

MPs react angrily to Fakhrizadeh assassination Page 2

Iran football's newly amended statutes approved Page 3

COVID-19 lockdown moves most cities out of "red" zone Page 7

Cinéma Vérité announces lineup of COVID-19 docs Page 8

Masterminds of terrorism against Iran



See page 3

Ayatollah Khamenei: Martyr Fakhrizadeh's scientific efforts should seriously continue

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei issued a statement on Saturday on the assassination of prominent scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, saying the "scientific and technical efforts of this martyr" should be seriously put on the agenda. Fakhrizadeh, a physics professor, was assassinated in a terrorist attack on Friday afternoon in Absard town in Tehran province. Israel is the prime suspect for the assassination.

"This leading and prominent nuclear and defense scientist of the country, Mr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, was assassinated by the criminal and brutal mercenaries. This unique scientific personality lost his dear and precious life for his great and enduring scientific efforts in way of God and lofty position of martyrdom was his divine reward," the Leader said in part of his statement.

Continued on page 2

Iranian steel industry outshining world with 12.6% growth

TEHRAN – Iranian steel industry has outshined the world producers in this sector during the first 10 months of 2020, as based on the World Steel Association (WSA) Iran produced 23.8 million tons of the mentioned commodity during the January-October period, 12.6 percent more than the figure in the same 10 months of 2019. According to the WSA data, the average growth of crude steel production in the world during the mentioned period was

negative two percent. The country also produced 2.66 million tons of crude steel in October, registering an increase of 28 percent compared to the same month in 2019. The world's 64 top steel producers managed to produce 1.511 billion tons of crude steel in the first 10 months of this year which is two percent less than the production of the same period last year.

Continued on page 4

"When the Moon Was Full" named best at Resistance International Film Festival

BY MANIJEH REZAPOOR
 TEHRAN – Iranian director Narges Abyar's acclaimed drama "When the Moon Was Full" received the award for best feature at the closing ceremony of the 16th edition of the Resistance International Film Festival on Friday. Produced by Mohammad-Hossein Qa-

semi, the film tells the story of a woman from Tehran who marries a man from an Iranian province near the border of Pakistan. Soon afterwards, she discovers that her new brother-in-law is a religious extremist trying to recruit her husband for his bloody cause.

Continued on page 8

Sharif University among top 500 universities worldwide

BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI
 TEHRAN – Sharif University of Technology, one of the largest engineering schools in Iran, was listed among the top 500 universities in the world, according to the 2021 ranking of Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University. QS is the world's leading provider of services, analytics, and insight to the global higher education sector, whose mission is to enable motivated people anywhere in the world to fulfill their potential through educational achievement, international mobility, and career development. The QS World University Rankings portfolio, inaugurated in 2004, has grown to become the world's most popular source of comparative data about university performance.

Some 1,000 of the world's top universities are ranked using six different indicators to compile QS World University Rankings 2021. Universities are evaluated according to the following six metrics: academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, citations per faculty, international faculty ratio, and international student ratio. As per the data published on QS World University Rankings official website, Sharif University of Technology ranked 409 and University of Tehran ranked between 591 and 600.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) tops the list for a record ninth consecutive year in QS ranking. MIT is one of five American institutions in this year's top 10. Stanford University, Harvard University, California Institute of Technology, University of Oxford, Swiss Federal University of Technology, University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, University of Chicago, and University College London (UCL) are among the world's top 10 universities.

Iranian universities on world ranking lists

Most recently, the Islamic World Science Citation Database (ISC) published the results of the ISC World University Rankings 2019, according to which 35 Iranian universities were listed among the world's top 2,000 in various subjects. Also, forty-three Iranian universities were placed in the Islamic World University Rankings 2019 announced by the ISC.

Continued on page 7

Israel cannot afford a total war on Iran: military analyst

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI
 TEHRAN – A senior Lebanese political and military analyst, retired General Amine Mohammad Hoteit, says the U.S. wants to warn the resistance movement that there will be a war in the region but Israel is not prepared for a full-fledged war against Iran. Noting that Israel cannot afford the cost of a total war, Mohammad Hoteit tells the Tehran Times that "Washington, through its recent moves, wants to imply that there was an upcoming war." Last Sunday the U.S. military sent nuclear-capable B-52H "Stratofortress" bombers to West Asia at short notice to deter what it calls aggression. Just a few days after the announcement of the deployment of bombers in the region, prominent Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was assassinated on Friday afternoon in a

terrorist attack about 40 kilometers northeast of the capital Tehran. Israeli and U.S. spy services are considered the main culprit behind the assassination. Mohammad Hoteit, also a university instructor and researcher, says, "We cannot imagine that Israel will continue to live without carrying out terrorist operations or assassinations." Following is the text of the interview:
How do you evaluate the assassination of the Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh? What is Israel's record in assassinating scientific and political figures?
 A: We were not surprised by the assassination operation on Friday. We expected, in this sensitive and delicate circumstance, and in recent days, that the Trump administration or Israel, or in coordination with each other, as a criminal bloc, would do a military adventure.

Continued on page 5

France gears for more security law protests amid police violence

Dozens of rallies are planned against a new French law that would restrict sharing images of police, only days after the country was shaken by footage showing officers beating and racially abusing a Black man. The case shocked France with celebrities and politicians alike condemning the officers' actions, and has brought the debate over President Emmanuel Macron's law to boiling point, al Jazeera reported. Macron on Friday called the incident an "unacceptable attack" and asked the government to come up with proposals to "fight against discrimination". One of the most controversial elements of the new law is Article 24, which would criminalize the publication of images of on-duty police officers with the intent of harming their "physical or psychological integrity". It was passed by the National Assembly last

week – although it is awaiting Senate approval – provoking rallies and protests across France. Rally organizers are calling for the article to be withdrawn, claiming that it contradicts "the fundamental public freedoms of our Republic". "This bill aims to undermine the freedom of the press, the freedom to inform and be informed, the freedom of expression," one of Saturday's protest organizers said. Trade unions are expected to join the demonstrations, with members of the "yellow vests" – whose sometimes violent protests in 2018 and 2019 shook the country – also expected. In Paris, the authorities had demanded organizers limit the rally to a single location, but on Friday evening officials authorized a march. And in a sign that the government could be preparing to backtrack, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced on Friday he would appoint a commission to redraft Article 24.

Saudis will pay high price for genocidal war on Yemen, expert says

BY M.A. SAKI
 TEHRAN – A political analyst says Saudi Arabia is well aware that it is paying a high price for its genocide in Yemen. "Saudis should worry that they will continue to pay a high price for their genocidal war on Yemen," Jay Tharappel, a representative in the Yemen Solidarity Council, tells the Tehran Times. According to Tharappel, the Saudis could not impose blockade on Yemen without support by the American and British navies.

"Saudis cannot impose the blockade on Yemen without the support of U.S. and British naval power," he explains. The following is the text of the interview:
How do you see the recent missile attack on the Saudi Aramco in Jeddah? What does it mean for Saudi Arabia and its allies?
 A: On Monday we learned that the Yemeni national resistance fired a missile that hit a Saudi Aramco oil facility in Jeddah, the spokesman for the Yemeni armed forces Yahya Sarei claimed the strike was delivered by

the newer and more accurate Quds-2 missile and has vowed that "operations will continue". The rationale behind these missile strikes is very simple to force Saudi Arabia to pay a price for the ongoing war and blockade that the Saudi-led coalition continues to wage against the people. What does this mean for Saudi Arabia and its allies? In September 2019 there was a spectacular sophisticated drone strike on Saudi oil facilities in Abqaiq. Continued on page 5

Holding Australia at MCG was miracle: Khodadad Azizi

BY FARROKH HESABI
 TEHRAN – Nov. 29, 1997 is an unforgettable day in the history of Iranian football and is etched in every Iranian football fan's memory. On that day, millions of Iranian fans poured onto the streets of Tehran to celebrate securing a place at their first FIFA World Cup Finals in 20 years.

At the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Australia's national team were held to a 2-2 draw by Iran. A result that broke Australians' hearts, when goals from Karim Bagheri and Khodadad Azizi earned the Iranians a 3-3 aggregate tie and a ticket for the FIFA World Cup on the away goals rule.

The name of Khodadad Azizi became immortalized in Iranian football after scoring the goal that sent Iran to France 1998. He also had set up the first goal and scored a goal for Iran in the first leg a week earlier.

Twenty-three years later, Tehran Times approached Khodadad Azizi, now a 49-year-old veteran, to talk to him in an exclusive interview about that historic match and other Iranian football issues.

Tehran Times: "Then 26, Azizi was in the prime of his career," it's mentioned in a report by FIFA.com about the match. Do you agree that it was the prime of your career?

Azizi: It's generally true. At the ages of 26, 27, or 28, I was playing my best football. Having been named AFC Player of the year in 1996 and the second-best player of Asia in 1997 proves that those years were the prime of my career.

Continued on page 3



© Mehdi Bakshahi

People seek revenge for Fakhrizadeh assassination

People from different walks of life gathered in front of the Imam Khomeini House in Qom on Saturday strongly protesting the assassination of prominent scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. Also, university students held a protest in front of the Foreign Ministry representative office in Shiraz demanding revenge for the assassination of the scientist. Israel and the U.S. are the prime suspects for the terrorist act. Senior military and political officials have said the perpetrators of the criminal act should await a tough revenge.

Ayatollah Khamenei: Martyr Fakhrizadeh's scientific efforts should seriously continue

➔ "All authorities should put two things seriously on agenda, first investigate the crime and decisively punish the perpetrators and those who ordered it, and then continue scientific and technical efforts of the martyr in all sectors in which he was involved," Ayatollah Khamenei asserted.

Iran holds Israel accountable for Fakhrizadeh assassination in letter to Guterres

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, has held the U.S. and Israeli regimes responsible for the assassination of the top Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

"The cowardly assassination of Martyr Fakhrizadeh — with serious indications of Israeli responsibility in it — is another desperate attempt to wreak havoc on our region as well as to disrupt Iran's scientific and technological development," Takht Ravanchi wrote in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and President of the UN Security Council Inga Rhonda King on Friday.



"I am writing to inform you that today, 27 November 2020 in Absard city of Tehran province, Mr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a prominent Iranian scientist, was assassinated in a terrorist attack," he said, IRNA reported.

He said one of the latest services of Martyr Fakhrizadeh was his outstanding role in the development of the first indigenous COVID-19 test kit, which is a great contribution to Iran's national efforts in curbing the COVID-19 pandemic at a time when the country is under inhumane sanctions of the United States, strictly preventing its access to humanitarian goods including medicines and medical equipment.

Fakhrizadeh was assassinated in a terrorist attack on Friday afternoon. His assassination took place in Absard city of Damavand County, about 40 kilometers northeast of Tehran.

The expert was assassinated in his car by terrorists, who blew up a pickup — a Nissan sedan — laden with explosives on the way of the car carrying Fakhrizadeh and then started shooting at his car and security guards.

Reportedly, three to four terrorists were killed in the armed clash.

"Over the current decade, several top Iranian scientists have been targeted and assassinated in terrorist attacks and our firm evidence clearly indicates that certain foreign quarters have been behind such assassinations," he stated. "While during the past forty years, no amount of pressure and terrorist attacks were able to prevent us from achieving science and technology needed for our socio-economic development."

The envoy warned against any adventurist moves by the United States and Israel against Iran, particularly during the remaining period of the current administration of Donald Trump, saying the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its rights to take all necessary measures to defend its people and secure its interests.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the criminal assassination of Martyr Fakhrizadeh, and expects the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Security Council to strongly condemn this inhumane terrorist act and take necessary measures against its perpetrators," Takht-Ravanchi added.

He also requested that the letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

In a tweet later in the day, the Iranian ambassador also urged the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council to condemn the state-sponsored assassination.

"What was clearly a state-sponsored assassination of our prominent scientist was also a clear violation of int'l law, designed to wreak havoc on our region," he wrote. "It must be condemned by #UNSG & #UNSC."

"Iran won't ever shy away from deterring aggression, or from protecting its people," he added.

Israeli embassies on alert after Iran retaliation threats

Israel put its embassies around the world on high alert on Saturday after Iranian threats of retaliation following the assassination of a nuclear scientist near Tehran, Israeli N12 news reported on Saturday.

A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry said the ministry did not comment on matters of security regarding its representatives abroad, Reuters said.

Iran has blamed Israel for the assassination of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was gunned down on Friday afternoon after mercenaries ambushed him in his car in Absard city in Damavand County.

Civilian and military officials in Iran have warned they will not allow the assassination go unpunished.

MPs react angrily to Fakhrizadeh assassination, set to mandate govt. to end IAEA inspections

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iran's Parliament seeks to mandate the government to end the inspections of Iranian nuclear and military installations by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a lawmaker said on Saturday.

"A statement condemning the assassination of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh will be read out in an open session of the Majlis tomorrow, mandating the government to retaliate quickly against U.S. and Israeli terrorist leaders and to reduce the level of the Agency's inspections of nuclear and military facilities to zero," Nasrollah Pezhmanfar said in a tweet on Saturday.

The remarks came a day after Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a professor of physics at Imam Hussein University who headed the Defense Ministry's Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND), was martyred in a terrorist attack while travelling near Absard city in Tehran Province's northeast Damavand County.

Early in 2018, the Israeli sources had acknowledged that Mossad had tried to assassinate an Iranian nuclear scientist, but its operation failed.

MP Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi, also a member of the parliamentary committee, wrote, "Faith and science cannot be wiped out with terrorism."

Nasrollah Motafaker Azad, a member of the Parliament Presiding Board, also tweeted, "The least response to this act is to terminate all the (International) Atomic Energy Agency inspections."

Motafaker Azad also said, "We should take strategic rather than tactical decisions."

■ **'Black mark on forehead of Moassad and CIA'**

Fada Hossein Maleki, a former diplomat



who sits on the parliamentary security committee, said the assassination of Fakhrizadeh is a "black mark on the forehead of Moassad and CIA" spy services.

Maleki said the assassination in the last days of Trump's presidency is intended to trigger a full-fledged war in the region but Iran will give a "crushing response to this crime".

Other Iranian officials, commanders and lawmakers have also condemned Israel for the targeted killing, vowing to take revenge at an appropriate time.

Chairman of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said the Islamic Republic will definitely take revenge from the criminal Zionists.

"The cowardly assassination of martyr Fakhrizadeh will not go unanswered," Mojtaba Zonnour said in a tweet on Saturday.

Abbas Moghtadaie, who is the deputy chairman of the National Security and For-

eign Policy Committee, said, "Now the entire Iran says tough revenge for terror. Tough revenge will be taken. Do not doubt it."

■ **'Scientific progress cannot be thwarted with assassination of individuals'**

Homayoun Sameyah Najafabadi, who represents the Jewish community in Iran, said Iran's scientific progress cannot be thwarted with the assassination of individuals.

"The enemy thinks that science and knowledge in the Islamic Republic of Iran depend on the individual and they can stop the progress of science and knowledge in Iran by assassinating individuals," Sameyah Najafabadi told Fars news agency on Saturday.

"The fact is that this perception of the enemy is completely wrong, and scientific progress in our country does not depend on individuals, and although we have prominent scientific personalities, their assassination

does not lead the enemy to his goal of hindering our scientific progress," he added.

Ahmad Amirabadi, a member of the Majlis presiding board, said, "The enemies of the Iranian nation should know that this blind act will not cause a crack in the will of the Iranian nation."

■ **'Parliamentary committee to hold emergency meeting'**

Abolfazl Amouei, the spokesman for the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said lawmakers are planning to hold an extraordinary session to review the assassination of Fakhrizadeh.

"Lawmakers will hold a session in the next 24 hours to address the assassination of the Iranian nuclear scientist," Amouei said on Saturday.

He pointed out that Iran's security officials have been invited to take part in the meeting.

"The Majlis is currently studying the strategic action plan for lifting the sanctions with priority," Amouei said. "Part of the plan is related to the revival of our country's nuclear program and it will definitely be pursued with more capacity."

The MP emphasized that the vicious terrorist attack will definitely impact the Parliament's pursuit of the strategic action plan on sanctions.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, said it was clear who was behind the killing.

"For my part, I offer my condolences to the Supreme Leader, the scientific community, the defense industry, the wife and dear children of this great martyr," Gharibabadi said in a post on his Instagram account.

Rouhani: Israel behind Fakhrizadeh assassination

POLITICAL TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani has said Israel was behind the assassination of Iran's prominent scientist.

"Once again, the evil hands of global arrogance and their Zionist mercenaries, were stained with the blood of another Iranian, causing deep grief across the nation for losing a hard-working scientist," Rouhani said in a message on Saturday.

Undoubtedly, he said, the horrific terrorist attack is due to the inability of Iran's enemies against the country's scientific movement and the honors and capabilities of the great nation of Iran.

"It also comes after the enemies' repeated defeats in the region and other political arenas, and the depth of their malice and resentment," the president noted, according to Mehr.

Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, 59, was killed on Friday in a terrorist attack involving at least one explosion and small fire by a number of assailants in Absard city of Damavand County, Tehran Province.

According to Fars news agency, the attack targeted the vehicle carrying Fakhrizadeh, who headed the Defense Ministry's Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND).

Rouhani said the enemies of the Iranian nation should know that the martyrdom of people like Fakhrizadeh not only will not disrupt the will of the Iranian youth and sci-

entists to follow the path of accelerated scientific growth and conquering the peaks of honor, but it will also make them more determined to continue the path of this precious martyr.

"Without doubt, the Defense Ministry will fill the void of this great scientist with the help of his hard-working and selfless colleagues and students," he added.

The president further said, "I would like to express my deepest condolences to the respectable family of this great martyr and to the Iranian nation and the scientific community."

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also strongly condemned the terrorist attack, saying there were "serious indications" of the Israeli regime's role in the assassination of Fakhrizadeh, a professor of physics at Imam Hussein University of Tehran.

"Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today. This cowardice—with serious indications of Israeli role—shows desperate warmongering of perpetrators," Zarif tweeted on Friday.

"Iran calls on int'l community—and especially EU—to end their shameful double standards & condemn this act of state terror," he added.

The New York Times quoted three U.S. officials as saying on Friday that Israel was behind the assassination.

One American official — along with two other intelligence officials — said that Israel was behind the attack on



the scientist," The New York Times reported.

"It was unclear how much the United States may have known about the operation in advance, but the two nations are the closest of allies and have long shared intelligence regarding Iran," it added.

Fakhrizadeh's name was mentioned multiple times in a presentation in 2018 by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, during which he repeated baseless accusations about Iran's nuclear program.

Netanyahu described the scientist as the director of Iran's nuclear program and warned, "Remember that name, Fakhrizadeh."

Ex-CIA chief slams Sen. Cruz for 'lawless attitude' over Iranian scientist assassination

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Former CIA director John Brennan has slammed U.S. Senator Ted Cruz for his "lawless attitude" over the assassination of Iran's top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

In a tweet on Friday, following the targeted killing of the Iranian scientist, Brennan tweeted that "this was a criminal act & highly reckless. It risks lethal retaliation & a new round of regional conflict."

"Iranian leaders would be wise to wait for the return of responsible American leadership on the global stage & to resist the urge to respond against perceived culprits," he added.

Fakhrizadeh, 59, was killed on Friday in a terrorist attack involving at least one explosion and small fire by a number of assailants in Absard city of Damavand County, Tehran Province. Tehran has said Israel and global arrogance are behind



Brennan

Ted Cruz

the assassination.

"I do not know whether a foreign government authorized or carried out the murder of Fakhrizadeh," Brennan said. "Such an act of state-sponsored terrorism would be a flagrant violation of international law & encourage more governments to carry out lethal attacks against foreign officials."

He added: "These assassinations are far different than strikes against terrorist

leaders & operatives of groups like al-Qaida & Islamic State, which are not sovereign states. As illegitimate combatants under international law, they can be targeted in order to stop deadly terrorist attacks.

Cruz, an Iran hawk in the U.S. Senate, said via Twitter that "it's bizarre to see a former head of the CIA consistently side with Iranian zealots who chant 'Death to America.' And reflexively condemn Israel."

In response, Brennan told Cruz that "It is typical for you to mischaracterize my comment."

"Your lawless attitude & simple-minded approach to serious national security matters demonstrate that you are unworthy to represent the good people of Texas," the former CIA chief added.

Omri Ceren, a security advisor to Senator Cruz, also criticized Brennan, tweeting that "some enterprising journalist should ask John Brennan if this tweet constitutes

a Logan Act violation by John Brennan according to the standards articulated over the last four years by John Brennan."

Cruz retweeted Ceren's remarks, which drew another response from Brennan, who said the Texas senator "is now misrepresenting the Logan Act. Apparently, he is a poor Senator & a bad lawyer. A private citizen publicly criticizing what could be a state-sponsored assassination of a government official & cautioning against retaliatory killing is called freedom of speech."

"In contrast, an individual tapped to be National Security Advisor (but not yet one) in an incoming Administration who privately contacts a foreign government official & advises how to conduct relations with the U.S. could be in violation of the Logan Act," he said, referring to the case of former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who was recently pardoned by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Navy chief: Iran to launch first transport dock-helicopter carrier warship in days

TEHRAN (FNA) — Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi said that the country will launch its first transport dock-helicopter carrier warship named Khalij-e Fars (Persian Gulf) in the next few days.

"Today, we are in possession of a combination of the most advanced equipment, including fire control, missile and artillery systems as well as new and state-of-the-art structures," Rear Admiral Khanzadi said, addressing a ceremony on the occasion of the Navy Day on Saturday.

He referred to Iran's home-made transport dock-helicopter carrier warship, and said, "The warship enjoys very good possibilities to deploy special operations teams and carry speed boats. Also, highly good defense tools have been mounted on this vessel which will join the Navy in the coming days. The vessel can help the defense capabilities of the Iranian Navy and bring change to the regional equations."

Elsewhere, Rear Admiral Khanzadi said that construc-



tion of Damavand warship on the Northern coasts of the country is nearing end and it will be ready for voyage in the sea by the yearend.

Last month, Rear Admiral Khanzadi had said that the

country would launch its first transport dock-helicopter carrier warship in November.

"We are trying to launch in November the first navy transport dock-helicopter carrier warship with the capability to carry helicopters and drones and a collection of missiles and arms systems," Rear Admiral Khanzadi said.

He added that the warship named Khalij-e Fars can voyage around the Earth three times with one time of fueling, noting that the vessel can stay in the ocean for a long time and to develop a defense and security stability in the region.

"Such equipment establish security in the seas in the interest of the regional and world states," Rear Admiral Khanzadi said.

He also informed that Destroyer Dena and a mine-hunter will also be unveiled in November. Dena, a vessel of the Jamaran-class, is currently undergoing its final trial stages and is more advanced than the previous ships of the same class.

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

UN official implies to assassination of Iranian scientist a rights violation

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Agnes d e s k Callamard, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extra-Judicial Executions, has reacted to the assassination of prominent Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhriadeh, implying that the killing of the scientist could be a violation of human rights.

“Murder of Mohsen Fakhriadeh, Iran’s top nuclear scientist: many questions still as to the circumstances of his killing. No State or non-State actors have yet claimed responsibility. But to recall: An extrajudicial targeted killing, outside an armed conflict is a violation of international human rights law prohibiting the arbitrary deprivation of life and a violation of the UN Charter prohibiting the use of force extrajudicially in times of peace,” tweeted the UN Special Rapporteur.

Fakhriadeh, 59, was killed on Friday in a terrorist attack involving at least one explosion and small fire by a number of assailants in the Absard city of Damavand County, Tehran Province.

Iran has accused Israel of being behind the attack. President Hassan Rouhani said in a statement on Saturday that mercenaries of the Zionists were responsible for the killing of Fakhriadeh.

“Once again, the evil hands of global arrogance and their Zionist mercenaries were stained with the blood of another Iranian, causing deep grief across the nation for losing a hard-working scientist,” the statement said.

On Friday, Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also pointed the finger at Israel, saying there were “serious indications



of an Israeli role in the Friday attack.

“Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today. This cowardice—with serious indications of Israeli role—shows desperate warmongering of perpetrators. Iran calls on int’l community—and especially EU—to end their shameful double standards & condemn this act of state terror,” the Iranian chief diplomat said in a tweet.

■ **EU calls assassination ‘criminal act’**

The European Union also denounced the assassination of the scientist, calling it a “criminal act” that goes against human rights.

“On 27 November 2020 in Absard, Iran, an Iranian government official and several civilians were killed in a series of violent attacks. This is a criminal act and

runs counter to the principle of respect for human rights the EU stands for. The High Representative expresses his condolences to the family members of the individuals who were killed, while wishing a prompt recovery to any other individuals who may have been injured,” the spokesperson for the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy said in a statement on Saturday.

The statement also called on all parties to exercise restraint and refrain from taking actions that could escalate tensions in the region.

“In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever for all parties to remain calm and exercise maximum restraint in order to avoid escalation which cannot be in anyone’s interest,” the spokesperson said.

■ **Turkey says assassination was ‘act of terrorism’**

Turkish parliament head says assassination was act of terror, whether committed by illegal group or state

Turkey’s parliament speaker also said on Saturday that the assassination of top Iranian scientist was a terrorist act.

“The assassination of the Iranian scientist was an act of terrorism. Whether it was committed by an illegal or a ‘legal’ organization or a state makes no difference,” Mustafa Sentop said on Twitter, according to aa.com.tr.

“Terrorism is always terrorism, anyone who commits an act of terrorism is a terrorist,” Sentop added.

The assassination of Fakhriadeh has drawn widespread criticism around the world, including in the United States.

John Brennan, the former CIA director, called the attack on Fakhriadeh a “criminal act.”

“This was a criminal act & highly reckless. It risks lethal retaliation & a new round of regional conflict. Iranian leaders would be wise to wait for the return of responsible American leadership on the global stage & to resist the urge to respond against perceived culprits,” said the former spymaster in a tweet.

He added, “I do not know whether a foreign government authorized or carried out the murder of Fakhriadeh. Such an act of state-sponsored terrorism would be a flagrant violation of international law & encourage more governments to carry out lethal attacks against foreign officials.”

Iran has vowed to respond to the attack but it also vowed not to fall in the trap of Israel.

Masterminds of terrorism against Iran

POLITICAL TEHRAN — As the world reacts to the assassination of yet another Iranian nuclear scientist, analysts point to the deafening silence of the U.S. Democrats, who have largely stopped short of denouncing the deadly attack on the prominent Iranian scientist Dr. Mohsen Fakhriadeh.

On Friday at 14:30, a sound of explosion rocked the small Absard city of Damavand County, about 40 kilometers northeast of the capital Tehran. A Nissan Junior pickup truck packed with highly explosive materials exploded as the convoy of Dr. Fakhriadeh passed by. The assailants, who are estimated to be more than 10 people, immediately unleashed a barrage of gunshots, assassinating the scientist and severely injuring his bodyguards. Iranian security forces rushed to the crime scene moments after the attack. A helicopter immediately landed there to transfer the injured scientist to hospital. Doctors made efforts to keep Fakhriadeh alive, but their efforts to resuscitate him ended in failure. And ultimately, the Iranian Defense Ministry announced his martyrdom on Friday evening.

Iranian officials were quick to point the finger at Israel, which has carried out many assassination operations against Iranian nuclear scientists over the past decade.

“Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today. This cowardice—with serious indications of Israeli role—shows desperate warmongering of perpetrators. Iran calls on int’l community—and especially EU—to end their shameful double standards & condemn this act of state terror,” Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet, hours after the Friday attack.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran’s ambassador to the United Nations, also accused Israel of being behind the assassination. “The cowardly assassination of Martyr Fakhriadeh—with serious indications of Israeli responsibility in it—is another desperate attempt to wreak havoc on our region as well as to disrupt Iran’s scientific and technological development,” Takht Ravanchi wrote in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and President of the UN Security Council Inga Rhonda King on Friday.

Aside from Israel, which is a prime suspect for the terrorist attack, other factions, especially in the United States, are also being seen as the abetting—or maybe ordering—the perpetrators of the Friday attack.

Republicans in the U.S. have not condemned the attack and are actually supporting it. Some of them even criticized those who warned of the attack’s implication for peace and stability in the region. John Brennan, the former CIA director under Barack Obama, has described the attack as “a criminal act” that constitutes a flagrant violation of international law.

“This was a criminal act & highly reckless. It risks lethal retaliation & a new round of regional conflict. Iranian leaders would be wise to wait for the return of responsible American leadership on the global stage & to resist the urge to respond against perceived culprits,” Brennan tweeted.

He added, “I do not know whether a foreign government authorized or carried out the murder of Fakhriadeh. Such an act of state-sponsored terrorism would be a flagrant violation of international law & encourage more governments to carry out lethal attacks against foreign officials.”

Senator Ted Cruz railed against Brennan for these tweets, implicitly accusing him of favoring Iran over Israel.

“It’s bizarre to see a former head of the CIA consistently side with Iranian zealots who chant ‘Death to America.’ And reflexively condemn Israel. Does Joe Biden agree?” tweeted the Texas senator.

Republicans, in general, have been either silent on the attack or supportive of it. President Trump has implicitly expressed support for Israel by retweeting a tweet of an Israeli journalist called Yossi Melman, who claimed in his tweet that Fakhriadeh “was the head of Iran’s secret military program and wanted for many years but Mossad.”

Democrats, who are busy working to take the helm in Washington, have also been silent on the assassination.

Pundits believe that both Democrats and Republicans are satisfied with the assassination. Israel is the prime suspect for the attack but the main enemy, that is the U.S., should not be forgotten, according to Seyed Reza Sadr al-Hosseini, an expert on West Asia.

“Throughout the history of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the way that Republicans and Democrats have dealt with Iran has been no different. The history of the two parties’ policies toward Iran shows that both parties have sought to create challenges against the Iranian nation and bring the nation to a dead end,” Sadr al-Hosseini told the Tehran Times.

But Democrats, the expert added, are more skillful at doing “semi-hard operations” such as assassinations and coups.

According to Sadr al-Hosseini, the Democratic Party has a track record in launching semi-hard operations and orchestrating coups.

Sadr al-Hosseini said, “In the assassination of Fakhriadeh, even though Republicans were in power in the U.S., Democrats were kept in the loop about the assassination. Therefore, both parties were fully satisfied with the attack on the Iranian scientist.”

According to the expert, U.S. news organizations affiliated with Republicans and Democrats have covered the news of Fakhriadeh’s assassination but they did not regret or condemn the attack. They even refused to express sympathy with Iran over the assassination of the scientist, he remarked.

This is all while other countries such as Turkey, Venezuela, and South Africa all have condemned the attack on Fakhriadeh, he added.

In fact, U.S. leading news media outlets have even sought to mirror Israel’s allegations against Iran. The New York Times, a Democratic-leaning American publication known for its Trump-bashing reports, ran on Saturday a story on

the assassination claiming that the late scientist “led a covert campaign by Iran to design an atomic warhead.”

Citing an American official and two other intelligence officials, the newspaper also said that Israel was behind the attack on the scientist.

“It was unclear how much the United States may have known about the operation in advance, but the two nations are the closest of allies and have long shared intelligence regarding Iran,” it added.

As of this writing, Joe Biden, who is preparing to move into the White House, has refrained from making any remarks on the Fakhriadeh assassination. As Biden tries to pick officials for various public service jobs, an array of names has been highlighted as Biden’s pick for CIA director. Among them is Mike Morell, who is known for his passion to make Iranians pay the price for what he allegedly called secret killing of Americans.

According to CNN, Morell, who was a deputy director of the CIA under Obama and twice served as the agency’s acting director, is a contender to be nominated for the full-time role.

In an interview with PBS in August 2016, Morell said that the U.S. should kill the Iranians and Russians secretly. “What they need is to have the Russians and Iranians pay a little price,” Morell said. “When we were in Iraq, the Iranians were giving weapons to the Shia militia, who were killing American soldiers, right? The Iranians were making us pay a price. We need to make the Iranians pay a price in Syria. We need to make the Russians pay a price.”

Morell pointed out that the killing of Iranians and Russians should be undertaken “covertly, so you don’t tell the world about it, you don’t stand up at the Pentagon and say ‘we did this.’ But you make sure they know it in Moscow and Tehran.”

In line with this strategy, many Iranian nuclear scientists were assassinated under the Obama administration. These assassinations were largely attributed to Israel. But many analysts believe that the Obama administration abetted Israel. During the Obama administration, more than four Iranian nuclear scientists were assassinated, most of them were killed in perceived Mossad operations, which were done under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s watch.

Netanyahu had mentioned Fakhriadeh in a 2018 presentation on the alleged atomic archive of Iran that Israel claims it stole from a warehouse in southern Tehran.

Netanyahu said at the time that he identified Fakhriadeh as the head scientist in Iran’s nuclear program, and urged people to “remember that name.”

As the news broke that Fakhriadeh was assassinated in Tehran on Friday, the people quickly remembered, not the name of Fakhriadeh, but the mentioning of the scientist’s name by Netanyahu in the 2018 presentation in which the Israeli prime minister implied in a thinly-veiled threat that Israel might kill the Iranian scientist.

Iran smarter than to fall in trap of Zionists: Rouhani

POLITICAL TEHRAN — President d e s k Hassan Rouhani has vowed revenge for the assassination of an Iranian nuclear scientist but he said Iran will not fall in the trap of the Zionist regime.

“All think tanks and all enemies of Iran should know well that the Iranian nation and the country’s authorities are more courageous and Zealous than to let this criminal act go unanswered. The relevant authorities will respond to this crime at the proper time,” Rouhani was quoted by state news agency IRNA as saying on Saturday morning.

But Rouhani also said that Iran will not fall in the “trap” of the enemies.

“The Iranian nation is wiser and smarter than to fall in the trap of the Zionists (Israel). They are after chaos and sedition. They should understand that we know their plans and they will not achieve their ominous goals,”

the Iranian president said. Rouhani’s remarks came in response to Friday’s assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhriadeh, who is known for his scientific works in the nuclear arena. The martyr scientist was the head of the Defense Ministry’s Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND).

Rouhani also issued a statement on Saturday expressing sympathy over the assassination of Fakhriadeh and accusing Israel of being behind the assassination.

“Once again, the evil hands of global arrogance and their Zionist mercenaries, were stained with the blood of another Iranian, causing deep grief across the nation for losing a hard-working scientist,” said the Rouhani statement.

Iran immediately pointed the finger at Israel after the scientist was assassinated in the Friday terrorist attack in the Absard

city of Damavand County, Tehran Province. The attack occurred around 14:30 local time.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet on Friday evening that the attack was done with “serious indications of Israeli role.”

“Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today. This cowardice—with serious indications of Israeli role—shows desperate warmongering of perpetrators. Iran calls on international community—and especially EU—to end their shameful double standards & condemn this act of state terror,” the chief Iranian diplomat said.

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, also issued a statement calling on authorities to punish the perpetrators of the assassination.

“Mr. Mohsen Fakhriadeh, the prominent and prestigious nuclear and defense scientist of the country was martyred by criminal and

brutal mercenaries,” the leader said, adding that “this unique scientific element” lost his life because of his “seminal and enduring scientific” works.

The Leader called on authorities to seriously pursue two things: first, investigating the crime and decisively punishing the perpetrators and those who ordered it. Second, continuing Fakhriadeh’s scientific works.

Foreign intelligence officials also confirmed that Israel was behind the killing of the Iranian scientists. These intelligence officials, along with one American official, told The New York Times that Israel was behind the attack on the scientist.

“It was unclear how much the United States may have known about the operation in advance, but the two nations are the closest of allies and have long shared intelligence regarding Iran,” the American newspaper added.

SPORTS

Holding Australia at MCG was miracle: Khodadad Azizi

1→ You were playing at Cologne in the German Bundesliga. Was it effective to develop your level of football?

Surely, playing in the Bundesliga had a big impact on the quality of my game. With Ali Daei and Karim Bagheri, we were among the first Iranian who played in Europa, and we found out how difficult modern football is.

■ **Reviewing Australia and Iran’s historical match in Melbourne, do you really believe that it was a miracle for the Iranians?**

Azizi: Realistically speaking, I have to say that we were not as strong as the Australian team at that game. Of course, we played very well in Tehran’s first leg, which ended 1-1. We created a lot of opportunities, and we could have scored more if we had done better in front of the goal. The low quality of the Azadi Stadium’s turf was one of the reasons we didn’t play as we expected. However, in the second match in Australia, they were much better than us, especially in the first half, and they deserved more goals. But, in my opinion, the real miracle was the 2-2 result because it was exactly the result that we needed. Winning the game was somehow impossible for us, so we needed a draw. If it was 1-1, we could not resist, and at the extra times, we would definitely lose. Before the game, anyone, who understood football, knew that we had a tough job ahead. My teammates in Germany talked to me about it. Most of the Australian players were playing in the best European leagues like England, Germany, Italy, Scotland, etc.

■ **But at last Iran won the ticket for the 1998 FIFA World Cup.**

Yes, and it is the reason that football has so many fans and viewers around the world. It’s always unpredictable, and nobody can be sure about the result. It happened to us, and fortunately, we enjoyed the final result.

■ **Can we say the Iran team at that competition benefited from the best generation?**

As a member of that team, I cannot talk about it and just say that we were the best. The four Iranian players have been named AFC Player of the Year so far and three of them were playing in that team, namely Ali Daei, Mehdi Mahdavi, and me. Meanwhile, Karim Bagheri and Ahmadrza Abedzadeh were also among the best players in Asia. Keeping this in mind, you can judge for yourself which team had the best generation of players in Iranian football history.

Iran football’s newly amended statutes approved

SPORTS TEHRAN — The General Assembly of the Football d e s k Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) approved the federation’s newly amended statutes on Saturday.

This was the first-ever virtual FFIRI’s General Assembly, which was held as a webinar due to the pandemic coronavirus’s continuous outbreak.

It was the first assembly after nearly two years and the revision of the statutes, the annual reports, and the financial reports were approved in the assembly. Besides, the date for the FFIRI’s elections was determined.

The Iranian Football Federation General Assembly was postponed due to FIFA’s objections over the FFIRI statutes.

FFIRI was involved in a long process with the world governing body over alleged government interference.

FIFA demanded changes to the FFIRI statutes more than a year ago and rejected amended documents submitted on several occasions. Finally, it was in the last month that FIFA approved the football federation’s statutes.

Consequently, the statute had to be approved by the General Assembly of the FFIRI to be finalized.

At the virtual session on Saturday, the new statutes were approved unanimously as 70 out of 75 members of the assembly voted in favor of the new regulations. The number of members present at the meeting was 73.

Mehdi Mohammad Nabi, the FFIRI’s general secretary, officially started the session, saying: “We sent all the documents related to the statutes to the members of the assembly, and they expressed their views about the amendments.”

Then it was Heydar Baharvand, the acting president of the FFIRI, who appreciated the support from the Ministry of Sport and Youth. “Fortunately, in the process of the amendment of the statutes, which was a complicated task, we had the support of the members of the general assembly as well as the Ministry of Sports, especially Mr. Soltanifar, the Sports Minister,” Baharvand said.

“The minister of Sports personally helped to solve the problem of the statutes. By removing the Sports Minister from the assembly members, the main problem was solved with FIFA,” he added.

The removal of Soltanifar’s role in internal FFIRI affairs was one of eight issues FIFA called on the governing body to address

According to the FFIRI’s Secretary General, in today’s assembly, the presidential elections of this federation will be held within 70 days and probably in 2021 mid-February.

Iran beat Saudi Arabia at FIBA Asia Cup qualifier

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iran national basketball team d e s k defeated Saudi Arabia 71-64 at the Window 2 of FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers on Saturday.

Iran guard Behnam Yakchali finished with 27 points and Mohammed Alsuwailam scored 13 points for Saudi Arabia at the Al-Gharafa Sports Club Multi-Purpose Hall in Doha, Qatar. Iran will meet Syria on Monday.

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

Iranian sports journalist dies due to coronavirus

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iranian sports journalist Arash d e s k Rostamnadi has died on Saturday after contracting COVID-19.

He passed away at the age of 44 in his hometown Ardabil, northwest Iran.

Rostamnadi started his professional career in Mehr news agency and also worked at Iranian sports newspaper Iran Varzeshi, Khabar Varzeshi and Gol.

Rostamnadi was laid to rest in his hometown Ardabil on Saturday. Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to his family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

Exports from Semnan Province increases 14%

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The value of exports from Semnan Province in north-central Iran has increased 14 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), according to a provincial official.

Hamid-Reza Madah, the deputy head of Semnan Province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said over 140,000 tons of commodities worth \$155 million have been exported from the province during the seven-month period.

The official said that the exports have been conducted by 78 companies to 42 countries including Iraq, Turkey, India, Armenia, Georgia, Hong Kong, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Indonesia, and Ukraine.

He also announced that 7,100 tons of commodities worth \$30 million have been imported to the province during the first seven months of this year, and named Turkey, China, Uzbekistan, Italy, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the UAE as some of the 16 countries importing goods to Semnan.



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

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

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

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

120 industrial units active in Maku Free Zone

ECONOMY TEHRAN — As announced by a provincial official, 120 industrial units are active in Maku Free Trade Industrial Zone in Iran's northwestern province of West Azarbaijan.

Ebrahim Jalili, the deputy head of Maku Free Zone Organization for investment and economic affairs, said that enjoying this number of units, the zone has become one of the most active regions in terms of production and industry in the northwest of the country.

Maku is one of the seven major free zones of Iran.

It has 140 kilometers of border with Azerbaijan Republic and 130 kilometers of border with Turkey.

As Maku is among the most newly-established and also the largest free zones of the country, there is a high need for the creation of infrastructures in this zone.



The establishment of free trade zones in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989- March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Aras in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azarbaijan Province and Maku in West-Azarbaijan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

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

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

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

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

Iranian steel industry outshining world with 12.6% growth

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The total production of the mentioned countries also reached 161.8 million tons in October, seven percent more than the output for the last year's same month.

Based on the mentioned report, during the said time span, steel production of the European Union countries fell 16.7 percent, CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) fell 1.9 percent, North America fell 17.4 percent, South America fell 12 percent, and Oceania experienced a decrease of 1.8 percent.

In contrast, production in Asia grew by an average of 1.4 percent and West Asia's steel output grew by eight percent.

According to the former Acting Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Hossein Modares Khiabani, the production capacity of the country's steel chain has increased from 123 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 230 million tons in the current year (started on March 19).

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by the outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.



PSEEZ companies allocate \$9.5m to battle COVID-19 pandemic

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Petrochemical companies of the Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ) in southwestern Iran have allocated 400 billion rials (about \$9.5 million) to supply medical items for battling the coronavirus pandemic in the region in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), an official with the PSEEZ said.

According to Amir-Hossein Bahreini, over 337 billion rials (about \$8 million) of the mentioned figure has been spent on equipping the region's hospitals for better handling the corona-infected patients, Shana reported.

The mentioned fund has been used for providing various diagnostic and therapeutic devices such as artificial respiration, fixed ventilator, ICS bed, ultrasound devices,



video laryngoscope, various types of oxygenators, nebulizer, pulse oximeter, otoscope and haloscope, inoculum bottles, dialysis machine, radiology devices, and other laboratory equipment, the official said.

Bahreini noted that in order to increase the aid in this area, since last year, while significantly increasing the budget of social responsibilities, the PSEEZ Strategic Policy Council has focused on investing in completing the previous semi-finished construction projects and defining infrastructure and development projects including a 110-bed specialized hospital in Assaluyeh.

The PSEEZ Strategic Policy Council consists of production companies in this zone. More than 95 percent of this council's annual budget is provided by petrochemical companies based in this region.

Tehran, Doha confer on forming joint committee to expand trade

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran and Qatar have agreed to establish a joint trade committee to examine the areas and opportunities, obstacles and strategies for developing trade relations between the two countries.

The decision was made during the two countries' seventh Joint Economic Committee meeting which was held in Isfahan earlier this month, Farzad Piltan, the director-general of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)'s Office of Arabian and African Countries, said.

According to Piltan, the two sides held expert talks in this regard through video con-



ference during the first half of the current month in the form of several working groups under the responsibility of the Iranian Energy Ministry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Qatar.

In addition to forming the joint trade committee, the two sides also agreed to support the activities of the two countries' private sectors, exchange trade delegations, participate in each other's exhibitions, and appointing mutual trade advisers between the two countries, the official said.

Iran and Qatar signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in a variety of areas at the end of the two countries' seventh Joint Economic Committee meeting which was held in Iran on November 24.

Based on this MOU, the two sides are going to cooperate in establishing trade

centers between the private sectors of the two sides, establishing commercial affiliates in the embassies of the two countries in Tehran and Doha, and using the ports of the two countries to boost the export and import of goods.

The Joint Economic Committee meeting which was attended by Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian and Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari as the chairs of the committee was the first meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee held after the coronavirus pandemic in Iran.

Tehran registers lowest monthly inflation rate: SCI

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Data released by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) shows that the highest monthly inflation rate for Iranian households in the eighth Iranian calendar month of Aban (October 22-November 20) was registered in Ilam Province with an increase of 8.8 percent and the lowest was related to Tehran with an increase of 3.8 percent.

Based on the SCI data, the Consumer Price Index (Inflation Index) in Iran reached 275 points by end of the mentioned month, 5.5 percent more than the previous month, while the index in the urban areas stood at 272.6, registering a 4.7-percent rise compared to the preceding month.

The point-to-point inflation rate in the country stood at 46.4 percent during the said month. The highest point-to-point inflation rate was related to Kermanshah province (54.5 percent) and the lowest was related to Qom province (42.9 percent).



The inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on November 20 stood at 29 percent, according to the SCI data.

The center has previously put the inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on October 21, which marks the end of the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr, at 27.2.

Central Bank of Iran (CBI) in a statement in April announced that the annual inflation rate for the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021) is set to be 22 percent.

The statement published on the website of the CBI read, "Given the adopted policies and taken measures and also taking the country's macro-economic factors into account, the CBI believes that based on the realistic scenarios, the inflation rate in the current year will continue its downward trend."

Last year, CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati had said, "Our goal is curbing inflation rate and no estimation shows an inflation rate of over 20 percent for the next year".

23 idle mines revived in Hormozgan province in 8 months

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The head of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of Iran's southern Hormozgan Province announced that 23 idle mines have been revived in the province during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20).

Saying that over 1.82 trillion rials (about \$43.3 million) has been invested for reviving these mines, Khalil Qasemi announced that reviving the mentioned mines has created direct jobs for 300 persons.

The official further put the amount of minerals extracted from the mines of province at over 9.7 million tons during the first eight months of this year, and said the figure shows a five-percent rise year on year.

The head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation

Organization (IMIDRO) has announced that 157 idle small-scale mines have been revived throughout the country in the first eight months of the present year.

Saying that the mentioned mines have been reactivated as part of a comprehensive program for reviving idle small mines across the country, Khodadad Gharibpour also announced that 200 mines are planned to be put back into operation by the end of the year.

As reported, under the framework of the mentioned program, 672 idle mines have been identified and prioritized in the current Iranian calendar year, and diagnostic procedures have been performed on 194 mines to determine the reasons for the halt in their production.

According to Gharibpour, since the beginning of the program in March 2019 up to

date 303 mines have been revived.

The mentioned program, which has been at the forefront of IMIDRO's missions over the past two years, is being pursued in several provinces.

The head of IMIDRO has mentioned this plan as one of the most significant plans of "Resistance Economy", saying that IMIDRO is strongly determined to carry it out.

Reviving the small mines not only is a major step toward materializing "Surge in Production", which is the motto of the current Iranian calendar year, it also plays a significant role in job creation throughout the country, Gharibpour said back in June.

As reported, reviving the small mines has created 300 job opportunities in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20).



Following this program, so far various small-scale mines including chromite, manganese, hematite, and dolomite, iron ore, copper, and construction stone mines have been surveyed by monitoring and diagnosing the problems of the mines and providing solutions for resolving their issues.

Exports from Kish Free Zone falls 18%

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The value of exports from Kish Free Trade Zone in Iran's southern Kish Island has dropped 18 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20), according to a provincial official.

Mahmoud Dashti, the director for trade promotion in Kish Free Zone Organization, announced that commodities worth \$96.3 million have been exported from the zone in the eight-month period.

The official also said that products valued at \$93.32 million have been imported to the zone during the first eight months of this year, which was 51 percent lower than the figure of the same time span in the previous year.

Establishment of free trade zones in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989- March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote the non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

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

and establishment of new zones as well.

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

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

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

Israel cannot afford a total war on Iran: military analyst

It has been said more than once in articles and statements that Israel would provide an American green light on the assassination of scientific, political, or military leaders in the resistance axis in general and in Iran in particular.

Israel professionalizes criminal operations through assassination, and until now there are dozens of politicians and leaders who have been assassinated by Mossad because Israel follows the policy of treachery and terror to exist. So, we cannot imagine that Israel will continue to live without carrying out terrorist operations or assassinations.

Why is the international community silent in the face of the assassinations carried out by Israel?

A: Unfortunately, the so-called international community is directed by Western media and is under the financial and political control of the Zionist-American mainstream media. Therefore, Western countries, while legislating laws to pursue anti-Semitism and any word or action against Israel, avoid condemning Israel when it commits crimes because the (international) community is a hostage of criminal elites.

What is the reason for the recent moves by the U.S. and Israel in recent days, especially after Pompeo's visit to Saudi Arabia?

A: Washington, through its recent moves, wants to imply that there was an upcoming war, and this mobilization and operations that began with withdrawing troops from Iraq, the reduction of its forces to 2,500 in Afghanistan, and the pullout of its warships from the Persian Gulf in order to keep it



away from the range of Iranian missiles and also sending the B52 bombers to West Asia, as well as Pompeo's tripartite meeting with bin-Salman and Benjamin Netanyahu, all of these shows that America wants to imply

that there will be a war. That is to put the resistance axis under pressure.

But until this moment, we believe that war in the region is unlikely and that Israel and America know the danger of these

The retired Brigadier General Amine Mohammad Hoteit says the assassination of Fakhri Zadeh cannot cause a problem for Iran "firstly, because Iran does not depend on one person in its nuclear program. Second, Iran is a country that has trained intellectuals, human and scientific talents."

kinds of decisions and are aware of the consequences of a total war.

Therefore, I believe that the alternative military action is an assassination operation, as happened, and the other option can be the bombing of some military sites in both Syria and Iraq.

Can the assassination cause a problem for Iran's nuclear program?

A: I do not believe that the assassination will lead to a cessation of the Iranian nuclear program. Firstly, because Iran does not depend on one person in its nuclear program. Second, Iran is a country that has brought up intellectuals, human and scientific talents.

So, despite the assassination of Fakhri Zadeh, Iran can bring more than one scientist and leader. I believe that the assassination operation will not achieve its goals. It is true that this act caused pain and sorrow, but Israel cannot say it has stopped Iran's nuclear progress through assassination.

Do you think that America is ready to engage in a regional war?

A: I do not think that America is ready for a blitzkrieg, because this kind of war has its own characteristics, and at this time the characteristics are not available. Israel and America can fire the first shot, but they cannot control the end of the game. Since Israel cannot afford the cost of a total war, I rule out the occurrence of an all-out war.

In my point of view, the criminal behavior of Israel and America will be limited to two types of operations: assassination operations and bombing of military sites in both Iraq and Syria.

UAE said blocking visas for some Muslim countries, as Israelis allowed in freely

Travel agencies in countries across the Middle East and Africa said the United Arab Emirates has temporarily halted issuing new visas to their citizens, even as the Persian Gulf Arab state allows Israelis into the country visa-free following the normalization deal between the two countries.

Confusion over the unexplained UAE visa ban targeting 11 Muslim-majority nations, in addition to Kenya, swirled after a leaked document from Dubai's state-owned airport free zone surfaced this week, declaring restrictions against a range of nationalities.

Emirati authorities have not acknowledged the suspension that comes as the UAE welcomes Israeli tourists for the first time in history, the coronavirus pandemic surges across the region and those searching for work in the federation of seven sheikhdoms increasingly overstay their tourist visas amid a cascade of business shutdowns and lay-offs.

Heavy shelling hits capital of Ethiopia's Tigray

Heavy shelling struck the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region on Saturday, the local government and humanitarian sources said, as the city of half a million braced for an attack against leaders of the regional ruling party.

Ethiopia's military "has started hitting with heavy weaponry and artillery the center of Mekele", the local government said in a statement carried by Tigrayan media -- a claim confirmed by two humanitarian officials with staff in the city, AFP reported.

"The Tigray regional state calls upon all who have a clear conscience, including the international community, to condemn the artillery and warplane attacks and massacres being committed," the statement said.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, announced November 4 he had ordered military operations against Tigray's ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

More than three weeks of fierce fighting has left thousands dead "including many civilians as well as security forces", the International Crisis Group said Friday.

Expert says Saudis will pay high price for genocidal war on Yemen

however, the Saudis and their allies were quick to blame Iran, admittedly because it is geographically closer to the scene of the attack, but also because it demonstrated capabilities that the U.S.-Saudi alliance did not believe could have been carried out by the Yemeni national resistance. This strike, however, is undeniably a Yemeni attack, because it was against a target that is well within the range of the missiles that Yemen does have.

Has the Saudi-led coalition been able to make a considerable military or political achievement in Yemen after more than five years of war on the country?

A: The official justification for Saudi-led action was accepted by the United Nations Security Council back in April 2015, making this perhaps the world's first genocide legally permitted by international law. According to UN Res. 2216, which was co-sponsored by the United States, Britain, and France, the Saudis are acting on behalf of the "legitimate Government of Yemen" against "the Houthis", in order to force the latter to, "withdraw from all areas seized during the latest conflict, [and] relinquish arms seized from military and security institutions".

Such legality ignores ground reality. The so-called president of the "legitimate" government -- Abd Rabbah Mansour Hadi -- does not even live in Yemen. He resigned as president in March 2015 before defecting to Saudi Arabia where he declared he was still president, which the Saudis then cited to justify bombing and besieging Yemen. Even more absurd is that Hadi has reportedly been placed under house arrest since November 2017, meaning that the Saudis have been waging war against Yemen on behalf of someone they've effectively imprisoned. By contrast "the Houthis" is the nickname for the Ansarullah movement, which seized power in the capital Sana'a with relatively little bloodshed in September 2014, unlike Hadi. The fact that the Yemeni national army defected to the side of the Houthi revolution underscores their mass support.

To this day, the Yemeni national army and Ansarullah have been fighting shoulder-to-shoulder against the Saudi-led coalition. Despite being comprised entirely of Yemenis, the Ansarullah movement is routinely referred to as "Iranian proxies", whereas the army of the so-called "legitimate government", is around 84% comprised of foreign mercenaries sourced from around 22 countries.

How do you assess the power of the Yemeni resistance forces today?

The capabilities of the Yemeni resistance appear to have improved dramatically. Now they can deliver accurate cruise missiles that are capable of bypassing an entire



regiment of Saudi Patriot & Hawk air defense systems. Not many countries in the world have cruise missiles, which is sophisticated technology. They cost around \$1 million for each missile, fly really low and fast, can maneuver around hills, change direction, and avoid radar detection. What will make the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and Israel extremely worried is that there is no doubt this time around that the missile was launched from Yemen, and apparently there's more coming. The Saudis should worry that they will continue to pay a high price for their genocidal war on Yemen.

How do you evaluate Saudis' human rights record in Yemen?

Genocidal. The statistics from Yemen are enough to vindicate the charge of genocide and it's not just Saudi Arabia that is responsible for this. The Saudis cannot impose the blockade on Yemen without the support of U.S. and British naval power. As a result of this blockade, 18.4 million Yemenis are starving, which has caused "the worst famine in the world in 100 years" according to the

"The capabilities of the Yemeni resistance appear to have improved dramatically. Now they can deliver accurate cruise missiles that are capable of bypassing an entire regiment of Saudi Patriot & Hawk air defense systems."

United Nations, that too back in October 2018. Roughly 44% of children under the age of five are malnourished, that's 2.2 out of 5 million. As of this month, over 2 million people have been infected with cholera.

What is your analysis of the U.S.-Israeli role in Yemen? Why didn't the U.S. try to help broker a peace there?

The U.S. is Saudi Arabia's largest arms supplier, and the interests of Israel are a major force behind U.S. foreign policy in the Arab world. The Israeli navy is also patrolling the Bab al-Mandeb strait, which means they are also directly involved in enforcing the blockade against Yemen. Ultimately, they want to crush any revolutionary Arab movement that supports the Palestinian struggle like Ansarullah.

As for why the U.S. doesn't try to maintain peace, this goes back to history. Yemen is located in a very strategically important part of the world because that's where around a quarter of the world's oil supplies travel through. Therefore, there is a long history of preventing Yemen from developing into an independent country, going back to the period following the collapse of the Ottoman empire.

Yemen was not supposed to be an independent country, Saudi Arabia was supposed to annex northern Yemen, but they were repelled by the Imam of Yemen, Yahya Hamidaddin in 1934, and Britain was supposed to maintain control over southern Yemen, but they were forced to grant independence to the south Yemeni communist movement. In 1977 the Saudis assassinated the popular President of North Yemen, Ibrahim al-Hamdi, which paved the way for the 34-year reign of Ali Abdullah Saleh.

During that reign, Yemen was kept artificially poor so it could be transformed into a pool of cheap labor for the Saudi economy, and Yemenis were recruited for so-called 'jihad' in Afghanistan. After the unification of Yemen in 1990, President Saleh used returned al-Qaeda fighters to terrorize the south Yemeni socialists into submission, then Saleh turned his attention to the Ansarullah movement which was founded in 1994.

Ansarullah did not take up arms against the old pro-Saudi Yemeni government of Saleh, rather, Saleh took up arms against Ansarullah, that is, Saleh used military power and terrorist attacks against a political movement. In 2014, that movement was so popular, that the armed forces and interior ministry of Yemen joined the revolution, which prompted the Saudi-led war.

This war is about preventing the emergence of an independent Yemen.

Fakhri Zadeh assassinated at least with U.S. consultation: professor

By Payman Yazdani

TEHRAN — Dr. Luciano Zaccara believes that the assassination of Iranian top scientist Mohsen Fakhri Zadeh cannot be committed at least without U.S. consultation.

Prominent Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhri Zadeh was targeted on Friday in a multi-pronged attack involving at least one explosion and small fire by a number of assailants in Absard city of Damavand County, Tehran province. Fakhri Zadeh who headed the Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND) of the Defence Ministry, was sent to hospital immediately but was martyred due to the wounds he had sustained in the terrorist assault.

During the exchange of fires, the security team protecting Iranian scientist were also injured and transferred to hospital.

Following his assassination, U.S. President retweeted the tweet of a Zionist journalist about the assassination of an Iranian nuclear scientist, implicitly confirming Mossad's

involvement in the assassination of Iran's nuclear scientist Fakhri Zadeh.

On the other hand, in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UN Security Council, Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht-Ravanchi said that there are "serious indications of Israeli responsibility" in the assassination of an Iranian scientist and Iran reserves the right to defend itself.

To know more about the issue, we reached out to Dr. Luciano Zaccara, a research assistant professor at Qatar University.

Many believe that the Israeli regime is behind the assassination of Iranian scientist Fakhri Zadeh. what do you think of this?

A: Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif has pointed Israel on Twitter, and President Trump reposted the news from Israeli sources. And former officials from the Obama administration condemned the attack as an act of terrorism. Fakhri Zadeh was also mentioned by Netanyahu a couple of months ago as someone in the target of Israeli secret services that so far weren't able

to catch. So, it seems the smoking gun is pointing to Israel. However, this seems to be in line with some latest declarations by Trump regarding putting obstacles to the expected Biden's return to JCPOA.

Can such an act be committed by the Israeli regime without coordination with Trump?

A: While Israel seems capable to make some actions like killing figures on foreign territory, it seems difficult to believe that such an action in a very time-sensitive occasion could have been conducted without at least consultation or communication with Washington if it is confirmed it was Israel. Needless to say that such an action may determine the fate not only of the JCPOA but also the next U.S. administration position towards Iran in the next four years.

What can be the real goals behind this act at this critical time? And what can be the consequences?

A: Clearly, this action is oriented to put obstacles to any rapprochement between



Iran and the U.S. next administration by provoking Iran to react. It will depend on the Iranian response to this action. Now it is the Iranian government the one who has to reply to the killing, and if retaliation is taken against American (or Israeli) interests, with casualties, Biden would have it very difficult, at least at the beginning, to start his term with a new diplomatic initiative with Iran as nothing happened. It is difficult to say if this would be the only action or more will follow to force Iran to retaliate.

Poison gas, firing squads: US approves more execution methods

The outgoing administration of President Donald Trump is paving the way for additional methods of executing prisoners who have been sentenced to death in the United States.

The Justice Department is quietly amending its execution protocols, no longer requiring federal death sentences to be carried out by lethal injection and clearing the way to use other methods like firing squads and poison gas.

The amended rule, published on Friday in the Federal Register, allows the U.S. government to conduct executions by lethal injection or use "any other manner prescribed by the law of the state in which the sentence was imposed".

A number of states allow other methods of execution, including electrocution, inhaling nitrogen gas or death by firing squad.

It remains unclear whether the Justice Department will seek to use any methods other than lethal injection for executions in the future.

The rule -- which goes into effect on December 24 -- comes as the Justice Department has scheduled five executions during the lame-duck period, including three just days before President-elect Joe Biden takes office.

Yemeni children as young as seven being recruited by KSA to kill or be killed

Already a poor country, Yemen goes through hell every day; poverty has been exacerbated by drought, famine, disease, embargo and war. The Saudi-led campaign has opened a Pandora's Box for the Yemeni people, including children.

A Yemeni child in red identifies himself on a hill, facing his enemy on the other hill. Blood, bombs, bullets and bodies; these are two drawings by former child soldiers recruited by the Saudi-led coalition, which show what's going on inside their minds. It clearly shows that their childhood has been stolen. But they are not alone.

In 2019, UNICEF reported that there are more than 2,700 cases of children enlisted in combat in Yemen pointing out that "this could just be a tip of the iceberg."

Exclusive footage from Al Jazeera shows that these children are being recruited to defend the Saudi border, as if billions of dollars worth of purchased arms and military equipment are not enough for this purpose.

One of these child soldiers is Ahmad al-Naqib - from a village near Taiz - who left home when he was 15-year-old. He had been promised to get regular paycheck and a job in the kitchens of Yemeni military units on Saudi soil, Press TV reported.

"We went because we were told we would be working in a kitchen and making 3,000 Saudi riyals (\$800)... so we believed them and got on the bus."

Resistance News

Russia deplores Pompeo's visit to illegal settlement in W. Bank

INTERNATIONAL DESK TEHRAN — Russia has condemned U.S. secretary of state Michael Pompeo's visit to an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow, spokeswoman for the Russian foreign ministry Maria Zakharova said the visit was an attempt by the U.S. administration to legitimize illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Zakharova stressed that such actions violate the UN Security Council resolutions, accusing Washington of seeking to impose new fait-accompli on the ground.

The spokeswoman described the U.S. administration's actions in Palestine as "obstructive to the efforts to restart the negotiation process that is aimed at establishing a just, lasting and comprehensive peace."

Iranian craftswomen honored at World Crafts Council

HERITAGE TEHRAN – Two Iranian craftswomen have been honored at the World Crafts Council (WCC), the deputy tourism minister has said.

Parvin Abazari from Sirjan, and Fatemeh Shokri from Bahiri village (in Bushehr province) have gained prizes from an online completion organized by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, Pouya Mahmoudian announced on Saturday.

Both crafters are practicing in the fields of traditional rugs and textiles, the official said.



Craftspeople from twelve countries competed at the event, which was [financially] sponsored by Uzbekistan, she explained.

Iran ranks first globally in the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council (WCC), according to the official. "China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next."

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

Shiraz was named a "world city of [diverse] handicrafts". Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, the southern city was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty (1751-1794).

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

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

Bastam builds bicycle path to expand tourism

TOURISM TEHRAN – Construction of a bicycle path has been commenced in Bastam in a bid to expand the tourism charms of the ancient tiny town, which is situated in northcentral Iran.

"The first phase construction of a bicycle lane has been commenced, extending from Imam Hussein Sq. to the entrance of the center for agricultural research," Bastam's Mayor Mohamad Soleymannpour said on Saturday.



"The construction of this route has started with the aim of developing tourism in Bastam," the official noted.

Bastam, also spelled Bustam, Bistam, Bestam, or Bostum, lies just south of the Alburz mountain range in a well-watered plain.

Clustered around the tomb of the poet and mystic Abu Yazid al-Bistami (d. 874) are a mausoleum, a 12th-century minaret and mosque wall, a superb portal (1313), and a 15th-century college.

Nearby are interesting ruins, including a mosque and a cloister with fine stucco. Most of the town's old constructions were ordered built by two Mongol rulers, Mahmud Ghazan (1295-1304) and Oljeitu (1304-16).

Other attractions include the holy shrine of Mohammad Ibn Jafar Sadegh (AS), Bayazid Monastery, Bayazid Mosque, Jame Mosque, Kashaneh Tower, and Shahrokhieh School, which were built in different eras from the Seljuk era (1037-1194) to the Qajar period (1789-1925).

Sermeh doozi, luxury ancient Iranian embroidery

TOURISM TEHRAN – Sermeh doozi is a traditional Iranian style of embroidery, which is estimated to date back to the Achaemenid era (c. 550 - 330 BC).

In this style of embroidery, gold and silver threads are utilized to make decorating patterns, mostly paisley patterns, on the surface of fabric, mainly termeh, which is a type of expensive Iranian handwoven cloth.

The combination of termeh and gold and silver threads makes Sermeh doozi, which is widely considered as a luxury handicraft product by Iranians. Samples of Sermeh doozi can be seen on table cloths, flags, embroidered clothing, religious objects, and many household items.

Nowadays, threads twisted out of cheaper metals and alloys and metal like yarns have replaced gold and silver, to make it more affordable for people of all walks of life.

The art, which reached its zenith in the Safavid era (1501-1736) is mostly practiced in the cities of Isfahan, Kashan, Yazd, and Qazvin.

Hakim Mosque: elegant, iconic with perfect proportions

TOURISM TEHRAN – This elegant mosque, with its iconic blue-tiled mosaics and its perfect proportions, forms a visually stunning monument near the bazaar of Isfahan, one of the top touristic cities in Iran.

Hakim Mosque is not only a house of worship, but also a public building serving a multiplicity of uses. It is a gathering place for prayers five times a day, an Islamic college, a community center for functions with present day Western associations, and an emergency shelter for travelers.

Built in 1654 during the reign of Shah Abbas II (1648-66) by physician ("Hakim" in Persian) Daud, who fled from Isfahan to India, the mosque contains amenities, such as wash rooms and toilets, for public use.

After making his fortune there under the grand Moghuls. Hakim Daud financed this mosque in Isfahan in his name.

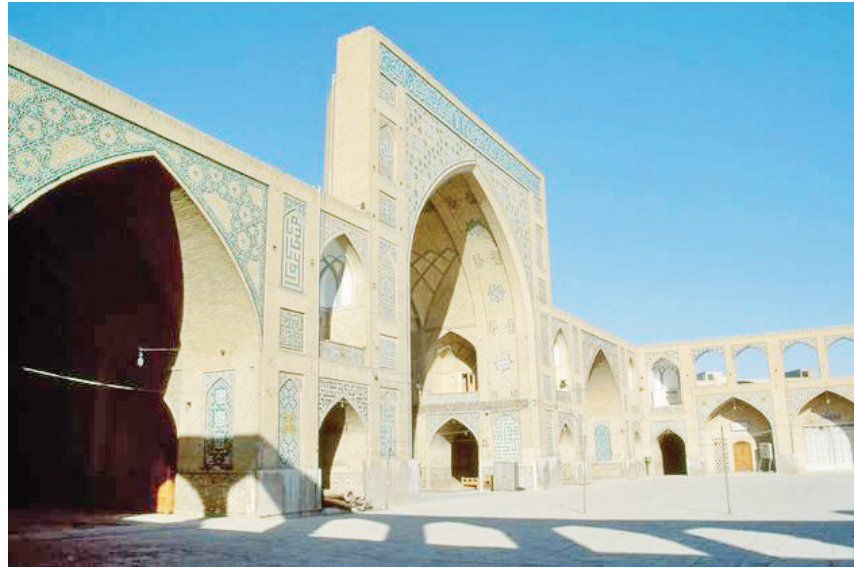
It is the first civic symbol one encounters after coming out of a secluded house at the end of an obscure valley.

As much as it is a container of space, it is also contained within the city fabric. The Mosque Al-Hakim has no monumental entry, but five different minor entries. Frequently, a mosque is also used as a short-cut for another destination beyond the mosque.

Although the penetration of the mosque walls may take many forms, the primary destination is always the same. It is a courtyard which can be called a monumental space.

Isfahan has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to seeing the whole world. In its heyday it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic



buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside. The huge Imam Square, best known as Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (literary meaning "Image of the World"), is one of the largest in the world (500m by 160m), and a majestic example of town planning. Built in early 17th century, the UNESCO-registered square is punctuated with the most interesting sights in Isfahan.

Modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts, however its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem.

Here is a select of comments that visitors to the mosque have posted to TripAdvisor, one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

■ **"A delightful mosque"**

This was built in 1654 by the physician

of Shah Safi, Hakim Aoud, and is also known as the Doctor's Mosque. It is largely bare terracotta with simple blue geometrical designs, but also has a lavish pierced screen on the NW side of the courtyard. Both the entrance to the sanctuary's iwan and the niche containing the mimbar are delightful in their simplicity. Altogether a delightful experience. (Rod F. from Royal Wootton Bassett, United Kingdom)

■ **"A hidden gem"**

I went there with a group of friends during the Imam Ali's religious holiday so it was full of worshippers.. This mosque is not easy to find for tourists so I'd recommend a guide.

It is really beautiful from the outside ...not too glamorous, very subtle in color but holds a lot of carving and calligraphy.

We couldn't really observe the inside as it was crowded. Visiting the Hakim mosque during this holly day/ week was

quite an experience as I could sense the religious vibe from the women in there which was a great feeling! (Noura73 from Beirut, Lebanon)

■ **"Extensive renovation work"**

Visited this mosque in the early evening last night. Most of the complex is covered with scaffolding and building materials and it's a challenge to get good pics. Quite an impressive looking structure though. (KGB777 from Singapore, Singapore)

■ **"A hidden portal"**

In Isfahan the bazaar stretches all the way from Meidan-Imam (Imam Square) to the Friday Mosque, almost two kilometers away. As you walk beneath its brick arches and mud-brick domes, you might see Central Asian traders, bags full of seeds and nuts and elaborate hand-made brassware. You will know that you immersed in an 'old world' experience. What is slightly less obvious is that you are making a journey back through time in another sense, too, as the Seljuk mosque at the far end of the bazaar is half a millennium older than the Safavid-era Imam Square.

Along the way you pass several little-known but valuable ancient buildings. Perhaps the one with the greatest appeal is the Hakim Mosque.

This has a lovely central courtyard notable for its blue tiling and skillful inscriptions. However, this Safavid mosque is not the part which get architecture students excited. That honor goes to the Jurjir Portal, an old brick gateway which was discovered inside a mud brick wall in 1955. This portal dates back to the little-known Buyid Dynasty, who ruled Iran a thousand years ago. Very little architecture from this dynasty has survived, which makes this elaborate brick gateway, with its beautiful motifs, an artistic treasure. (Raymond W. from Chengdu, China)

Avicenna's Canon of Medicine added to National Heritage list

TOURISM TEHRAN – A rare magnificent manuscript of Avicenna's Canon of Medicine has been added to Iran's National Heritage list.

The manuscript of Avicenna's Al-Qanun fi al-tibb ("The Canon of Medicine") was concurrently put on the list with ten other historical moveable properties, all of which sourced in western Hamedan province, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism announced on Saturday.

A leather-inscribed Torah, scroll painting of Muharram ritual, gold earrings, and some clay and copper utensils constitute other entrees to the prestigious list.

Avicenna (born 980, near Bukhara, Iran [now in Uzbekistan]—died 1037, Hamadan, Iran) was the most famous and influential of the philosopher-scientists of the medieval Islamic world.

He was particularly noted for his contributions in the fields of Aristotelian philosophy and medicine. He composed the Kitab al-shifa (Book of the Cure), a vast philosophical and scientific encyclopedia, and Al-Qanun fi al-tibb (The Canon of Medicine), which is among the most famous books in the history of medicine.

The Canon of Medicine remained a medical authority for centuries. It set the standards for medicine in Medieval Europe and the Islamic world and was used as a standard medical textbook through the 18th century in Europe.[3][4] It is an important text in Unani medicine, a form of traditional medicine practiced in India.

The Qanun was translated into Latin as Canon me-

dicinae by Gerard of Cremona. (Confusingly, there appear to have been two men called Gerard of Cremona, both translators of Arabic texts into Latin. Ostler states that it was the later of these, also known as Gerard de Sabloneta, who translated the Qanun (and other medical works) into Latin in the 13th century. The encyclopaedic content, systematic arrangement, and combination of Galen's medicine with Aristotle's science and philosophy helped the Canon enter European scholastic medicine.

Medical scholars started to use the Canon in the 13th century, while university courses implemented the text from the 14th century onwards. The Canon's influence declined in the 16th century as a result of humanists' preference in medicine for ancient Greek and Roman authorities over Arabic authorities, although others defended Avicenna's innovations beyond the original classical texts. It fell out of favour in university syllabi, although it was still being taught as background literature as late as 1715 in Padua.

The earliest known copy of volume 5 of the Canon of Medicine (dated 1052) is held in the collection of the Aga Khan and is to be housed in the Aga Khan Museum planned for Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The earliest printed edition of the Latin Canon appeared in 1472, but only covering book 3. Soon after, eleven complete incunables were published, followed by fourteen more Latin editions in the 16th century until 1608.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was



one of the ancient world's greatest cities. It was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC. Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan's attractions to name a few.

Hamedan, never falls short of offering cultural heritage sites to its visitors. Scenic natural landscapes, traditional restaurants, public gardens and colorful outdoor markets and more importantly, its hospitable people make for an unexpected slice of the city.

Ancient jug discovered accidentally in northwestern Iran

HERITAGE TEHRAN – An ancient clay jug has recently been discovered by security guards while patrolling one of the historical sites of the city of Bonab in the northwestern province of East Azarbaijan.

Initial assessments suggest that the object date from prehistorical times, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage has said.

The historical relic was handed over to the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department for further studies,



Kazem Dadashi announced on Saturday.

The purpose of the routine patrol of guards is to protect, preserve, control and monitor the historical and cultural sites, ancient hills, and monuments, the official added.

Iranian pottery presents a continuous history from the beginning of Iranian history until the present day. Some experts believe that pottery started in the Iranian plateau when agriculture came into existence and cultivation started by primitive races of this land, people made utensils of baked clay to meet their needs.

Fingerprints of primitives in Iran can be seen on relics. The first earthenware was mainly of two types: black utensils and red ones, both were hardly complicated products.

Azarbaijan region has the cradle of several ancient civilizations. It formed part of Urtu and later of Media. In the 4th century BC, it was conquered by Alexander the Great and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Persians, however, regained control of the vast land under the Sasanian rule in the 3rd century CE.

Winter resorts to come on stream in Qazvin

HERITAGE TEHRAN – The final preparations of two winter sports projects are being completed in Qazvin province, north-central Iran.

One of the projects concerns a previously-constructed chairlift, which was shut due to some technical issues five years ago, the provincial tourism chief announced on Saturday.

The resort is currently being restored... and will be opening its doors to the public when all defects are fully fixed and a standard approval is gained. And the other project involves a ski lift with three tourist resorts, Alireza Khazaeli said, IRNA reported.

Such projects are expected to develop tourism in the region and attract more tourists and holidaymakers during the cold days of the year, the official added.

Back in September, the official announced that some



6.3 trillion rials (\$150 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) had been invested in the tourism sector of the province over the past seven years, which shows a 287 percent increase.

With these investments, several tourism-related projects such as hotels, eco-lodge units, traditional restaurants, tourist complexes, and travel agencies are being implemented in the province, Khazaeli added.

The capital city of Qazvin was once the seat of power of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

COVID-19 lockdown moves most cities out of "red" zone

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Strict COVID-19 restrictions which took effect on October 26 have caused 87 out of 89 infected cities to get out of the high-risk "red" zone.

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control started strict restrictions in 43 cities that had the highest rate of infection in the country. Ten days later, decisions were made to set new limitations on highly-affected areas for another 10 days, through which 46 cities undergone restrictions.

The plan divided cities into three levels of alert, namely red, orange, and yellow.

All of the cities, except for two, are now out of the red condition and have turned orange or yellow so that the hospitalization rate has decreased, said Alireza Raeisi, the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control spokesman, expressing hope that the death toll will also drop within two to three weeks.

In some 160 cities and towns that were on the highest alert, the disease



prevalence has begun to decrease in about 145 cities. And the remaining 15 cities will also experience a downward trend this week, he explained.

Due to the high prevalence of the disease, a plan also went into effect on

November 21, according to which all occupations, except for emergency services and basic food suppliers, get closed for two weeks in high-risk cities.

COVID-19 new cases, death toll
In a press briefing on Saturday, Health

Ministry spokesperson Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 13,402 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 935,799. She added that 648,831 patients have so far recovered, but 5,865 still remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, 391 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 47,486, she added.

Lari noted that so far 6,038,556 COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

She said the high-risk "red" zones include provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, East Azarbaijan, South Khorasan, Semnan, Qazvin, Lorestan, Ardebil, Khuzestan, Kermanshah, Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad, Gilan, Bushehr, Zanjan, Ilam, Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Alborz, West Azarbaijan, Markazi, Kerman, North Khorasan, Hamedan, Yazd, and Kordestan.

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

Climate 'apocalypse' fears stopping people having children – study

People worried about the climate crisis are deciding not to have children because of fears that their offspring would have to struggle through a climate apocalypse, according to the first academic study of the issue.

The researchers surveyed 600 people aged 27 to 45 who were already factoring climate concerns into their reproductive choices and found 96% were very or extremely concerned about the wellbeing of their potential future children in a climate-changed world. One 27-year-old woman said: "I feel like I can't in good conscience bring a child into this world and force them to try and survive what may be apocalyptic conditions."

These views were based on very pessimistic assessments of the impact of global heating on the world, the researchers said. One respondent, for example, said it would "rival world war one in its sheer terror". The research also found that some people who were already parents expressed regret over having their children, the Guardian reported.

Having a child also potentially means that person going on to produce a lifetime of carbon emissions that contribute to the climate emergency, but only 60% of those surveyed were very concerned about this carbon footprint.

"The fears about the carbon footprint of having kids tended to be abstract and dry," said Matthew Schneider-Mayerson, of Yale-NUS College in Singapore, who led the study. "But the fears about the lives of existing or potential children were really deep and emotional. It was often heartbreaking to pore through the responses – a lot of people really poured their hearts out."

The number of people factoring climate change into their reproductive plans was likely to grow, Schneider-Mayerson said, as the impacts of global heating became more obvious. "To address this, we really need to act immediately to address the root cause, which is climate change itself," he said.

The study, published in the journal *Climatic Change*, found no statistically significant difference between the views of women and men, though women made up three-quarters of respondents. A 31-year-old woman said: "Climate change is the sole factor for me in deciding not to have biological

children. I don't want to birth children into a dying world [though] I dearly want to be a mother."

The researchers found that 6% of parents confessed to feeling some remorse about having children. A 40-year-old mother said: "I regret having my kids because I am terrified that they will be facing the end of the world due to climate change."

Schneider-Mayerson said: "I was surprised – for parents, this is an extremely difficult statement to make."

The study is the first peer-reviewed academic study of the issue and analysed a large group of concerned people. The survey was done anonymously so people could express themselves freely.

"It is an unprecedented window into the way that [some people] are thinking and feeling about what many consider to be the most important decision in their lives," said Schneider-Mayerson.

Other findings were that younger people were more concerned about the climate impacts their children would experience than older respondents, and that adoption was seen as a potential alternative to having biological children.

The study indicated that climate-related fears for their children's lives were rooted in a deeply pessimistic view of the future. Of the 400 respondents who offered a vision of the future, 92.3% were negative, 5.6% were mixed or neutral, and just 0.6% were positive.

One 42-year-old father wrote that the world in 2050 would be "a hot-house hell, with wars over limited resources, collapsing civilisation, failing agriculture, rising seas, melting glaciers, starvation, droughts, floods, mudslides and widespread devastation." Schneider-Mayerson said he thought the pessimistic views held were all within the range of possibilities, if not necessarily the most likely outcome.

However, he said further research was needed on a more diverse group of people and in other parts of the world. The self-selecting group in the study all lived in the US and were largely white, more highly educated and liberal.

Previously, opinion polls of the general public indicated people were connecting the climate crisis and reproduction,



with one poll in 2020 finding that among 18- to 44-year-old US citizens without children, 14% cited climate change as a "major reason" for not having children. In 2019, scores of women in the UK said they were starting a "birth strike" until the climate crisis was resolved.

Seth Wynes, of Concordia University in Canada, whose 2017 study found having one less child was the greatest impact individuals can have in fighting climate change, said the researchers had properly stressed that the sample was not representative of all Americans. But he said the distress over the decision to have children made sense. "Climate change is already affecting our world in frightening ways and so it's certainly reasonable to account for the climate crisis when thinking about the future of one's family."

"As climate change continues to worsen, it is important to understand how perceptions of the future can change the way everyday people plan their lives," Wynes said. "This study is an initial step in growing that understanding."

There is also growing evidence of climate anxiety affecting mental health and earlier in 2020 more than 1,000 clinical psychologists signed an open letter warning of "acute trauma on a global scale". Last week, a survey revealed that more than half of child and adolescent psychiatrists in England were seeing patients distressed about the state of the environment.

Sharif University among top 500 universities worldwide

With a scientific growth rate of 10.4 percent in 2019, Iran ranked second among the top 25 countries in the world, next to China with a growth rate of 12.9 percent, according to the Web of Science website.

In 2000, Iran's share of scientific productivity was about 0.1 percent, which reached about 2 percent with a 20-fold increase in both Scopus and WoS citation databases.

According to statistics released by the International Web of Science Database, Iran's citation rank has always been on

the rise over the last eight years, from 24 in 2012 to 16 in 2019.

Iran ranks first in terms of the number of universities in the region and among Islamic countries, according to Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2020.

Two Iranian universities have been ranked among the top 100 universities in Asia, according to Webometrics Ranking of World Universities for July 2020.

Moreover, 7 Iranian universities have

been listed among the best 1000 worldwide; including, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, Tarbiat Modares University, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Isfahan University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, came in 539th, 656th, 826th, 908th, 915th, 916th places, respectively, according to Webometrics Ranking of World Universities.

In June, THE Asia University Rankings

2020 ranked five Iranian universities among the top 100 universities worldwide.

The Center for Science and Technology Studies Leiden Ranking has placed 36 Iranian universities in the list of over 1,000 major universities worldwide in 2020 compared with 26 universities in 2019.

Also, five Iranian universities have been placed among the world's top 1,000 universities announced by the prestigious Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Relief foundation creates over 1.5m jobs for the deprived

Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation has generated over 1.5m job opportunities for those financially struggling since the past 7 years, Hojatollah Abdolmaleki, the Foundation's deputy director has announced.

Job generation for the underprivileged is among the most important and tough responsibilities of the Foundation, he stated, YJC reported on Monday.

Since Iranian calendar year of 1390 (March 2011– March 2012) to 1396 (March 2017– March 2018), the Foundation has earmarked 100 trillion rials (nearly \$2.4 billion) to open up over 1.4 million job opportunities in order to facilitate income generation for the deprived, he explained. He went on to add that last year (March 2018–March 2019), a total of 148,000 jobs were created by the Foundation's budget of 23 trillion rials (around \$547 million).

ایجاد بیش از یک میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار شغل برای محرومان در کشور

کمیته امداد امام (ره) از سال ۹۰ تاکنون بیش از یک میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار شغل برای محرومان کشور ایجاد کرده است.

به گزارش خبرنگار باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، حجت الله عبدالملکی معاون کمیته امداد امام خمینی (ره) اظهار کرد: ایجاد اشتغال امری سخت است، تولید اشتغال برای محرومان سخت‌ترین اقدام برای کمیته امداد است که در حال انجام است.

وی افزود: از سال ۹۰، یک میلیون و ۴۰۰ هزار شغل با تسهیلات ۱۰ هزار میلیاردی برای محرومان ایجاد شده است، در سال گذشته نیز برای ۱۴۸ هزار نفر با ۲ هزار و ۳۰۰ میلیارد تومان تسهیلات توسط کمیته امداد شغل ایجاد شده است.

Understanding traditional medicine can help protect species

Demystifying traditional Chinese medicine for conservationists could be the key to better protecting endangered species like pangolins, tigers and rhino, according to University of Queensland-led researchers.

UQ PhD candidate Hubert Cheung said efforts to shift entrenched values and beliefs about Chinese medicine are not achieving conservation gains in the short term.

He said a better understanding of traditional practices was critical for conservationists to form more effective strategies, according to Science Daily.



"The use of endangered species in traditional Chinese medicine threatens species' survival and is a challenge for conservationists," Mr Cheung said.

"Pushing messages of inefficacy, providing various forms of scientific evidence or promoting biomedical alternatives doesn't seem to be drastically influencing decisions and behaviours."

"And, although many practices and treatments continue to be criticised for lacking scientific support, the World Health Organization approved the inclusion of traditional Chinese medicine in its global compendium of medical practices last year."

"The challenge now is for conservationists to work proactively with practitioners and others in the industry to find sustainable solutions."

"However, most conservation scientists and organisations are unfamiliar with traditional Chinese medicine, which makes it difficult to devise effective and culturally-nuanced interventions."

The researchers have examined the core theories and practices of traditional Chinese medicine, in a bid to make it more accessible.

They hope their study -- and the nuances within -- will influence policy and campaigning.

"Today, traditional Chinese medicine is formally integrated into China's healthcare system, and has been central to China's response to the ongoing pandemic," Mr Cheung said.

"In fact, the Chinese government's COVID-19 clinical guidance has included recommendations for the use of a product containing bear bile, which has raised concerns among conservation groups."

UQ's Professor Hugh Possingham said traditional Chinese medicine was now not only entrenched in the social and cultural fabric of Chinese society, but also gaining users elsewhere.

"A better understanding of traditional Chinese medicine will empower conservationists to engage more constructively with stakeholders in this space," Professor Possingham said.

"We're hoping that this work can help all parties develop more effective and lasting solutions for species threatened by medicinal use."

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 69)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

Prepositions precede question words in Persian:

- به کدام فروشگاه رفتید؟
برای کی کتاب خریدید؟
در کدام خیابان پیاده شدید؟

Crossword Puzzle

چندول

۷	۶	۵	۴	۳	۲	۱
۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷

افقی
۱ ... اتومبیل‌ها و مردم در خیابان‌های تهران زیاد است. ۲. این دو حرف در 'توانستن' و 'فروختن' هست. ۳. چند تا اسم ۴. دوشنبه نرفتم؛ روز ... یعنی یکشنبه رفتم. ۵. رفتن ← رو، خندیدن ← ... این نه، ... ۶. من دیدم؛ ... دیدی ← من رسیدم؛ او هم ... ۷. رفتن ← بروید؛ رسیدن ← ...

عمودی
۱. پول ایران ۲. بد نیست؛ ... است ۳. ده ریال می‌شود یک ... ۴. یانگ جو در دانشگاه تهران ... می‌خواند ۵. خانه‌ی ایشان سه ... دارد ۶. بعد از بیست و نه ... رفتم ۷. لطفاً برو، خواهش می‌کنم برو، تو ... بروی ۷. لطفاً با صدای ... جواب بدهید و تکرار کنید.

Homophonic Letters – Some Persian letters, although written differently, have the same sounds.

● Exercise 3. Write homophonic letters → p 127:

۱. /z/ (چهار حرف):
۲. /s/ (سه حرف):
۳. /t/ (دو حرف):
۴. /h/ (دو حرف):
۵. /q/ (دو حرف):
۶. /ʔ/ (دو حرف):

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: Mohammad Shojaeian
Editor-in-Chief: Ali A. Jenabzadeh

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79

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



GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who has in his heart the weight of a mustard seed of pride shall not enter paradise.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Cinéma Vérité announces lineup of COVID-19 docs

A R T TEHRAN — Twenty-five films on COVID-19 will be competing in Cinéma Vérité as the organizers of the major Iranian documentary festival announced the lineup for the special category set up this year to attract attention to this disastrous disease.



A poster for Cinéma Vérité's lineup of COVID-19 docs. Due to the pandemic, this year's festival will be held entirely online from December 8 to 15.

The four top works selected in this category will be honored at the closing ceremony, while the international section of the festival is non-competitive this year, the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC), which is the main organizer of the event, announced on Saturday.

Among the films are "It's Not Permanent" by Majid Faraji, "Jihad Narrative" by Milad Amini-Movahhed, "Mask Symphony" by Masud Babai and "Night Shift" by Mohammad-Hossein Hemmatinejad and Mohsen Fazili.

The lineup also includes "Mobile Doctor" by Mehdi Zaghian, "Special Operation" by Hojjatollah Edalatpanah, "Quarantine" Payam Mirtabrizian, "Section 19" by Masud Dehnavi, "The First Wave" by Zahra Moslemipur and "When Kindness Becomes a Pandemic" by Alireza Baghsheni.

Cinéma Vérité plans to review the Chilean documentary cinema during a special program named "Chilean Films Panorama".

A number of acclaimed documentaries by Chilean filmmakers, including Francisco Bermejo's documentary "The Other One", will be screened in this section.

In addition, a selection of documentaries acclaimed at 2020 international events across the world will be reviewed in a special program entitled "World's Best".

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

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

Several top Iranian and international documentarians and critics, including Betsy A. McLane, Bill Nichols and James Bertrand Longley in addition to famous Iranian documentarians Mehrdad Oskui and Farhad Varahram, will also hold workshops during the event.

Jenny Quintana's "Missing Girl" surfaces in Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of Jenny Quintana's novel "The Missing Girl" has recently been published by Negah Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Sepideh Fakharzadeh.

"The Missing Girl" is a gripping novel full of twists and turns, and a desperate hunt to solve a decades-old mystery. Anna Flores was just a child when her adored teenage sister disappeared. Unable to deal with the pain, Anna took the first opportunity she had to run from her fractured family, eventually building a life for herself abroad.

Now, thirty years on, her mother has died, and Anna must return home to sort through her possessions. In doing so, she has to confront the huge hole her sister's disappearance left in their lives, leaving just one question unanswered: what really happened to Gabriella? Because not knowing is worse than the truth. Isn't it?

Quintana grew up in Essex and Berkshire, before studying English literature in London. She has taught in London, Seville and Athens and has also written books for teaching English as a foreign language, alongside "The Missing Girl". She is a graduate of the Curtis Brown Creative writing course. She now lives with her family in Berkshire.

"When the Moon Was Full" named best at Resistance International Film Festival

A R T TEHRAN — The film won the Crystal Simorgh for best movie during the 37th Fajr Film Festival in 2019.

The film also brought Abyar the Crystal Simorgh for best director. The movie also won Hutan Shakiba the award for best actor, while Elnaz Shakerdoost was crowned best actress.

With a limited number of guests, the closing ceremony of the Resistance festival streamed online on various platforms.

The award for best director went to Ebrahim Hatamikia for "Exodus".

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

"23 Individuals" written and directed by Mehdi Jafari received the award for best screenplay. The film is an epic movie about 23 young Iranian volunteers who were captives during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

"Abadan 11, 60" by Mehrdad Khoshbakht won the jury special award.

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

The organizers also gave the award for best music video to "Silent Flight" by producer Reyhaneh Mashhadi-Ebrahim.

"The Peculiar Crime of Oddball Mr. Jay"



Producer Mohammad-Hossein Qasemi poses with the award for best feature for his movies "When the Moon Was Full" at the closing ceremony of the 16th Resistance International Film Festival on November 27, 2020. (RIFF)

Abdollahzadeh for "Hasti".

The best film screenplay award was given to "Three Quarters of the War" co-written by Davud Jalili and Mohsen Ghazanfari.

The award for best short film screenplay was also handed to Mohsen Ghazanfari for "Dreams".

In addition, the winners of the Basiji Filmmakers Competition, a section dedicated to the Basiji filmmakers, were honored next.

The best animation award was given to Barzan Rostami for "Balance", and the best music video award was given to producer Morteza Moqaddas for "Memories".

Morteza Pajuhan received the best screenplay award for "Trench", and Zaniar Lotfi received the best short film award for "Nahast".

The award for most influential film was also given to "A Letter from Damascus" by director Mehdi Ebrahimkhani and producer Abbas Imanian.

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

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

Spotlight on Italian Cinema unveils lineup



"Martin Eden" by Pietro Marcello.

A R T TEHRAN — Spotlight on Italian Cinema will screen five movies by Italian filmmakers in Iran as the organizers of the five-day festival unveiled the lineup on Saturday.

The Embassy of Italy in Tehran with contributions from Iran's Art and Experience Cinema is organizing the online festival, which will open on December 1.

Pietro Marcello's 2019 historical romance drama "Martin Eden" is one of the films.

The film is loosely based on the 1909 novel of the same name by Jack London. After saving Arturo, a young scion of the industrial middle class, from a beating, the sailor Martin Eden is invited to the boy's family home. Here he meets Elena, Arturo's beautiful sister, and falls in love with her at first sight. The cultured and refined young woman becomes not only the object of Martin's affections but also a symbol of the social status he aspires to achieve. At the cost of enormous efforts and overcoming the obstacles represented by his humble origin, Martin pursues the dream of becoming a writer and—under the influence of the elderly intellectual Russ Brissenden— becomes involved in socialist circles, bringing him into conflict with Elena and her bourgeois world.

"Happy as Lazzaro" by Alice Rohrwacher is another film on the lineup. The 2018 drama tells the story of an unceasingly kind Italian peasant and his family, who are blatantly exploited by a tobacco baroness.

"My Mother", Nanni Moretti's 2015 drama has also been selected to be screened at the festival.

The film is about Margherita, a director who is shooting a film with the famous American actor, Barry Huggins, who is

quite a character on the set. Away from the set, Margherita tries to hold her life together while feeling powerless when facing her mother's illness and her daughter's adolescence.

Bernardo Bertolucci's 1967 documentary will also be screened. The film follows the journey made by oil from the exploration and extraction phases in Iran, to transport by sea through the Suez Canal and across the Mediterranean to the oil pipeline in Genoa, which is linked to the refinery in Ingolstadt, in Bavaria.

The festival will also review Valentina Pedicini's 2017 drama "Where the Shadows Fall" in which a nurse working in a home for the elderly searches for what connects her to the place. When a kindly old lady arrives, the nurse remembers being a patient when the building was used for eugenics experiments.

The festival will go online on the Iranian platform www.hashure.com.

The event was first scheduled to be organized from February 20 to 26 at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran, Golestan Cineplex in Shiraz and Labkhand Cinema on Kish Island. However, it was canceled three days after its opening due to the shutdown of the cultural centers and programs in Iran following the outbreak of coronavirus.

"The Alien" named best at Crime and Punishment Film Festival in Istanbul

A R T TEHRAN — "The Alien" ("Namo") by Iranian filmmaker Nader Saeivar won the Golden Scale for best film at the 10th International Crime and Punishment Film Festival in Istanbul, the organizers announced on Thursday.

The film portrays a teacher who is dispatched along with his family to a remote area.

Bakhtiar Panjei, the star of "The Alien", was crowned best for his role in the movie at the



Bakhtiar Panjei acts in a scene from "The Alien" ("Namo").

44th edition of the Hong Kong International Film Festival in August.

"The Alien" had its world premiere at the Forum section of the 70th Berlin International Film Festival, which was held from February 20 to March 1.

The Golden Scale for best short film was given to "The Hurt" by Onur Guler from Turkey.

The Student Jury Award for best feature

was given to "Veins of the World" by Ambasuren Davaa from Mongolia.

The Jury Special Award for best film went to "Instinct" by Mustafa Kemal Altiner from Turkey.

The International Crime and Punishment Film Festival was held from November 20 to 26.

The festival aims to promote justice-themed film productions.

Children's literature expert Mehdi Hejvani to attend Motamo book biennial in Belgium

CULTURE TEHRAN — The Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth has announced that Iranian children's literature expert Mehdi Hejvani will be attending the Motamo International Biennial for Children's Books in Belgium.

The children's book fair is organized every year in La Louvière with and by young people aged 6 to 18. The event has been set for May 2021.

In a press release published on Saturday, Hejvani said that the exhibit is a unique event in its kind where all the displayed books have been created by children and young adults, and are offered in various techniques such as painting, collages, digital printing and lithograph.

"I have written texts for eight paintings by children aged 7 to 14 with the central theme of boats. The images will be prepared in the form of a book by the process of the linocut," Hejvani said.



Children's literature expert Mehdi Hejvani in an undated photo.

linoleum (sometimes mounted on a wooden block) is used for a relief surface.

Hejvani has created the piece with paintings by the Iranian children Ava Safarian, Avisa Yadegari, Helma Kabiri, Dina Noruzi, Raha Baqeri-Motlaq, Sarvenaz Khakbaz, Setayesh Bahadoran and Mahdis Rudaki.

The exhibition space will offer a carefully designed decor and over a hundred beautiful books made by children from all around the world.

Children are the main visitors to the exhibit, where a series of workshops and lectures will be held on the margins of the event.

Hejvani was Iran's nominee for the 2020 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

"Alif, Dal, Mim", "Jilli, Bilie and Pishi", and "Munich on Tehran Time" are among Hejvani's credits.

Iranian cartoonists honored at Zagreb Salon of Car Caricatures

A R T TEHRAN — Three Iranian cartoonists have been honored at the 14th Zagreb International Salon of Car Caricatures in Croatia.

Salar Eshratkhalah won a special acknowledgment worth 150 € while Neda Khodaverdi and Keyvan Varesi were awarded honorable mentions.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the

winner of the exhibition, which was on the theme of "Road Rage" this year, could not attend the award ceremony organized last Thursday.

Therefore, the embassies of the winning countries received the prizes on behalf of the winners.

The prizes for the Iranian cartoonists were handed over by Zagreb Mayor Milan Bandic

to Iranian Ambassador Parviz Esmaili.

Other winners were from Indonesia, Serbia and Greece.

The competition included 355 artists from 58 countries, and 355 caricatures are on view at the exhibition, which will remain open at the lobby of the City Administration until December 7.

Nenad Zuber was the president of the jury

composed of Tomislav Buntak, Mirna Rudan Lisak, Romeo Ibrisevic, Milan Alasevic, Ante Lebo, Krunoslav Tkalcic and Tomislav Vukovic.

Iranian cartoonists are frequent visitors to the Zagreb International Salon of Car Caricatures.

In the previous edition, Javad Takju took second place while Amin Familbaghestani received an honorable mention.

"The American Bull" tops at Turkey's Lion short filmfest

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian filmmaker Fatemeh Tusi's "The American Bull" has been selected as best film at the 11th Lions International Short Film Competition in Turkey.

The story of the movie is set in a village between Iran and Iraq, where a group of inhabitants are involved in animal husbandry. Saheb, the adolescent owner of the only American bull, is very dependent on his bull and makes a living by making it available for breeding.

"I'm Falling into the City" by Turkish director Kasim Ordek was picked as runner-up and "Hello Africa" by another Turkish filmmaker, Hasan Serin, took third place at the festival on November 20.

In early November, "The American Bull" was awarded the special jury prize in the short competition of the Arica Nativa Rural Film Festival in Chile.

It was also named best narrative short at the 10th Annual Arlington International Film Festival in the American city at the same time.



"The American Bull" by Iranian filmmaker Fatemeh Tusi.