# W W W . T E H R A N T I M E S . C O M INTERNATIONAL DAILY

8 Pages | Price 50,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 42nd year | No.13835 | Wednesday | **DECEMBER 16, 2020** | Azar 26, 1399 | Jumada Al Awwal' Al 1, 1442



Zarif condemns U.S. sanctions on neighboring Turkey Page 2



Iran's Saravi wins bronze at Individual World Cup *Page 3* 



Mismanagement, overexploitation threat Persian Gulf ecosystem Page 7



Greatest Islamic computer game "Ambassador of Love" produced in Iran Page 8



# Iran's missile program 'a thorn in eyes of enemies', says defense chief

TEHRAN — Defense Minister Amir Hatami has said Iran's defensive missile program is "a thorn in the eyes of the enemies", with Iran strengthening its missile power day by day.

"But [our] martyrdom culture is [Iran's] number one progress, and a nation that has a culture of martyrdom cannot be dominated," Brigadier General Hatami said in remarks on Tuesday.

He also said the budget of the Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research has witnessed a 256 percent increase.

In the aftermath of the assassination of top Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said that two important issues should be put on the agenda by all those involved, Hatami stated.

Continued on page 2

# Waste-to-energy plant to come on stream in northern Iran

TEHRAN – A waste-to-energy plant will be officially inaugurated on Thursday in the city of Noshahr, northern Mazandaran province.

A waste-to-energy plant is a waste management facility that combusts wastes to produce electricity. This type of power plant is also called a trash-to-energy, municipal waste incineration, energy recovery, or resource recovery plant.

Iran currently has five waste-to-energy plants operating in the cities of Tehran,

Shiraz, and Mashhad.

Establishing Noshahr plant as the first one in the northern part of the country started in 2011, with the aim of processing 200 tons of waste produced in Noshahr, Chalous and Kelardasht counties and generating about three megawatts of electricity per hour on a land area of about 2 hectares, which was supposed to be operational within a maximum of 2 years.

Continued on page 7

# Energy projects worth over \$63m inaugurated in 3 provinces

TEHRAN – Numerous energy projects worth over 2.67 trillion rials (about \$63.5 million) were inaugurated in three provinces in the 32nd week of the Energy Ministry's A-B-Iran program, IRNA reported.

In a ceremony attended by the Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian, 14 projects including the establishment of some electricity transmission lines, solar and wind farms, and small-scale power plants, as well as increasing the capacity of a power plant, were inaugurated through video conferences in Khorasan Razavi, Semnan and Kordestan provinces.

Of the mentioned projects, eight were put into operation in Khorasan Razavi province, five were in Semnan and the other one was inaugurated in Kordestan province.

Continued on page 4

ACL title; so close, so far

BY MASOUD HOSSEIN

Persepolis of Iran football club are so close to their first ever title in the AFC Champions League but they have to pass a hurdle on Saturday when the team will meet Ulsan Hyundai at the Al Janoub Stadium.

The Iranian Reds have reached AFC Champions League final for the second time in three years, aiming to end a 27-year continental trophy drought for the Iranian clubs. No Iranian team have won the title since 1992/93 when PAS of Tehran claimed the Asian Club Championship trophy.

Now, Persepolis want to be the first Iranian team to be crowned as champions in the AFC Champions League.

Persepolis have a tough task ahead since the South Korean are a strong team who are well-equipped to win the most coveted title for the second time after eight years. Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi is well aware of the strength of Ulsan Hyundai.

"Ulsan are a strong team and deserved to be in the final match. They are a disciplined team and play an attacking football," he said. "We will be without three key players (Issa Alekasir, Vahid Amiri and Ehsan Pahlevan) in this match but we want to lift the trophy, that's why we are here."

Persepolis, as the most decorated Iranian team in the domestic competitions, have won the league's title in the past four years and it shows that how strong they are. In the 2018, they could win the ACL title for the first time in front of their fans at the Azadi Stadium but Japanese team Kashima Antlers beat them 2-0 on aggregate.

"Our players are full of motivation and we have to fight until the end if we want to win the title. Persepolis want to make their fans happy and the match against Ulsan will be an opportunity to make our dreams come true," Golmohammadi said.

Football mad nation has not won a title for many years and Persepolis can end the years-long wait as an Iranian representative.

Football is everything for the Iranian fans and title can sends them into a joyous celebration.

Persepolis are not a wealthy team but they are always playing their hearts out and it could be the trump card for the Iranian team.

# **Economic Diplomacy: Poland can be Iran's gateway to Europe market**

#### BY RAMIN MEHMANPARAST

TEHRAN - European countries have great capacities for economic cooperation with Iran, and while Iran can have a serious participation in supplying Europe's energy needs, it would also be possible for the country to benefit from such relations for attracting investment and transferring technical knowledge and supplying its required machinery.

On the other hand, European countries are looking for new markets due to market saturation in their region and are fiercely competing with each other to develop their business and economic activities, for which the 500-million market in the West and Central Asia region is particularly attractive.

Iran, as a stable and safe country with a population of eighty-three million, is located in the heart of this market of five hundred million, which has the following comparative advantages:

- Neighborhood with fifteen countries through

land and water borders

- Having huge oil and gas resources
- Having high quality and cheap raw materials
   Having educated and specialized manpower
- Existence of cheap labor
- Low costs of transferring materials and manufactured goods to neighboring countries due to geographical location

On the other hand, Poland, being located in the center of Europe, seems to be a suitable point for Iranian traders to enter European markets. In addition, more than five hundred years of historical relations between the two countries and good memories of Poles from Iran considering the country's support for Poland's independence, as well as sheltering of more than 120,000 Poles during World War II in Iran, have provided a good cultural and political context for the development of relations with this country.

# Hackers breach U.S. agencies, Homeland Security a reported target

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security was the third federal department to be targeted in a major cyberattack, U.S. media reported Monday, a day after Washington revealed the hack which may have been coordinated by a foreign government.

The Washington Post cited unnamed officials who said that the DHS -- which is in charge of protecting the country from attacks both online and off -- had been added to a growing list of targets in the attack, including the Treasury and Commerce departments.

A statement from DHS Monday did not confirm the report, saying only that it was "aware of cyber breaches across the federal government and working closely with our partners in the public and private sector on the federal response."

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), which is attached to the DHS, on Sunday said it had ordered federal agencies to immediately stop using SolarWinds Orion IT products following reports that hackers had used a recent update to gain access to internal communications.

"We urge all our partners -- in the public and

compromise and to secure their networks," said CISA Acting Director Brandon Wales. SolarWinds over the weekend admitted that hack-

private sectors -- to assess their exposure to this

SolarWinds over the weekend admitted that hackers had exploited a backdoor in an update of some of its software released between March and June.

The hacks are part of a wider campaign that also hit major cybersecurity firm FireEye, which said its own defenses had been breached by sophisticated attackers who stole tools used to test customers' computer systems.

FireEye said it suspected the attack was state-sponsored, and warned it could have affected numerous high profile targets across the globe.

\*Continued on page 5\*\*

#### Studying inscriptions from Islamic World necessary to realize Greater Iran, linguist says

TEHRAN – Studying historical inscriptions, which are native to cities of the Islamic World, is necessary to better realize Greater Iran, a linguist and cultural heritage expert has said.

"One of the necessities of studies in the field of cultural heritage and Iranian culture is to identify and study the historical inscriptions of the cities in the Islamic world, mostly the ones that were once a part of ancient Iran," Nader Karimian said during a meeting at Linguistic Research Institute on Monday.

As the historical inscriptions in Samarkand (now in Uzbekistan) could reveal important knowledge and information on Iranian culture, history, and art, a research project was commenced on them by Iranian experts and scholars, he explained.

The project aimed at identifying the inscriptions of historical places and monuments of Samarkand related to the Islamic eras, introducing and promoting them as well as preparing a list of them, Karimian stated.

Samarkand inscriptions were one of the most important art forms during different historical

periods, especially the Timurid-era (1370–1507), as most of this dynasty's rulers were masters in art and calligraphy, he added.

"The Timurids paid special attention to art and architecture to fulfill the cultural and artistic goals, while religion played a key role in all their artworks as well." He also noted that building countless mosques, schools, and holy shrines as well as ordering religious manuscripts and inscriptions to the masters of the time were part of the Timurid's cultural agenda.

Continued on page 6

#### "Let us not make our enemies happy": Turkish attorney

#### BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN – Calling for a regional alliance that includes Iran and Turkey, a Turkish lawyer invites Ankara and Tehran "not to make the enemies happy" over minor issues or misunderstandings that may arise.

A contraversy started on Thursday after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recited epic poems that sparked widespread outrage in Iran, with many Iranian officials strongly rejecting any territorial claims against Iran.

However, the dispute was settled when Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu called his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif on Saturday evening to assure him that his country respects the Islamic Republic of Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Lawyer Onur Sinan Güzaltan tells the Tehran Times that "We need to underline the statements from the Turkish presidential spokesman Omer Celik's after the poem crisis 'let us not make our enemies happy'."

Sinan notes that Turkey and Iran are two major neighbors with a rich history and deep ties "who have lived in peace for nearly 400 years."

ve lived in peace for nearly 400 years."
"Cooperation and mutual respect have always
he top priority" he adds

a the top priority" he adds.

The following is the text of the interview:

What is your opinion about the poem that Mr. Erdogan recited at the Baku parade? What was his purpose and why was it misunderstood?

A: Turkey and Iran are two major countries with solid-state traditions, and two neighbors who have lived in peace for nearly 400 years since the Treaty of Qasr-e Shirin (Zuhab) was signed in 1639.

Continued on page 5



#### Tehran National Sculpture Biennial kicks off

TEHRAN – The 8th edition of the Tehran National Sculpture Biennial was inaugurated at the Vahadat Hall and the Rudaki Open-Air Theater on Monday. The biennial is organized by the Asso-

The biennial is organized by the Association of Iranian Sculptors and the Visual Arts Office of Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini said that the Visual Arts Office is determined to hold two to four events every year, and this year, despite the pandemic, the programs are being held one after the other.

Continued on page 8

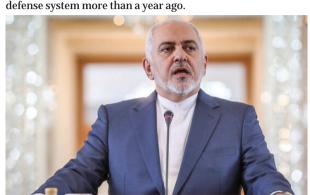
#### **Zarif condemns U.S. sanctions** on neighboring Turkey

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad d e s k Javad Zarif has denounced the recent U.S. sanctions against Turkey, highlighting the fact that Iran attaches great importance to its neighbors.

"U.S. addiction to sanctions and contempt for international law at full display again," Zarif tweeted on Tuesday.

We strongly condemn recent U.S. sanctions against Turkey and stand with its people and government," he added.

It came a day after U.S. President Donald Trump implemented penalties against Turkey for its purchase of a Russian missile



The sanctions, announced by the U.S. Treasury, targeted Turkey's defense procurement agency, known as the Presidency of Defense Industries, and its senior officials, including its president.

Turkey acquired the missile defense system, known as the S-400, in July 2019. The purchase violated a sweeping sanctions law passed in 2017 in the House and Senate to push the U.S. government toward a tougher stance on Russia.

Zarif's rebuke of the U.S. sanctions came days after Turkish President President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recited a poem with separatist sentiments that caused anger among Iranians.

The poem implies that the Azeri-populated Iranian provinces of Azerbaijan were separated

"We strongly

condemn

recent U.S.

from the Republic of Azerbaijan. "Pres. Erdogan was not informed that what he ill-recited in Baku refers to the forcible separation of areas north of Aras from Iranian motherland. Didn't he realize that he was undermining the sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan? NO ONE can talk about OUR beloved Azerbaijan," Zarif wrote

sanctions against Turkey and stand with its people and government," in a tweet on Friday. Zarif said. Later in the day, the Iranian

Foreign Ministry summoned Turkey's ambassador to protest Erdogan's controversial poem.

According to the Treaty of Gulistan on 24 October 1813, which was signed after the first full-scale 1804-1813 Russo-Persian War, what is now Daghestan, eastern Georgia, most of the Republic of Azerbaijan and parts of northern Iran were ceded to

However, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu called Zarif on Saturday evening to assure him that his country respects the Islamic Republic of Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

During the phone conversation, Cavusoglu underlined the close and friendly relations between Turkey and Iran, and highlighted Ankara's definite policy of good neighborliness.

He also assured Zarif that Erdogan fully respects Iran's na-

tional sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Cavusoglu explained that President Erdogan had not been aware of the sensitivities surrounding the lines he recited in Baku and associated the poem only with Lachin and Karabakh, which is why he recited it in the recent event in Azerbaijan.

#### Iran's missile program 'a thorn in eyes of enemies', says defense chief

"First, the following up of this crime and the definitive punishment of its perpetrators, and second, the pursuit of the artyr's scientific and technical efforts," added the general.

Fakhrizadeh, a prominent scientist, was assassinated on November 27 at 14:30, when his convoy came under attack on a highway in the small city of Absard in Damavand County, about 40 kilometers east of the capital Tehran



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.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hatami said the enemy's aim was to disrupt to process of scientific movement and the speed of progress of the Islamic Republic in the field of new technologies

"The enemy was well aware of our significant progress in emerging and innovative areas, therefore, with this action, it tried to weaken the morale of the people and undercut Iran's security and power," he pointed out.

He added that since Fakhrizadeh's assassination, all of the employees and managers of the Defense Ministry have became determined to continue the martyr's path.

In remarks two weeks ago, Hatami warned that Fakhrizadeh's assassination will not go unanswered.

"We will pursue the perpetrators till the end and we will follow the order of the Commander-in-Chief (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei),'

The defense minister warned the countries that sponsor terrorism that the Islamic Republic has always dealt with terrorists "as we did in the region in Syria and Iraq, along with the governments and nations and the armed forces of those countries.

# Rouhani says Trump's anti-Iran actions were based on his illusions

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani has censured his outgoing American counterpart, saying Donald Trump's actions against the Islamic Republic were based on his illusions.

"Trump did not recognize the capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran at all and acted on his own illusions," Rouhani said at a meeting of the government's economic coordination headquarters in Tehran on Tuesday, ISNA

He said the nation's resistance in the face of  $sanctions\ and\ the\ failure\ of\ Trump's\ economic$ war against Iran proved "great realities" to the world and to Iran's foes.

Rouhani urged Iran's enemies to abandon the wrong and failed policy of sanctions against Tehran once and for all.

According to President Rouhani, Trump's defeat in the November presidential election was mainly the result of his failure in the economic war on Iran in addition to his other foreign

The U.S., under Trump, unleashed the "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran in 2018, when it unilaterally left the 2015 multilateral nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

However, with the defeat of Trump in the November 3 presidential election, hopes were raised over a possible revival of the JCPOA under President-elect Joe Biden, who has signaled



"Even though the economic war has inflicted a lot of damage, especially on public livelihoods, the architects of the sanctions and warmongers who thought Iran's economy would collapse in the short term are leaving the White House," Rouhani states.

that he intends to rejoin the pact.

"Even though the economic war has inflicted a lot of damage, especially on public livelihoods, the architects of the sanctions and warmongers who thought Iran's economy would collapse in the short term are leaving the White House, Rouhani remarked.

"This is while the Iranian nation has proudly emerged victorious in an all-out economic war stronger than ever," he added.

Following Biden's victory in the U.S. presidential election, Iran has reiterated its stance that it will not renegotiate the terms of the JCPOA.

President Rouhani said on Monday that Iran will not accept any precondition for the reactivation of the JCPOA.

"Either all implement or do not implement the JCPOA. If all implement it we also implement it," he said.

He also said the economic war waged by the Trump administration has been a total failure.

"One of the goals that the [Iranian] administration pursues is to defeat sanctions ... because Trump's economic war has failed and the entire world has owned up to this [fact],' Rouhani said.

"The whole world is putting pressure on the United States to return to the JCPOA, so that the deal could be activated again," the president said, adding, "One of the main services of the 12th [Iranian] administration ...was that it used all in its power to prevent destruction

### There's no difference between Biden and Trump, says Soleimani's daughter

U.S. plans in the region, invoking fury in Washington, she said.

"My father did his job so well and made them so angry.

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — The victory of Joe Biden against the incumbent-President Donald Trump in the recent U.S. presidential election will not change the United States' Iran policy, says the daughter of Iran's assassinated general Qassem Soleimani.

"There's no difference between Biden and Trump, they are the same guy. They are following the same policy, there's no difference between them. Trump ordered the killing of my father, but Biden supported that, so there's no difference, Zeinab Soleimani told Russia Today in an interview that is to be aired on Wednesday.

U.S. President-elect Biden has signaled that he will re-enter the United States into the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was abandoned by Trump in 2018 in pursuit of a tough economic confrontation with the Islamic republic.

Soleimani said Biden's background leaves a lot of room for doubt, because it was Barack Obama's administration that facilitated the creation of Daesh (ISIS) terrorist group

Moreover, U.S. policy towards Iran has remained pretty much the same for decades already, she argued, and the change of the figurehead in the White House does not really matter. "The problem we have with America is their policy, this will

not change. They are the same people, with the same mind, the same way. And each one is worse than the other one. Trump's decision to order the assassination of General Soleimani stemmed from the fact that her father jeopardized

You are seeing every plan they are making in the Middle East is destroyed. Everywhere they are trying to enter and hurt Iran they fail. Of course, for them my father is a big monster, but my father is a savior. On January 3, Trump ordered drone strikes that mar-

tyred General Soleimani, chief of the IRGC Quds Force, and Åbu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy commander of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU).

In the early hours of January 8, the IRGC attacked Ain al-Assad airbase in western Iraq, where U.S. forces were stationed, as part of its promised "tough revenge" for the U.S. terror attack Iran has vowed to target whoever had a role in the cow-

ardly assassination of General Soleimani. "This is a serious message," IRGC Chief Major General Hossein Salami said back in September. "These threats are serious and we're not engaging in a war of words," Salami said, adding, "Rather, we'll leave

everything to the field of action.' Zeinab Soleimani, however, believes that her father's assassination did not constitute a victory for the U.S., but actually backfired. It invoked more anger and hatred towards Washington in Iran, as well as in other countries of the region. The killing has made more people want to follow in

Soleimani's steps and fight the U.S., she warned. "After killing my father, America thought that everything

"The problem we have with America is their policy, this will not change. They are the same people, with the same mind, the same way. And each one is worse than the other one," says Zeinab Soleimani.



will be stopped, because they killed General Soleimani, the power of the Middle East. But they are so wrong," she said. They are so wrong in thinking this will be the end of General Soleimani, this is the beginning."

Soleimani also touched upon one of the most recent hostile acts against Iran, namely the killing of Iran's leading nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was assassinated near Tehran late in November. Those behind the murder are certainly "not human", given how the scientist was slain in cold blood for merely working for his country, she asserted.

'They've killed him so easily in his own country in front of... his wife," she said. "How dare they come to our country and kill people so easily in the street?"

On November 27, the convoy of Fakhrizadeh suddenly came under attack 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.

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.

#### President receives credentials from seven new ambassadors

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — President e s k Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday received credentials of the new ambassadors of seven countries to Tehran, namely Syria, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Indonesia, Uganda and Tunisia.

Iran to stand by Syrian nation, government

In his meeting with Syria's new Ambassador to Tehran Shafiq Dayoub, Rouhani said Iran will stand by the Syrian nation and government until their final victory against terrorism, the return of refugees and the reconstruction of the war-torn country.

He described the Iran-Syria relations as strategic and friendly, saying the Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the Syrian people in defending the truth and fighting terrorism until the final victory.

Rouhani also expressed his condolences on the death of the late Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem and lauded his efforts to bolster relations between Tehran and Damascus. The president pledged to continue efforts to

help fully establish stability and peace in Syria. For his part, the Syrian envoy said his country wants to preserve all the valuable achievements that have been realized in the

past four decades in bilateral relations. He also thanked the Iranian people and government for their support for the Syrian

Iran ready to enhance ties with

Rouhani told the new Thai Ambassador Worawoot Pongprapapant that Iran is ready to enhance bilateral ties with Bangkok in dif-

He said great potential exist for enhancing the level of bilateral ties, hoping for the realization of these potentials during the new ambassador's term



Aikawa Kazutoshi

fields, he said.



Pongprapapant

Pongprapapant, for this part, said his coun-

Thailand asks for the increased presence

Rouhani calls for increased pres-

Speaking with the newly-appointed Japa-

try is determined to strengthen ties with Iran

of Thai students in Iran to study in different

ence of Japanese companies in Iran

nese ambassador Aikawa Kazutoshi, the pres-

ident emphasized the necessity of accelerating

the implementation of ties, and for unfreezing

of cooperation with Tokyo in different fields,

expressing hopes to see a change in ties in the

new atmosphere and an increased presence

stressed that Tokyo is firm to boost coopera-

tion with Tehran in fields of mutual interest.

been good partners, adding that the imple-

mentation of previous deals will create vast

opportunities for strengthening relations.

For his part, the Japanese ambassador

The envoy said Iran and Japan have always

Tehran ready to deepen trade ties

In the meeting with the new ambassador of

He underscored the importance of coopera-

Mexico to Tehran, Guillermo Alejandro Ponte,

Rouhani voiced Iran's readiness to deepen

trade and industrial ties with Mexico.

Rouhani said Tehran welcomes expansion

of Iran's assets in Japanese banks.

of Japanese companies in Iran.

in areas that meet mutual interests.













Ronny Prasetyo Alejandro Ponte tion between companies from the two countries.

The president also expressed the hope that Tehran-Mexico City relations would expand

The Mexican ambassador hailed Iran as a friendly country and an ally of his country. "Mexico has made every effort to expand cooperation and improve bilateral ties with Iran," he added.

President says Iran, Indonesia represent moderate Islam Meeting with Indonesian Ambassador to

Tehran Ronny Prasetyo Yuliantoro, President Rouhani highlighted Iran's will to increase cooperation and develop economic, cultural, scientific and technological relations with Indonesia.

Rouhani also pointed to his visit to Indonesia and his meetings with the country's ulema, saying the kind of Islam that is followed by Iran and Indonesia is based on "the principles of moderation and generosity".

Yuliantoro, for his part, reiterated the Indonesian president's emphasis on expanding the two countries' relations in all fields, mutual cooperation and the continued presence of Iranian and Indonesian companies in the two countries, the implementation of joint projects, and using new opportunities for cooperation.

Iran ready to transfer scientific

experiences to Uganda In the meeting with Mohammad Tezikoba, Uganda's newly-appointed ambassador, Rouhani described the Tehran-Kampala relations as friendly and developing.

He said Iran is ready to transfer its scientific experiences to Uganda as a friendly country, adding that Iranian companies can also have a more active presence in Uganda.

Mohammad Tzikuba, for his part, said Uganda is after expanding cooperation with Iran in all fields and considering the great scientific and technical progress of Iran, Uganda wants a more active presence of Iranian companies in Uganda.

Tunisia can be Iran's gateway to African countries

In another meeting with the new Tunisian Ambassador Samir al-Mansour, the Iranian president lauded the positive stance of Tunisia toward Iran and its support in the international forums, especially in the

face of the U.S. government's sanctions. He said that Tunisia, as a Muslim country in North Africa, can be a gateway for Iran to African countries.

Al-Mansour also emphasized that his country has a strong will to develop comprehensive ties with Iran as a friendly, brotherly and Muslim country.

He added that Tunisia can serve as a platform for Iran's relations with Europe

POLITICAL TEHRAN — As the d e s k European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal move to turn the heat on Iran by trying to widen the scope of the nuclear deal, a publication close to the office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution put the spotlight on the Leader's remarks on the European non-compliance with the nuclear deal.

The publication, Khatt-e Hezbollah (the Hezbollah Line), said Europe has effectively withdrawn from the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

First of all, the publications quoted the Leader as questioning European compliance with the JCPOA.

"Do you notice Europe? And how did they act on the issue of the JCPOA and their commitments? Now, it's interesting that they reiterate all the time that 'we are committed to the JCPOA.' What is the compliance of Germany, France and Britain? Someone should ask that how are you committed [to the JCPOA]? What kind of commitment do you have to the JCPOA? Which commitment did you comply with?" Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said in a mid-May, 2019 speech, according to Khatt-e Hezbollah.

Nearly two months after that speech, the Leader once again castigated the Europeans for their non-compliance with the JCPOA, saying that the Europeans have reneged on 11 commitments under the nuclear deal.

The Leader said in mid-July 2019, "According to our honorable foreign minister, Europe had 11 commitments under the JCPOA none of which were implemented by Europe.... What about us? We have implemented our JCPOA commitments and beyond. But now that we started to reduce our commitments in response to them, they say from a bullying position that 'Wow, why do you reduce your commitments?' O, insolent guys, you had 11 commitments but you complied with none of them. So why do you ask us to comply with our commitments? Now we have just started to reduce our commitments and this process will certainly continue.'

The European signatories to the JCPOA - France, Germany and the UK (E3) - have ramped up pressure on Iran in recent weeks in



an attempt to renegotiate the nuclear deal and address other issues such as Iran's defensive missile program and the country's influence in the region. The European coordination in this regard has substantially intensified after Joe Biden won the U.S. presidential election in early November. The E3 foreign ministers held a meeting in Germany to coordinate their positions on Iran. Following this 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.

Before Maas, the French presidency also had said that Iran's missile issue should be addressed in future talks.

Iranian officials, including Ayatollah Khamenei, have strongly responded to the new European demands, underling that the E3 had no rights to discuss Iran's missiles and its regional influence. During his latest meeting with the heads of the three branches of the government, Ayatollah Khamenei called on the E3 to stop demanding negotiations on Iran's defensive 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

Although Iran's criticism of Europe intensified after the E3 called for missile negotiations, tensions in Iran-Europe relations have never subsided in the years after U.S. President's Donald Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018. Iran has always called on the E3 to compensate it for the damage Trump caused to its economy. But the Europeans did nothing for Iran, according to the Leader. Ayatollah Khamenei said in July 2020 that Iran has told the Europeans to do this and that after Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA but the Europeans did nothing

"The Europeans did nothing. And their last initiative was a nonsense plaything called INSTEX, which of course did not bear fruit. In a nutshell, the INSTEX means that Iran gives its money [blocked] in other places to so-and-so Europeans – France and Britain for instance - and they buy the goods they see appropriate and then send the goods to Iran. This is the meaning of INSTEX, which is in itself a wrong and detrimental thing. But they fell short of even launching this mechanism," the Leader said.

Some Iranian officials have strongly criticized the European inaction on the JCPOA during the Trump administration and even called for Europe to compensate Iran for the losses that were caused by the Trump sanctions while ruling out any prospect of broader negotiations with the incoming U.S. administration of Joe Biden.

Alireza Salimi, a member of the Iranian Parliament's presiding board, has urged the United States and Europe to compensate Iran for the losses it incurred following Washington's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal and the Europeans' failure to honor their commitments as well.

"The withdrawal of the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the non-fulfillment of JCPOA commitments by the Europeans have caused damage of between 150 and 200 billion dollars to our country," the lawmaker said.

Meanwhile, other lawmakers have said that Iran's missile program is not negotiable.

"Iran's missile and defense capability are not negotiable at all," Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, a member of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, has said.

Iran-Europe tensions have even worsened in recent days after the E3 denounced the execution of Rouhollah Zam, the operator of the Amad News website and the eponymous channel on the Telegram

# Trump's pressure campaign against Iran failed: former WH official

POLITICAL TEHRAN — U.S. President Donald e s k Trump has sought to reach a new deal with Iran through exerting pressure on it but he failed to get any deal with Iran, former assistant director for National Security in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy has said.

"Trump wanted to reach a better deal with Iran through maximum pressure, but he failed. [Joe] Biden also seeks to secure a better deal with Iran but he wants to do so on the basis of the current deal or the JCPOA," Frank Von Hippel told Iran's state news agency IRNA, referring to an  $acronym \, for \, the \, 2015 \, Iran \, nuclear \, deal, \, officially \, known$ as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

He added, "This is the difference between Trump and

According to Hippel, Trump did everything in his power to make the survival of the JCPOA impossible. "He imposed various sanctions, including non-nuclear sanctions, to complicate the return to the JCPOA," Hippel said, noting that the Trump administration has imposed terrorism-related sanctions that will make Biden's return to the Iran nuclear deal difficult.

During his election campaign, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden announced that he will return to the Iran nuclear deal if he wins the U.S. presidential election.

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

After the election, Biden said that making good on



this promise will be hard. In a recent interview with The New York Times' columnist Thomas Friedman, Biden addressed a variety of domestic and foreign policy issues, including the nuclear deal, which President Donald Trump

Asked whether he still stands by his views on the deal that he expressed in the op-ed for CNN, Biden answered, "It's going to be hard, but yeah."

Biden reiterated this position in a recent interview with CNN in which he said that he thinks he will have "very difficult" issues dealing with Iran.

"He [Trump] has pulled out to get something tougher, and what have they done? They've increased the ability for them to have nuclear material. They're moving closer to the ability to be able to have enough material for a nuclear weapon. And there's the missile issues," Biden said, adding, "All those things, I think, are going to be very difficult. But I know one thing: We cannot do this alone. And that's why we have to be part of a larger group, dealing not only with Iran, but with Russia, with China and a whole range of other issues.

Hippel said the assassination of top Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was aimed to further harden any Biden's effort to rejoin the JCPOA.

"The timing of this assassination was very questionable," Hippel pointed out, adding, "The timing of the assassination shows that the aim is to make things more complicated for the Biden administration. Israel has carried out other assassinations in the past that seemed to seek to complicate things for the Obama administration."

According to Hippel, Trump and Israel, both have sought to provoke Iran to prevent the return to the JCPOA.

On November 27 at 14:30, the convoy of Fakhrizadeh suddenly came under attack 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. 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. "All think tanks and all enemies of Iran should know well that the Iranian nation and the country's authorities are more courageous and zealous than to let this criminal act go unanswered. The relevant authorities will respond to this crime at the proper time," President Hassan Rouhani said following the assassination.

But Rouhani also said that Iran will not fall into the "trap" of the enemies

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

### JCPOA talks will go ahead as planned: EU diplomat

TEHRAN—The European Union-Iran talks on the 2015 nuclear deal will go ahead as planned despite the controversy over the execution of Rouhollah Zam, an EU foreign service spokesman said, according to Euobserver.

The Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) plans to meet in Vienna on Wednesday, Iran and the EU said. However, after the execution of Amad News operator Rouhollah Zam, there have been rumors that the JCPOA talks may be postponed or canceled.

But the EU foreign service said that Wednesday's JCPOA talks, covering implementation details, will go ahead as planned despite Zam's execution.

"I wouldn't mix the two issues," the EU spokesman said on Monday, adding, "You cannot connect it [the JCPOA], or link it, or even compare it with the objectives of the [postponed EU business] forum."

The spokesman was referring to the

Iran-Europe business forum that was due to be held through webinar during December 14-16 but was postponed in the wake of Zam's execution. The business forum was collaboratively by Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) and the European Union (EU).

The EU has condemned the execution of Zam, a move that prompted Iran to summon two European ambassadors – French and German – to Iran in protest over denouncing the execution.

In a statement on Saturday, the French Foreign Ministry condemned "in the strongest possible terms" the execution of Zam, calling it an "unacceptable act that goes against the country's international commitments.

The European countries also refused to participate in the business forum due to the execution. But the boycott doesn't seem to include the nuclear talks with Iran.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Monday that the execution of Zam was unlikely to impinge on Iran-Europe rela-"A court has reviewed the [Zam] case

and issued the verdict. We act in the framework of our regulations," Rouhani noted, adding, "I see it as unlikely that the case will damage Iran and Europe relations."

Earlier this week, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the deputy foreign minister of Iran for political affairs, announced that that the Joint Commission will hold a meeting at the level of deputy ministers and political directors of the 4+1 (France, Russia, China, the UK and Germany). The meeting will be held via videoconference. Araghchi said he will represent Iran in the meeting.

In late November, the European Union External Action Service said in a statement that the meeting will be held in Vienna.

"A meeting of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) will take place in Vienna on 16 December. The Joint Commission will be chaired on behalf of EU High Representa-



tive Josep Borrell by the Secretary General of the European External Action Service Helga Maria Schmid and will be attended by the representatives of E3+2 countries (China, France, Germany, Russia, United Kingdom) and Iran," the EU statement said.

According to the statement, the meeting will discuss ways to preserve the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

"Participants will discuss ongoing work to preserve the JCPOA and how to ensure the full and effective implementation of the agreement by all sides, including in preparation of exchanges at Ministerial Level," the statement said.

#### SPORTS

#### Iran's Saravi wins bronze at **Individual World Cup**

PORTS

TEHRAN — Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler

Mohammadhadi Saravi claimed a bronze medal at the Individual World

Cup Monday night. He defeated Bulgarian Kiril Milov by VPO, 3-0 in the bronze medal match at

the 97kg category. Musa Evloev from Russia shut out Alex Gergo Szoke from Hungary to win gold at

this weight category. Artur Omarov from Czech Republic also won a bronze after beating Uzur Dzhuzupbekov

from Kyrgyzstan by VPO1, 4-1. Another Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Hossein Nouri



took part in the competition in Belgrade, Serbia but failed to win a medal at the 87kg.

#### **Graham Potter on what he** told Alireza Jahanbakhsh

P O R T S TEHRAN —Albion head coach Graham Potter e s k has revealed what he told Alireza Jahanbakhsh after he was taken off in the defeat to Leicester.

The winger made his first start in the league this season against the Foxes, the Argus reported.

Jahanbakhsh saw his shot from the edge of the box saved by Kasper Schmeichel and also set up Danny Welbeck, whose effort was saved by the Leicester keeper.

He was replaced by Steven Alzate in the 55th minute.

Potter then hugged him and whispered something in his ear and he explained what those words were: "I told him he did well in a tough team situation. He started the game well, with some good attacking moments.

"I know he has been frustrated and he has been fighting to try to get into the team. It was just that type of message."

#### **Ulsan Hyundai can beat** Persepolis: Yoon Bit-Garam

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Ulsan Hyundai playmaker d e s k Yoon Bit-Garam says they can win the AFC

He believes that momentum is with his side going into the 2020 AFC Champions League final against Iran's Persepolis on Saturday. South Korean Ulsan Hyundai defeated Japan's Vissel Kobe 2-1 in the competition's semi-final on Sunday.

I have a great memory facing an Iranian team here in Qatar, but for me it is more about the atmosphere and the attitude of the team than individual moments," Yoon told the-afc.com.

We have one game to go and if we can keep a positive attitude like we did against Vissel and give everything on the pitch, we can win the AFC Champions League final," he added.

#### Ulsan, Persepolis second Korean-Iranian encounter in ACL Final

The match between Ulsan Hyundai and Persepolis will be second Korean-Iranian encounter in the AFC Champions League final.

When the two teams face off in the 2020 AFC Champions League final in Doha on Saturday, it marks just the second time clubs from their respective nations have met at this stage in the tournament's history, the first coming a decade ago.

As the clock ticks down towards Asian club football's highly anticipated showpiece event, the-AFC.com rolls back the clock 10 years to when teams from Korea Republic and Iran first faced off in the AFC Champions League final: a memorable encounter between Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma and Zob Ahan, where the Korean team won the match 3-1 at the National Stadium, Tokyo, Japan. The Tehran giants return for Saturday's final of the 2020 edition

looking to go one better than Zob Ahan and want to become the first Iranian winners in the AFC Champions League era. Ulsan, meanwhile, will be hoping that this second Korean-Iranian

encounter goes exactly the same as the first meeting 10 years ago. Korean clubs would go on to appear in the AFC Champions

League final four more times (2011, 2012, 2013 and 2016), winning in 2012 with Ulsan and 2016 with Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors.

For teams from Iran, the sole representative at Asian club football's grandest stage since then was Persepolis in 2018. (Source: the-afc)

#### **Tehran confers on sports** coop. with Baghdad, Doha

MNA — The President of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran Reza Salehi Amiri met and held talks with his Iraqi and Qatari counterparts in Muscat on the sidelines of OCA General Assembly.

In his Tuesday meeting with Iraqi Minister of Youth and Sports Adnan Dirjal and the President of National Olympic Committee of Iraq Raad Hammoudi, Salehi Amiri emphasized the full implementation of Iran-Iraq MoU.

'The Ministry of Sports and even all sports federations of Iran are ready to provide assistance and support to our friend and neighbor country of Iraq ... and we will take the necessary action in various areas such as software, consulting and training upon request," the Iranian official said.

Iraqi sports officials, for their turn, thanked Iran for its support and called for closer cooperation among the sports bodies of the two countries. In his meeting with the President of the National Olympic Committee of Qatar Joaan bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, on the same day, Salehi Amiri noted that political and economic relations between Iran and Qatar have always been at a good level and will expand over time.

Also, in the sports sector, considering the very high capacities of Qatar.... we hope that we will be able to develop and expand

mutual relations day by day," he added.

# INTERNATIONAL DAILY **TEHRANTIMES**

#### **Cleaning materials export up** 14% in 8 months yr/yr

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran's value of the cleaning e s k materials export rose 14 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  $\frac{1}{2}$ past year, an official with Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)



Neda Ataei, the secretary of TPO's desk of chemical and cellulose products, announced that 185,000 tons of cleaning materials worth \$76 million have been exported from the country in the eight-month period, indicating a seven-percent rise

She further underscored that Iran has become a big producer of cleaning materials in the region, and mentioned Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, china, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and India as the major export des-

tinations of Iran's cleaning materials.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran has exported 75 million tons of non-oil products worth \$21.5 billion during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year.

Iran's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were Iraq with over \$5.3 billion worth of exports, China with the same amount, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$2.7 billion, and Turkey with \$1.6 billion as well as Afghanistan

#### **Copper anode output rises 16%**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Production of the copper anode in e s k Iran has risen 16 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20), from the same period of time in the previous year.

As reported, 235,379 tons of the product has been produced in the eight-month period of this year.

Copper anode production stood at 30,287 tons in the eight month of the present year, rising 44 percent from the output in the same month of the previous year.

In early May, four development projects worth 40 trillion rials (about \$952.3 million) were inaugurated in the copper sector of Kerman Province in the southeast of Iran.



President Hassan Rouhani put the projects into operation through video conference.

The projects inaugurated in Khatoon Abad Copper Complex included increasing the capacity of copper smelting in the complex, building a copper concentrate storage, construction of a sulfuric acid production plant, and an oxygen supplying unit.

By putting the first project into operation, the complex's capacity for producing copper anode rises by 50 percent to 120,000 tons, and the country's copper smelting capacity rose to 400,000 tons.

Iran has seen its copper exports doubled in the past Iranian calendar year despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade

A senior official at Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has said that the value of exports for main copper products reached more than \$1 billion over the past year

#### **Energy projects worth over** \$63m inaugurated in 3 provinces

As reported, the mentioned projects have been put into operation with the aim of increasing the reliability of the electricity network, reducing unwanted blackouts, supplying electricity to the Mehr housing projects, increasing the country's electricity generation capacity, managing water and gas consumption, and providing electricity to 45 rural households.



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

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.

Earlier this month during the 31st week of the A-B-Program, Ardakanian said: "In the second phase of the program 250 projects are going to be inaugurated by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021) of which so far 154 have gone operational."

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

# Uzbekistan eager for investment in Iran's Chabahar port

**ECONOMY**d e S k **TEHRAN**—Iran, India, and Uzbekistan held an online meeting on cooperation in Iran's Chabahar Port on Monday, during which the Uzbek side expressed willingness for co-

operation in Chabahar Port's development projects, IRIB reported.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Iran's Deputy Transport Minister Shahram Adamnejad, India's secretary (shipping) Sanjeev Ranjan, and Uzbekistan's Deputy Transport Minister D. Dehkanov.

According to Deputy Transport Minister Shahram Adamnejad, Uzbekistan is eager for using the transportation and logistics capacities of Chabahar port for developing its economic activities in the region.

During the meeting, the participants also discussed joint use of the port for trade and transit purposes and to enhance regional connectivity.

"Chabahar port is a safe and very convenient port for the transit purposes, and neighboring countries and the countries in the region can benefit from investing in this



port," Adamnejad said. For his part, Dehkanov also praised the

infrastructure and facilities provided in Chabahar port and suggested that a joint working group be formed with representatives of Iran and Uzbekistan to carefully review the programs and prepare operational plans for Uzbekistan's presence in Chabahar's Shahid

Chabahar Port, the only Iranian ocean port, is a strategic port with unique opportunities that can attract investments from Iranian and foreign private sectors.

India currently operates one of the terminals of Chabahar port and offers loading and unloading services in the mentioned

The strategic project has been given a waiver from sanctions imposed by the U.S.

The development of the Chabahar Port is important for the economic development of regional countries and in this regard endorsing regional agreements with neighboring countries is of significant importance for Iran so that it can increase its transit share to connect the shores of the Indian Ocean to Russia, northern Central Asia, and the

### Economic Diplomacy: Poland can be Iran's gateway to Europe

■ Another feature of Poland is that this country's economic conditions are complementary to the economic situation in Iran. Poland needs energy resources, oil products, petrochemical products, steel and copper and other metals, building stones, nuts and some agricultural products, etc., and in return the country is a major producer of mining and agriculture machinery, metal furnaces, wagons and locomotives, electric buses, medicine and medical equipment, etc., which provide favorable conditions for the further development of economic relations between the two countries.

Iran can export its petrochemical products to the whole of Europe through Poland and replace Saudi Arabia in this market.

The country can also be the best alternative to Russia in supplying oil and gas to this country, especially since the characteristics of the Iranian oil are compatible with Polish refineries, and on the other hand, due to sharp political differences between Poland and Russia, they seek to reduce energy dependence

In the Polish mining sector, the country is a designer and manufacturer of mining machinery and has advanced technology in the field of exploration and extraction at a depth of 1,500 meters. This situation for Iran, which has more than one million square kilometers of land suitable for mineral exploration, and is trying to cut reliance on oil and become an oilfree economy, can provide very favorable conditions

Regarding the agricultural machinery, Iran is implementing serious strategies for mechanization of the agriculture sector, and Poland can be a great partner to supply the required machinery, and this cooperation can lead to joint investment and factories producing these machines in Iran. Even considering the great needs of the region, Iran can also become an exporter of such machinery in this very attractive market.



In the metal industry, Poland can also be a good partner for Iran, the presence of metal ores and steel industries in the Islamic Republic and the ability to produce furnaces and machinery needed by this industry in Poland, provides a good opportunity for cooperation and joint investment.

As for the railway transport sector, both in the westeast corridor and the north-south corridor, Poland can have a very effective cooperation with Iran and be a good partner for the country in providing rail, and production lines for wagons and locomotives. Polish wagon and locomotive factories are ready to invest and set up production lines with the participation of the Iranian side in Iran. This cooperation would be very significant since development of the railway infrastructure, is one of the important priorities for Iran considering its strategic position, which is located at the intersection of the North-south and East-west

Another economic feature of Iran and Poland is the possibility of cooperation and participation in the production of various wood and metal products in Iran and the re-export of the mentioned products to countries in the region, which will both generate income for the two sides and help create jobs, especially in free zones.

The existence of advanced dairy industries in Poland and the saturation of the European market have doubled Iran's attractiveness for Polish dairy companies to both invest in joint ventures with Iranian parties and to consider exporting products produced in Iran to neighboring countries.

Furthermore, given the advanced capabilities of Poland in the production of medicine and medical equipment and Iran's production of pharmaceutical at very competitive prices, cooperation between the two countries in this sector can be another important subject of economic diplomacy between the two

In the field of animal husbandry, Poland can be a good partner for Iran and play a serious role in the development of this sector in Iran by transferring modern technologies and the supply of related machinery.

The possibility of cooperation in the defense industry is another important issue of economic relations between the two countries that needs to be pursued and given serious attention.

Poland can also be a good market for exporting technical and engineering services and the medical sector. Of course, this cooperation requires further consideration and signing of relevant agreements.

Scientific and academic cooperation is another suitable field in Iran-Poland relations, and linking this cooperation with industry, mining, medicine and agriculture will lead to desirable results.

In general, Poland can be a gateway for Iran to enter the European market, and the Islamic Republic can reciprocally provide Poland with access to the very attractive market with a five hundred million population in the region.

#### Iran-Pakistan online business forum to be held next week

ECONOMY TEHRAN — In a bid tions between Iran and Pakistan, Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA), and Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) will hold an Iran-Pakistan business forum via webinar on December 22. The online forum will cover issues re-

lated to bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, tourism, transportation, food and medicine, agriculture, health, leather

TCCIMA has also held a webinar on the expansion of trade with Pakistan in collaboration with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on December 9.

In the webinar, which was attended by the officials and representatives of the two countries' private sectors, the two sides discussed ways for the expansion

TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari,



**Head of Lahore Chamber of Commerce** and Industry Tariq Misbah, and TCCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Hesamedin Hallaj were among the attendees to this online event.

During the webinar, the two sides underlined the problems caused by the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic in the economic relations between the two countries and stressed the need for using barter trade, removal of non-tariff barriers, the expansion of cross-border and preferential trade as ways of increasing trade exchanges.

The two sides criticized the incompatibility of the volume of trade between Iran and Pakistan with the capacities and potentials of the two countries and called for boosting trade relations to over \$5 billion.

Pakistan has a relatively large consumer market with a population of over According to the World Trade Organi-

zation, imports constitute over 66 percent of Pakistan's trade.

Expansion of trade with Pakistan, and boosting exports to this neighbor is one of Iran's priorities.

In a visit to Pakistan in mid-November, Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum met with Pakistan's deputy economic affairs minister to discuss the expansion of trade ties with the neighboring country.

In the meeting, the representatives of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development,

and the Energy Ministry held talks with a variety of issues including electricity exports, and maritime, road, and rail transportation cooperation.

The TPO head had visited Pakistan along with a high-ranking delegation headed by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Iran's exports to Pakistan in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) was \$1.18 billion, but in the meantime, financial and banking problems have still created obstacles in the way of trade relations with this country.

And although due to the banking and financial problems, barter trade with Pakistan is still emphasized by Iran; experts and those active in the economic fields believe that Iran should seriously pursue the idea of a bilateral joint bank with Pakistan, while taking trade facilitation measures in line with signing

#### Iran's oil output up 39,000 bpd in November: OPEC

**ECONOMY**d e s k lion barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in November, registering a 39,000-bpd increase compared to the previous month, according to OPEC's latest monthly report published on Monday.

Based on secondary sources, Iran had produced 1.947

million bpd of crude oil in October. The report put average Iranian crude output for the third quarter of 2020 at 1.942 million barrels per day indicating a near 7,000-bpd fall compared to the figure for the second

The country's heavy crude oil prices also increased \$2.64 in November to register a 46.6-percent rise compared to the previous month, according to the OPEC report.

Iran sold its heavy crude oil at \$42.88 per barrel in the mentioned month, compared to October's \$40.24 per barrel.



The country's average heavy crude price was \$39.98 since the beginning of 2020 up to the report's publishing date, in comparison to \$61.68 in the previous year's same period.

OPEC Basket prices also rose 6.3 percent to \$42.99 a barrel in November, up \$2.66 from October.

Based on the OPEC data, the cartel's oil production increased by 707,000 barrels per day in November and the total production of the members of this organization reached 25.109 million barrels per day.

OPEC oil production in the previous month stood at 24.402 million barrels per day.

In addition to the devastating impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the global oil industry which resulted in the drastic fall in oil prices, the Iranian oil industry has also been under pressure from the U.S. efforts to isolate the country by re-imposing sanctions.

# "Let us not make our enemies happy": Turkish attorney

1 > Although there have been dis putes between these two states through the course of history, cooperation and mutual respect have always been a top priority.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan attended the ceremonies of Nagorno-Karabakh's liberation from the occupation of Armenia, which had been backed by Western imperialism. During his speech in the ceremonies, he proposed a six-country platform for the issues in the Caucasus, which Turkey, Iran, Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and even Armenia, if they could manage to change their political attitudes, could join the platform.

Unfortunately, instead of paying attention to this proposal to unite West Asia, firestorms were blown over a poem that Erdogan read during his speech, and the important point sadly got ignored.

Some people expected to create a firestorm between Ankara and Tehran over such a simple issue, the "poem about the Aras River", but after the statements made by conscientious officials from both countries, it was announced to the world that there was a misunderstanding and that the  $\,$ 400 years of friendship would continue.

We must understand very well that the possible winners of the cooperation between Turkey and Iran, would not only be these two countries but also the entire West Asia, while a possible dispute between the two countries will only be in favor of the United States and Israel.

What was the Turkish media's impression of the Iranian reaction to Erdogan's poem recitation in the Baku parade?

A: The poem that President Erdogan read was not perceived as a threat towards the Iranian territorial integrity in Turkey.

However, when there were some harsh accusations from some Iranian groups, it immediately woke up some groups in Turkey, that have been uncomfortable with the Ankara-Tehran cooperation.

However, the Turkish government has managed to ease down the situation by making some constructive explanations.

And the overall mood has finally eased down in the media after the government officials and other key politicians in Turkey have explained the situation clearly.

As this small crisis shows us that those who want the Ankara-Tehran relations to deteriorate are those who play in the hands of the pro-Atlantic supporters.

What is the position of the Turkish



government towards some separatists who believe in Greater Azerbaijan?

**DECEMBER 16, 2020** 

A: Turkey, as a neighbor, respects Iran's

territorial integrity and national sovereignty. The Republic of Turkey has never pursued a policy that targets to disrupt the Iranian territorial integrity, in its entire history. On the contrary, Ankara has mostly pursued a policy that prioritizes the internal stability of Iran.

And recently on the issue of the nuclear deal, the Turkish government, together with the Brazilian government, played as a mediator that protected Iranian interests in the international arena and tried to put an end to the imperialist approach

And the fact that Turkey has continued its trade activities with Iran despite all international pressures and embargoes, could also be seen as an indication of the goodwill and the willingness of Turkey to

Turkey, which has been fighting against the American puppet PKK terrorist organization for nearly four decades, is pursuing a policy against any movements that want to partition and weaken the countries of the region, as part of the imperialist plans.

Why are some think tanks in Turkey, such as Iram, associated with anti-Iranian and separatist activists?

Unfortunately, there are some groups in Turkey that are not comfortable with the cooperation between Turkey and Iran.

The main body of these groups consists of Atlantic supporters, and/or those who look at the world from a sectarian point

The way to neutralize these groups would be through even deeper cooperation between Ankara and Tehran.

The good relations between the two countries and the unchanging border for 400 years are the clear signs that the Turkish government and the Turkish nation, do not have the slightest problem with the territorial integrity of Iran.

Misunderstandings such as this poem crisis make it much easier for the United States, Israel and their sectarian puppets to infiltrate and cause friction between Ankara and Tehran.

We know that Israel really hopes the Ankara-Tehran relations to collapse, with all their hearts.

We need to underline the statements from the Turkish presidential spokesman Omer Celik after the poem crisis "let us not make our enemies happy"

And we are also sure that the Iranian officials know that the winners of a possible dispute with Turkey would be the United States and Israel.

Given Biden's recent remarks about Erdogan, how do you see the relationship between Turkey and the United States during the Biden era?

A: We can see that some groups in the

region had been hoping for the election of Joe Biden instead of Trump before the elections. Especially some opposition parties in Turkey have welcomed Biden's election win.

We have also read some articles, praising Biden's election win, in connection with the nuclear deal with Iran.

History is full of examples of why Atlantic imperialism can never be trusted.

The leadership that has tried to find a middle way or a deal with imperialism has also blown apart in our region.

We know that Biden plans to work with the staff from the Obama administration.

Although a facade of softening towards West Asia was presented during the Obama administration, the result was blood and tears once more, throughout the region and especially in Syria.

It was only the methodology that changed with the Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations, but the final goal of the U.S. imperialism would still be to rule over West Asia by destabilizing it.

Those who hope the United States will change policy are horribly wrong.

There are countries in the region that have taken action together during the Astana process, which led to some important achievements regarding the Syrian crisis.

It is possible to implement the same mechanism in the Caucasus today.

President Erdogan's proposal for a six-country platform in Baku can be considered in this context.

On the other hand, we can see that the imperialist siege in the Eastern Mediterranean has been growing and Israel, which now has the support of the West, wants to gather the Arab countries under the name of "normalization", and put them into an anti-Turkey and anti-Iran camp.

The nations of West Asia can only retaliate to this unholy alliance of the imperialist powers with their own alliance.

Turkey and Iran are the main dynamics of a possible regional alliance. Of course, we must not forget our northern neighbor,

If we manage to act as a united front, at least in our policies against imperialism, our region may be fully stabilized from the Caucasus to the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East (West Asia).

Otherwise, some radical nationalist and sectarian perspectives will make it easier for imperialism to rule over our region.

# Soleimani entered Gaza to repel Israeli attacks, blockade: activist

**TEHRAN** – Firas Al Najim, a Canada-based human rights activist, points to the role of Martyr Lieutenant General Ghasem Soleimani in the fight against terrorism in West Asia, and his support for Palestinian resistance

The U.S. regime assassinated Iranian top military commander, General Soleimani, on January 3, 2020, in violation of all the international norms and regulations.

Nearly one year on, Mehr News Agency has reached out to the head of Canadian Defenders for Human Rights Firas Al Najim to further discuss the role of Martyr Soleimani in West Asia.

"Soleimani entered Gaza several times and helped to build the underground tunnels that assisted the resistance to respond strongly to the Israeli aggression," Al Najim said. Here is the full text of the interview:

How do you assess the U.S. act based on interna-

tional law? A: The U.S. regime and specifically the Trump administration breached international law without any remorse or regret by killing General Ghasem Soleimani who was invited to Iraq through legal Iraqi channels. Governments of Iraq and Iran had mutual security agreements and this was fully violated by the U.S. attack targeting the agreement and also killing one of the most important Iraqi generals in the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis who had led the battle against the terrorist organization ISIL, aka Daesh.

Muhandis was also part of the democratic political system in Iraq and the PMU was also voted in by the majority of parliament to be included as a wing of the Iraqi armed forces. Also, it's important to mention that the U.S. pulled

out of the UN human rights commission and at a certain point the warmongering John Bolton threatened the ICC international criminal court with sanctions if they were investigated for war crimes in Afghanistan or elsewhere. This is the type of lawless and careless American system we are dealing with.

How do you see Soleimani's role in fighting against U.S. and Saudi backed terrorism?

A: Soleimani was a very successful commander and defender of the holy Middle Eastern (West Asian) region. He was in the forefront in the 2006 Lebanon vs Zionist occupation battle that had a great resolution of having all the Lebanese prisoners of war released and the Israeli illegitimate regime was never humiliated to this high of a level before in its history.

Soleimani also was at the forefront in securing Syria from the global terrorist organizations that were backed by the American-Saudi evil regimes. He also assisted in securing the holy shrine of the Prophet Muhammad's granddaughter Lady Zainab in the capital of Syria Damascus, Soleimani concluded his life in the grand battle against the ISIL terrorists that had gained strong grounds in Iraq and massacred many Iraqis. Soleimani was the main engineer in liberating and securing Iraq and that includes the northern mainly populated Kurdish areas and this has also been stated by Massoud Barzani.

How do you see his role in defusing the U.S. plots to redraw the map of the region?

 $A: The \ American-engineered \ and \ -backed \ terrorism \ was$ defeated by Soleimani and his companions and they felt they had reached a point of despair that they had to kill him in a cowardly way and this also exposed their nature. Soleimani broke the evil Sykes-Picot Agreement and redraw



the maps that opened the doors of all resistance to join hands in from Lebanon to Palestine to Syria to Iraq and the list goes on. The united resistance that will one day enter and liberate holy occupied Palestine as he predicted in many of his sermons. Soleimani entered Gaza several times and helped to build the underground tunnels that assisted the resistance to respond strongly to the Israeli aggressions.

This was confirmed by the Hamas representative in Lebanon Ahmed Abdul Hadi and it was sealed when the leader of Hamas Ismail Haniyeh, the democratically elected government of Gaza, flew to Tehran after Soleimani's martyrdom and during the sermon said loudly and boldly that Ghasem Soleimani is the martyr of Al Quds meaning the martyr of Jerusalem. We at CD4HR pray for justice for those great martyrs and that can only be achieved by prosecuting the perpetrators of this Great War crime.

### Israel to build 8,300 settler units over next 20 years: Report

Israel reportedly approves construction of a whopping 8,300 settler units in the occupied West Bank through a 20-year project that practically enables annexation of the Palestinian land on which the structures are to be built.

The Palestinian Wafa news agency carried the report on Tuesday, citing information announced earlier by the Arab48 news website.

The project would get off the ground next year and last until 2040 involving industrial, commercial, and residential facilities, including towers running as high as 30 stories, in areas lying south of the

holy occupied city of Jerusalem al-Quds. Wafa said the facilities were to rear



their heads on "seized Palestinian land extending from Beit Safafa neighborhood to al-Walaja village.

Israel occupied the West Bank during a war in 1967 and has, ever since, been dotting the Palestinian territory with illegal settlements.

Earlier this year, U.S. President Donald Trump said he agreed with the regime's "annexing" the areas on which the settlements have been built.

Tel Aviv, though, supposedly shelved the annexation plan amid international

According to the National Bureau for **Defending Land and Resisting Settlements** (NBPRS) of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) umbrella group, however, such ambitious building projects, in effect, realize the regime's annexation purposes.

The regime has just allegedly frozen the annexation march in a gesture aimed "to deceive the public opinion and the international community.'

Going at its current rate, the Israeli regime would have turned "the West Bank by 2045 into a new Galilee," the bureau warned, referring to an area located in the north of the occupied territories.

The regime's building projects involves creating "a large settlement belt" around al-Quds, it said.

Palestinian want the holy city's eastern part to serve as the capital of their future state, while he occupying regime lays claim

Trump has endorsed the Israeli claim and relocated the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to the city in a move that used to be avoided by all of his predecessors.

(Source: Press TV)

#### Words from readers

My name is Khalida Jarrar!

I was on Feb. 9, 1963, in Nablus, Palestine.

I married my college mate Ghassan and we have two daughters: Yaffa and Suha.

I was arrested many times by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF). Several of those arrests resulted in me being held under the Administrative Detention Act (ADA). ADA is a procedure that allows the Israeli military to hold only Palestinian prisoners indefinitely on secret evidence without charging

them or allowing them to stand trial. It is renewable every 6

months indefinitely, a practice that was not even deployed during the Nazi era. I have been also charged and convicted of "incitement" by an Israeli military court, and sentenced to 15 months in prison of which I served 6 months before I was released after an international campaign on my behalf. Incitement is a Mickey Mouse charge Israel uses against any Palestinian who dares

to challenge the occupation. I am currently being held in administrative detention at one of the Israeli concentration camps, after being kidnapped by the IOF at my home in Ramallah, in October 2019.

"If I broke the law, Israel must put me on trial and prove that I committed a crime. If, on the other hand, the reason for my detention is RETALIATION, then THE BASIC ELEMENT OF DEMOCRACY requires Israel must release me immediately."

THE OCCUPATION GET TO GO! LONG LIVE PALESTINE! Mahmoud El-Yousseph USAF Retired Veteran Westerville, OhiO

#### **Putin congratulates** Joe Biden on U.S. election victory

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday congratulated Joe Biden on his victory in the U.S. presidential election, after Biden won the state-by-state Electoral College vote that officially determines the U.S. presidency, the Kremlin said.

The Kremlin had said it would wait for the official results of the election before commenting on its outcome, even as other nations congratulated Biden on the win in the days

"For my part, I am ready for interaction and contact with you," the Kremlin cited Putin as saying in a statement.

"Putin wished the president-elect every success and expressed confidence that Russia and the United States, which have a special responsibility for global security and stability, could, despite their differences, really help to solve the many problems and challenges facing the world," the Kremlin said.

#### French police protest against Emmanuel Macron's security bill

After weeks of continuous protests by the locals in France, the French police has also taken to streets to raise their voices against the proposed changes in the new security bill.

Police officers in the capital city, Paris, organized a rally to denounce the French President Emmanuel Macron and stood outside the iconic Place de l'Etoile in their official uniforms.

The roads surrounding the area illuminated with the blue lights of their police cars as the officers stood peacefully while chanting slogans against the government's decision.

These protests were organized to denounce Macron's recent hit at the local police alleging them of being harsher and questioning their policing. He had also vowed to personally intervene in the matter if things do not get better. He had penned a letter explaining his plans of bringing reforms in training in a few key areas, mainly: police training, supervision, resources, video footage of interventions, inspections, and relations with the wider population.

#### Hackers breach U.S. agencies, Homeland Security a reported target

"This campaign may have begun as early as Spring 2020 and is currently ongoing," FireEye said in a blog post.

The content the hackers have sought to steal -- and how successful they have been -- is not known at this time. 'We believe this is nation-state activity at significant scale,

aimed at both the government and private sector," said IT giant Microsoft, which is also investigating, in a blog post. While Microsoft refrained from naming a country, several U.S. media pointed the finger at the Russian group "APT29",

also known as "Cozy Bear. According to the Washington Post, the group is part of Moscow's intelligence services, and hacked servers at the State Department and the White House during the Obama

administration. The Russian Embassy in the United States categorically denied the accusations in a statement on Facebook.

#### Resistance News

#### Hamas: We'll continue to hold the resistance banner in Palestine

INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN — The Hamas Movement has affirmed that it will remain faithful to the Palestinian people's rights and constants at all levels and will keep standing as "an impregnable wall in the face of all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause.'

In a press release on the occasion of its founding anniversary, Hamas said it would continue "its struggle against the Israeli occupation until the liberation of Palestine from the

It added that it would continue to hold the banner of the resistance on the land of Palestine and work side by side with other revolutionaries on achieving the Palestinian people's aspirations for freedom, return and liberation.

'Jerusalem, the capital, will remain the jewel in the crown of Palestine, the center of the conflict with the occupation and the continuing inspiration for the Palestinian revolution, Hamas underlined.

#### Manuchehri's mausoleum added to national heritage list

TOURISM

d e s k

TEHRAN – The mud-brick mausoleum of the 11th-century Persian poet Manuchehri Damghani has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

Known as the "poet of nature", Manuchehri was a creative poet, who is said to have invented the form of musammat (stanzaic poems) in Persian poetry. His mausoleum is located in Damghan, north-central province of Semnan.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism announced the inscription on Monday in a letter to the governor-general of the province, IRNA reported.



Although very little is known of his life, his poetry shows an encyclopedic familiarity with Arabic and Persian verse which was presumably acquired in youth.

The British modernist poet Basil Bunting published adaptions of several Manuchehri's poems from 1939 onwards, and a little of Manuhehri's sound-patterning seems to have influenced Bunting's English verse.

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.

#### Qajar-era cistern to undergo restoration

HERITAGE TEHRAN – Work to restore a Qajar-era (1789– s k 1925) cistern), named Qaleh Bala, is to commence  $soon in \ Varamin, southeast \ Tehran, local tourism \ chief has \ said.$ 

The restoration project is set to refurbish the outer walls of the privately-owned cistern, CHTN quoted Zhila Khodadi as saying on Monday



The mudbrick structure, called Ab Anbar in Persian, was once one of the main sources of water supply for villagers in the region,

The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or on seasonal rainwater.

Such underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains.

Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid

#### A taste of Iran: Khoresht Mast

**HERITAGE TEHRAN**—In Persian cuisine, the term 'khoresht' mostly refers to thick, usually sour stews which are served as main meals alongside a rice dish.

So, contrary to what its name suggests, Khoresht Mast (literally meaning "yogurt stew"), despite having the name khoresht in the title, is a bright yellow, sweet dessert and mostly served as a side



Made from a combination of sugar, rose water, yogurt, saffron, onions, egg yolks, turmeric, and crushed lamb neck meat, Khoresht mast is a traditional dish native to Isfahan.

To make it ready, you should first braise and shred the lamb neck. Yogurt and sugar are simmered inside a separate pot while the shredded meat is slowly added. Once the mixture forms a paste-like texture, brewed saffron and rosewater is added, giving our Khoresht Mast a gorgeous yellow color and an exotic taste. Put the final product in the fridge for 24 hours to chill to create the perfect consistency.

Before being served, the dish is designed with sliced pistachios

and almonds and topped with barberries.

Iranian cooking can be seen as a metaphor for the country itself: It's tart, sweet, fragrant, and vastly complex. It's one of the world's oldest, yet largely obscure, culinary landscapes, with roots dating back to the ancient Persian Empire.

# **Studying inscriptions from Islamic World** necessary to realize Greater Iran, linguist says

→ 1 Another speaker at the meeting, Maryam Dana said that several metal artifacts related to Urartu, an ancient kingdom, have been found in Iran that their designs and patterns show many details about the art, culture, religion, and life of people of the time

Dana, who is a faculty member of Iran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, also noted that the metal belts belong to this historical era, being kept in Reza Abbasi Museum, depict patterns of mythical or real animals, plants, or human.

The Timurid dynasty, self-designated as Gurkani, was a Sunni Muslim dynasty or clan of Turco-Mongol origin descended from the warlord Timur (also known as

In the realm of architecture, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Timurids drew on and developed many Seljuq traditions. Turquoise and blue tiles forming intricate linear and geometric patterns decorated the facades of buildings. Sometimes the interior was decorated



similarly, with painting and stucco relief further enriching the effect.

The schools of miniature painting in Shiraz, Tabriz, and Harat flourished under the Timurids. Among the artists gathered at Herat was Behzad (died c. 1525), whose

dramatic, intense style was unequaled in Persian manuscript illustration.

The Urartu kingdom rose to power in the mid-9th century BC, but it went into a gradual decline and was eventually conquered by the Iranian Medes in the

early 6th century BC. The Urartians were succeeded in the area in the 6th century BC by the Armenians.

Urartu, an ancient country of southwest Asia centered in the mountainous region southeast of the Black Sea and southwest of the Caspian Sea. Today the region is divided among Armenia, eastern Turkey, and northwestern Iran. As mentioned in Assyrian sources from the early 13th century BC, Urartu enjoyed considerable political power in the Middle East in the 9th and 8th centuries BC.

 $According \ to \ Encyclopedia \ Iranica, \ the$ territory of the ancient kingdom of Urartu extended over the modern frontiers of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and the Republic of Armenia. Its center was the Armenian highland between Lake Van, Lake Urmia, and Lake Sevan. Urartian archeological finds in modern Iran including castles, settlements, water channels and other water constructions, rock chambers, rock graves, stelae, rock inscriptions, and building inscriptions.

#### Project aims to conserve Seymareh ruins, architectural elements

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – A fresh conservation project will soon commence on arrays of the centuries-old ruins and architectural elements, which are scattered across Seymareh, an ancient city located in Ilam province, the provincial tourism chief announced on Monday

'A budget of 6.5 billion rials (about \$154,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the project that also touches upon agricultural lands situated within the ancient town," Abdolmalek Shanbehzadeh said.

'Seymareh is the largest ancient site in Ilam province... and it is located on the southeastern outskirts of the modern town of Dareh Shahr," the official explained.

Believed to be flourished on remnants of the Elamite capital, Madaktu, Seymareh dates back to the

Sassanid-era (224 CE-651). Archeological findings show that the city included about 5,000 houses with some modern aspects like a water distribution system through clay pipes and underground sewers. The city was destroyed and deserted after a huge earthquake around 950 BC.

The remnants of the city were inscribed on the national heritage list in 1931.

Darreh Shahr was once the summer capital of Elamites, a pre-Iranian civilization dated from 2700 to 539 BC. The city also enjoyed centuries of prosperity during the Sassanid era.

Darreh Shahr and its surrounding regions boast vestiges of Sassanid constructions such as arches, ceilings, alleys, and passages that follow a specific order of urban development criteria of the time.



### Qazvin province eyes national registration for letters patent

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – Qazvin's k department for tourism and cultural heritage eyes national registration for Qajar-era letters patent, which are being kept in the west-central

"Two pieces of letters patent, being kept in the northwestern province of Qazvin, are prepared to [possibly] be inscribed on the national heritage list," deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The paper documents, which have been studied and documented by the cultural heritage experts, were issued during the reign of Qajar king Nasser ad-Din Shah (1821-1900), Ehsan Nurani announced



on Monday

One of the handwritten letters is about receiving a pension by one of Qazvin's

to the [then] ruler of Qazvin and is sealed with the seal of the Qajar king, the official added.

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

Also known as the castle of the Assassins, the 12th-century Alamut castle is nestled on top of a peak. It was once a shelter for the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070–1124) who was a spiritual leader of an Islamic sect. In the early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book "The Valleys of the

Qazvin is also home to one of the biggest roofed caravanserais of the country, Sa'dal Saltaneh caravanserai. Dating back to the Qajar era, it's a place for discovering tens of Hojreh or shops, cafes, yards, and a stunning mosque. Ît's a place for visitors who want to experience the culture, culinary, and hospitality of Iran.

# Qajar-era bas-relief in Rey to be restored, preserved

TOURISM TEHRAN -The 19th-century rocke s k carved bas-relief in Cheshmeh-Ali, a historical and recreational spot located in the south of Tehran and north of Rey, is planned to be restored and preserved within a comprehensive project.

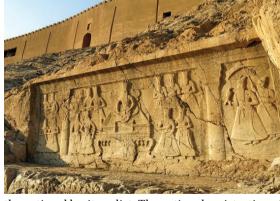
An appropriate budget has been allocated to the

project due to the increasing trend of erosion and damage to the bas-relief, deputy provincial tourism chief said on Tuesday.

The artwork that overlooks the Cheshmeh Ali pool was commissioned by the Qajar king Fath Ali shah who reigned from 1797 to 1834. Cheshmeh Ali also contains an archaeological site estimated to date from the 4 millennium BC.

The restoration and preservation project, which aims at repairing damaged parts with proper materials and strengthening the monument using cob material, will be commenced before the end of the current Iranian year 1399 (ends on March 20, 2021), Morteza Adibzadeh said.

Back in May, Rey's cultural heritage department director Amir Mosayeb Rahimzadeh announced that the historical complex is planned to be inscribed on



the national heritage list. The national registration of the thousands-year-old spring will lead to its better preservation as well as help tourism development in the region, he explained.

From ancient times Cheshmeh-Ali has been a source of vitality to a historical area of the same name in southern Tehran. Cheshmeh-Ali, literally meaning Spring of Ali, is an underground mineral stream that pours into an open-air pool which has long been a traditional destination for sightseers and a recreational center for the locals. The site is in the neighborhood of the ancient Ebn-e Babveyh cemetery, the 12th-century Tughrul Tower, the historical Rashkan Castle, and next to the aged Rey Castle.

During the summertime, Cheshmeh-Ali and its surroundings are occupied by hundreds of locals who came for swimming and having fun. In the past, locals used to clean their rugs and carpets in the pool that is fed by an underground mineral spring, with the idea that the property of this spring water is good and clean for carpets and make them full lighter color by its mineral water.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC-3rd century CE) and it was captured by the Muslim Arabs in 641 CE. During the reign of the Muslim caliph al-Mahdi in the 8th century, the city grew in importance until it was rivaled in western Asia only by Damascus and Baghdad.

#### Explore Susa; one of the oldest cities in the world

(Part 1/3)

HERITAGE TEHRAN — On the hill e s k overlooking the Susa Museum, ancient Persia is unearthed at this fascinating UNESCO-listed archaeological site occupying the whole southern flank of modern Shush.

Excavations have established that people were living at the acropolis in 5000 BC and have shown the existence of urban structures about 4000, and we can be certain that the town, situated on a strip of land between the rivers Shaour (a tributary of the Karkheh) and Dez, was already a political center of some importance.

Originally similar in scale to Persepolis, the city saw countless invasions and sackings (the Mongols were particularly thorough), and little upright evidence remains of Darius the Great's once grand capital. The site is over 6000 years old;

one of the oldest in the world. Early Susa

In this early age, the potters of Susa produced ceramics of an unsurpassed quality, which they decorated with birds, mountain goats, and other animals designs. In the fourth millennium (the "Uruk Period"), the city became the capital of Elam and was able, at times, to challenge the Sumerian and Akkadian

towns in southern Iraq.

The city itself expanded to the east, to that part of the city that is now called the royal city. From written sources, we know that there must have been ziggurat. A third part is the artisan's quarter, which was even further to the east.

The kings of the Awan dynasty are known to have been the rulers of Elam in the last third of the third millennium; they were contemporaries of the dynasty of Sargon of Akkad, who was

temporarily able to incorporate Susa into his empire. However, the Awan kings managed to regain their independence and a treaty between Sargon's grandson Naram-Sin and his colleague in the east proves that in the end, mutual respect reigned, according to Livius.org; a website on ancient history written and maintained since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona Lendering.

The kings of Awan even conquered the kingdom of Anshan, east of the Zagros. This was just the first of several unifications of these two kingdoms; although there were periods in which they were separated, the title "king of Susa and Anshan" was to become common.

The Awan dynasty collapsed when the Gutians descended from the mountains and created havoc on the alluvial plains of Elam and Mesopotamia. Susa was controlled by king Shulgi of Ur and



Neo-Elamite arrowheads; Susa; ca. 1000 BC-ca. 500 BC

later by other Mesopotamian rulers, and still under attack from the Gutians. Still, the city, although claimed by the kings of Larsa, was independent under an Elamite dynasty. However, this was not to last forever: king Hammurabi of Babylon (1792-1750) annexed Elam.

Discarded masks infecting oceans

The pale blue of a mask is easy to spot among the dry-brown reeds. People walk here along the northern coast of the San Francisco Bay, crowding a path that bends to the contour of the shore. At

the small pebble beach near a park called Blackies Pasture, a

surgical mask is tangled in the marsh at the edge of the Bay. A

little further on is another, then another on the other side of the

said Peter Ottesen, a fit 74-year-old tossing the ball to his black

"I mean this is a high-wealth area and even here you see it,"

path, waiting to be blown into the sea.

as side effect of Covid pandemic

# Mismanagement, overexploitation threaten Persian Gulf ecosystem

**TEHRAN** – The Persian Gulf ecosystem and biodiversity are being destroyed due to mismanagement, overexploitation, and lack of supervision.

Criticizing the internal and external threat to Persian Gulf biodiversity with domestic and foreign issues, Issa Kalantari, head of the Department of Environment (DOE), said that "Persian Gulf biodiversity has been abandoned due to political conflicts between international institutions.'

However, experts believe that the situation of the Persian Gulf is critical and its survival is not possible without major changes in the management policies.

Mohammad Reza Fatemi, a marine ecologist, said that "According to the law, the main custodian of the protection of the Persian Gulf is the DOE, and users, Ports and Maritime Organization, Fisheries Organization and Gas Industries, must take operational and development measures under the supervision of the DOE."

According to Fatemi, Persian Gulf destruction has long been neglected; 90 percent of the development activities in this area are done by state-run organizations with a small share of the private sector.

Despite spending lots of domestic and foreign funds, no map has been yet prepared for the Persian Gulf resources to assess economic exploitation and development in the Persian Gulf, he lamented.

The effects of poor management and marine biodiversity in the Persian Gulf can be seen in the development of trawling these days, as fish that should be caught at depths of 200 to 400 meters are caught at shallower depths, he regretted.



If adequate financial resources are available for strong surveillance, special satellite devices will be installed on the ships, he said, adding, currently, trawling is done not only by foreigners but also by local fishermen without strict monitoring.

Lack of ecosystem approach, lack of a positive and dynamic relationship with maritime organizations, and related organization is the main barrier to the protection of the Persian Gulf. The DOE cannot monitor the country's environment with limited forces, equipment, and facilities, he highlighted.

He went on to say that in comparison to the Caspian Sea hosting 80 aquatic species, the Persian Gulf is home to over a thousand species so far. But the unique habitat is

'In the last 30 years, the Persian Gulf has lost its ability to rebuild due to unsustainable exploitation. Many species are on the verge of extinction,

facing a constant and growing threat, and the main victim of which is human.

The decline of indigenous fishing in the south has led to illegal fishing and smuggling. Social and economic instability in addition to ecological instability has become a crisis. Wherever the economic situation is bad, the pressure on natural resources increases, and people turn to illegal fishing and put pressure on the Persian Gulf ecosystem for their livelihood," he lamented.

Iran shares five ecological zones with specific flora from the lowest to the highest parts, one of which is the Persian Gulf-Omani ecological zone.

The forests of the Persian Gulf-Omani ecological region include part of the southwest and all southern coasts, covering 2,039,963 hectares. Due to ecological differences, the main vegetation is divided into two territories of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

In the Persian Gulf area, which extends from Qasr-e Shirin to the border of Bushehr and Hormozgan provinces, the plant species of Christ's thorn jujube, Prosopis farcta, and desert poplar grow. While in the Oman Sea area, which includes a part of Hormozgan province to Sistan-Baluchestan (border of Iran and Pakistan), Mesquites and acacia species are the main vegetation covers.

Gum arabic tree, used in the boat production, are scattered in this area. Mangrove forests, which consist of two species of grey mangroves and loop-root mangroves, are also spread in this area. The mangrove forest habitat is located between the tides of the seas.

# lab, Addie, on a recent clear morning. "It's now like cigarette butts or anything else. You see it on the sides of the path, the sides of the road, and if you don't see it, you are not looking.'



meant to save lives are also polluting the environment. Since the pandemic began early this year, masks have become a go-to item of the national wardrobe, especially here along the California coast where mask-wearing rates are high. But many are careless with the new accessory and, in windy places like many along this state's 840-mile coast, the masks and other products are ending up on sidewalks, skittering into storm drains, blowing onto beaches and ending up in the Pacific Ocean and its bays.

And this is before the state's traditional rainy season, which washes urban flotsam and jetsam into the sea. It is due to begin this month, the Independent reported.

Many types of masks, including the most common surgical variety, contain plastics that taint ocean ecosystems and disrupt marine food chains. The bottom line is that, in the era of covid-19, another form of mass-produced human stuff is making its way into places where humans do not live.

'Whatever the product may be this is a new, additional plastic threat," said Adam Ratner, associate director of the conservation education program at the Marine Mammal Center based in the Marin headlands, which rescues and heals seals, sea lions, otters and other animals along a 600-mile stretch of California coast.

So far, Ratner said, no animals in America have needed to be rescued after being entangled in personal protective items. It is the extent of the pollution that is the primary concern, he said, given that 25% of the animals they treat already suffer from the harmful effects of ocean trash.

"We want to see people use masks, we want to see people use all of the protective equipment and stay healthy," Ratner said. "But now is the time to stop this, and ocean trash knows no international borders.'

A study published last summer in the journal Environmental Science & Technology estimated that 129 billion masks and 65 billion plastic-containing gloves are used globally each month, with "a significant portion" ending up in the world's oceans.

Along the Pacific Ocean, the world's largest, the evidence has

been literally piling up.

Each year the California Coastal Commission holds a cleanup day, drawing thousands of volunteers from San Diego to Eureka. The normally one-day event this year was held over the entire month of September, and once completed, the commission reported that 70,000 pounds of trash were pulled from parks, creeks, beaches and other public areas.

#### Five-year residence for foreign investors in Iran

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – Iran issues five-year rese s k idence permits for foreign nationals making investments in the country to facilitate their economic activities, Mehdi Mahmoudi, director general for foreign nationals and immigrants at the Ministry of Interior, has announced.

Within the framework of the procedure of "granting a fiveyear residence permit to foreign depositors and investors", those citizens who intend to engage in economic activity in Iran can benefit from the possibility of obtaining a five-year residence permit, he explained.

#### Situation of foreign nationals in Iran

Iran is host to one of the largest and most protracted urban refugee situations in the world and has provided asylum to refugees for four decades.

The latest official government statistics in 2014, there are 951,142 Afghan refugees and 28,268 Iraqi refugees living in Iran. Many of the refugees living in Iran are the second and third generation, according to the UNHCR.

 $About \, 97 \, percent \, of \, refugees \, live \, in \, urban \, and \, semi-urban \,$ areas, while  $\hat{3}$  percent are residing in 20 refugee resorts run by the UNHCR's main government counterpart.

In addition to Afghan refugees, there are about 2.5 million Afghans living in Iran, including those having a passport and undocumented Afghans. 450,000 Afghan who did not have identity cards or birth certificates have



received Iranian visas that allow them to live, work or

There are 40,000 Afghan students in the country, according to the official report, 17,000 of them are graduated, while the unofficial report is estimated at 26,000.

Some 47,000 people were trained and 10 percent of legal refugees were covered by social insurance with the help of the UNHCR, and other foreign nationals can pay for health

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, undocumented Afghans who have access to free primary health services and similarly free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like nationals.

#### Step towards reducing statelessness

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.

In October 2019, the Guardian Council ratified a bill amending the law on conferring citizenship on children born to an Iranian mother and a foreign father regardless

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.

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

According to the Government of Iran, nearly 75,000 children at risk of becoming statelessness 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.

### Waste-to-energy plant to come on stream in northern Iran

1 → So far, about 1.1 trillion rials (about \$26 million at the official rate of 42,000 Mazandaran, Golestan, and Gilan has risen sharply to alarming rates, or infantile paralysis, and skin lesions are among the diseases caused by solid waste rials) have been spent for the construction of this power plant.

The amount of waste generated in the northern provinces of the country, neighboring the Caspian Sea, is snowballing at a rate of over 7,000 tons a day, holding accountable for 14 percent of the total daily 50.000 tons of waste produced in the country, Khabaronline reported in January 2019.

In the past few years, the amount of waste produced in the three northern provinces of

Sirous Vatankhah, secretary of energy technologies development headquarters at the vice-presidency for science and technology, told ISNA that there is a significant relationship between the prevalence of various diseases and the amount of waste generation, which must be considered a "danger sign" that needs urgent measures to contain the issue.

Diseases such as tetanus, typhoid, intestinal parasites, bloody diarrhea, poliomyelitis pollution in water, air, and soil.

Persian Gulf is one of the most biodiverse

habitats but is under serious threat. Oil

pollution, countless ships and fishing nets

floating on the sea, on the one hand, the

construction of artificial islands in the sur-

rounding countries and, most destructively,

the presence of 90 percent of the world's

desalination plants in the region, on the

other hand, has created an ecosystem that

is losing more aquatic species every day.

salination plants increase the salinity of the

Persian Gulf, in addition to climate change,

which has destroyed coral reefs as seawater

gets warmer, while the habitat and breeding

ground of three-quarters of marine species

is among the coral reefs, he explained.

Urban and industrial effluents from de-

On the other hand, a large part of these thousand tons of waste is ending up in the Caspian Sea and the forests, which can lead to many changes in the environmental cycles.

Moreover, Hossein Niaz Azari, a member of the parliament, said that some 104 aquatic species have been living in the Caspian Sea in the past years, while most of them have gone extinct due to the high amount of waste entering the sea.

shi has referred to the poor waste disposal in the coastal cities of the country, saying that "Unfortunately, we face not only the problem of identifying a proper place for waste disposal but sewers being discharged into all rivers and lakes.

In such case, mostly tourists who are littering the northern coast are blamed, however, the other main reason behind is the lack of proper equipment for waste management and recycling, he added.

#### **ENGLISH IN USE**

#### **LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION**

#### FDA to penalize manufacturers producing unlabeled GM foods

Iran's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will penalize food manufacturers who have not labeled genetically modified (GM) food products, Vahid Mofid, the caretaker of the FDA department of food and beverages has announced.

All food products containing ingredients derived from GMOs must be labeled, including soybean and corn oil, rapeseed and cottonseed, he also noted.

He went on to say that eight laboratories in addition to the Energy & Power Industries Laboratories Company can test the products in terms of containing GM organism.

Labeling the products is merely done out of respect for the customer and providing the consumer with different choices and has nothing to do with the product's safety and health, he concluded.

### سازمان غذا و دارو با محصولات تراريخته فاقد برچسب برخورد مىكند

مديـركل فـرآورده هـاى غذايـى و آشـاميدنى سـازمان غـذا و دارو، وحيـد مفيـد در گفـت و گـو بـا خبرنگار ایرنا اعلام کرد: تمام محصولات تراریخته در سطح عرضه کنترل می شوند و در صورتی که تراریخته باشند اما برچسب نداشته باشند، حتماً برخورد می کنیم. وی اضافه کرد: برخی محصولات در کشور مانند ذرت، سویا و کلزا از نوع تراریخته وجبود دارد و فرآورده های غذایی در صورت استفاده از این محصولات تراریخته باید آن را روی برچسب خود اعلام کنند.

مفید افزود: هشت آزمایشگاه علاوه بر آزمایشگاه مرجع در کشور می توانند

مدیـرکل فـرآورده هـای غذایـی و آشـامیدنی سـازمان غـذا و دارو گفـت: درج تراریختگـی در برچسب جلوی ترکیبات، صرفاً احترام به مشتری و فراهم کردن قدرت انتخاب برای مصرف کننـده اسـت و هیـچ ارتباطـی بـا ایمنـی و سـلامت آن فـرآورده نـدارد.

#### housewife خانهدار [خونهدار]. (جَمع: خانِه دارها) buying, purchase. present; ready خرید کَردَن to shop, to go shopping خواب <sup>۱</sup> /xāb/ إس خواب <sup>۲</sup> /xāb/ صِفَّــ

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

خوابگاه /h/ [خوابگاه]. خوابيدَن \_خواب خواستَن /xās'tan/ خواه /xāh/ conjunction. خواندَن /xān'dan \_ خوان /xān [خوندَن \_ خون]. woman; lady; Miss; Mrs... فانوادگی.....pertaining to the family.....

request, begging...../xā'heš/ خواهِش خواهِش کَردَن .....خواهِش کَردَن خُوب گُفتاری = خُب خُودكار

(Part 84)

doctor, Dr.; physician...

دَرک.. دُروس؛ جَمع دُرس

خيابان [خيابون]... خيلي /ˈxeyli/ دَقيقِه [دِيقِه]..

دادَن (به) \_ دَه /h/ [ميدَم]...... to give دُكتُر

خالِه (جَمع: خالِهها)...

(جَمع: خانُمها)

[خونِوادِگي] صِفّت

(جَمع: خانوادِهها)

خانِوادِه [خونِوادِه]..

#### INTERNATIONAL DAILY www.tehrantimes.com

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

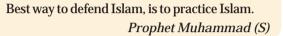
- Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 88808895
- info@tehrantimes.com
- Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000 Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
- Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
- Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
- Printed at: Jame Jam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





No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843





#### **Tehran National Sculpture Biennial kicks off**

\*Holding these artistic events shows that art is still active and alive, while they also help the youth to keep more in contact with the veterans and the masters, which is a praiseworthy action," he added.

He further noted that the biennial has some good points to mention such as paying due attention to elements of the culture and identity of the country



Visitors take photos of a sculpture on view at the 8th edition of the Tehran National Sculpture Biennial at the Rudaki Open-Air Theater on December 14, 2020. (Honaronline/Mohammad Namazi)

Visual Arts Office director Hadi Mozaffari also present at the ceremony said that the pandemic and several other factors caused the transfer of the biennial from the Book Garden in the Abbasabad district in late February to the Vahdat Hall in December.

"However, we did our best to hold the festival in collaboration with the sculptors and the Association of Iranian Sculptors," he said.

There have been some changes in this year's edition, he said, adding, "The biennial is not a competitive event this year because there was a belief that those who attend the biennial have been selected from the best and their artworks will be judged by the public later.

Also one of the main strategies of the biennial this year is adding a number of curatorial teams to carry out different projects. Sahar Salkhi, Hasti Gudarzi, Hamed Dehqan and Bijan Gholnchepur are among the collaborating curators.

The biennial will be running until February 9.

#### Farmers sign poster for doc "On Soil" to warn about soil erosion

**TEHRAN** — Iranian filmmaker Mohsen e s k Khanjahani has taken a poster for his latest documentary "On Soil" to farms around the country to be signed by farmers in order to draw officials' attention to the problem of soil erosion.



A farmer signs a poster for Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Khanjahani's latest documentary "On Soil".

The documentary, which studies soil erosion in Iran, has been selected to premiere at the 14th edition of Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major international festival for documentary films that opened on Tuesday.

Khanjahani has said that soil erosion has caused the greatest harm to farmers, therefore they have more credibility to warn officials about the issue by their signatures and fingerprints on the poster.

He spent two years traveling around the country to research and make his film. Khanjahani's 2018 documentary "The Key" was screened in

numerous Iranian and international events. It is about Seifollah. a guard and keyholder of Tehran's Azadi Sport Complex.

He also made "Yar-e Dabestani-e Man" in 2009 about a popular revolutionary song of the same name.

The 30-minute film contains interviews with the song's first singers, Jamshid Jam and Hamid Shahangian, and also with some political and social figures as well as artists who narrate

their memories of this song.
Composed by Mansur Tehrani, "Yar-e Dabestani-e Man" is a reminder of the days of the Islamic Revolution of 1979 and remains as one of the symbols of the students' movements in Iran.

# Greatest Islamic computer game "Ambassador of Love" developed in Iran

A R T TEHRAN—The Islamic Revolution Center for Digital Products and Publications -MATNA has created an action-adventure game named "Ambassador of Love", whose producer called it the largest Iranian-Islamic computer game project.

Young skilled game developers of the country have completed the largest Iranian-Islamic computer game project to fill its gamers with sheer excitement," Mehdi Jafari Jozani said in a press release published by MATNA on Tuesday.

"Ambassador of Love" is a third-person action-adventure game that starts with the journey of Muslim ibn Aqil al-Hashimi (AS), the messenger of Imam Hussein (AS), to Kufa a few days before the Ashura uprising that led to the martyrdom of the Imam and his companions in 680.

The game also has an Iranian character named Mehran who embarks on a journey from the Iranian city of Rey to visit Muslim ibn Aqil (AS) in Kufa. The story of the game is narrated by Mehran.

Jafari Jozani said that the developers of the game have spent two years writing the story, which has been authorized by relevant Islamic centers.



 $A\,scene\,from\,the\,Iranian\,computer\,game\,"Ambassador\,of\,Love".$ 

He added that the game has been developed with the latest modern technologies of the world in the game industry.

The team of the developers has used Unreal Engine 4 to create the game. The engine was launched by Epic Games, an American video game and software developer and publisher based in Cary, North Carolina The engine has been used in the world-

renowned games such as "Gears 5" and "Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order".

Emad Rahmani, the writer and the director of "Ambassador of Love" said, "This game enjoys an interactive story and fascinating graphic design that have been created by a team of expert professionals, and it is really unique among the games produced in the country.'

Rahmani and his colleagues have drawn inspiration from several worldfamous games such as "Assassins Creed: Origins" and "God of War" to develop "Ambassador of Love"

The game is the first part of a trilogy. This part is scheduled to be released on December 20. Other parts will come into Iran's game market in summer 2021.

MATNA, which is a center affiliated with the East Azarbaijan branch of the Basij Cyberspace, plans to release an international version of the game with the help of Epic Games and Steam, an international online game platform.

The center also plans to release "General", a game whose leading character is Commander Qassem Soleimani.

### Golestan Palace releases film depicting Mozaffar ad-Din Shah's first visit to Europe



Qajar king Mozaffar ad-Din Shah (4th L) and a number of Iranian officials pose in front of a cycling school in their visit to Europe.

\top TEHRAN — Golestan Palace, a s k UNESCO-registered site located in downtown Tehran, released a film on Tuesday depicting Iranian Qajar king Mozaffar ad-Din Shah on his first visit to Europe in 1900.

The film was uploaded on the palace's Instagram and website to observe Research Day on the Iranian calendar in memory of Chahryar Adle, the Iranian historian who was a professor emeritus of the French National Centre for Scientific Research, Golestan Palace director Afarin Emami said in a press release on Tuesday.

In their research at the storehouses of the palace in 1982, curators discovered three old footages recorded on 38 reels, she said.

Adle started a study on the films and finally sent the reels to Paris in 2002 to be restored at the National Centre for Cinema and the Moving Image (CNC).

The outcome was the 56-miniute film that is now available on the Instagram and website of the palace.

Scenes of the film, which were shot by Mirza Ebrahim Akkasbashi under the auspices of the Gaumont Film Company in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, show Mozaffar ad-Din Shah attending a flower festival in Ostend, Belgium on August 18, 1900.

Parts of the film also depict the shah watching acrobatics and royal guards on the march, and traveling on the coach

Experts consider this film as marking the advent of cinema

in Iran because it is the first film shot by an Iranian.

Adle studied history at the University of Paris, now the Paris Sorbonne University. He also pursued education in the archaeology of the Orient and Islamic art history at the École du Louvre.

He received a Ph.D. in the history of Iran and Central Asia. He was among the Iranian experts who compiled the necessary information to submit to UNESCO to register Persepolis, the Chogha Zanbil Ziggurat and Nagsh-e Jahan Square on the World Heritage List.

He was also the author of many books, including "Teheran Capitale Bicentenaire"

Adle also collaborated with Irfan Habib and Karl M. Baipakov in writing "History of Civilization in Central Asia".

"History of Civilizations of Central Asia VI" was also published by Adle, Anara Tabyshalieva and Mahdavan K. Palat.

On October 5, 2009, Adle was awarded the UNESCO Five Continents Medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution to UNESCO's General and Regional Histories, a study project in which people in certain regions write their own history.

He died in Paris in June 2015 at the age of 72.

### Iran's Cinema Vérité opens online in COVID-19 era

TEHRAN d e s k 14th edition of Cinema Vérité, Iran's major international festival for documentary films, went on stream on Saturday with a tribute paid to the celebrated filmmaker Khosro Sinai, a COVID-19 victim.

Due to the pandemic, this year's Cinéma Vérité will be held entirely online and the programs are available on Filimo, TVA and Hashure, the Iranian platforms providing video on demand (VOD) service for films.

Every day, a number of films will be introduced during the event, while a number of top Iranian and international documentarians and critics will be holding online workshops and panel discussions during the festival.

The Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) is the main organizer of the event.

competing for the Avini Awards during Sacred Defense in Iran.



A poster for the 14th edition of the Cinema

the festival.

The award has been established by DEFC to commemorate martyr Morteza Avini, the writer and documentarian who chronicled A lineup of 30 documentaries will be the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war known as the

Documentaries on the Islamic Revolution, the Sacred Defense and resistance in the region will be competing for the award. Twenty-five films on COVID-19 will also

be competing in Cinéma Vérité in a special category set up this year to attract attention to this disastrous disease. A number of top Iranian and international documentarians and critics will be holding

online workshops and panel discussions during the festival. Participating international figures include

Betsy A. McLane, Bill Nichols, Andre Singer and James Bertrand Longley in addition to famous Iranian documentarians Mehrdad Oskui and Farhad Varahram.

In addition, Cinéma Vérité will review Chilean documentary cinema during a special program named "Chilean Films Panorama".

will be screened in this section. A lineup of world acclaimed documentaries will be reviewed in the World's Best section of

by Chilean filmmakers, including Francisco

Bermejo's documentary "The Other One",

the 14th edition of the Cinéma Vérité festival. The lineup includes "Tony Driver" by Ascanio

Petrini from Italy; "The Chilean Building" by Macarena Aguilo and "The Cordillera of Dreams by Patricio Guzman, both from Chile; Radu Ciorniciuc's acclaimed documentary "Acasa, My Home" from Romania; and, "A Tunnel", co-directed by Nino Orjonikidze and Vano Arsenishvili from Georgia and Germany.

The World's Best section of the major Iranian documentary festival will feature a selection of documentaries acclaimed at 2020 international events across the world

The festival will be running totally online A number of acclaimed documentaries until December 22.

#### "Yalda" receives nomination in France's Lumière awards

TEHRAN — Iranian drama "Yalda: A Night for Forgiveness" by Masud Bakhshi has received a nomination in the 26th edition of France's Lumière awards.

The awards, which are voted on by some 130 international correspondents hailing from 40 countries, are France's equivalent of the Golden Globes.

The film has been nominated in the Best international Co-production category along with "Abou Leila" by Amin Sidi-Boumédiène (Algeria, France), "Adam" by Maryam Touzani (Morocco), "A Son" by Mehdi M. Barsaoui (Tunisia), "The Man Who Sold His Skin" by Kaouther Ben Hania (France, Tunisia, Belgium, Sweden, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia), "La Llorona" by Jayro Bustamante (Guatemala), and "You Will Die At 20" by Amjad Abu Alala (Sudan).

As a co-production between Iran and Norway, "Yalda: A Night for Forgiveness" is about Maryam, a young woman who has been sentenced to death for murdering her husband, Nasser. Iranian law allows the victim's family to forgive



"Yalda: A Night for Forgiveness" by Iranian director Masud Bakhshi.

her and spare her life, so Maryam's fate will be decided by

Nasser's daughter, Mona, on the country's most popular televised reality show. In front of millions of viewers during Yalda, the winter solstice celebration, Maryam and Mona discover that forgiveness can be difficult as they relive the past.

The film also won the Grand Jury Prize in the World Cinema Dramatic section of the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah in February.

The film has also won a special commendation from the 34th Annual Washington DC International Film Festival in October.

In addition, Masud Bakhshi was crowned best director at the 57th Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival in Turkey for his "Yalda: A Night for Forgiveness" in October.

Italian director Filippo Meneghetti's debut feature Two of Us" leads the nominations in the 26th edition of Lumière awards.

In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has delayed  $numerous\ releases\ this\ year, the\ awards\ ceremony\ will\ take$ place on January 19, 2021, in line with previous years.

#### Persian readers find "Neoliberalism" at Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN —A Persian translation of Manfred B. Steger's "Neoliberalism: A Very Short Introduction" has recently been published by Logos Publications in Qom.

The book has been translated into Persian

by Moslem Qorbanbabai. Anchored in the principles of freemarket economics, "neoliberalism" has been associated with such different political leaders as Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Bill Clinton, Tony Blair, Augusto Pinochet and Junichiro Koizumi.

In its heyday during the late 1990s, neoliberalism emerged as the world's dominant economic paradigm, stretching from the Anglo-American heartlands of capitalism to the former communist bloc all the way to the developing regions of the global South.

Today, however, neoliberalism has been discredited as the global economy, built on its principles, has been shaken to its core by the worst financial calamity since the 1930s. Is neoliberalism doomed or will it regain its former status? Is there

a viable alternative to neoliberalism? Exploring the origins, core claims, and various forms of neoliberalism, this very short introduction offers a concise and accessible introduction to one of the most debated "isms" of our time.

Steger is a professor of global and transnational sociology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and global professorial fellow at the Institute of Culture and Society at Western Sydney University.

He has previously held executive positions as the head of the School of International and

Community Studies, director of the Globalism Research Centre, and a research leader in the Global Cities Research Institute at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia.

A member of the editorial boards of prestigious academic journals such as "Globalizations" and the "American Political Science Review", Steger has served as an academic consultant on globalization for the U.S. State Department and as an advisor to the American Public Broadcasting Service's television series, "Heaven on Earth: The Rise and Fall of Socialism".