

**Zarif advises regional states to exclude West in regional talks** Page 2

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**Architect Amirali Sardar-Afkhami dies at 91** Page 8

## Iran stands up against transatlantic bullying



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## Iran completely self-sufficient in building freight wagons

TEHRAN – Iranian railway industry has become completely self-reliant in manufacturing freight wagons, Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) Saeed Rasouli said.

Speaking in an unveiling ceremony for domestically-made wagon brake system and wheels on Tuesday, Rasouli announced that RAI is going to sign a contract with domestic manufacturers for the purchase of 500 monoblock wheels and 500 brake

systems for freight wagons.

“For the first time this year, national (domestically-made) wheels will move on the national rail,” the official said.

Mentioning the launch of a system for introducing the needs of the country’s railway industry to domestic manufacturers and companies producing parts for the railway transportation industry, the official noted that so far 4,600 parts have been requested on this website. *Continued on page 4*

## Rouhani: Astana peace talks can protect Syrian territorial integrity

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday hailed the Astana peace talks, which aims to end the Syrian conflict, saying the peace process can preserve the interests and territorial integrity of Syria.

“The Tehran-Damascus relations were established after the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and during the lifetime of Imam [Khomeini] and Mr. Hafez Assad, and today, with the will and decision of the officials of the two countries, these relations continue to be strengthened,”

Rouhani said during a meeting with visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal al-Mekdad.

Mekdad arrived in Tehran on Sunday evening in his first visit to Iran since assuming office after the demise of his predecessor Walid Muallem.

**Rouhani terms Syria as a ‘strategically’**

Rouhani pledged that the Islamic Republic will stand by the Syrian people and government wholeheartedly, describing Syria as a “strategically ally.” *Continued on page 2*

## Art elites to attend Tehran Afghanistan Art Week

TEHRAN — A large number of Afghan artists and cultural figures will attend the Afghanistan Art Week in Tehran next week to hold panel discussions and showcase their works in a weeklong virtual festival.

The event will be organized with the collaboration of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO.

On its opening day on December 12, the

festival will be attended by Iranian National Commission for UNESCO director Hojjatollah Ayyubi, Afghanistan Ambassador Abdolghafur Lival and Kabul University Chancellor Mohammad Osman Babury.

The joint literature and culture between Iran and Afghanistan will be discussed during the opening day. *Continued on page 8*

## Why lodging at a caravanserai is a must-do in Iran?

BY AFSHIN MAJLESI

Imagine a place so serene in the heart of the ancient Silk Road(s) where you can plunge into a forgotten age while staying for a day or two.

You may conjure up the hustle and bustle of the merchants selling their goods, bargaining on prices, telling their long-lived journey to one another while their animals chew on hay amid massive portals, elevated load-bearing walls, rooms encircling the courtyard, a heavy-doored gateway, and the tranquility of the surrounding nature!

Yes, this is one of the 999 caravanserais the legendary Persian king Shah Abbas built to shelter and provide food and safety to merchants, traders, travelers, and pilgrims beyond reasons such as desert, heat, star-studded sky, and tired travelers or in fact, caravanners.

In today’s modern world, traveling is more centered around annual holidays and can be fairly well predicted but in the past travelers- or, caravanners- who had to take long journeys crossing rough roads for days to reach their destination and thus, they needed roadside inns to rest and recover and get ready for the rest of their trip.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining “caravan” with “sara”. The first stand for a group of travelers and sara means the building. Iran’s earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country.

A caravanserai was usually constructed outside the walls of a town or village. The structure is quadrangular in form and is enclosed by a massive wall that has small windows near the top and only a few narrow air holes near the bottom. Inside, the ground floor consists of a central court surrounded by a cloister-like arcade, which is in turn surrounded by cellular storerooms.

The ground floor is connected by broad, open, stone stairways to a second story that is ringed by a somewhat lighter arcade, which gives access to many small rooms. The court is open to the sky and has a well with a fountain basin in its center.

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## Ayatollah Khamenei saw “important fault line” within JCPOA: George Washington University professor

BY JAVAD HEIRANNIA

TEHRAN — A professor of international business at the George Washington University says Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was right that he “was not enthusiastic” about the 2015 nuclear agreement because he noticed “its important fault line”.

In an important with the Tehran Times, Hossein Askari says the Leader “warned the president of Iran about U.S. duplicity and advised caution.”

Askari also says, “Iran must rely on its own defensive capabilities and support of its long-proven allies.”

Following is the text of the interview:

Q: Biden has introduced his foreign policy team. Antony Blinken has been named secretary of state and Jake Sullivan national security advisor. What is your assessment of this team?

A: These are people who have worked closely with Biden for a number of years. They are a known

quantity to him. They are people with much experience. They are not controversial. By that I mean they are not people who have extreme views on anything that I know of. Because they have held important positions before, they are unlikely to have any skeleton in their closet. So they would pass their FBI background checks and would be confirmed by the Senate no matter who controls the Senate in January 2021.

Q: What will be the approach of Biden’s foreign policy team toward West Asia (Middle East)?

A: While Biden will continue America’s support for Israel as its closest ally in the region and almost in the entire world, I believe that Biden will not continue Trump’s over the top and blind support. Biden is more pragmatic. Yes, he wants the support of the Jewish lobby and their campaign donations but he does not want the U.S. foreign policy to be dictated by Israel.

*Continued on page 2*

## Afghan civilian deaths from U.S. air raids rose by more than 300 percent

Deaths of Afghan civilians in air raids carried out by the United States and its allies “increased dramatically” since 2017 when Washington loosened its criteria and escalated attacks on the Taliban, according to a report released on Monday.

The number of civilians killed annually in U.S. and coalition air attacks soared by 330 percent to some 700 civilians in 2019, said Neta C Crawford, co-director of the Costs of War Project at Brown University. More civilians died in 2019 than any other year since the beginning of war in 2001, according to the report.

The U.S. pulled back on air raids after striking an agreement with the Taliban in February 2020. But the Afghan Armed Forces stepped up their own as they entered talks with the rebels.

While total deaths from air attacks has fallen, attacks are now coming from Kabul’s forces and have accelerated in recent months.

The Afghan Air Force (AAF), Crawford wrote, is now “harming more Afghan civilians than at any time in its history”.

She said that in the first six months of 2020, 86 Afghan civilians were killed and 103 injured in AAF air raids. In the three subsequent months, as Afghan-Taliban talks continued in Doha, the toll intensified, with 70 civilians killed and 90 injured.

She urged a negotiated ceasefire while the two sides discuss a deal, to avoid more civilian injuries.

But with the U.S. accelerating the withdrawal of its troops, some worry that the Taliban could take advantage to further pressure Kabul’s forces, sparking reprisals.

“Unless there is a ceasefire, both sides will continue trying to gain a tactical advantage while negotiations are under way. The toll on civilian lives is likely to increase,” Crawford wrote.

## The only way to prevent Israeli terror is to strike back hard: analyst

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN — A British political analyst, Robert Robert Inlakesh, believes that the only way to confront Israel and its terror attacks is to respond back.

On November 27, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a senior Iranian expert specialized in nuclear technology, was assassinated in a terrorist attack in the Abe-Sard region of Damavand County, about 40 kilometers northeast of Tehran. Iran has said Israel is directly responsible for the assassination of the scientist. The New York Times also quoted

three U.S. officials, including two intelligence officials, as saying Israel was behind the attack.

“The only way to prevent Israel from continuing to commit acts of terror is to strike back hard,” Inlakesh tells the Tehran Times.

Citing an example, Inlakesh says when in 218 Syria decided to respond to the Israeli aggression in the Golan Heights, Israel stopped targeting Syria for several months.

“Israel calculates the risk factor into its approach when conducting these illegal operations,” Inlakesh

says. “But if Israel sees too great of a risk, it will back off.”

This is the text of the interview:

Q: How do you assess the assassination of the Iranian nuclear scientist and its repercussions?

A: Such an assassination, which evidence strongly suggests was committed by Israel, would constitute being labeled a ‘State-sponsored act of terror’ on foreign soil. If the attack is to be assumed to be Israeli in the making, as has been asserted by President Rouhani, this is effectively an act of war against Iran.

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## FAO to support Iran to ensure sustainable healthy biodiverse soils

TEHRAN — The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) representative to Iran Gerold Bödeker, reaffirms the Organization’s stance to support Iran in developing and adopting policies and programs promoting sustainable agricultural systems and nurturing soil biodiversity.

In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO commemorated World Soil Day 2020, underscoring the prominence of soil biodiversity and its central role in sustaining life on Earth and securing food and nutrition security.

At the virtual event co-hosted on Monday, Bödeker reiterated that FAO, as the lead UN agency promoting sustainable agricultural systems, stands ready to support the country to further develop and implement agro-ecological practices to ensuring sustainable healthy biodiverse soils.

He also said that how the quality and health of soils to a large extent determine agricultural production and sustainability, environmental quality and consequently affects plants, animals, and human health.

“Improving soil biodiversity is vital to ensuring soil health and future food and nutrition security,” emphasized FAO Representative, adding “Healthy biodiverse soils, as the largest store of terrestrial carbon, play an important role in climate change mitigation by carbon sequestration and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere.”

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## Autumn snow adds beauty to nature

People are walking at a park in the north-central city of Hamedan as snowfall has adorned the city environment. According to meteorological maps, precipitation in Iran is expected to meet normal or lower than normal averages over autumn. The country will be facing a cold winter with heavy snowfalls this year.

## Zarif advises regional states to exclude West in regional talks

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has advised the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region to exclude the West in regional talks, saying the U.S. and European powers are the causes of problems in West Asia.

"Dear neighbors, why ask US/E3 for inclusion in talks with Iran when: a) There won't be ANY talks about OUR region with them as they're the problem themselves. b) We can speak directly about our region without outside meddling," Zarif wrote in a tweet on Tuesday.

He added that "Hormuz Peace Endeavor (#HOPE) is still on the table."

Zarif also posted a similar tweet in Arabic earlier in the day. "We are always ready for talks with our neighbors. The proposals, such as the 1986 regional security, the 2016 regional dialogue forum and the 2019 Hormuz Peace Initiative, show this," the chief diplomat remarked.

The remarks came days after Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said the Persian Gulf countries must be "consulted" before the United States restores the Iran nuclear deal under the incoming administration of Joe Biden.

"Primarily what we expect is that we are fully consulted, that we and our other regional friends are fully consulted in what goes on vis-à-vis the negotiations with Iran," he told AFP on the sidelines of a security conference in Bahrain's Manama on Saturday.

The Saudi foreign minister also said such consultation would be the only path towards a "sustainable" agreement.

## Europe failed to meet Iran's JCPOA expectations, says senior MP

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — A top Iranian legislator said on Tuesday that Europe has not met Iran's expectations in salvaging the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear agreement.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled all its obligations in accordance with Barjam (Persian acronym for the JCPOA), but the other side, while several years have passed, has evaded its duties," Mojtaba said Zonnour, who chairs the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee.

"Therefore, the unilateral continuation of the obligations [by Iran] is not acceptable," he added.

Zonnour made the remarks in a meeting with Hans-Udo Muzel, the German ambassador to Tehran.



The JCPOA was signed between Iran, six world powers - the U.S., the UK, France, Russia, China, Germany - and the European Union in July 2015. The pact was ditched by U.S. President Donald Trump in 2018 in pursuit of a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

Trump's withdrawal came while Iran was in full compliance with the treaty.

Biden's victory in the November 3 presidential election has raised hopes over the prospects of a re-entry into the JCPOA by the incoming U.S. administration.

Zonnour also said he believes that if European countries such as Germany take practical steps in fulfilling their commitments under the JCPOA, stand up to the United States' greed, and act responsibly toward the atrocities being committed in West Asia, the world would become a much more secure place.

The German ambassador, for his part, expressed satisfaction with the constructive talks between the representatives of the Iranian and German parliaments in recent years.

"As Iran's Parliament plays a significant role in all developments, therefore, we welcome expanding cooperation between the two parliaments," Ambassador Muzel said according to a translation of his remarks.

He said Germany supports the implementation of the JCPOA, adding that the strict implementation of the agreement by all parties will ensure the interests of all member countries.

Earlier this month, remarks by German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas caused anger on the Iranian side. Maas told weekly Der Spiegel that it was in the interest of the U.S. and Europeans to reach a broader agreement with Tehran.

"A return to the previous agreement will not be adequate in any case," he said, referring to the 2015 nuclear agreement.

"There should be a kind of a 'nuclear agreement plus' deal, which is also in the interest of us," Maas added.

Maas expressed hope that Biden would change Washington's policy on Iran after taking office next month, and pave the way for talks on the nuclear deal.

"It is important to send out a signal, which would be decisive, on whether or not the United States would relax economic sanctions on Iran. Both sides should move forward, come closer. Time is running out because Iran will have presidential elections next year," he said.

Iran has strongly rejected any possibility of renegotiation with the other parties to the JCPOA over the deal's terms and conditions.

In remarks on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said Iran's stance regarding the JCPOA is "fixed" and "unchanged".

He told a presser that the nuclear accord has already been negotiated, signed and inserted into the UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Iran will not renegotiate something that has already been negotiated, the spokesman asserted.

**Embassy of Japan in Tehran intends to employ a staff with the qualifications described in the website: [www.ir.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.ir.emb-japan.go.jp)**

# Rouhani: Astana peace talks can protect Syrian territorial integrity

**1 →** He said confronting the Zionist regime and terrorism was a "common goal of the two countries", adding, "There is no doubt that we must continue our resistance and perseverance until the complete annihilation of terrorists from the region."

The president drew a comparison between terrorism and sanctions, saying both are intended to put pressure on the legitimate and independent nations and governments of the region.

"We fully understand the situation of the Syrian people in the face of sanctions, because we have experienced the worst sanctions in the last three years," he added.

The Syrian foreign minister, for his part, described the Tehran-Damascus relations as one of the most valuable and honorable political relations in the world.

"We believe that other countries should learn how to build a real relationship and friendship and how such friendly ties can be continued strongly," he added.

**U.S. after looting Syria's oil, says top security official**

Mekdad also met with secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani and Defense Minister Amir Hatami separately on Tuesday.

Shamkhani said during his meeting with the chief Syrian diplomat that the U.S.'s presence in Syria is aimed at looting Syria's oil,



protecting the Zionist regime and expanding the Daesh terrorist cells in the region.

"The evil presence of the United States in the region must end," he asserted.

He lauded Syria for its resistance against the Zionist regime's occupation and expansionism and highlighted the importance of deepening Tehran-Damascus ties.

**Hatami: Iran firm to continue cooperation in Syria reconstruction**

Brigadier General Hatami underlined Iran's strong will to continue to cooperate

with Syria in its reconstruction process.

He said the enemy has not refrained from any action against the Iranian nation, adding, "This has also been the case with regard to Syria in recent years."

Hatami also referred to the cowardly assassination of Iran's top anti-terror general Qassem Soleimani earlier this year and the assassination of Iran's top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh late in November, saying such hostile actions are taken by the enemy out of desperation.

**Ghalibaf slams Israel as a source of regional instability**

Late on Monday, Mekdad also met with Majlis Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. During the meeting, Ghalibaf condemned the Israeli regime as a source of instability in the region.

"As long as the occupying terrorist regime of al-Quds is present, there will be no sustainable security in the region," Ghalibaf said.

Pointing to recent normalization deals between Israel and some regional countries, Ghalibaf called on the Muslim world to stand up to the U.S.-backed normalizations and condemn such moves as an "abominable act".

He said that only through resistance the Islamic community will emerge victorious against the enemies.

The speaker added that resistance, together with the Astana peace talks, can lead to sustainable peace and security in Syria and the region.

For his part, Mekdad expressed his condolences over the assassination of Fakhri-zadeh, who was martyred near Tehran on November 27.

"The assassination of Martyr General Soleimani and Dr. Fakhri-zadeh once again exposed the true face of the Zionist regime and the U.S. as sponsors of terrorism," he said, adding that the targeted killings were "not something that can be easily overlooked."

## Biden advisor sees chance for revival of Iran deal

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Jake Sullivan, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for national security adviser, has voiced guarded optimism for restoring the Iran nuclear pact.

Speaking on Monday at the Wall Street Journal CEO Summit, Sullivan emphasized that any progress toward preserving or even enhancing the deal forged during the Obama administration would depend on international cooperation.

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear agreement on May 8, 2018. He then implemented a "maximum pressure" policy against Tehran to press it to

negotiate a new deal.

"We are in a dangerous situation," Sullivan said, according to Bloomberg.

"They have enriched more uranium," he said, making an implicit reference to a decades-long claim by Western powers that Iran is trying to make nuclear weapons.

"We just walked away, we're alone," Sullivan said.

He added that Biden's goal was to get Iran "to come back into compliance," with the agreement, the product of lengthy negotiations between the Tehran government and six world powers, a move that would put Iran's "program back in a box."



## Ayatollah Khamenei saw "important fault line" within JCPOA: George Washington University professor

**"It (JCPOA) was not a balanced deal"**

**"The Speaker of Iran's parliament, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, summed up Iran's problem well. Namely, Iran's fate rests in Pasteur (location of Iran's President) and Bahrestan (location of Parliament)."**

Not just to one of them but if most support a position, he is likely to take their advice. But note the role of John Kerry. Yes, he is to be the Climate Tsar, but he will also influence Middle East policy more than you may think.

**Barack Obama** has told the Washington Post that Biden intends to join the nuclear deal soon after taking office. You opinion please?

A: Well, the restoration of the JCPOA is tough today and will become more difficult with the passage of time. Iran could enrich more uranium. Iran's economy could deteriorate further and cause more pain for Iranians. Iran could be closer to nuclear breakout if it so chose. All these would make restoration of JCPOA more difficult than it already is.

**Will Biden** simply go back to the agreement like, or have the conditions changed?

A: Unfortunately not. Trump and his allies, both in the U.S., in Israel and in Arab countries, have raised new conditions and muddied the waters. Namely, Iran's defensive missile program, Iran's support of its allies in the region and Iran's domestic conditions. These new conditions are basically intended to leave Iran defenseless and encroach on its sovereignty. These are all the result of Israel and Saudi Arabia's pressures on the U.S. So basically Biden's opening gambit will be for Iran to go back to the JCPOA and give up any enriched uranium since the U.S. withdrawal, withdraw its support for its allies in the region, give up its missile and other military programs and to do what it is told to do like the Arab countries of the PGCC. Needless to say, Iran will not accept this opening offer and will bargain hard and this time will be ready to walk away from a bad deal.

U.S. policymakers don't appreciate the mindset of the Iranian mindset, especially of those who determine Iran's foreign policy.

**Will Iran** go back to the agreement or have the conditions changed for Iran?

A: Absolutely not. If what I know about

Iran's policymakers is that they cannot forget what Iran had to suffer after Saddam Hussein's invasion. The world, including Iran's Arab neighbors, supported the invader. Iran was defenseless. Iran cannot afford to be in such a position ever again. Guarantees by the US for Iran's security are not worth anything as its withdrawal from the JCPOA has shown. Iran must rely on its own defensive capabilities and support of its long-proven allies.

Don't forget, U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA has caused Iran much harm—both economic losses and in human lives. Moreover, the U.S. assassinated General Soleimani. Iran must seek appropriate compensation for these in the negotiations and so state right from the start. Some have suggested Iran should approach the U.S. first. In my opinion, absolutely not as this would be a sign of weakness.

**Looking back** on the agreement and what has transpired since, what advice do you have to offer to Iran?

A: Let's be honest. Ayatollah Khamenei was right. He was not enthusiastic about the JCPOA. He saw its important fault line. He warned the president of Iran about U.S. duplicity and advised caution. But Rouhani and Zarif wanted economic relief. So they signed on. They did not take economic positions that would benefit Iran no matter what happened in the future. They were more concerned with the immediate result. And most important, it was an asymmetric deal. Iran undertook irreversible positions such as giving up the bulk of its enriched uranium and pouring concrete into its heavy water reactor while the U.S. gave some measured sanction relief that could be easily reversed, or snapped back, if it chose to do so. It was not a balanced deal. Iran's negotiators did not have sufficient appreciation of economics and finance and relied heavily on U.S. assurances and the multilateral nature of the deal. But in international affairs, words

and pieces of paper mean little and it is raw power that dictates.

**Looking to the future**, what should Iran be doing in order to be in a better position in the future?

A: The Speaker of Iran's parliament, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, summed up Iran's problem well. Namely, Iran's fate rests in Pasteur (location of Iran's President) and Bahrestan (location of Parliament). Iran's economy has been mismanaged ever since the end of the Iran-Iraq War. Yes, sanctions have had an effect but much more damage has come from mismanagement. I have said the same for 30 years. Just look at South Korea. Its economy was a fraction of Iran's in 1979 and today it is four times that of Iran's. Policies matter. Iran cannot blame all its problems on sanctions. It would have been much easier for Iran if it had started much-needed reforms in 1989. Sadly, it never did. But it is never too late. With a strong economy, Iran could face external pressures much better and have more support at home.

**Israel's Netanyahu** recently visited Saudi Arabia and met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, although Riyadh has denied the visit. What is MBS's goal in warming up to Israel?

A: Saudi Arabia has had a free hand with Trump. Knowing how the Al-Sauds operate, I would bet that MBS has given or pledged much financial reward to Trump-Kushner. So Trump has gone along with his excesses—murdering Jamal Khashoggi, indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Yemen, mass arrests in Saudi Arabia and more. But MBS sees that this party is over. So how can he keep Washington's support? Through Israel. That's his new approach. It is plan B. So he told Bahrain and the UAE to warm up to Israel to pave the way. Now he wants to at least have a personal, if not public, agreement with Israel to keep his Washington support intact.

**"Sanctions have had an effect but much more damage has come from mismanagement."**

## Supreme Court upholds Ruhollah Zam's death sentence

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Iran's Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence against Ruhollah Zam, the operator behind the Amad News website and Telegram channel.

"The Supreme Court has considered this case and the

ruling issued by the Islamic Revolution Court has been approved by the Supreme Court," Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said on Tuesday, according to Mehr.

Earlier this year, Esmaili announced that Zam was

charged with "corruption on the earth", a term used to describe capital crimes within the Islamic Republic's judicial system.

Through his news website, Zam provoked violence in the December 2017 protests.

# Israel wouldn't have assassinated Iranian scientist without U.S. consent: expert

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Philip Desks Girdaldi, the executive director of the Council for the National Interest, has said in an analysis that the White House green-lighted Israel's plan to assassinate prominent Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh.

In an essay titled "A Killing in Iran: Who Gains From Yet Another Assassination?" and published on the Information Clearing House, Girdaldi closed examined the assassination of Fakhri-zadeh and those behind it. He started with the reactions in the U.S. to the assassination.

"It is not often that one can agree with the pronouncements made by former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director John Brennan, but his tweeted comment on the killing of Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh suggesting that the incident '...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' was both restrained and reasonable. Or it was at least so until sentence two, which was clearly intended to attack Donald Trump and praise the incoming Joe Biden administration, which Brennan just might be seeking to join," wrote Girdaldi.

Girdaldi, a former CIA intelligence officer, added, "Bearing in mind that John Brennan was the guiding hand behind President Barack Obama's kill lists of Americans who were marked for death by drone it is difficult to understand what moral high ground he seeks to occupy in the slaying of Fakhri-zadeh. Brennan, who was a leading critic of Trump and who may have led the clandestine effort to undermine his election and term in office, subsequently found himself in an exchange of tweets with Republican Senator from Texas Ted Cruz which degenerated into a trading of insults. Cruz responded '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?' This produced a riposte by Brennan 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.'

On November 27 at 14:30, nearly 10 people attacked the convoy of Fakhri-zadeh on a highway in the small city of Absard in Damavand County, about 40 kilometers east of the capital Tehran. The scientist lost his life during the attack while his bodyguards were severely injured. 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. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet on the day of the assassination that the attack was carried out with "serious indications of Israeli role." Since then, several Iranian officials have vowed to take revenge against Israel.

Girdaldi also pointed to the alleged killing of an al-Qaeda leader in Iran, saying this claim has been used to justify U.S. pressure on Iran.

"The claim that Iran has been harboring al-Qaeda is already being used by the Trump White House to justify increased pressure on Iran and it might possibly even serve as part of a *casus belli*," the expert wrote.

The assassination of Fakhri-zadeh came just two weeks after the alleged killing of the al-Qaeda leader, which, according to Girdaldi, was meant to send a message to Iran.

"The claim that Fakhri-zadeh was in charge of a secret Iranian weapons program, made regularly by Israel and the U.S., is not generally believed by most authorities. Iran is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which nuclear armed Israel is not, and its facilities are subject to regular unannounced inspections," Girdaldi noted, adding that the January assassination of Qods Force commander General Qassem Soleimani was also meant to send a message to Iran.

Girdaldi said, "Whatever programs Fakhri-zadeh and Soleimani were involved in will continue without them. Nevertheless, assassination of Iranians linked to the country's former and current nuclear program has been Israeli policy since 2010. As many as a dozen Iranian scientists and technicians reportedly have been killed. So-called 'targeted killings' have been a regular feature of Israel's

'national defense' strategy. In addition to the Iranians, at least seventy Palestinians have been assassinated."

The expert said, "Though Israel has clearly ordered the assassinations, it is generally believed that the actual preparation for the attacks have been carried out by **Mojahedin e Khalq or MEK**, a Marxist cult that came into prominence at the time of the Iranian revolution against the Shah. It is generally regarded as a terrorist group that once was virulently anti-American and killed a number of U.S. officials. **MEK is a curious hybrid creature in any event in that it pretends to be an alternative government option for Iran even though it is despised by nearly all Iranians. At the same time, it is greatly loved by the Washington Establishment,**" which would like to see the Iran government deposed and replaced by something more amenable to Western and Israeli worldviews.

He added, "MEK is run like a cult by its leader Maryam Rajavi, with a number of rules that restrict and control the behavior of its members. One commentary likens membership in MEK to a modern-day equivalent of slavery. The group currently operates out of a secretive, heavily guarded 84-acre compound in Albania that is covertly supported by the United States, as well as through a 'political wing' front office in Paris, where it refers to itself as the National Council of Resistance of Iran. MEK, which is financially supported by Saudi Arabia, stages events in the United States in Europe where it generously pays politicians like John Bolton, Rudy Giuliani and Elaine Chao to make fifteen-minute speeches praising the

organization and everything it does. It's paying of inside the Beltway power brokers proved so successful that it was removed from the State Department terrorist list in 2012 by Hillary Clinton even though it had killed Americans in the 1970s. MEK also finds favor in Washington because it is used by Israel as a resource for anti-Iranian terrorism acts currently, including assassinations carried out in Tehran. Israel, in fact, directs most terrorist acts carried out by MEK inside Iran."

The executive director of the Council for the National Interest also pointed to the possible cooperation among Israel, MEK, and the U.S. in assassinating the Iranian nuclear scientist.

"So those are the players and, at first glance, one might reasonably come to the Ockham's razor conclusion, i.e. that Israel ordered MEK to kill Fakhri-zadeh, an order which was then executed. But that would be to ignore some of the politics currently playing out in Washington. First of all, Israel would not have carried out the high-level assassination without the consent of the White House. Indeed, U.S. intelligence resources might well have played a key role in locating the Iranian scientist. Second, the Trump administration has clearly adopted a policy of "maximum pressure" against Iran, which has included strangling the country's economy through sanctions, condoning Israeli attacks in Syria and elsewhere, and destabilizing moves, to include assassinations, designed to make the nation's leadership both vulnerable and nervous. It is the application of an Israeli strategic doctrine referred to as "Campaigns Between Wars," meaning constant aggression to erode an enemy's ability to fight without actually crossing a line that would start a shooting war," Girdaldi said, noting that a direct role by U.S. in the assassination of Fakhri-zadeh should not be ruled out.

"A direct role by the Trump administration in the assassination should not be ruled out as it is clearly seeking to harden Iranian antipathy towards any new comprehensive arms control or nuclear agreement with the incoming Biden team. Trump himself reportedly raised the possibility of bombing Iran earlier this month, though he was talked out of it by his national security team, but the Israeli Army meanwhile is on alert in case of an American attack. There are confirmed reports that B-52 bombers, capable of deploying the 30,000 pound penetrator bombs that can destroy targets deep underground, have been sent to the Middle East [West Asia], presumably to Qatar where the U.S. has its principal airbase in the region. They would presumably be used against Iran's main nuclear development site at Natanz," Girdaldi pointed out.

## Iran stands up against transatlantic bullying

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — As the European trio — France, Germany, and the UK — are pushing for expanding the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, Iranian experts and officials reiterate that Tehran will not only not negotiate over its defensive missile program and regional influence it will also not renegotiate the nuclear deal.

"In our view, the JCPOA negotiations are over and there are no plans for new negotiations that need to be restructured. The only thing left today is the return of all parties to their obligations under the agreement, and this is not a complicated matter," Ali Rabiee, the Iranian government's spokesman, said on Tuesday.

Despite European calls to expand the nuclear deal, Iranian officials have made it clear that the defense capabilities of Iran are not negotiable at all. Moreover, the officials also ruled out any prospect of renegotiating the nuclear deal from which the Trump administration withdrew illegally more than two years ago.

The nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has been a point of contention between the United States and Iran over the past few years. U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal by claiming that it was "the worst deal ever." He imposed sweeping economic sanctions on Iran after quitting the binding deal and called for a "better deal" with Iran that would include, inter alia, the country's missile program and its activities in the region.

On the other hand, Iran strongly rejected the Trump administration's calls for new talks, saying it will not renegotiate what it has negotiated before. Meanwhile, the European countries have called for preserving the JCPOA as the only way to keep a close watch on Iran's nuclear activities. But this seems to have changed after Joe Biden won the U.S. presidential election in November. As leading U.S. news media organizations began projecting Biden to win the election, the E3 changed its tone on Iran, openly demanding broader negotiations with Iran while keeping the JCPOA.

Shortly after the U.S. election, the French presidency called for broader negotiation with Iran that includes Iran's regional role and its missiles, according to press reports. A French official point-

ed out in a press briefing that the Iranian nuclear program has reached a dangerous stage, and that would not be the case if Iran continued to respect its obligations stipulated in the 2015 nuclear agreement. The official also said any subsequent negotiations with Tehran should expand to include the ballistic missile program, regional policy, and what he called "interference in the affairs of other countries."

In the weeks after the U.S. election, the E3 foreign ministers also held a trilateral meeting in Germany to coordinate their positions on Iran. After the meeting, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas made remarks that were indicative of a possibly new European policy toward Iran. One that seeks to achieve what Trump failed to achieve through the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign.

"A return to the previous agreement will not suffice anyway. There will have to be a kind of 'nuclear agreement plus,' which is also in our interest. We have clear expectations of Iran: no nuclear weapons, but also no ballistic missile program that threatens the entire region. Iran also needs to play a different role in the region," Maas said in an interview with the German magazine, Der Spiegel. He added, "We need this agreement precisely because we distrust Iran. I have already coordinated with my French and British counterparts on this."

Iran hit back at the chief German diplomat, saying that Europe should know its position and capacities. Iran also believes that the European trio (E3) have failed to honor their commitments under the JCPOA. And Iran is wary of any new talks with the West due to its experience reneging on the nuclear deal.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has responded to the German foreign minister's remarks, saying Iran will not renegotiate the JCPOA.

Speaking at a regular press conference on Monday, the spokesman said, "Iran's position on the JCPOA is firm and unchanged. JCPOA was negotiated once; this agreement was the result of Iran's resistance, it was signed and it is included in Resolution 2231. Iran will not renegotiate what was once negotiated, nor will the binding nature of Resolution 2231 be diminished."

"One of the parties that did not fulfill its obligations was the European parties. The European Union foreign policy chief is responsible for implement-

ing the JCPOA, and countries like Germany have not even been able to meet their commitments," Khatibzadeh pointed out.

Iran is unlikely to accept Europe's demand to expand the JCPOA, according to Alireza Sheikh Attar, Iran's former ambassador to Germany and an expert on Iran-Europe relations.

"Europe's calls for broader negotiations with Iran are nothing new. Since the 2000s, the E3 have been pursuing the same goal. They, and the Americans in later times, have sought to bully Iran, which resulted in Iran resisting them all," Sheikh Attar told the Tehran Times.

According to the former diplomat, the Europeans are concerned about Iran getting stronger.

"The Europeans are worried about Iran getting stronger. They are not worried about Iran's nuclear program, because the Europeans themselves know very well that Iran is not after acquiring nuclear weapons because this is not Iran's strategy. The Europeans are worried about the strength of the Islamic Republic as an idea, not as a country with specific borders. An idea that is the legacy of the late Imam Khomeini and inspiring. The whole region of West Asia has been affected by the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. The Revolution's influence reached Palestine, and then Syria and Iraq," the former Iranian ambassador to Germany pointed out.

Iran has made it clear at the highest levels that the European signatories to the JCPOA have no right to demand negotiations on Tehran's regional influence and its defensive missile program as well. During his latest meeting with the heads of the three branches of the government, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei called on the E3 to stop demanding negotiations on Iran's missiles and its influence in the region.

"The Europeans are constantly taking stances against Iran. While they are making the most improper interferences in the region's issues, they tell us not to interfere in the region. And while France and Britain possess destructive nuclear missiles and Germany is moving in this direction, they tell us not to possess missiles," the Leader pointed out.

Directly addressing the Europeans, Ayatollah Khamenei added, "What business is it of yours. Correct yourself first and then make remarks."

## SPORTS

### Jordan Burroughs misses competing in Iran

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — The 2012 Olympic wrestling champion Jordan Burroughs said that he has missed competing in Iran.



He traveled to Iranian city Kermanshah in February 2017 to participate at the Wrestling World Cup and was welcomed by the Iranian fans.

"Miss my days competing in Iran. Some of the most incredible wrestling fans in the world," Jordan Burroughs shared on his Instagram story.

The 74kg wrestler, who has never lost to an Iranian wrestler, lauded the Iranian fans after the competition in an interview with gq.com.

"Donald Trump and I have very different views on Iranians. I am confident that if he ever visited the country, he'd learn a lot about the people and come back to the States with a newfound appreciation for the Persians," Burroughs said.

### Great pleasure to play in CEV Champions League: Ebadipour

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Iranian outside hitter Milad Ebadipour says that to play in the 2020–21 CEV Champions League is a great pleasure for him.

The 27-year-old player is a member of Polish team Skra Belchatów. They have been drawn in Pool A along with Polish team Zaksa, Belgium's Lindemans Aalst and Fenerbahçe Istanbul from Turkey.

"It's always a great pleasure to play in the Champions League. Unfortunately, in the previous season we failed to participate in the competition, but in the PlusLiga competition we won promotion to the current edition. We will play with the best teams in Europe. On Tuesday we start the competition with strong teams. We'll see how it goes," Ebadipour told the Skra Belchatów's website.

"We will play with great respect to other teams, but we must not forget about ourselves. We are also a great team with great players and we have shown it many times. On Tuesday we are starting the battle and we will fight until the very end," he added.

### Alireza Mansourian no longer Tractor coach

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Alireza Mansourian was sacked as Tractor coach following poor results in the Iranian top flight team.

Under guidance of the Mansourian, Tractor have won just one out of five matches.

Tractor, who have never won Iran Professional League (IPL), sit 12th in the table.

The Tabriz based club's officials parted company with the 49-year-old coach on Tuesday.

Former Tractor coach Saket Elhami is a candidate to take charge of the team. Tractor will have to participate at the 2021 AFC Champions League.

### AFC declares Iran matches dates at 2022 World Cup qualifiers

**MNA** — The dates of the remaining four games of Iran in the second round of qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 AFC Asian Cup have been announced by AFC.

The new announcement of the Asian Football Confederation comes nearly one year after the qualifiers were postponed by the body due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Dragan Skocic's team will take on Hong Kong on March 25, 2021, before facing Cambodia five days later.

The Persian Leopards will then lock horns with Bahrain on June 7 and Iraq on June 15.

Iran sit third in the Group C of the qualifiers with six points while Iraq and Bahrain lead the table with 11 and 9 points, respectively.

Iran need to win the four remaining matches for a confident berth to the next round but it may also win the quota by winning nine more points.

### Esteghlal star Ghaedi fit for Shahr Khodro match

**Tasnim** — Esteghlal superstar forward Mehdi Ghaedi has not sustained an injury and could be fit for his team's match against Shahr Khodro next week.

In the final minutes of the match against Sanat Naft, he suffered a foot injury and media reports suggested that he could be ruled out for several weeks.

MRI showed that the player has no problem and can play against Shahr Khodro next week.

Esteghlal have missed several players in the Iran Professional League current season due to the injury and Ghaedi's absence could be a big blow to the team.

Esteghlal played against Sanat Naft without Cheick Diabate, Masoud Rigi, Farshid Esmaili and Vouria Ghafouri.

## 8-month exports to Arab partners exceed \$8.5b

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The value of Iran's exports to Arab trade partners in the region reached \$8.565 billion in the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20), Farzad Piltan, the director-general of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)'s Office of Arabian and African Countries, said.

According to Piltan, the value of Iran's total non-oil trade during the first five months of the current stood at \$21.5 billion.

The mentioned trade partners include Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Syria, and Bahrain.

Among Iran's top trade partners, Iraq was ranked the second export destination with about \$5.3 billion worth of goods exported to the country, followed by UAE, Oman, Kuwait, and Qatar.

Other Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen (from the Persian Gulf region) and Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon (from West Asia) were not included in the list of the top 20 Iranian export destinations during the period under review, the official said.

Iran's trade data also show that during the first eight months of the current year, about \$13.377 billion worth of commodities were exported to 15 neighboring countries, of which about \$8.57 billion were exported to the Arab neighbors.

Among the country's neighbors, Iraq and the UAE were ranked first and second, followed by Oman, Kuwait, and Qatar which were ranked 9th, 10th, and 11th (after Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Russia), and Bahrain which was ranked 14th (after Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan).

Iran's top three non-oil export destinations during this period were China, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Saudi Arabia was still the last in the list of the neighboring trade partners with zero any trade exchange.

The total value of Iran's non-oil trade during the first eight months of the current year reached \$44.6 billion, according to Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mehdi Mirashrafi.

In the mentioned eight months, Iran imported \$23.1 billion worth of goods, while the exports stood at \$21.5 billion.

## Steel ingot production rises 8% in 8 months on year

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Production of steel ingot in Iran increased eight percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20) compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Over 19 million tons of steel ingot was produced during the eight-month period of the present year.

Production of steel ingot in Iran is expected to surpass 30 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Darioush Esmaili has announced.

Saying that Iran is currently the world's 10th biggest steel producer, the official underscored that the country is planning to rise to 8th place by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts in March 2025).

He said the Industry Ministry has it on the agenda to increase the country's steel ingot production to 55 million tons by 2025, for which 160 million tons of iron ore is required annually.

"Given the country's 2.8-billion-ton iron ore reserves, we need new explorations in this field, because when the annual steel ingot production capacity reaches 55 million tons, the current production levels of iron ore can only supply the industry for 12 to 13 years," the official stated.

He further noted that over 90 million tons of iron ore were produced in the country during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) of which only seven percent was exported.

The reduction in the exports of iron ore came as the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has urged the government to prevent the exports of raw minerals in order to be processed in the country for making products with more added value.

Following the leader's remarks, the government levied a 25-percent duty on the exports of raw minerals (especially iron ore) since late September 2019.

The industry ministry believes that the duty is going to encourage the production of more processed minerals such as pellets and concentrate instead of selling the raw minerals.

Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has announced that production of iron ore concentrate in Iran reached 47.306 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, registering a four-percent rise compared to the preceding year.

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

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

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

Meanwhile, the recent data provided by Trade Map website showed that Iran was ranked 19th among the world's top steel ingot exporters in 2019.

The country ranked 53rd among 195 countries in the exports of steel products.

Iran exported \$312 million and \$252 million worth of crude steel and steel products in the mentioned year, respectively.

## Exports from Hamedan Province increases 18%

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The value of exports from Hamedan Province, west-central Iran, has increased 18 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20), compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to a provincial official.

Hamidreza Matin, the head of the province's industry, mining, and trade department, said 339,156 tons of commodities valued at \$89.124 million have been exported from the province during the mentioned eight-month, while the figure was \$75.497 million in the same period of time in the past year.

The official mentioned industrial, petrochemical, and agricultural products, as well as minerals, and handicrafts as the major products exported to 36 countries, and said that chemical and petrochemical products accounted for 55 percent of the exports during the mentioned period of time.

Matin also announced that 3,700 tons of commodities valued at \$12 million have been imported to the province during the first eight months of the present year.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year reached \$44.6 billion.

Mehdi Mirashrafi has said that in the mentioned eight months, Iran imported \$23.1 billion worth of goods, while the exports stood at \$21.5 billion.

# Energy projects worth over \$135m inaugurated in 3 provinces

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Numerous energy projects worth over 5.69 trillion rials (about \$135.4 million) were inaugurated in three provinces in the 31st week of the Energy Ministry's A-B-Iran program, IRNA reported.

In a ceremony attended by the Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian, projects including the establishment of some electricity transmission lines, some substations, water supply to rural areas, and a small-scale power plant were inaugurated through video conferences in Tehran, Ilam, and Golestan provinces.

Of the mentioned projects, eight were put into operation in Ilam province, eight were in Golestan and the other one was inaugurated in Tehran.

Water supply to 43 villages was the only project inaugurated in Tehran province, which provided a population of more than 14,000 households with sustainable drinking water.

The inaugurated projects of Golestan include a 25-megawatt (MW) small scale generator, modification, and optimization



of 28 electricity distribution lines, increasing Gorgan transmission substation capacity, as well as improvement and optimization of stations, transmission lines, and water

supply projects to 39 cities and villages.

A 2.5-MW small-scale power plant and several other development and improvement projects were also inaugurated in Ilam.

A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), during which the minister made 31 trips to various provinces for inaugurating over 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion).

Since the beginning of the second phase of the scheme in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), every week several energy projects have gone operational across the country.

Back in August, Ardakanian said that in the second phase of the A-B-Iran scheme 250 projects are going to be inaugurated by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021).

The official noted that a total of 500 trillion rials (about \$11.9 billion) of investment will be made in the mentioned 250 projects.

## Iran completely self-sufficient in building freight wagons

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The development of the railway sector is one of the macro policies of the Iranian government as it has been emphasized by the general policies of the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021).

In this regard, the railway industry has been strongly seeking self-sufficiency after the U.S. imposed a new round of sanctions on the Iranian economy and the imports of high-quality equipment and parts have become more difficult.

As a result, the domestic manufacturing of parts and equipment, rail tracks, wagons, and locomotives has been put on the agenda for many Iranian companies and self-reliance is now being witnessed in many of the mentioned sectors.

In June 2018, the first domestically-manufactured rail tracks (known as National Rail) were handed over to RAI by Isfahan Steel Company.

In terms of domestic manufacturing of wagons and locomotives, last year the railway fleet received 213 domestically-made wagons and locomotives in September, and 243 wagons and locomotives in December.

Also, in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20) the national railway fleet has constantly received new domestically-made locomotives and wagons.

So far, the railway fleet has received over 800 domestically-made locomotives and wagons in eight stages during the current Iranian calendar year.



## Substitution of livestock feed inputs declines corn imports by 3m tons

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The implementation of a plan for reducing dependence on imports of livestock, poultry, and aquatic inputs, in a one-year project, the volume of imported corn and soybean meal decreased by three million tons and 400,000 tons, respectively, an official with the Iranian Agriculture Ministry said.

According to Director-General of the Agriculture Ministry's Grains and Essential Goods Department Faramak Aziz-Karimi, the mentioned plan has been implemented to substitute corn with other alternative crops such as millet, sorghum, triticale, vetch, soybean oil, and its meal, cotton meal, sesame, canola, and sunflower.

As IRNA reported, the mentioned program has been prepared on the rec-



ommendation of the Animal Science Research Institute of Iran (ASRI) and the researchers in this field, Aziz-Karimi said. Mentioning some of the requirements for the implementation of this plan, including allocation of seed and machinery subsidies,

providing foreign exchange for the import of alternative seeds, contract cultivation to ensure the sale of products produced by the farmer, providing credit and facilities to the farmers and guaranteed purchase of these products.

Recently, the Agriculture Ministry announced that despite the trade limitations in the country, the required livestock feed inputs are provided to all meat and poultry chains in the country, and there are no restrictions in terms of providing and delivering inputs to the producers.

Iran imported 8.5 million tons of animal feed inputs in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), down 10 percent compared to the corresponding period in the pre-

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

The total value of imports of livestock inputs in the said period stood at over \$2.377 billion, 18 percent less than the same period last year in which \$2.903 billion worth of such products were imported.

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

## Over 23,000 tons of shrimp farmed in Bushehr Province

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The director-general of fisheries department of Bushehr Province, in southwest Iran, announced that 23,608 tons of shrimp has been farmed in the province since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Ali Bazar said that the output in the mentioned time span shows a 10-percent growth year on year.

The official put the annual farmed shrimp output of the province at 21,767 tons in the past Iranian year, and said Bushehr accounted for over 60 percent of the farmed shrimp output in the country.

According to Bazar, 90 percent of the province's farmed shrimp is exported to China, Russia, and Persian Gulf littoral states, which in addition to bringing foreign currency, it plays some important role in job creation and economic prosperity in the region.

In early September, Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) Head Nabiollah Khoun-Mirzaei said that the country's annual shrimp farming is anticipated to reach 52,000 tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021).

The official also said that 12,000 hectares of land have been used for shrimp farming in the current year.

Through the government's supportive measures and creation of required infrastructures, the country's fishery output has reached 1.282 million tons in the present year, which is a considerable figure, the IFO head further noted.

He went on to say that of the mentioned figure, 526,729 tons was related to aquafarming, and 755,728 tons was



the fishing output.

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

He further announced that 233,059 persons are currently working in the country's fishery sector.

The official has previously said that Iran's annual fishery production is anticipated to reach 1.5 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year.

He put the country's fishery output at 1.28 million tons in the past year.

## Public transportation fleet to be renovated

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The Ministry of Interior is going to formulate an executive mechanism for modernizing the country's public transport fleet, in collaboration with the Oil Ministry, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), and the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, Shana reported.

The decision was made at a meeting of the government's economic coordination headquarters held on Tuesday.

Speaking in the meeting, President Hassan Rouhani noted that the country's economy was able to withstand severe shocks resulted from sanctions and the

pandemic due to the proper investments made in strengthening and developing infrastructure in the past two years and the country is on the verge of returning to the path of stability and growth.

Referring to the need to modernize and develop the country's public transport fleet, Rouhani underlined the necessary measures that should be taken for providing the required parts for public vehicles, saying: "To achieve the goals of the country's comprehensive transportation plans and to provide desirable services to citizens, the country needs to add new fleet."

Further in the meeting, the solutions proposed by the Ministry of Interior regarding the modernization of the country's public transport fleet were discussed and it was decided that according to the mechanisms provided, the public transport fleet would be renovated by supplying parts and also by adding new buses to this fleet.

Back in February, the Iranian transport and urban development minister had said that the modernization of the country's transportation fleet should continue in the form of a smart movement and bureaucratic processes should be minimized in this regard.

"The transport ministry has fulfilled all its commitments regarding the completion of a comprehensive transport system," Mohammad Eslami said.

In September 2019, the Iranian deputy transport minister said the National Development Fund (NDF) of Iran allocated \$1.6 billion for renovating the country's transportation fleet.

"Upon President Rouhani's directive, National Development Fund will soon provide nearly \$1.6 billion to renovate the transportation fleet," Shahram Adamnejad said in a gathering of the country's professional transport organizations.



## Why lodging at a caravanserai is a must-do in Iran?

→1 The caravanserai was always kept open for all arrivals from early dawn until late in the evening. Some caravansaries are of modest architectural merit, with well-hewn, massive walls and impressive proportions. Their gates are often decorated with intricate carving, as is the prayer niche within.



At night while you are standing on the roof of the isolated building imagining what it must have been like to see camel caravans coming across the barren desert while the sun is disappearing behind the mountains to the west.

Don't worry about the amenities, there are many ancient caravansaries, which have been fully restored and equipped to be boutique hotels or so.

## Webinar to discuss landscape conservation around Pasargadae

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – An online seminar will be discussing today the latest developments in the conservation of sceneries encircling the UNESCO-registered Pasargadae in southern Iran.

The event will also review joint projects Iranian archaeologists and their French counterparts have carried out within and around the World Heritage over the past five years, ISNA reported.



Situated about 50 km north of Persepolis, Pasargadae embraces outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization.

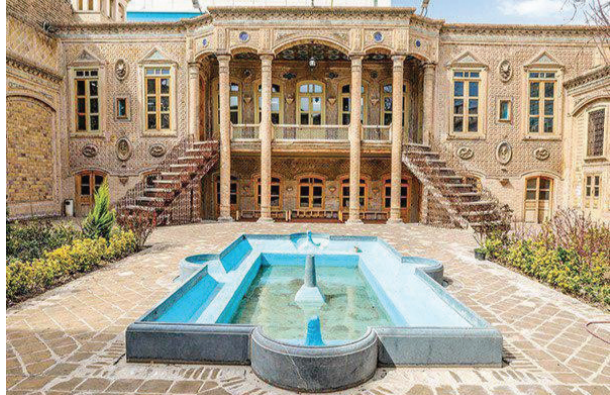
Cyrus was the founder of the Achaemenid Empire which at its greatest extent stretched from the Balkans to the Indus Valley, spanning 5.5 million square kilometers. The Persian king declared the world's first charter of human rights, also known as the Cyrus Cylinder.

## A peek into Iranian traditional houses, mansions

(Part 3/8)

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – Decoration is equal to the word embellishment which means to beautify or add (adding something to something else) as contrasted against trim (to remove something from something else).

Of course various meanings such as ordering, preparing, establishing, building, etc have been cited for embellishment. In the general Arabic to Persian dictionary, embellishment is defined as "what is used to beautify, make up".



A view of Yazdani House in Sarayan, South Khorasan province

In Iran, paying attention to the internal spaces of a building has always been of particular interest to architects. In huge complex of Persepolis for whose construction all skillful artists and craftsmen were brought to Iran, lithographs are a re-enforcing part in internal spaces.

Further to being masterpieces of architecture, the massive Achaemenian palaces in Persepolis and Pasargadae are particularly important in terms of decorative arts.

The lithographs in these palaces have been conducted with utmost care and attention and the whole nuances are written on stone. Further to lithograph, the enamel tile of Yazd is also used in decoration of palaces. A case of such use can be found in the picture of immoral soldiers in Shoush. Achaemenian tall pillars ad huge column heads were also used for decoration purposes.

# Iranian miniature, pilgrimage, ritual, and stringed instrument closer to UNESCO tags

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – UNESCO desk will soon be investigating the possible inscription of four Iranian elements, including the art of miniature and the ancient Mehregan Festival, on the world heritage list.

Final decisions will be reached at the 15th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, deputy tourism minister Mohammad-Hassan Talebian announced on Monday.

Possible inclusion of skills of making and playing the oud and pilgrimage to the St. Thaddeus Monastery will also be discussed during the session, which will be held online, over the coronavirus pandemic, from December 14 to 19, he said.

Due to the limitations of UNESCO for registration of each country's intangible heritage, the dossiers of the elements have been prepared jointly with neighboring countries, the official added.

Iran is slated to register the art of miniature jointly with Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan; the Mehregan Festival jointly with Tajikistan, pilgrimage to the St. Thaddeus Monastery with Armenia; and the skill of making and playing the oud with Syria, the official explained.

Iranian miniature is a traditional style of painting that is detailed, colorful, and small in size, often representing a mythological or religious theme. Due to its long history, Iran has a rich artistic heritage, and miniature



A man plays the oud in an undated photo. is one of them.

Mehregan Festival typically brings together clusters of Iranian Zoroastrians in celebration of Mithra, an ancient goddess of friendship, affection, and love. The celebrations are usually opened up with keynote speeches by Zoroastrian religious figures and officials, followed by Shahnameh recitations, exciting contests, and other joyful customaries.

A key feature for the event is large spreads in purple laden with various ingredients,

dishes, and elements each on behalf of a particular belief. Fruits, vegetables, dried nuts, sweets, rosewater, grilled lamb meat, lotus seeds, and silver coins and a scale are typically placed, the latter symbolizes autumnal equinox.

Mehregan falls on the 196th day of the Iranian calendar year that usually equals October 2 in the Gregorian calendar. The festivity was used to be a traditional autumn harvest festival with several accounts on its

origins. Oud is a short-neck lute-type, pear-shaped stringed instrument, which is thought that was invented by nomad tribes since it was light and mobile.

Oud's warm and fluid sound makes it a versatile instrument in solo performances and showcasing the nuances of Persian music. It comes in different sizes, Arabic ouds have bigger size bodies and Turkish ones are smaller and Persian ouds usually fall in between.

Located in Iran's West Azarbaijan province, the St. Thaddeus Monastery, also known as the Qareh Klise ("the Black Church") is one of the oldest surviving Christian monuments in the country. It is situated in Chaldoran county some 20 kilometers from Maku, adjacent to the borders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey.

The annual ceremony and pilgrimage in the St. Thaddeus Monastery is held in mid-July. Baptism of children and youngsters along with performances of traditional songs and dances are amongst highlights of the event.

Attendees commemorate the martyrdom of St. Thaddeus, one of the twelve disciples killed while he was preaching the Gospel. The legend says a church dedicated to him was first built in 68 CE where Qareh Klise is standing.

Thaddeus was an apostle of Christ and the ceremony is rooted in the last supper with Jesus Christ on the night of his arrest and execution by the Roman soldiers.

## Gigantic ice storage in northeastern Iran to be restored

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – Parts of a gigantic traditional Yakhchal (ice storage) in the city of Khalilabad, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province will undergo some rehabilitation works.

The restoration project involves repairing the walls and flooring area of the conical structure, which has been damaged due to the recent heavy rains, Khalilabad's tourism chief said on Tuesday.

The Qajar-era (1789–1925) Yakhchal is one of the city's icons and holds the potential to become a popular tourist attraction after being fully restored, Mohammad Javad Bolboli explained.

The project is planned to be implemented in collaboration with the municipality, the official added.

The historical structure was added to the National Heritage list in 2011.

When there was no electricity, no refrigerators, and no appliances, people kept a huge amount of water next

to the high walls of Yakhchal, which cast a shadow that kept the water cool.

The water turned into ice during the wintertime. Then people cut the ice into many portable parts and put them in the ice house and covered the surface of the ice with special local grass.

The structure is built high to minimize the contact of warm air with the ice surface as the warm air floats upwards. The feature of the ice storage was essential to its functioning.

There were also wells behind the ice storages with a connective canal at the bottom of the ice storage to the wells with a slight slope.

When people piled up the ice, a little amount of water remained under the heap of ice. If the water was not removed it would make the rest of the ice melt. By channeling the water into the well, not only did they prevent the ice stored in the ice house from melting, but also they had



cold and tasty water during summer months when the weather went up to 40 degrees Celsius.

## Fences, sunshades installed to protect Elamite rock arts

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – A series of fences and sunshades have been set up to protect Elamite bas-reliefs carved on a rock face near Izeh, southwest Iran.

A conservation project, which entailed the installation of metal fences, roofing covers, and shielding structures, has recently come to an end after almost two decades at Kul-e Farah in Khuzestan province, a local tourism official announced on Tuesday.

The prehistorical site, which was probably home to an Elamite temple and place of worship, includes six bas-relief carvings depicting graves, buildings, and a water canal.

The protective elements were mounted



ed for the three of the carvings as the rest are located in safer places of the cliff, the official said.

"And, studies and researches are being

done by cultural heritage experts and archaeologists to find ways for their proper protection."

Kul-e Farah ancient area was registered on the National Heritage list in 1999.

Elam was an ancient pre-Iranian civilization centered in the far-west and south-west of what is now modern-day Iran, stretching from the lowlands of what is now Khuzestan and Ilam provinces as well as a small part of southern Iraq.

Izeh is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites of Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushar Historical Hydraulic System yet it is a region of raw beauty where its visitors

could spend weeks exploring. The province is also a cradle for handicrafts and arts whose crafters inherited from their preceding generations.

Lying at the head of the Persian Gulf and bordering Iraq on the west, Khuzestan was settled about 6000 BC by a people with affinities to the Sumerians, who came from the Zagros Mountains region. Urban centers appeared there nearly contemporaneously with the first cities in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium. Khuzestan, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, came to constitute the heart of the Elamite kingdom, with Susa as its capital.

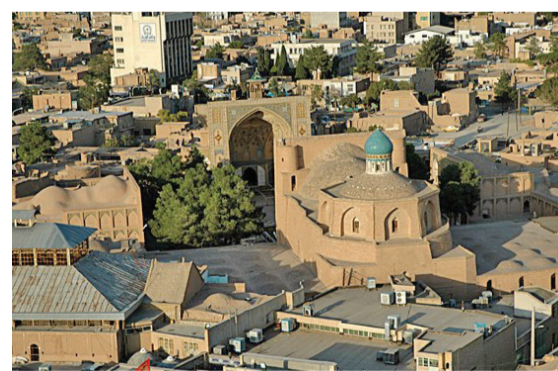
## Semnan to set up bureau to help safeguard historic texture

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – The Iranian city of Semnan is to set up a special cultural heritage bureau to bolster the conservation of its historic texture.

The bureau, which will be launched for the first time [across Semnan province], is aimed to protect and revive historical neighborhoods of the city that add up to some 350 hectares, provincial tourism chief Mehdi Jamal said on Tuesday.

The official also noted that the development of the tourism sector is the basis for the economic prosperity of the province, which requires the participation of all executive bodies.

Earlier last week, the official announced that the outbreak of the coronavirus has caused one trillion rials (about \$24 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) damage to the



province's tourism.

He also noted that in this situation, tourism businesses that are struggling with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic need more support.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat) and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

## Archaeologists shed more light on massive underground city in central Iran

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – Iranian archaeologists have uncovered what they say might be the entrance to a massive underground city located in Taftesh, central Iran.

"The first signs of access to the main site of the underground city of Tafresh were revealed during a recent week of excavations," IRNA quoted Tafresh Governor Abdolreza Hajalibeigi as saying on Tuesday.

"The hand-carved underground city is situated under the modern city of Tafresh... and with an area of three hectares it is one of the largest underground areas in Iran and even in West Asia."

The first archaeological season was carried out last summer on the underground city and the second is currently

underway, the official noted.

Based on the academic findings, the creation of handmade troglodytic architectural sites depends on several factors including climatic and geographical conditions, defense, security, durability, and religion, which were deeply tied with the cultural, political, social, and economic circumstances. This architecture can be classified into various formal types in terms of their external form, internal space, and function (religious, tombs, residential, and shelter).

The handmade troglodytic architecture is a distinctive kind of architecture, which does not require major construction materials and consequently very low environmental load since its creation is

majorly by extraction of space rather than the addition of mass. Architecture by subtraction rather than addition provides many opportunities that call for comprehensive research and analysis.

As there is no obligatory method in making spaces rather than material cohesion, there is no priority in constructing a troglodytic structure, either from the roof or from the floor. Dealing with stone blocks, rocks, and piles of earth requires a variety of tools as an ax, hammer, chisel, and sledgehammer to shape the interior space.

In Iran, many magnificent cases of this architecture have taken place in different regions due to its various climates. This unique architecture is at odds with the



conventional settlement patterns and construction methods and is always can take advantage of the mountains and valleys on the floor or wall, which is a good way to control climate fluctuation in different regions.

# School renovation budget rises by 21%

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — The national budget bill for the next [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022) has foreseen a 21-percent rise for renovation and retrofit of schools.

A total of 450 billion rials (nearly \$10.7 million the official rate of 42,000 rials) was proposed for school renovation in the budget bill; which is 21 percent higher than that of the previous year, Mehrollah Rakhshanimehr, director of the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipping Schools, said.

The government submitted the draft of the national budget bill for the next [Iranian calendar] year to Majlis on December 2.

The proposed budget amounted to about 24.357 quadrillion rials (about \$580 billion), with a 20-percent rise from the current year's budget.

Supplying basic goods, treatment, and medical equipment; securing livelihood; supporting production and employment; promoting and supporting non-oil exports and knowledge-based companies are the focal points of the bill.



■ 107,000 schools need renovation nationwide Rakhshanimehr said in August that

some 30 percent of the country's schools have been constructed by school-building benefactors; there are 450 school-building

charities in Iran.

Iran has many school-building benefactors amounting to 650,000 people inside and 1,000 people outside the country.

There are some 107,000 schools nationwide with 530,000 classes, 160,000 of which are dilapidated, not meeting safety standards. Some 30 percent of the schools nationwide are old, of which some 12 percent must be completely rebuilt and 18 percent must be retrofitted.

President Hassan Rouhani officially inaugurated some 1,550 educational, training, and welfare projects across the country in early-November via video conferencing.

The projects included 1,422 educational places with 8,051 classrooms, 124 training centers, and 4 welfare centers, measuring a total of 1.1 million square meters.

The Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipping Schools started operating in the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), which received a budget of 8.5 trillion rials (about \$200 million).

## Iranian university students runner-up at IMC 2020

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — The students of Tabriz University won a gold and a silver medal, ranking the second team at the 27th International Mathematics Competition for University Students (IMC 2020), held virtually on July 25-30.



The two-member mathematics team of Tabriz University consisting of Arman Shiridel, a student of Statistics, and Erfan Masoumi, a student of Computer Science, won a gold and a silver medal and got the second position at the IMC 2020.

The competition was held with the participation of 546 students in 96 teams from different universities of the world.

The IMC Competition is one of the most prestigious international maths competitions at the student level, with teams from the world's top universities competing every year at the IMC Institute of University College London.

The IMC began in 1994 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, with 49 participants, mostly from Bulgaria, and was hosted by Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

Next year's competition is organized by University College London and will be hosted by the American University in Bulgaria, which will take place in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, in July or August.

## UNICEF welcomes Iran's step towards protection of stateless people rights

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — UNICEF welcomes the implementation of the new Iranian nationality law which enables children born to Iranian mothers and non-Iranian fathers to obtain Iranian nationality.

"According to official figures, 28,000 children below the age of 18 years have filed applications to receive birth certificates and a nationality. The first group obtained their Iranian nationality and Iranian identity booklet (shenasnameh) on November 18.

"The implementation of this Law is a milestone for the protection of the rights of stateless persons in Iran, including children. Statelessness can hinder a child's access to basic social services such as healthcare and education.

"UNICEF welcomes this important development for children on the 31st anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which recognizes the child's right to acquire nationality in Article 7.

"UNICEF remains committed to continuing supporting the Government of Iran and partners for promoting child wellbeing in the country."

The first children, out of some 10,000 children whose citizenship applications have so far been accepted, received their Iranian identity card last month.

According to the Government of Iran, nearly 75,000



children at risk of becoming stateless are eligible for Iranian citizenship under a new nationality law, which was amended in 2019 to allow children under 18 years to apply for identity documents.

According to article one of the law, children of Iranian women and non-Iranian men who were born before or after the law can be an Iranian citizen in case the Iranian mother requested if they have no security problem before the age of 18. These children, after reaching the age of 18, can apply for

Iranian citizenship if not requested by the mother, then will be granted Iranian citizenship in case of no security problem.

Although Iran is not a party to the UN Conventions on Statelessness, the Government of Iran is taking steps towards the prevention and reduction of statelessness in the country.

While the law does not give mothers and fathers equal rights to confer nationality to their children, it represents significant progress.

### ■ Statelessness: a global issue

Around the world, stateless people can face a lifetime of exclusion and discrimination and are often denied access to education, health care, and job opportunities – making them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

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

"No child chooses to be stateless," said Ivo Freijns, UNHCR Representative in Iran last year. "Without identity and official documents, stateless people are often excluded from society. The Government of Iran is leading by example through its new law. It is a hugely positive move for these children and their families."

## Australia to use drones to count every Koala as extinction looms

Australia is set to embark on a mass audit of the country's koala population using drones and detection dogs amid a warning that the species is "sliding towards extinction".

The koala count is part of an AU\$18m package to protect Australia's iconic marsupials from multiple threats, including habitat destruction, climate change, disease and car strikes, the Independent reported.

Heat-seeking drones and sniffer dogs will be used to document the koala population, which was estimated in a 2016 study to number 329,000. Since then, there have been annual bushfires reducing the number further.

The Australian Koala Foundation believes there could be fewer than 80,000 remaining today – and possibly as few as 43,000. "If this rate of decline continues then yes, the koala is at risk of extinction," the group said.

Acoustic surveillance and citizen surveys will also be used to locate and count the animals, and annual reporting

of koala populations will become part of ministerial meetings.

Commenting on the koala audit, which will cost AU\$2m, Sussan Ley, the Australian environment minister, said: "For all our focus on koalas, scientists are telling us that there is a serious lack of data about where populations actually are, how they are faring and the best ways to help them recover after the devastating bushfires."

More than 60,000 koalas were killed, injured or displaced in fires that raged across parts of Australia last summer, a report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) released on Monday estimated.

Those bushfires, which Scott Morrison, the prime minister, dubbed Australia's "black summer", also killed 33 people and razed over 24 million hectares (59 million acres) in the country.

Nearly 3 billion native animals would have been in the path of the bushfires, the

WWF study said.

Even before the fires, koala habitats had been in rapid decline due to land clearing for agriculture, urban development, mining and forestry.

"That (60,000 figure) is a devastating number for a species that was already sliding towards extinction in Eastern Australia. We cannot afford to lose koalas on our watch," WWF-Australia chief executive Dermot O'Gorman said in the report.

South Australia's Kangaroo Island was the worst-hit area for koalas, with some 40,000 koalas impacted by the fires, the WWF said. Nearly 11,000 in Victoria and 8,000 in New South Wales (NSW) were also affected.

A NSW parliamentary inquiry in June concluded after a year-long inquiry that koalas in the state could become extinct by 2050 unless the government immediately intervened to protect them and their habitat.

The WWF aims to double the number of



koalas in eastern Australia by 2050.

The organisation's protection plan includes a trial of drones to disperse seeds of eucalyptus trees which provide both food and shelter for koalas, and the establishment of a fund to encourage landowners to create koala safe havens.

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## Kani Barazan international wetland overflows after a decade

Recent downpours made Kani Barazan international wetland full to bursting its banks which is unprecedented over the past ten years, Mahabad chief of department of environment (DOE) has stated.

Kani Barazan wetland, located in Mahabad county in northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, was once recorded as the first bird-sighting site in the country.

Stretching to 910 hectares, Kani Barazan wetland is home to various bird species including, flamingo, little cormorant, great white pelican, stilt, sternidae, great crested grebe, graylag goose, lesser white-fronted goose, heron, common shelduck and etc.

The wetland retains 16 million cubic meters of water, which is already overflowed, IRNA quoted Farooq Sokhanvar as saying on Sunday.

"The overflowed water is entering three wetlands near the Lake Urmia, as it is part of southern ecology of Lake Urmia," he further stated.

By launching the online monitoring station in the wetland, water level, oxygen, temperature, pressure and humidity of the wetland are recorded and transmitted to aquatic ecosystems department at the DOE, he highlighted.

## آب تالاب بین المللی «کانی برازان» پس از ۱۰ سال سرریز شد

رئیس اداره حفاظت محیط زیست مهاباد گفت: آب تالاب بین المللی «کانی برازان» این شهرستان پس از ۱۰ سال و بر اثر بارش های مناسب سرریز شد.

تالاب بین المللی کانی برازان مهاباد با وسعتی افزون بر ۹۱۰ هکتار یکی از مهمترین تالاب های اقماری جنوب دریاچه ارومیه و با ارزش ترین زیستگاه های انواع پرندگان آبی و کنار آبی مهاجر و بومی در شمال غرب کشور به شمار می رود.

فاروق سخنور روز یکشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اظهار داشت: هم اکنون ظرفیت ۱۶ میلیون مترمکعبی این تالاب پر شده و به صورت میانگین سه مترمکعب آب ورودی آن از سه دریچه خروجی به سمت سه تالاب اقماری دریاچه ارومیه هدایت می شود.

سخنور اضافه کرد: با راه اندازی ایستگاه پایش آنلاین در این تالاب مولفه های عمق آب، میزان اکسیژن، دما، فشار و رطوبت تالاب رصد شده و به صورت آنلاین به دفتر تالاب های ایران ارسال می شود.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 78)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

کافی از اسپانیا برای پرتاب بومب های هسته ای در نزد کارند پست این بسته را در خوابگاه بپوشانید. برای گرفتن بسته های هسته ای، کلمات دانشجوئی لازم است. پترا اغلب با خانواده و دوستانش، در اسپانیا یا ایران، با تلفن همراه یا عمومی صحبت می کند. در دانشگاه ها، خوابگاه ها، نیامان ها و جاهای دیگر، دانشجوئی می تواند با کارت تلفن و سکه از تلفن عمومی استفاده کند.

Note that nasx type is used for the printing of books and newspapers, as seen in the present book.

درک

تمرین ۱. «ص» یا «غ» بگذارد و غلطها را درست بنویسید:

۱. ( ) پترا بسته های هسته ای را از بانک می گیرد.
۲. ( ) پترا با خانواده اش در تهران زندگی می کند.
۳. ( ) خوابگاه دانشجویان تلفن عمومی ندارد.
۴. ( ) همه می توانند از تلفن عمومی استفاده کنند.
۵. ( ) کارت دانشجویی یا سکه برای تلفن عمومی کافی است.
۶. ( ) همه ی فروشگاه های بزرگ تهران تلفن عمومی دارند.

تمرین ۲. کلمات جواب درست است؟

- |                 |              |               |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| ۱. از آلمان     | از اسپانیا   | از انگلیس     |
| ۲. در دانشگاه   | در دفتر پست  | در خوابگاه    |
| ۳. سینی         | لیوان        | کارت دانشجویی |
| ۴. با تلفن      | با صدای بلند | با نامه       |
| ۵. در اتاق پترا | در خیابانها  | در کلاس درس   |
| ۶. از سکه       | از چنگال     | از قاشق       |

