iran, saying the West is politically abusing the UN Human Rights Council.

"The great nation of the Islamic Iran has no doubts about the political abuse of the UN Human Rights Council by the Western governments, because despite the explicit disagreement of 64 countries and abstention vote of 32 countries as member states of the UN Human Rights Council, it was approved by the political decision of the Western governments," the faction said in a statement on Saturday, according to Mehr.

Among the countries which voted in favor of the resolution against Iran were Saudi Arabia, the UEA, Bahrain and Israel which have a dark record in violating the basic principles of human rights.

The following is the full text of the statement:

Once again, the enmity and hostility of some Western governments towards the Iranian nation was revealed and the Iranian nation was punished by issuing a political resolution due to its practical commitments to fulfill its rights, protecting human dignity and defending rights of independent nations.



This time, the UN Human Rights Council, which is a body established for the promotion of human rights and protection of rights of nations against the tyranny and oppression of arrogant human rights violators, became a tool of political abuse of these countries.

The great nation of the Islamic Iran

has no doubts about the political abuse of the UN Human Rights Council by the Western governments, because despite the explicit disagreement of 64 countries and abstention vote of 32 countries as member states of the UN Human Rights Council, it was approved by the political decision of the Western governments.

Navy to receive Shiraz surveillance warship in months

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Iran's Navy chief has said a homegrown surveillance warship, dubbed "Shiraz", will be delivered to the Navy's fleet next calendar year, which starts on March 21, 2021.

"The construction of the structure of this new vessel has ended," Hossein Khanzadi announced on Saturday, according to Fars.

"The Shiraz surveillance warship has the capabilities needed in the field of radar detection, telecommunications, sonar and management of various emissions in electromagnetic warfare," Khanzadi said.

"Moreover, it is equipped with other capabilities such as recognition of frequency band, identifying various parameters of radar and radio waves as well as identifying enemy's telecommunication systems which is considered an important issue in the field of information warfare," he added.

The commander also pointed to the preliminaries of constructing "Trimaran", saying, "Construction of this vessel, which weighs more than 3,000 tons and has good offensive capabilities, is on the agenda of the Navy so that

its conceptual and detailed designs have been carried out. The plan for the construction operation of this vessel will begin in the coming years."

"Today, Iran's Navy has reached the point to meet its needs internally relying on the experienced youth and competent, professional manpower," he stated.

Trimaran (or double-outrigger) is a multihull boat that comprises a main hull and two smaller outrigger hulls (or "floats") that are attached to the main hull with lateral beams.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy received a new home-made ocean-going, helicopter and drone carrying warship named Shahid Roudaki on Thursday.

The ceremony to deliver Shahid Roudaki warship was attended by a group of civilians and military officials, including IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami and IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri.

The multifunctional vessel is capable of carrying and providing logistical support to fighter jets, aircraft, drones, missile systems, and radars which are being carried on board.



The 400-ton Shahid Roudaki warship is 150 meters long and 22 meters wide. It is equipped with three-dimensional radars, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles. It can carry helicopters and operational vessels, all of which have been designed and manufactured domestically.

Ambassador, Duma official discuss Iran-Russia ties

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali has met with Chairman of the Russian Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee Leonid Slutsky to discuss the expansion of bilateral ties.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations, especially in political, economic, parliamentary fields, Mehr reported.

They exchanged views over regional and international developments, including cooperation between the two countries within the framework of international forums such as the General Assembly and the UN Security Council.

They also underlined the need to use the capacity of the two countries' parlia-



ments to strengthen relations in all areas.

The two sides expressed their desire to maintain their contacts and meetings regarding the relations between the two immediate neighbors.

Last month, Jalali met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov to discuss the latest developments surrounding the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"(The two sides) exchanged views on the situation around the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear program. They highlighted the importance of further coordination of efforts of all its parties for the sustainable implementation of the agreement in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2231," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The two sides also discussed some other issues of mutual interest, the statement

said.

In 2015, Iran signed the JCPOA with China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and the European Union. It required Iran to scale back its nuclear program and severely downgrade its uranium reserves in exchange for termination of sanctions, including lifting the arms embargo five years after the deal's adoption. In 2018, the United States abandoned its conciliatory stance on Iran, withdrawing from the JCPOA and implemented hardline policies against Tehran.

Following the U.S. withdrawal, Russia and China strongly opposed the U.S. unilateral measures against Iran and supported efforts to preserve the JCPOA.

Pompeo whitewashes Israeli crimes: Tehran

I → The controversial visit to the Israeli settlement, which is located near the city of Bireh, north of Jerusalem al-Quds, on the second day of his trip to the occupied Palestinian territories infuriated Palestinians.

Pompeo became the first top American diplomat to visit an Israeli settlement.

In a press conference, Pompeo reiterated the U.S. support for Israel's settlement activity in the occupied West Bank.

Pompeo also said that the U.S. will label the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign, which calls for a wide-ranging embargo against Israel over its treatment of the Palestinians, as anti-Semitic and "cancerous."

"We will immediately take steps to identify organizations that engage in hateful BDS conduct and withdraw U.S. government support for such groups," he remarked.

"We want to stand with all other nations that recognize the BDS movement for the cancer that it is," he added.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Pompeo for his "unwavering support" of Israel, first as CIA director and later secretary of state.

Meanwhile, Pompeo repeated Washington's threats against Iran, saying all options remain on the table against the Islamic republic.

He made the remarks in an interview with the Israeli newspaper Jerusalem Post when he was asked whether "all options still on the table" against Iran.

The U.S. secretary of state said this has been the policy of the United States for the past four years and there's no reason it would change.

"My judgment is, and history will reflect, that we've been pretty successful," he said.

"I remember when we first began the maximum pressure campaign. We'd withdrawn from the JCPOA [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action], and the world said this will never work, American sanctions alone won't work," he said.

"Well, they have significantly reduced Iran's capacity to foment harm around the world. It's not complete," said Pompeo.

"[U.S. President Donald Trump] has done several things. One, he denied them money. That also sent a strong message to the Middle East that facilitated the Abraham Accords [through] this central understanding, this isolation of Iran in ways that are deeply different than before, whether it's the [United Arab] Emirates or Bahrain or Sudan or whoever signs the Abraham Accords next," he added.

One wonders why S. Arabia is so envious of Iran

I → On cannot find a convincing answer for such a degree of enmity and greediness toward Iran by Saudi rulers. On the contrary, Iran has never said that Saudi Arabia has no right to make use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the eyes of the UN nuclear watchdog.

Today many countries such as Japan, Finland, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Sweden, South Korea, and Argentina are

using nuclear energy to produce electricity. Iran, like certain other countries, also has legitimate right to develop nuclear energy for civilian purposes.

Also Saudi Arabia has embarked on diversifying its energy resources, something which has been confirmed by the IAEA. This is its right as a signatory to the NPT.

Iran's nuclear program has been po-



litized just because it is opposed to Israeli apartheid in Palestine. Amidst the politicization of Iran's nuclear program, Saudi Arabia does not miss any opportunity to vent its anger and hatred of Iran and spread lies about Iran's nuclear program.

More enmity and jealousy against Iran, surely will not make tribal officials in Riyadh look strong.

SPORTS

Persepolis victorious over Sanat Naft: IPL

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team defeated Sanat Naft 1-0 on Matchday 2 of Iran Professional League (IPL) on Saturday.



On a rainy day in Tehran, Siamak Nemati scored the only goal of the match from the penalty spot in the 43rd minute.

IPL holders had started the new season with a goalless draw against Saipa.

Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi was sent off in the added time after protesting the referee's decision.

The match between Paykan and Shahr Khodro in Tehran remained unfinished due to heavy rainfall.

The match will be held on Sunday.

Totolo, Sosnin to assist Alekno in Iran: report

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Tomaso Totolo and Dmitry Sosnin will reportedly assist Vladimir Alekno in Iran National Volleyball Team.

The 53-year-old tactician currently leads Russian team Zenit and will start his work in April 2021.

Alekno's assistants in Zenit Tomaso Totolo and Dmitry Sosnin will be among Iran's coaching staff in 2021 Volleyball Nations League and Tokyo Olympic Games, sport.business-gazeta.ru reported.

Totolo, 55, is an Italian analyst, who has already worked as Serbia men's national volleyball assistant.

Sosnin, 45, is a Russian coach who has worked as coach at Locomotive and Dynamo and is a member of Zenit coaching staff since 2014.

Alekno, who led Russia to a gold medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games, will succeed Serbian coach Igor Kolakovic, who vacated the position in March.

He will now lead the reigning Asian champions at the 2021 FIVB Volleyball Nations League and at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, where Iran are grouped with hosts Japan, Poland, Italy, Canada and Venezuela in Pool A. The other pool comprises of Brazil, the U.S., Russia, Argentina, France and Tunisia.

Esteghlal coach Fekri could face ban for using bad language

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football team head coach Mahmoud Fekri could face ban after using bad language in front of a TV camera.

At the end of the match against Foolad in Iran Professional League on Friday, Fekri used improper language in Ahvaz.

Esteghlal suffered a 2-1 defeat in the final minutes of the match and it made the coach angry.

Foolad have filed a disciplinary complaint to Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) on the case.

After the final whistle of the match, Fekri made comments as he walked along the touchline toward the tunnel at the Foolad Arena.

The video footage quickly went viral on social media.

Vafaei, Vahedi to participate at UK Championship Snooker 2020

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Hossein Vafaei and Soheil Vahedi will represent Iran at the UK Championship snooker 2020.

The competition will be held from November 23 to December 6 in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, England.

Vahedi will start the competition with a match against Chinese snooker player Lyu Haotian on November 24.

Vafaei will also meet English player Billy Joe Castle on November 25.

Ronnie O'sullivan, who has won the tournament seven times, more than any other player, will participate in the prestigious event.

Iran look to close five-point gap in Asian qualifiers

Iran's national football team are looking to close the five-point gap at the 2022 World Cup qualifiers, the-afc.com wrote.

Iraq - on 11 points - are two ahead of Bahrain in Group C but both nations have played five games to the four contested by Iran, who sit in third spot on six points.

Iran head coach Dragan Skocic will be looking to close the five-point gap with the Iraqis once play resumes as the West Asian team look to qualify for a third successive FIFA World Cup Finals.

Hong Kong are fourth with five points while Cambodia only have a point to show from five matches.

The dates for the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 were approved by the AFC Competitions Committee and it was agreed that all the Asian Qualifiers Round 2 matches should be completed by June 15, 2021 with Match Day 7 and 8 in March 2021 and Match Day 9 and 10 in June 2021 with the Final Round of the Asian Qualifiers beginning in September 2021.

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

(Source: the-afc)

Europe sees opportunity for transatlantic cooperation against Iran

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — While the United State election results are yet to be officially announced, European countries signatory to a 2015 Iran nuclear deal seem to be in a rush to lay the groundwork for a transatlantic policy that would secure U.S.-European interests with regard to Iran.

As Joe Biden prepares to move into the White House, politicians and diplomats around the world hold their breath to see how Biden would deal with Iran after four years of aggressive rhetoric from Trump against Iran.

Biden himself has said in a mid-September op-ed for CNN that he will rejoin the Iran nuclear deal – officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – if Iran reverses the five nuclear steps that it has taken to reduce compliance with the nuclear deal following Trump's withdrawal from it.

"I will offer Tehran a credible path back to diplomacy. If Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal, the United States would rejoin the agreement as a starting point for follow-on negotiations," Biden wrote. "With our allies, we will work to strengthen and extend the nuclear deal's provisions, while also addressing other issues of concern."

Since then, Biden has refrained from elaborating on his plan to rejoin the deal, and since the November election, in which he was projected to win, he has been quite silent about his expected Iran policy. But this doesn't mean that there are no behind-the-scene consultations. It seems that European diplomats and "former U.S. officials" are busy drawing plans to create consensus between the U.S. and Europe on Iran. These diplomats and former officials even prompted speculations about how Biden might return to the JCPOA.

Citing former U.S. officials and European diplomats, NBC News outlined on Saturday a step by step strategy that could lead to both Iran and the U.S. returning to the nuclear deal.

Rather than removing sanctions all at once or Iran returning immediately to full compliance, a more likely scenario could see an incremental approach over a period of three or four months, NBC reported. It said that a first step could have Iran freeze its nuclear work, in return for some level of sanctions relief. Further steps could see Iran eventually return to compliance and all the nuclear-related sanctions lifted.

■ **Blame game**

The U.S.-European cooperation was on full display during a recent phone conversation between Biden and French President Emanuel Macron. During the conversation,



Biden told Macron that he would like the U.S. to once again work with its European ally on Iran's nuclear policy, according to Newsweek. Biden "expressed his readiness to work together on global challenges, including security and development in Africa, the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, and Iran's nuclear program," Biden's transition team said in a press release emailed to Newsweek.

The three European countries that are signatories to the JCPOA – France, Germany, and the UK (E3) - have stepped up their criticism of Iran in recent days, with France even renewing calls for new negotiations over Iran's missile program and its influence across the West Asia region.

The E3 issued a joint statement last week, expressing concerns over Iran's nuclear activities, which they described as "hollowing out the core non-proliferation benefits" of the JCPOA.

"As participants to the JCPOA, we reiterate our continued commitment to the preservation and full implementation of the nuclear agreement.... We have lifted sanctions as foreseen by the JCPOA and taken additional efforts to allow Iran to pursue legitimate trade, by developing the financial mechanism INSTEX," the E3 statement said, adding, "However, despite these good faith efforts, Iran has engaged, for a year and a half now, in numerous, serious violations of its nuclear commitments. We continue to be extremely concerned by Iran's actions, which are hollowing out the core non-proliferation benefits of the deal. Advancements on Research & Development have irreversible consequences."

The European parties to the JCPOA also called on Iran to "immediately" roll back its

nuclear steps.

"It is now critical that Iran immediately reverses its steps and returns to full compliance with the JCPOA without further delay. We remain committed to working with all JCPOA participants to find a diplomatic way forward and we intend to pursue these discussions within the framework of the JCPOA," the statement said.

Iran hit back at the E3, accusing them of playing "political blame games."

In a statement on Friday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the E3 is expected to implement its JCPOA commitments in full, act upon what the Joint Commission has approved, and return to the full implementation of the JCPOA instead of playing such political blame games.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's peaceful nuclear activities are totally legal, legitimate, and within the framework of international law, and are pursued as part of the inherent and essential rights of the world countries," the Friday statement said.

Khatibzadeh also pointed out that the E3 failed to uphold their obligations under the nuclear deal, underlining that Iran's nuclear steps were taken in accordance with the terms of the nuclear deal.

"Following the United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA and the reimposition of sanctions, and considering Europe's continued failure to live up to its commitments to helping Iran reap the economic benefits of the removal of sanctions as per the JCPOA, the Islamic Republic took nuclear steps according to the articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA," Khatibzadeh said, adding, "These steps were taken in full compliance with the JCPOA, and the country has always stressed that they will

be reversible once the other parties to the JCPOA implement the deal in full."

■ **Playing politics**

But despite their failure in complying with their commitments, the Europeans continue to demand more concessions from Iran.

On Thursday, the French presidency called for broader negotiation with Iran that includes Iran's regional role and its missiles, according to an Asharq Al-Aawsat report.

According to the report, a French official pointed out in a press briefing on Thursday that the Iranian nuclear program has reached a dangerous stage, and that would not be the case if Iran continued to respect its obligations stipulated in the 2015 nuclear agreement.

The official also said any subsequent negotiations with Tehran should expand to include the ballistic missile program, regional policy, and what he called "interference in the affairs of other countries."

If true, this is not the first time that France calls for broader negotiations with Iran. In late August 2018, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian warned Iran "cannot avoid" talks on thorny issues like its ballistic missile program and its role in the West Asia region, according to an AFP report at the time.

Earlier in November 2017, French President Emanuel Macron said during a visit to Dubai that he was "very concerned" by Tehran's missile program. One month earlier, Macron told his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani that France remained committed to JCPOA but stressed the necessity to have a dialogue with Iran on other strategic issues, including Tehran's ballistic missile program, a proposal ruled out by Iran.

In June 2019, during a meeting with President Trump in France, Macron once again called for new negotiations with Iran that would contain Iran's nuclear activities and reduce its missile capabilities as well as restrict Iran's influence in the region.

Now that Biden has won the election – at least in the eyes of the Europeans – the E3, especially France, seem to be trying to strike a tone of defiance against Iran in what appears to be an effort to affect the content of the potential talks between the Biden administration and Iran. This may be the reason why Iran has called on the E3 to stop playing political blame games. The Europeans, France in particular, have a long history of playing politics against Iran. At the final days of the nuclear negotiations, France struck a more headline tone to get more concessions from Iran but it ultimately fell into line with other parties to negotiations after Iran showed defiance.

Rocket lands inside Iran embassy in Kabul, causes no injuries

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A rocket hit Iran's embassy in Afghanistan on Saturday morning, causing no fatalities, the Iranian embassy said in a tweet following the attack.

The attack on Iran's embassy was part of a larger rocket attack on various parts of the Afghan capital, Kabul, including the heavily protected areas of Wazir Akbar Khan and Shahr-e-Naw.

On Saturday morning, a barrage of rockets hit several districts of Kabul, killing at least eight people and injuring several others. The attack took place one hour after two IED explosions rocked the city.

The Afghan Tolo news agency reported that at least

23 rockets landed in the Wazir Akbar Khan and Shahr-e-Naw areas in downtown Kabul, Chahar Qala, the Traffic Roundabout, the Gul-e-Surkh Roundabout in PD4, Sedarat Roundabout, the Spinzar Road in the center of the city, near the National Archive road in PD2, and in Lysee Maryam market and Panjsad Family areas in the north of Kabul.

The Taliban denied involvement in the attack.

"One of the rockets fired this morning, November 21, 2020, landed at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul and various shrapnel hit the main building, glasses, facilities, and equipment of the embassy," tweeted the Iranian embassy.

The embassy added, "Fortunately, there were no casualties and all embassy staff are in good health."

The embassy also published pictures showing a handful of shrapnel that hit the embassy.

Describing the attack as a "proxy war" waged by "terrorist allies of the United States", the embassy said in the Saturday attack, the diplomatic compound of Kabul was targeted.

The attack came at a time when Afghanistan is in the midst of peace negotiations with the Taliban. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is on a seven-nation tour of Europe and West Asia, is expected to meet peace negotiators from the Afghanistan government and the Taliban in Doha on Saturday.

Iran criticizes Giuliani for defending 'terrorist tyrant'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — In a tweet on Friday, Iranian Foreign Ministry attacked U.S. President Donald Trump's personal lawyer for defending the president, making a quip about dark rivulets of liquid streaking down the lawyer's face during his latest press conference.

"Probably American public is surprised seeing Giuliani defending a lying, terrorist tyrant in exchange for big \$\$," the Iranian Foreign Ministry tweeted, noting that this defense is "not news to Iranians."

The ministry added, "For years he's been a devil advocate, pocketing \$\$ by whitewashing despicable crimes of terrorists."

The ministry was apparently referring to the lawyer's past dealings with the Mojahedin –e Khalq (MEK) terrorist group. Giuliani is widely known in Iran for his staunch support for the terrorist group, which is responsible

for the death of thousands of Iranian people.

The Foreign Ministry also used the streaks of black trickling down Giuliani's face to make a quip, saying, "He's melting down, literally!"

On Thursday, the president's personal lawyer held a news conference at the headquarters of the Republican National Committee in Washington to present his latest evidence concerning what he called voter fraud. About 40 minutes into his statement, his sweat began to drip in color. The dark streaks that trickled down Giuliani's face during the press conference made headlines, inspiring several reactions on social media and sparking meme-fest online. Many social media users sarcastically said Giuliani had a meltdown during the news conference.

For many people, the debate quickly became about whether it was bad hair dye or



bronzer running down his face.

The Foreign Ministry also severely criticized U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo, who recently paid a visit to an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank and the occupied Golan Heights, a territory Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War in a move that was not recognized by the international community.

Pompeo became the first U.S. secretary of state to visit territories that are considered

occupied under international law.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, reacted to Pompeo's visit.

"The Pompeo Doctrine 101: Put Bibi's interest above that of even Americans who put him in office; Formalize Israel's occupation & whitewash Israeli crimes- no matter what; Silence criticism with bogus 'anti-Semitism label'; Waste U.S. taxpayers money on private family tours," Khatibzadeh said in a tweet on Friday.

Syria denounced Pompeo's visit to Golan Heights as provocative.

"Pompeo's visit is a provocative step before the end of the Trump administration's term, and a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic," Syria's Foreign Ministry said in a statement, according to state news agency SANA.

Iran condemns Kabul rocket attack

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, condemned on Saturday a rocket attack on civilians in Kabul.

In a statement on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said Khatibzadeh condemned terrorist attacks against civilians and non-military sites in Afghanistan after a barrage of rockets hit the Afghan capital Kabul, one of which slammed into the Iranian embassy.

"Asked by journalists about the reports that several rockets have hit buildings in Kabul on Saturday, including on the premises of the Iranian embassy, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh condemned any terrorist attack targeting the Afghan people or the civilian sites," the statement said.

Khatibzadeh also expressed sympathy with the government and people of Afghanistan, particularly the bereaved families of victims of the terrorist attack.

He added, "According to the inspection, at least one rocket has hit the internal premises of Iran's embassy in Kabul so far in today's terrorist missile attack on various locations in Kabul, including the city's diplomatic neighborhood."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said that the rocket attack has caused minor damages to some facilities and equipment inside the Iranian embassy, but it, fortunately, has not posed any danger to the embassy staff.

On Saturday morning, a barrage of rockets hit several districts of Kabul, killing at least eight people and injuring several others. The attack took place one hour after two IED explosions rocked the city. The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the deadly attack.

Iran's embassy in Kabul announced that two rockets landed inside the premises of the embassy, including one that didn't go off.

"One of the rockets fired this morning, November 21,

2020, landed at the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul and various shrapnel hit the main building, glasses, facilities, and equipment of the embassy," the embassy said in a tweet, adding that the attack caused no casualties among the embassy staff.

Also on Saturday, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif spoke by phone with his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Haneef Atmar, who was recently appointed officially as the foreign minister of Afghanistan. Atmar had been serving as the acting foreign minister.

The chief Iranian diplomat congratulated Atmar on being appointed as foreign minister, expressing Iran's readiness to continue cooperation with Afghanistan.

The Afghan foreign minister, for his part, thanked Zarif for his congratulations and stressed Kabul's determination to comprehensively boost Afghanistan's relations with Iran.

Govt. offers new support packages for corona-affected businesses, households

1 → Nahavandian noted that nearly 30 million people are expected to benefit from the mentioned support plan.

Regarding the businesses, the official noted that for all businesses, it has been decided to halt the direct tax collection until January 2021, and also for issuing or renewing business licenses, natural persons or economic units would not need to obtain a tax payment certificate.

About the three cases for severely damaged businesses, he said: "In this regard, 14 job categories have been identified."

For this group of units, since they could be facing problems regarding the payment of their loans, the installments of their facilities due in December will be postponed for one month, other

installments will be postponed to the end of the period and will not be subject to penalties, he explained.

He expressed hope that with these measures, some of the pressures on businesses will be reduced, and with national determination and following safety recommendations of the health authorities, it will be possible to control the second wave of the pandemic.

‘Agricultural parks establishment plays significant role in food safety, exports’

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Establishment of agricultural parks in the country plays a significant role in promoting food safety, domestic production, and exports, the managing director of Iran's Agricultural Parks Company (APC) stated.

Ali-Ashraf Mansouri also reiterated that the ground is prepared for the investors in the agriculture sector.

The official mentioned the development of greenhouses as the best way to increase the productivity of water and soil resources and said, "Therefore, we are looking to develop greenhouses in the agricultural parks."

In late April, Mansouri had said that his company planned to create 1,000 hectares of new greenhouses in the country's agricultural parks during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021).

According to the official, the development of the country's agricultural parks not only is going to create new job opportunities but also increases the country's non-oil exports and helps preserve the environment and the national water and soil resources.

Iran has paid 8.3 trillion rials (about \$197.6 million) of facilities for the development of agricultural parks across the country during the past Iranian year.

The mentioned facilities were paid for the development or construction of various agricultural parks including greenhouses, and those for aquaculture, as well as livestock and poultry breeding.



Offering such facilities and also the other supportive measures have led to the creation of more greenhouses and well as the development of the existing ones in the country.

Iran is anticipated to produce 5,000 tons of fruits and vegetables in the greenhouses throughout the country this year.

As reported, 80 percent of the country's greenhouse fruits and vegetables are exported.

The significance of boosting agricultural export is obvious when taking the country's recent approach to boost non-oil exports into account. The development of greenhouses is a very fruitful measure in this due.

Production of products in the greenhouses is today one of the most profitable methods in the agriculture sectors of the countries, in a way that they have defined it as one of their major production strategies because while greenhouses provide stable production of high-quality products, developing them is a proper way for tackling drought and for optimal use of water resources.

In Iran, the need for the development of greenhouses is now highly recognized, as the country is seriously following up on two main objectives of strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance, and boosting non-oil exports.

Steel products export falls 37%

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's export of steel products fell 37 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.

Over 1.345 million tons of steel products have been exported during the seven-month period of this year, while the figure was 2.122 million tons in the same time span of the previous year.

Production of steel products hit over 8.439 million tons during the first seven months of the present year, which was four percent higher than the figure of the same period of time in the past year.

Production of the mentioned products also rose nine percent in the seventh month of this year, from that of the previous year.

Over 1.173 million tons of steel products were produced in the seventh month of the present year.

In a bid to prevent the exports of unprocessed minerals, creating more value-added and meeting the requirements of domestic producers for the raw materials, Iran has levied a 25-percent duty on the exports of raw minerals (especially iron ore) since late September 2019.

Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry believes that the duty is going to encourage the production of more processed minerals such as pellets and concentrate instead of selling the raw minerals.

Iran's export of steel products in the past Iranian calendar year rose 27 percent compared to its preceding year.

As reported, the country's major steel producers managed to export about 7.33 million tons of the products in the previous year.

Some 10 years ago Iran exported more than 20 million tons of unprocessed iron ore and the figure fell to a maximum of six million tons last year.

Capital gains tax still under debate

1 → ■ **CGT a right step to control housing market**

On November 15, Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami said that the capital gains tax plan is being investigated by the cabinet and the necessary measures are being taken to send it to the parliament.

"Unfortunately, our economic system is such that the prices of goods and services move upwards at the same time as the exchange rate rises, creating a kind of bubble for us in this situation," he said, adding, "But when the price of the dollar returns, the prices of goods and services do not decrease easily, and this is one of the scourges of the market that needs to be addressed."

Stating that the necessary measures should be taken to control the housing sector, the minister said: "The financial resources that are injected to buy houses are important to be provided just for the real buyers, who consider the house as consumer good only."

Financial resources and facilities should be provided only for the consumers and not for those who intend to invest to raise the value of their money, Eslami reiterated.



■ **Private sector says all aspects should be considered**

On November 18, the heads of Iran's chambers of commerce, cooperatives and guilds sent a letter to the Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, stressing that given the current fragility of the economy,

imposing a capital gains tax without considering all aspects would create many problems for the enterprises and the public.

The letter states: "Capital gains tax is a type of taxes in most countries that is imposed with the aim of preventing from investment making in the unproductive sectors; it is not

aimed at generating revenue for the government, while it is a tool to move the flow of capital from unproductive sectors to the productive ones. But now that the country's economy is suffering from all kinds of fragility, and also given the current state of the society, the implementation of this tax base without considering all aspects will create many problems for the general public and enterprises."

According to the heads of the three chambers, the haste in approving the current plan is more in the direction of revenue generation for the government, which can distract the country from achieving goals such as stabilization and regulation in the economy.

The letter also stressed: "Increasing unproductive costs through the implementation of capital gains tax plan in the country alone will not be fruitful, and it is necessary that the business and investment environment will be improved at the same time in the country, and removing the existing barriers to productive activities should be on the agenda. Otherwise, the implementation of this tax base could lead to capital outflows, increased informal activities and non-transparent markets."

SP phase 16 platform resumes operation after technical incident

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The platform of South Pars phase 16 has resumed operation after the reconstruction of the damaged parts of the platform's offshore pipeline, Shana reported.

This platform which was damaged back in November 2019 has come back online with a capacity of 500 million cubic feet (14 million cubic meters), Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) announced.

According to Alireza Ebadi, the director of production and operations in POGC, the damaged part of this 110-kilometer pipeline was replaced and amended and was put into operation after conducting pre-commissioning tests.

The official stated that due to some limitations in supplying pipes, 72 km of the mentioned pipeline has been replaced so far.

"The remaining part of this line from the shore with a length of 40 km will be replaced in the form of a new project," he added.

Noting that the causes of the damage to the mentioned pipeline are still being investigated by the relevant experts and consultants, Ebadi said: "According to the work plan, in order to fully study the phase 16 pipeline and especially its non-replaced parts, the smart monitoring operation will be performed on this pipeline simultaneously during its normal operation and sending gas to the refinery."

Pars Oil and Gas Company which is in charge of developing Iran's giant South Pars gas field has taken preventive health measures to deal with the outbreak of coronavirus among its employees working on the platforms, and fortunately, there has been no case of this disease so far, according to the company's office of public relations.

South Pars Gas field is currently divided into 24 standard phases on the Iranian side and is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

The mentioned gas field covers an area of 9,700



square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which, called South Pars, are in Iran's territorial waters. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

Bank loans to housing, construction sector up 46% in 7 months

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Bank Maskan, the state agent bank of the housing sector, paid 201.360 trillion rials (about \$4.79 billion) of facilities in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21).

According to the bank's Managing Director Mahmoud Shayan, the value of the loans paid during the mentioned period shows a 46-percent rise compared to the same period last year, despite the recession in the housing market.

The official noted that 1,135,235 loans were paid to the applicants in various forms, including home loans under housing saving account, housing bonds, housing repair bonds, or construction loans, IRNA reported.

Noting that at least 30 percent of all homebuyers used Bank Maskan loans to finance their houses during the period, the official said a total of 66,000 home



purchase loans worth 66 trillion rials (\$1.57 billion) were paid to applicants.

"A total of 84,366 housing repair bonds worth 28 trillion rials (\$106 million) were paid. Most people opted for renovating their homes rather than buying a new one due to the exponential rise in home prices in Tehran and other big cities. That is why repair and reconstruction loans

[housing repair bonds] outnumbered home loans paid by the bank," he said.

In the housing construction sector, the total number of loans allocated to applicants reached 12,181 worth 33,510 billion rials (about \$667 million) over the period under review.

The official added that during the seventh month of the current year (October 22-November 21), a total of 43,448 loans worth 27.693 trillion rials (about \$659 million) were handed out to applicants, which indicates a 24 percent increase compared with the same month of last year.

Back in September, a member of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Civil Committee said that the drastic and unprecedented rise in housing prices in recent months was going to lead the housing market to a recession in the coming months.

"With the dramatic and unprecedented rise in housing prices, the market is

expected to enter a recession for at least three to four years in the coming months, but naturally, as the recession intensifies, housing prices will fall by about 10 to 20 percent", Mojtaba Yousefi stated.

Unfortunately, housing prices have risen by about 200 percent in recent months, and this has created many problems for real house buyers, he lamented.

"The main problem is that in such a market real buyers cannot afford to buy houses and instead the market has become a playground for brokers and speculators."

According to the official, the housing market trend in Iran has been sinusoidal, meaning that housing prices have risen over a period of time and then the market has entered a recession, however, in the last two years the trend has become contrary to the previous years and the housing prices have been constantly increasing.

Copper cathode exports 26% more than projected figure in H1

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's value of copper cathode exports reached \$419 million during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), which was 26 percent more than the figure projected for this period, according to the data released by the National Iranian Copper Industry Company.

Meanwhile, the production of copper cathode has increased six percent during the first half of this year, compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Copper cathode output hit 139,899 tons in the first six months of the present year, while the predicted figure was 130,015 tons.



Imports of livestock feed inputs drops 10%

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran imported 8.5 million tons of animal feed inputs in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), down 10 percent compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

According to the Iran Feed and Grain Importers Union (IFGIU), some 9.5 million tons of the mentioned products were imported into the country in the previous year's same seven months.

The total value of imports of livestock inputs in the said period stood at over \$2.377 billion, 18 percent less than the same period

last year in which \$2.903 billion worth of such products were imported.

As reported, during the first seven months of this year, 5,849,809 tons of corn worth \$1.412 billion was imported into the country, an increase of 20 percent in terms of weight and 17 percent in terms of value, compared to 4,869,460 million worth \$1.206 billion in the same period of last year.

Meanwhile, some 1,097,709 tons of barley worth \$268.271 million was also imported, registering a decrease of 40 percent and 44 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively, compared to the

corresponding period in the previous year.

The imports of other inputs including soybean meal and soybean, both declined in the mentioned period.

According to the Iranian Association of Feed Importers, there are 400 animal feed importing companies in Iran, of which only 70 are currently active.

Earlier in June, the managing director of Iran's Livestock Affairs Support Company Hassan Abbasi Maroufan said that more than 1.8 million tons of livestock feed ingredients were supplied to the country's feed producers in 70 days since the beginning of the current year.



"Of course, the country's demand during this period was 2.2 million tons, which wasn't met due to the slowness of the transportation system following the coronavirus outbreak," the official said.

Israel is behind serial assassinations of Kennedy brothers: Laurent Guyenot

“Israel has lodged itself like a parasite in all of America’s power structures”

1 → I wanted to understand the background of this operation, and studied what I call the “deep history” of the United States, which is basically the history of State lies, false flag attacks and other conspiracies. And whoever digs into that field has to come to grips with the JFK assassination. It was a real turning point in U.S. history, although few people realized it. Somehow, on November 22nd 1963, America was assassinated in Dallas, and a satanic demon took possession of its corpse, and it now roams the earth, sowing deception and terror everywhere.

■ What is the role of the Deep State in the assassination of President Kennedy?

A: I have used the phrase “Deep State” in my book *JFK-9/11* published seven years ago. But I now find it problematic. The perpetuation of the official lie for more than 50 years shows that those who assassinated Kennedy wield great occult power. But what is important is to specify the identity of the men who hold it. The phrase “Deep State” is a bit like the Freudian unconscious: it is a deliberately vague expression, which reveals nothing. It is actually deceptive because it evokes some kind of national level of commandment. But the “deep power” that killed Kennedy, or that orchestrated the 9/11 false flag attacks, is not a “national” power, it is a foreign power.

There are indeed in the United States, as in most democracies, hidden centers of power, totally immune from democratic accountability, capable of steering the country’s foreign and military policy by various means such as corruption, propaganda, blackmail, and other more criminal means, but the most influential of these power centers is not “American” in any real sense: the true American Deep State, if you will, is Israel. Israel has lodged itself like a parasite in all of America’s power structures. And it is precisely Israel that, in my opinion, is behind the serial assassinations of the Kennedy brothers.

■ Investigation by the U.S. government concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of President Kennedy. What



“Dimona was certainly Israel’s major reason for eliminating Kennedy and replacing him by Johnson.”

can you tell us about him ?

A: Lee Harvey Oswald is a multi-faceted character. In a sense, we can distinguish three Oswalds, and all of them are fake. Upon his arrest in the afternoon of November 22, 1963, he was presented to the world as a Marxist who had renounced his American citizenship after defecting to the USSR and, after returning to the U.S., campaigned in favor of the regime of Fidel Castro. That is the first Oswald. The underlying message was that Kennedy’s assassination had been ordered by Castro or the Soviets. However, the new President Lyndon Johnson stifled this lead by raising the specter of nuclear war, and imposed, in agreement with FBI director Edgar Hoover, the alternative theory

that Oswald was a “lone nut”. This is the second Oswald. But research has shown that Oswald’s communism was fake and that he was an undercover agent for U.S. Secret Services. This is the third Oswald, the one endorsed by most Kennedy researchers.

The most widespread conspiracy theory is that those who organized the Kennedy assassination wanted to blame it on Castro and trigger U.S. retaliation against Cuba, but that Johnson thwarted this plan. This is, for example, the theory of James Douglass in *The Unspeakable*. I have shown that this theory does not stand up to the evidence of Johnson’s deep involvement in the conspiracy. My theory is that Oswald’s Communist panoply was meant, not to

start a war against Cuba, and therefore against the USSR, but to provide Johnson with a means of intimidating all officials and institutions and demanding that the investigation be quickly closed, for fear that discoveries about Cuba’s involvement lead to a global nuclear war “that could kill 40 million Americans,” as Johnson kept repeating. By the threat of nuclear war, the majority of Americans, although they felt that they were being lied to, accepted that it was probably for their own good.

In any case, Oswald’s role in the plot is accessory, since he was “just a patsy,” as he once declared to journalists. In most probability he did not even shoot at the president. Abraham Zapruder’s amateur film, which captured the assassination, proves by the movement of Kennedy’s head that the fatal bullet hit him in the face, which clears Oswald who was behind the presidential limousine.

Given that Oswald was liquidated two days after his arrest, the first thing to do in order to solve the case, is to follow the trail of the man who “silenced” Oswald in order to prevent a judgment that might have shed some light on the truth. Oddly, however, Oswald’s killer received very little attention. Even his real name is unknown to the general public. He is known as Jack Ruby, but his real name was Jacob Rubenstein, and he was linked to the Jewish underworld. His mentor was gangster Mickey Cohen, successor to Murder Incorporated’s godfather, Benjamin Siegelbaum, known as Bugsy. Cohen himself was in contact with Menachem Begin, and heavily involved in arms trafficking on behalf of the Irgun, the Israeli terrorist organization, as he actually brags in his memoir.

■ You have said that the Dallas Jewish community was deeply involved in organizing the president’s visit to Dallas and in the ambush of Dealey Plaza.

A: Indeed, Kennedy’s trip to Dallas was sponsored by an organization called the Dallas Citizens Council, a group dominated by Jewish businessmen — a kind of front for the local B’nai B’rith section. Kennedy’s welcoming committee in Dallas was chaired by Sam Bloom, a prominent member of the Texan Jewish community, whose name was found in Jack Ruby’s address book. It was Bloom who intervened with the Dallas Police Department to allow the press allowed to film Oswald’s transfer, which gave Ruby an opportunity to shoot him dead.

■ Your conclusions is that Israel orchestrated the killing of Kennedy. What was Israel’s motive ?

A: I am walking in the footsteps of the late Michael Collins Piper, who was the first to blame Israeli networks for the assassination of John Kennedy, in his book *Final Judgment: The Missing Link in the JFK Assassination Conspiracy*.

To understand Israel’s motive, Piper relied on several studies that have revealed that Kennedy was determined to stop Israel from developing nuclear weapons. Global nuclear disarmament was Kennedy’s dearest project. After the Cuban Missile Crisis, he had initiated a promising dialogue with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev on this issue. So, when the CIA informed him of the nuclear program carried out by the Israelis in their Dimona laboratory, he engaged in a standoff with David Ben-Gurion, who was both prime minister and minister of defense of Israel. Ben-Gurion was convinced that by trying to prevent Israel from acquiring the bomb, Kennedy was endangering the very survival of the Jewish state, to which he had devoted his entire life.

Dimona was certainly Israel’s major reason for eliminating Kennedy and replacing him by Johnson. But there were others. The Kennedy brothers were at the origin of a procedure to reduce the influence of the American Zionist Council by the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938. In October 1963, Attorney General Robert Kennedy gave the AZC a 72-hour notice to register as “foreign agent.” After John Kennedy’s assassination, the AZC escaped this procedure, and its lobbying division, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (or AIPAC), became the most powerful lobby in the United States, and an indispensable tool for the corruption and intimidation of American elected officials, and for the control of American foreign policy. A third likely motive for the Dallas coup was Kennedy’s support for the Palestinian cause and his sympathy for Egyptian President Abdel Nasser. As late as November 20, 1963, Kennedy’s representative at the United Nations demanded the implementation of Resolution 194 and the return of the 800,000 Palestinian refugees, causing strong protest in Israeli circles. After Kennedy’s death, American foreign policy in West Asia was radically reversed again, without the American public realizing it. Johnson cut economic aid to Egypt, and increased military aid to Israel to 92 million in 1966, more than the total of all previous years combined.

23 rockets hit Afghan capital, 8 civilians killed

A rocket barrage slammed into the heavily fortified Green Zone in Kabul, Afghanistan, where many embassies and international firms are based, killing at least eight civilians and wounding dozens more on Saturday.

Tariq Arian, the spokesman for the interior ministry, said “terrorists” mounted the rockets on a small truck and set them off, adding an investigation was underway to find out how the vehicle came inside the city undetected.

“Based on initial information eight people were martyred and 31 others were wounded,” Arian said, noting the final toll would change.

Kabul police spokesman Ferdaws Faramarz confirmed the same tolls and details.

Some residents filmed the projectiles being launched and posted them on social media. Several images circulating on Facebook showed damaged cars and a hole in the side of a building.

Taliban fighters denied involvement in the attack, saying they “do not blindly fire on public places”.

The barrage sent warning sirens blaring from embassy compounds and came two days before a major donor conference for Afghanistan in Geneva, Switzerland.

Yemeni army soldiers, allied fighters wrest control over major base in Ma’rib

Yemeni army troops, backed by allied fighters from Popular Committees, have taken full control of a sprawling military base in the country’s central province of Ma’rib, following fierce armed clashes with Saudi-sponsored militiamen loyal to Yemen’s former President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.

Local news outlets reported late on Friday that the Yemeni soldiers and allied fighters had established control over the strategic Maas base, which lies approximately 57 kilometers from the provincial capital city of Ma’rib, after they exchanged heavy gunfire with militants from the al-Qaeda-affiliated Salafist Islah Party.

The military base reportedly overlooks the city of Ma’rib, and was the last major bastion of the militants in the area.

Reports say in light of continued advances of the Yemeni army troops and allied Popular Committees fighters in Ma’rib province and its environs, and their ability to secure the vast desert region between al-Jawf and Ma’rib provinces and cut the supply lines of Saudi-paid militiamen besides complete control over Maas military base, Saudi-led mercenaries’ morale has been sapped and they are in a state of sheer panic.

First group of U.S. occupation forces leaves Iraq: Cmdr.

The spokesman for the Iraqi Joint Operations Command has announced the withdrawal of the first batch of U.S. troops from the Arab country based on an agreement reached between the Baghdad and Washington.

“Today, the American forces began to withdraw and the number is 500, who were announced in accordance with the agreement between Baghdad and Washington recently,” Major General Tahsin al-Khafaji said in a statement to Russia’s Sputnik news agency.

He stressed that the remaining American forces in Iraq are not combat units, adding, “We only have those who meet the support for airstrikes to target ISIS (Daesh) remnants, and logistical and advisory.”

Khafaji further said that the “withdrawal of US forces from Iraq will take place within a very short period, according to a schedule between Iraq and the United States, and according to specific timings.”

On Tuesday, acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller said the US will reduce troop levels in Iraq from about 3,000 to 2,500 by mid-January.

Resistance News

Hamas leadership to discuss political developments

INTERNATIONAL d e s k **TEHRAN**— Taher al-Nunu, the adviser to the Chairman of Hamas Ismail Haneyya, said that the Movement’s leadership will hold a meeting soon headed by Haneyya to study recent developments.

The leadership will discuss the political developments and the Palestinian reconciliation after the Palestinian Authority’s (PA) announcement of resuming its relations with the “Zionist enemy”, Nunu added.

He said in a press release on Friday that Hamas affirms its commitment to achieving national unity based on full partnership and resistance.

He pointed out that this was expressed by the Movement during the meeting of the Secretaries-General, the Istanbul dialogue, and more recently in the round of talks that was held in Cairo sponsored by the Egyptians between senior delegations from Hamas and Fatah.

Hamas leadership will hold consultations with the Palestinian factions, figures and national forces to discuss the national strategy to deal with the changing conditions in the Palestinian arena.


Hussein al-Sheikh, the PA minister of local government, had revealed on Tuesday the restoration of security relations and coordination with the Israeli occupation authority.

For his part, Hazem Qassem, Hamas’s spokesman, rejected on Thursday the announcement by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, of his country’s decision to consider the settlement products as Israeli products.

“This announcement is a real aggression against the rights of Palestinian people and reflects American arrogance and rudeness,” Qassem said.

He explained in a press statement that this decision is the biggest fraud carried out by the US Secretary of State, who is genuinely hostile to the Palestinian people and their rights, and the decision he announced is a violation of all international laws, decisions and norms.


Qassem stressed that the US decision confirms that the Palestinian issue is going through a dangerous stage which requires



Agricultural Support Services Company

INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER
Amendment to second Announcement
55/99/20257
19/11/2020

Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, affiliated to Ministry of Agriculture-Jahad of I.R of Iran, is considering the purchase of the below 24 items of formulated pesticides, through one step international tender.

ITEM	Name	Formulation	Quantity (MT)
1	2,4-d+MCPA	67.5% SL	100
2	Bromoxynil octanoate+MCPA	40%EC	40
3	Bromoxynil+2,4-d	56% EC	20
4	Clodinafop propargyl	8% EC	200
5	Pinoxaden+safener	5% EC	60
6	Pinoxaden+clodinafop propargyl	5% EC	100
7	Mesosulfuron+iodosulfuron+safener	1.2% OD	100
8	Iodosulfuron-methyl-sodium+Mesosulfuron-methyl+diflufenican+safener	8.25% OD	50
9	Setoxidim	12.5% OEC	20
10	Clopyralid	30% SL	60
11	Propiconazole	25% EC	400
12	Tebuconazole	25% EW	200
13	Epoxiconazole+Tiophanate-methyl	49.7% SC	90
14	Cyproconazole+Propiconazole	33% EC	40
15	Malathion	57% EC	500
16	Deltamethrin	2.5% EC	600
17	Tebuconazole	2% DS	300
18	Tebuconazole	6% FS	200
19	Tebuconazole+Prothioconazole	40% FS	10
20	difenoconazole	3% DS	150
21	difenoconazole	3% FS	100
22	Carbendazim	50% WP	40
23	Carboxin+thiram	75% WP	100
24	Carboxin+thiram	40% FS	80

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday dated 21/11/2020 until Wednesday dated 25/11/2020 (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of I.Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 35803978226350060500000000000000.

The bidders are requested to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing their offer, latest at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday dated 26/12/2020 (during official working hours) to our security office located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on Saturday dated 26/12/2020 at 14:00 PM with the presence of bidder's representatives at our purchasing committee hall (9th floor, no. 1, Fourth Alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

We would like to emphasize that the bid bond amount should be in bank guarantee as follows:

1- € 16416 for **2,4-d + MCPA 67.5% SL** equivalent to Iranian Rials **5192760000**

2- € 14521 for **Bromoxynil octanoate+MCPA 40%EC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **4593168128**

3- € 9299 for **Bromoxynil+2,4-d 56% EC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **2941456800**

4- € 40688 for **Clodinafop propargyl 8% EC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **12870460800**

5- € 45688 for **Pinoxaden + safener 5% EC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **14451920640**

6- € 48136 for **Pinoxaden + clodinafop propargyl 5% EC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **15226272000**

7- € 42616 for **Mesosulfuron+iodosulfuron+safener 1.2% OD** equivalent to Iranian Rials **13480185600**

8- € 20829 for **Iodosulfuron-methyl-sodium + Mesosulfuron-methyl+diflufenican+safener 8.25% OD** equivalent to Iranian Rials **6588705600**

9- € 8353 for **Setoxidim 12.5% OEC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **2642325000**

10- € 18749 for **Clopyralid 30% SL** equivalent to Iranian Rials **5930616960**

11- € 62153 for **Propiconazole 25% EC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **19660281600**

12- € 47623 for **Tebuconazole 25% EW** equivalent to Iranian Rials **15064089600**

13- € 91616 for **Epoxiconazole + Tiophanate-methyl 49.7% SC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **28980000000**

14- € 48856 for **Cyproconazole + Propiconazole 33% EC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **15454022400**

15- € 57395 for **Malathion 57% EC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **18155112000**

16- € 51986 for **Deltamethrin 2.5% EC** equivalent to Iranian Rials **16444296000**

17- € 22193 for **Tebuconazole 2% DS** equivalent to Iranian Rials **7020000000**

18- € 25987 for **Tebuconazole 6% FS** equivalent to Iranian Rials **8220000000**

19- € 12000 for **Tebuconazole + Prothioconazole 40% FS** equivalent to Iranian Rials **3795840000**

20- € 19234 for **difenoconazole 3% DS** equivalent to Iranian Rials **6084000000**

21- € 17868 for **difenoconazole 3% FS** equivalent to Iranian Rials **5652000000**

22- € 11348 for **Carbendazim 50% WP** equivalent to Iranian Rials **3589574400**

23- € 34699 for **Carboxin+thiram 75% WP** equivalent to Iranian Rials **10975963200**

- The bid bond value should be in Euro or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on Telegraphic Transfer rate in Sana rate website, www.sanarate.ir on 15/11/2020 for each item.

- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)

Zanjan to develop its first geopark

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Zanjan, the west-central Iranian province famed for having a variety of historical, natural sites, aims to develop its first geopark.

Zanjan has vast potential for the creation of a geopark as the province is home to many natural and mineral attractions such as colorful mountains, lead and zinc mines, and wildlife reserves, the deputy provincial tourism chief announced on Saturday.

Ali-Akbar Sharafi, who was addressing an ecotourism committee meeting, added: “Natural capacities of the province could cater to the tourism, empowerment the local communities, economic growth and protect natural heritage.”



“The launch of geopark will lay a great opportunity for investors... and its boundaries are being determined accurately,” he added.

On a high plain, surrounded by stark, eroded hills, Zanjan makes the perfect base for wider explorations. It is home to many historical structures, sites, and monuments including the UNESCO-designated Dome of Soltaniyeh (“Soltaniyeh Cupola”), which is constantly being monitored and restored under the supervision of the provincial Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department.

Enticingly scenic roads radiate to Khal Khal and the Caspian, the subterranean delights of the Katala Khor Caves, and the superbly lonely Takht-e Soleiman ruins, while the battered hoooods of Behestan Castle and the bizarrely striped Colourful Mountains lie further afield.

A geopark is a unified area that advances the protection and use of geological heritage in a sustainable way and promotes the economic well-being of the people who live there. A UNESCO definition of the global geopark is a unified area with a geological heritage of international significance. Geoparks use that heritage to promote awareness of key issues facing society in the context of our dynamic planet.

Many geoparks promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis and many help prepare disaster mitigation strategies with local communities. Geoparks embody records of past climate changes and are indicators of current climate changes as well.

Iranian-Armenian numismatist Avanesyan-Farid dies at 86

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Vladimir Avanesyan-Farid, a distinguished Iranian numismatist of Armenian origin died in Tehran’s Firuzgar Hospital on Friday. He was 86.

The coin and medals collector passed away due to old age, ISNA quoted his friend and colleague Amir-Hossein Moeini as saying.

Also known as Edik, he moved to Tabriz in 1938 with his family and started working in a goldsmith shop while he was seven or eight years old, he said.

“Working in this shop was his first encounter with coins and gold, prompting him to collect antique coins, which were no longer being minted, while he was also interested in collecting matches, stamps, banknotes, and medals.”

Iranian scholar Ali Shahidi also said that Avanesyan-Farid was very proficient in numismatics, especially in the field of joint cultural heritage of Iran and Armenia.

“Although he had not studied academically, he was also an expert on the history of Iranian and Armenian banknotes and stamps,” Shahidi added.



The use of cast-metal pieces as a medium of exchange is very ancient and probably developed out of the use in commerce of ordinary ingots of bronze and other metals that possessed an intrinsic value. Until the development of bills of exchange in medieval Europe and paper currency in medieval China, metal coins were the only such medium. Despite their diminished use in most commercial transactions, coins are still indispensable to modern economies; in fact, their importance is growing as the result of the widespread use of coin-operated machines.

In ancient times, coins were minted as a means of governmental or religious propagations and rarely as fixed means of facilitating business. Little by little, people got to find out money’s real function. Since then, people have started to exchange money for goods. Therefore, money-minting began as the production craft by the local as well as central governments.

At about 515 BC, the first Iranian coins were ordered to be minted by Darius I, the Achaemenid king. There were depicted a warrior holding a bow on the front and a quadrangular sign on the back of these coins. Since then each dynasty minted its coins through history.

Discover Sang Bast Castle on the edge of central Iranian desert

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN — Over the past centuries, a network of incredibly well-fortified castles, fortresses, and sheltered have been constructed across the Iranian plateau, many of which now turned into tourism attractions.

Sang Bast Castle, a Seljuk-era (1037–1194) is one of such structures. It is located within the oasis town of Zavareh on the edge of the central Iranian desert in Isfahan province.

The castle is made from mud, brick, and mortar and it includes stables, barns, residential areas, and watchtowers in an area of 1,500 square meters.

It is widely believed that the castle is the largest in the country after Qazvin’s Alamut Castle. It was built in a cube-shaped pattern and in its corners; four cylindrical towers can be seen, which were used as watchtowers to help the guards to protect the castle from invaders.

The two-storey castle was considered a government building at the time and many mystics, scholars, and poets lived in it. It was built upon the orders of Abu-Ali Dehdar Zavarei, a local elite of the time.

The rooftop of the castle was restored in 2017; however, the privately-owned structure still needs some rehabilitation works to become a tourism hub in the region. Sang Bast Castle was inscribed on the National



Heritage list in 2002.

Zavareh is named after the brother of Rostam (the Iranian legendary and mythical hero). There are lots of attractions in this small city. The first and oldest four-ivan mosque in Iran is the old Zavareh Jame Mosque going back to the Seljuk period, around 900 years old.

Another predominant historical at-

traction, 33 kilometers from Zavareh, is Sarhangabad Palace built during the reign of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar (r. 1848 1896).

This palace with twenty stone columns looks like Chehel Sotoun Palace in Isfahan, decorated with peculiar plasterwork, mirrorwork, wood carving, stucco, inlay, and marquetry. It was a hunting ground and summer promenade for Qajar princes.

Yazd hotels ready to accommodate coronavirus patients

➔ **1** Back in June, the head of Iranian Hoteliers Association Jamshid Hamzehzadeh announced that the outbreak of the new coronavirus inflicted a loss of 60,000 billion rials (about \$1.4 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) on the Iranian hospitality industry in four months.

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

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd, which is the capital of Yazd province, was named a UNESCO World Heritage. The oasis city is wedged be-

tween the northern Dasht-e Kavir and southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain ringed by mountains. Its historical structure enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

The city of Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a “don’t miss” destination by almost all of its visitors. It is teemed with mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape. The province has an interesting mix of people as well, some 10 percent of whom follow the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism.



Skeleton frame raises dispute over visual landscape alternation

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A dispute has arisen by some cultural heritage fans who believe the visual landscape of the 17th-century Pol-e Khaju has been tarnished by the vista of a skeleton frame recently being erected nearby in Isfahan.

The height of the multi-storey buildings, which are located inside the defined boundaries of the historical sites across [Isfahan] province shouldn’t be more than 12 meters, however, it seems this new building frame has broken the law, Iranian architect and scholar Ramin Madani said on Saturday, IRNA reported.

The existing rules and guidelines are not good enough and efficient to preserve and protect cultural heritage, while they need to be followed by whoever is responsible for permitting such construction works, he added.

He also emphasized that such projects need to be stopped and the extra heights of these buildings must be demolished, as they distort the general view of the historical sites and added, “Common interests of a city and its culture and history are something that can be traded.”



Experts have found that if the areas and elements around a valuable and registered building are left to their own, the building will gradually lose its ongoing visual value and beauty.

Therefore, defining the boundaries of historical sites seems a good solution to prevent possible damages including deliberate destruction and illegal constructions within their boundaries as well as help protecting and properly preserving them.

However, sometimes the demarcation of historical monuments are violated, they

are repurposed into some buildings with various usages and even their visual beauty is distorted, which can bring serious and irreversible damages, least of which is losing their place on the National Heritage list as well as UNESCO World Heritage List.

According to the law, the offenders must pay damages and they could be sentenced to six months to three years in prison, but the problem is the ministry is not the owner of all the historical sites and many of them are privately owned and it seems there is no law enforcement guarantee.

Lack of awareness of the values of cultural heritage, lack of necessary financial and human resources, sufficient expertise on demarcation, and most importantly lack of coordination between cultural heritage-related bodies such as the municipalities are among the problems the ministry is facing in this issue.

Measuring 133 meters long and 12 meters wide, Pol-e Khaju is equipped with several sluice gates under its lower archways that doubles it as a dam. The monument was completed around 1650 under the patronage

of Shah Abbas II, the seventh Safavid king who ruled the country from 1642 to 1666.

A total of 23 arches, decorative motifs and tiles, adjoining arcades, and an octagonal pavilion embedded right in the middle are amongst the main features of the picturesque bridge that spans Zayandeh-Rood, one of the largest rivers in the central Iranian Plateau.

In its heyday, the central passageway on the upper level of the bridge was utilized by horse-riders and carts while the vaulted paths on either side were dedicated to pedestrians.

It used to be a temporary hangout for the king and the royal family of the time and later turned into a place for public meetings where locals, domestic and foreign travelers come to revel in a cozy atmosphere and take the air.

Narratives say that the bridge was replaced by the ruins of an older one, which dated to the time of Tamerlane, the Turco-Mongol conqueror who reigned from 1370 to 1405.

Abundant Persian gardens, gorgeous Islamic buildings, historic bazaars, and picturesque bridges along with ubiquitous tree-lined boulevards give the city a significant visual appeal.

Constructors agree to cut one story for sake of UNESCO site

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Owners of a multi-storey building, which is being constructed adjacent to the famed Golestan Palace in downtown Tehran, have ultimately agreed to eliminate one floor to preserve the endangered visual landscade of the UNESCO-registered site.

“Reducing the height of the building, which is being constructed in the vicinity of Golestan Palace, eliminates possible threats to this valuable complex in terms of losing its UNESCO status,” Parham Janfeshan, who presides over Tehran province’s tourism department, said on Friday.

A destination for domestic and international travelers, Golestan Palace is located in the heart and historic core of Tehran. The palace complex is one of the oldest in the

Iranian capital, originally built during the Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) in the historic walled city.

Following extensions and additions, it received its most characteristic features in the 19th century, when the palace complex was selected as the royal residence and seat of power by the Qajar ruling family (1789–1925). At present, Golestan Palace complex consists of eight key palace structures mostly used as museums and the eponymous gardens, a green shared center of the complex, surrounded by an outer wall with gates.

UNESCO has it that the complex exemplifies architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar era including the introduction of European motifs and styles into Persian arts.

Persian handicrafts: Charogh Duzi



Rumi where the shepherd prays to God “I will sew your Charogh and comb your hair” which shows the usage and prosperity of this art from many centuries ago. Charogh is also known as “Sham”, “Patabeh”, “Palik”, too.

The tools of making a pair of Charogh are similar to those of making shoes, and include: “Derafsh” or stitching awl, needles, scalp, knife, engraving pen tool, cutter, shoehorns and wooden molds.

The primary materials of Charogh are tanned cow leather, silk, Golabatoon and cotton yarn. Making a Charogh includes making the body, sewing the embroideries, decorating, attaching the belt fasteners and etc. The opening of Charogh is sewed using blanket stitches and all the other parts are sewed by simple stitches of colorful yarns on black leather and the back of the Charogh is sewed by parallel stitches in white cotton yarn.

Also, the back of Charogh is decorated by

six petal flowers of pink and golden yarns. The front is decorated by colorful pom poms. In the final step, the artist makes a buckle from leather and attaches them to two sides of Charogh. The bottom of this footwear is made of buffalo leather due to its high durability.

The difference between the Charogh of Northern Khorasan and other cities is that they are made of one piece of leather. There is no difference between right or left foot in a pair of Charogh. Women and men shoes are not different either, they differ only in size. The name of some of the patterns sewed on Charogh are “Seh Gol”, “Chahar Gol”, “Puneh Dar” or “Badami”. Charogh has been registered as the national artifact of Iran.



Traditional medicine comes to fight COVID-19

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN — To speed up treatment, researchers have been searching for available medicine and therapies effective in treating coronavirus patients. In this line, some drugs were selected but none was a definitive cure. Now, traditional herbal medicine steps in to reduce the burden.

In a press briefing on Saturday, Health Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 12,931 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 841,308. She added that 596,136 patients have so far recovered, but 5,778 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, 431 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 44,327, she added.

Iran, like any other countries in the world, has been involved in research to identify a solution to contain the pandemic, scientists are trying to play a role in the production of effective medicine in the treatment of various diseases, including COVID-19, despite sanctions and global pressures.

Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration has recently approved four domestically produced herbal medicine effective in COVID-19 treatment and has issued a production license for two of them.

The first herbal medicine in this collection is an oral spray containing six herbal essential oils and helps to improve the pulmonary complications of coronavirus, including shortness of breath, cough, and arterial oxygenation.

The second one is a syrup containing the extract of two herbs, which according to the clinical trial evidence provided if used, helps to improve the symptoms of fatigue and anorexia.

Moreover, a center offering traditional medicine services to coronavirus patients was inaugurated in Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in



early November.

In the first phase, 100 traditional medicine physicians have been organized for face-to-face and virtual visits, and 200 experts have acquired the necessary skills in intensive courses to prepare for telephone consultations, he explained.

Mostafa Ghanei, head of the scientific committee of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control in August said that there are currently 30 projects underway nationwide in the field of traditional medicine, herbal medicine, and supplements to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Chinese herbal medicine

Mehrdad Karimi, an associate professor at the Department of Traditional Medicine at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, told Jam-e Jam Persian language daily about the use of traditional and herbal medicine in the world.

"A traditional Chinese medicine specialist told us that during the first three weeks

of the epidemic, China was shocked by the high number of patients; at that time, only 30 percent of traditional medicine was used to treat patients, which were used to treat SARS. But the use of traditional Chinese medicine in the Wuhan has reached 70 to 80 percent since April.

Currently, herbal medicine is prescribed for each patient, which increased traditional Chinese medicine used by patients to 90 percent, showing a remarkable rate. But in the meantime, some experts insist that traditional medicines have never been used in East Asia. Of course, in China, where traditional medicine is widely used, there are the same contradictions between traditional and modern medicine."

Where scientific work is being done on traditional herbal medicine, no errors or problems are caused and cannot be challenged, Karimi highlighted.

Safety issues should be considered and patients should be checked during medica-

tion, because medicinal plants, like chemical drugs, have side effects, he noted.

Treatment matters the most

Arman Zargarani, a faculty member of the Department of Traditional Medicine at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, said that research in the field of traditional medicine has a completely scientific academic process and mechanism and is recognized in the world.

What matters is the treatment of the patient, and it does not matter if the process is chemical, traditional, or herbal. Any method that can cure the disease or even reduce the symptoms and complications of the disease is a priority, he emphasized.

However, not all the country's efforts are focused on the manufacture of herbal medicines, there are currently several hundred research projects in the country, of which about 80 to 90 are related to herbal medicines, he stated.

In fact, there is no bias towards a particular method, and the goal is to improve patients, and all go through scientific methods and clinical trials.

8,000 herbal species grow in Iran

So far, about 30,000 plant species are identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species that its plant diversity is more than the whole of Europe.

Currently, about 2,300 species of medicinal plants have been identified in the country; while medicinal plants account for one-third of the medicines used in human societies, the share of world trade in these products is about \$124 billion and Iran's share is \$570 million, which is only 0.5 percent of the total.

The per capita consumption of medicinal plants in Iran is about one kilogram of dried plants, in other words, 83,000 tons of medicinal plants worth 1.2 trillion rials (around \$29 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) are consumed in the country, while in Europe this amount is 900 grams and in the United States is 2.5 kilograms.

Snow, heavy rain hit most parts of Iran

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Heavy snow and rainfall which started on Friday have affected nearly two thirds of the country's provinces so far.

According to traffic control centers across the country, snow and rain are pouring over some parts of Ardebil, Zanjan, Qazvin, Alborz, Tehran, Mazandaran, Semnan, Hamedan, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, and West Azarbaijan provinces.

Rainfall has also been reported in some parts of East Azarbaijan, Gilan, Kordestan, Kermanshah, Ilam, Khuzestan, Lorestan, Isfahan, Markazi, and Qom provinces.

Snow and rain have been reported in Chalous, Haraz, and Firoozkooh roads, as well as Tehran-North and Qazvin-Rasht freeways.

Earlier in October, Sahar Tajbakhsh, head of the Meteorological Organization (IMO), said that according to meteorological maps, Iran will be facing a cold winter with heavy snowfalls this year.

Almost all the country will experience heavy snow, but the provinces on high altitudes will receive heavier snowfall, she stated.

Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management said that precipitation in Iran is expected to meet normal or lower than normal averages over autumn.

Some experts claim that Iran has entered



a period of a wet spell after experiencing dry spells over the past few decades, some others highly reject the claim implying that the country faced a lack of rain by 50mm over the past 5 decades.

Rainfall extremes over the past three years slowly questioned the conception that Iran is experiencing a long-term drought and some of the experts announced that a wet spell will embrace the country.

Although statistics show that Iran's weather patterns are changing toward entering a period of consecutive rainy days, given the country's climate characteristic constantly experiencing intense wet and dry spells, it cannot be accurate to claim that drought is over.

Experiencing two or three consecutive years of rainy days cannot ensure that drought no longer hits the country, but then it may enter a multi-year drought.

National Renewable Energy Award to be held online

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The Second National Renewable Energy Award will be held online on December 16, concurrent with the Fifth Renewable Energy International Conference.

With the support of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, the event will be held to explore the challenges ahead in the development of renewable energy and provide solutions to improve the businesses amid coronavirus and U.S. sanctions.

The National Renewable Energy Award will be granted to the technology companies that succeed in presenting top projects or offering innovative engineering services in the field of renewable energy.

Technology providers, creative industries, knowledge-based companies, startups, academia, and all those interested in renewable energy are among the participants in this event. Operating organizations such as power companies and municipalities will also attend the annual event.

Prizes will also be awarded to the top young researcher under the age of 35 and the influential scientific figure selected at the event.

The first virtual exhibition of renewable energy will be held simultaneously with this conference.

Renewables cut greenhouse gases in Iran

According to the latest statistics released



by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization, the use of renewable energy has reduced the emission of greenhouse gases by 3.6 million tons in the country during the Iranian calendar month of Mehr (September 23-October 22).

The amount of electricity generated from renewable energy sources reached 5.4 billion kWh during the aforesaid period. The amount of savings in fossil fuel consumption reached 1.5 million tons, equivalent to one million cubic meters of natural gas.

Moreover, renewable energy use has saved 1,203 million liters of water.

The capacity of Iran's renewable power plants and electricity efficiency reached 838.19 MW over the aforementioned month, of which solar energy with 405.56 MW holds a share of 48 percent of the total.

Ship smuggling 300,000 tons of fuel seized

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Coast guard at Parsian port, southern Hormozgan province, has seized a ship smuggling 300,000 tons of fuel in the Persian Gulf.

"This foreign ship flying the flag of Panama had entered Persian waters," IRIB quoted navy official Ahmad Hajian as saying on Saturday.



The vessel had six foreign and four Iranian crews who have been detained, he added.

Until November 16, smugglers of fuel and livestock have been fined 24 trillion rials (about \$570 million) since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21), representing a 47 percent increase compared to the same period last [Iranian calendar] year.

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

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

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

Microplastics discovered near summit of Mount Everest

Microplastics have been discovered at their highest point on Earth, near the summit of Mount Everest.

Researchers detected microplastics at 8,440m above sea level in the Balcony of Mount Everest, which is around 400m below its peak, according to preliminary findings.

The microplastics could have arrived at Mount Everest from the clothes and equipment of explorers, or been blown up the mountain by winds from nearby cities, the study's lead author told The Independent.

Dr Imogen Napper, a researcher of plastics pollution from the University of Plymouth and lead author of the new study published in the journal One Earth, told The Independent: "I think the most surprising bit for me was looking at the sample from the Balcony, which is just below the summit and seeing that there's microplastics there."

"That means we're finding it in the deep sea all the way to near the top of the tallest mountain on Earth, which is definitely eye-opening." Microplastics are fragments of plastic less than 5mm in length that pollute the world's environment. They have previously been discovered everywhere, from the bodies of penguins in Antarctica to snow from the Alps and the Arctic.

The new research, which the authors describe as "preliminary", collected samples from snow and stream water in the Mount Everest region.

It found that microplastic levels were highest at Mount Everest's base camp. Here the researchers found around 79 microplastic fibres per litre of snow. At the Balcony, around 10 microplastics fibres per litre of snow were discovered.

"It's like a trail of breadcrumbs. Where people go, they are leaving a trail of microplastics," said Dr Napper.

She added: "It could either be coming from people that are there or it could be blowing up the mountain from areas surrounding it, such as cities. However, what we did find is that the lot of the materials were polypropylenes, polyester, acrylic and nylon, which are typically used to make a lot of outdoor gear that you would expect people on expeditions to use, such as their clothing, tents and ropes."

Microplastics are small enough to be ingested by wildlife, she added, deeming the findings a "cause for concern". The scale of the impact of microplastics on the health of wildlife and humans is still an active area of research, she said.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 63)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

■ عدد - صدها = کتاب کار

صد، دویست، سیصد، چهارصد، پانصد، ششصد، هفتصد، هشتصد، نهمصد

۱۰۰ - ۲۰۰ - ۳۰۰ - ۴۰۰ - ۵۰۰ - ۶۰۰ - ۷۰۰ - ۸۰۰ - ۹۰۰

● تمرین ۱. با حرف بنویسید:

۱. ۱۲۳	۱۴۵
۲. ۲۵۷	۳۱۶
۳. ۴۳۸	۵۶۲
۴. ۶۷۱	۷۹۴
۵. ۸۸۰	۹۲۹

■ حال التزامی = کتاب کار

پ + ستاک حال + شناسه‌های حال

(باید)	م - ← پَرَوَم	(must) go
(باید)	ی - ← پَرَوِی	'ou ...
(باید)	د - ← پَرَوَد	
(باید)	یم - ← پَرَوِیم	
(باید)	ید - ← پَرَوِید	
(باید)	ند - ← پَرَوَند	

Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

The country is predicted to receive above normal rainfall over the next three months (February 20-May 21), head of the climatological research institute affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO) has said.

The whole country will meet normal and above normal rainfalls, the northern parts will receive above normal rainfall while southern provinces will receive normal to lower-than-normal rainfall, IRNA quoted Iman Babaeian as saying on Sunday.

This month, northern and eastern provinces will receive rain above normal averages, while in the first month of spring precipitation will be at normal amounts across the country, he noted, adding, during the second month of spring rainfall will reach its peak.

بارش‌های کشور در سه ماه پیش رو بیش از نرمال است

رئیس پژوهشکده اقلیم‌شناسی سازمان هواشناسی گفت: پیش‌بینی‌ها نشان می‌دهد میزان بارش در کشور در سه ماهه پیش رو (اسفند ۹۷، فروردین و اردیبهشت ۹۸) در حد نرمال و متمایل به بیش از نرمال خواهد بود.

ایمان باباییان روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: مجموع بارش‌ها در سطح کشور نرمال و متمایل به بیشتر از نرمال است اما در نیمه شمالی، بیشتر از نرمال و در نیمه جنوبی در محدوده نرمال تا کمتر از نرمال خواهد بود.

وی اظهار داشت: بارش‌ها در اسفندماه ۹۷ در نیمه شمالی و شرقی بیشتر از نرمال است، در فروردین ماه ۹۸ نیز بارش‌ها در محدوده نرمال و برای اردیبهشت بیشتر از نرمال پیش‌بینی شده است.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Beware! Whoever is cruel and harsh to a non-Muslim minority, curtailing their rights, overburdening them, or stealing from them, I will complain [to God] about that person on the Day of Judgment.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Persian novel explores relatives' supportive role in life of Prophet Muhammad (S)

→1 "I'm interested in history, especially the early history of Islam, and I wrote the book based on a proposal from the publisher," Rahi said.

She added that the subject of her book has never before been novelized for adult readers, and she said that every writer can have her/his own view of this subject.



A combination photo shows writer Maryam Rahi and the front cover of her latest novel "Tell Amin I Love Him".

"A novel's duty is not to discover the truth," Rahi noted and added, "A novel tells the story of something that has been proved to reader, and I have no plans to prove something in this novel."

"In my novel, Abu Talib has been introduced as a true believer in Islam. Although he has to keep his belief to himself, his support and prayers show that he is a follower of the Prophet Abraham (AS), and when he becomes a follower of the Prophet Muhammad (S), none of the polytheists are aware of his belief," Rahi stated.

"It would be sufficiently satisfying to me if the novel can deepen people's affection for the prophet and his household," she noted.

She is also the writer of the novel "I'm a Traveler Tomorrow", which tells the story of the captivity of the household of Imam Hussein (AS) after the Ashura battle.

Brazil children's filmfest picks five Iranian animations

A R T TEHRAN — A lineup of five Iranian animations are competing in the 19th Mostra de Cinema Infantil de Florianópolis, a children's film festival that opened in the Brazilian city on Saturday.

The lineup includes "Coward Ghost", "I Found out What to Do", "Namaki" and "Morning", all directed by Reyhaneh Kavosh.



"Morning" by Reyhaneh Kavosh.

Also included is "Serok" by Zhivar Farajzadeh. "Serok" is a boy who helps his father in the summer. Children are the most vulnerable group in society. They are directly exposed to disasters, pressures and life problems caused by their elders. "Coward Ghost" shows a ghost, whom everyone scares, walking alone in the forest.

"I Found Out What to Do" is about Shirin who wants to surprise her mother on her birthday.

"Namaki" is about a playful little girl named Namaki who needs to close eight doors every night, but once she forgot to close one.

"Morning" is also a musical animation about the beauty of the beginning of a day in a city.

A lineup of 63 films from 12 countries are competing in the festival which goes online until November 28.

Resistance festival opens with tribute to Commander Qassem Soleimani

A R T TEHRAN — The 16th edition of the Resistance International Film Festival was inaugurated on Saturday in the southern Iranian city of Kerman with a tribute to martyr Qassem Soleimani.

A group of the organizers and filmmakers gathered at the grave of Soleimani in his hometown to remember the commander of the IRGC Quds Force who was assassinated in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad in January.

This is the second stage of the festival running from November 21 to 27 to celebrate the anniversary of Basij Day, which falls on November 25.

The first stage took place during the Sacred Defense Week from September 21 to 28.

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.

"Cinema of Iran and the world", "Health Defenders", Basiji Filmmakers and "Narration of the Pen" are among the different categories of the festival.

Iranian platforms namafilm.ir and ammaryar.ir will be showcasing the films during the event.

After his martyrdom, Soleimani has become the subject of several films, the-



Organizers pay tribute to Martyr Qassem Soleimani during the opening ceremony of the 16th Resistance International Film Festival at his grave in Kerman on November 21, 2020.

atrical productions and festival programs.

The official competition of the festival offers a lineup of films, animations and

shorts.

"Abadan 11, 60", "Exodus", "Pinocchio, Amu Sardar and Raisali", "The Daughter

of Iran" and "Day of Chaos" are among the Iranian films competing in the official competition category.

The animation lineup includes "Bleuet" co-directed by Amaury d'Arcangues, Paul Calvier, Léa Rocton and Thomas Ruiz (France), "The March of the Missing" by Marcos Almada Rivero (Mexico) and "The Peculiar Crime of Oddball Mr. Jay" by Bruno Caetano (Portugal).

The Iranian animations include "This Side, Other Side" by Lida Fazli, "Savior" by Sajjad Ismaeil-Beigi, "Balance" by Barzan Rostami, "Feather" by Hadi Amiri and Raha Faraji, "White Stones" by Fati-meh Hassani, "Father" by Mohammad Keivan-Marz, "C-19" by Hasan Dehqanian and "Winter Memories" co-directed by Zahra Kababian and Amir Mahdi Safdari.

The foreign short films competing in the festival are "On the Border" by Tynchtyk Abylkasymov (Kyrgyzstan), "Prisoner & Jailor" a coproduction of Libya and Qatar by Muhannad Lamin and "Dreams under the Rubble" by Mohammed Khalil from Iraq.

The Iranian shorts include "Silence" by Ammar Khattai, "Red Card" by Mohammad-Amin Rahbar, "From Leila" by Mojtaba Espani, "Garden of Paradise" by Hassan Najafi, "Brother" by Mahdieh Mohammadi, "I Am an American" by Omid Mirzai and "I compensate" by Jamal Ahmadi.

Iranian cinema big winner of Herat Intl. Women's Film Festival



Iranian filmmakers Afshin Hashemi (2nd L) and Narges Abyar (2nd R) pose with Afghan fans for a selfie during the closing ceremony of the 6th Herat International Women's Film Festival at the Darul Aman Palace in Kabul on November 19, 2020. (HIWFF)

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian cinema was the big winner at the 6th Herat International Women's Film Festival (HIWFF) as movies from the country garnered awards in six

categories of the Afghan event on Thursday.

The Golden Earring Statue for Best Feature Narrative in the World Cinema competition went to "Just 6.5" by Saeid Rustai.

Afshin Hashemi's "Goodbye Shirazi Girl" also received a certificate of appreciation for its different view of women.

In this category, Sara Bahrami, the star of the Iranian drama "Aging" directed by Behruz Shoeibi, shared the award for best actress with Ruby Ruiz for "Iska" from the Philippines.

"The Visit" by Azadeh Mousavi won the Bronze Earring Statue for Best Short Narrative, while the Bronze Earring Statue for Best Animation went to "Tangle" by Maliheh Gholamzadeh.

"Khatemeh" co-directed by Hadi Zarei and Mehdi Zarei was selected as best feature documentary.

The documentary 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.

"A Pea for Six" comes into Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of French author Jean-Philippe Arrou-Vignod's "A Pea for Six" ("Un petit pois pour six") has recently been published by Peydayesh Publications in Tehran.

The book, the seventh volume of the Jean Something series, has been translated into Persian by Parastu Shajari.

The six Jean brothers definitely don't miss a trick! On their program this year in Cherbourg: the mysterious rendezvous of Jean-A., Jean-B's new black belt friend, a family fishing Sunday



Front cover of the Persian translation of Jean-Philippe Arrou-Vignod's "A Pea for Six".

and a Mother's Day that dad is not near. Don't forget to mention a night spent in a treehouse. What could be easier for adventurers who aren't afraid of anything, or almost?

Jean Something series takes a look at a family of five boys. Add to it a new unborn baby, a turtle, a guinea pig and a handful of white mice. Mix everything well, not to mention a very organized mom, a champion dad, and some imaginative school buddies. Sprinkle with a pinch of mischief and emotion, and serve immediately.

It's a family chronicle inspired

by childhood memories, the daily adventures and misadventures of a tribe of boys between humor and emotion.

Arrou-Vignod was born in Bordeaux. A former student of the Ecole normale supérieure, associate professor of modern letters, he has long been divided between teaching and writing.

He is the author of numerous novels, both for adults and for young people, among which the series "Enquête au collège", and the albums of "Rita et Machin". He is now collection director at Gallimard Jeunesse.

Iranian play "Labor" shortlisted for Red Curtain Intl. award

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian play "Labor" is competing for an award at the Red Curtain International as the organizers have announced the finalists in the Good Theater Festival & Awards.

The Indian festival, which is currently going online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has arranged two performances for the play for November 28 and 29.

Mahana Narimani is the writer of the play produced by the Gaze Theater Group.

A year has passed since the Filoviridae Virus has spread all over the world and decreased the world's population by 50% when four women in their ninth month of pregnancy enter a governmental institute to



A poster for the Red Curtain International.

undergo different screening processes by which their parenting, survival and other abilities are to be tested. If selected, they will receive the recently discovered, very expensive and very rare vaccine. However, since this is a life and death situation, it has its own costs.

A jury composed of members from the Philippines, Singapore, India, Italy, Finland, the UK and the USA will select winners from the finalists from Brazil, the USA, the UK, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Cape Verde, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, India and Singapore.

Performances commenced on Saturday and will run Sunday and November 28 and 29.

Cinéma Vérité to screen "The Other One" in Chilean Panorama

A R T TEHRAN — Francisco Bermejo's documentary "The Other One" will go on screen in the Chilean Panorama of the 14th edition of Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major international festival for documentary films.

The Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) as the main organizers of Cinéma Vérité announced last week that the festival plans to review the Chilean documentary cinema during the special program.

"The Other One" was selected as best

film in the Burning Lights International Competition of Visions du Réel, the Swiss documentary film festival that was held in Nyon online this year.

The story of the film is set somewhere at the end of the world, where the ocean and rocks play their endless games of hide and seek. There, a man lives, and in his mysterious solitude, he is not alone. One day, the remains of a white whale are washed up on the beach by a storm. In this stranded portrait inspired by H. Melville's masterpiece "Moby Dick",

the director questions the inner reality and one's own gaze on it.

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

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



"The Other One" by Chilean filmmaker Francisco Bermejo.