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# Angels of Sacred Defense

Leader lauds women's sacrifice during eight-year war

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**Israeli adventures in Iraq to disrupt JCPOA revival can't be ruled out: American professor**

## Iran advises U.S. to rejoin JCPOA unconditionally

TEHRAN — Ali Rabiei, the spokesperson for the government, says Iran advises the Joe Biden administration to unconditionally rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran has been insisting it is the U.S. that quit the nuclear deal unilaterally and naturally it should be the first party to return to its commitments.

It is true that Iran has reduced its commit-

ments in response to the abrogation of the nuclear deal by the Trump administration, officials in Tehran has clearly said Iran will reverse its remedial measures if sanctions are lifted in a practical and verifiable way.

Iran's move in reducing commitments are in accordance to paragraph 36 of the JCPOA which has "provided a mechanism to resolve disputes and allows one side,

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## 9,000 new industrial units established in Iran since late Mar. 2020

TEHRAN — Some 9,000 new contracts have been signed for establishing industrial units across Iran since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020), the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) announced on Monday.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of a visit to an industrial park near Tehran, Ali Rasoulman noted that the number of established industrial units

in the current Iranian calendar year has increased 100 percent compared to the previous year.

"If we are looking for creating employment, the necessary space and infrastructure must be provided for the development of industrial units; currently more than 9,000 contracts have been signed for the establishment of industrial units in the country," Rasoulman said.

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**BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI**  
TEHRAN — Pointing to Israeli moves to cripple efforts to revive the Iran nuclear deal, an American professor says Israel's adventures in the region cannot be ruled out in terms of the attacks in Iraq.

"Israeli mischief in the region to disrupt a resumption of the JCPOA certainly cannot be ruled out in terms of the attacks in Iraq," Robert C. Smith, a professor of political science at San Francisco State University,

tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

"One can hope U.S. intelligence is alert and proactive," Smith says.

On March 5, Qais al-Khazali, the secretary-general of Iraq's Asaeb Ahl al-Haq resistance group, said Israel is behind attacks on the U.S. embassy and military bases in Iraq.

He said Israel is directing the attacks on U.S. headquarters and embassy in Baghdad through Iraqi mercenaries.

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## Foolad Sirjan, Shahr-dari Urmia eye first ever title in Iran volleyball

**BY FARROKH HESABI**

In the first match of the Iran Volleyball Super League's final, Foolad Sirjan will meet Shahr-dari Urmia on Friday at the Iran Volleyball Federation Hall in Tehran, the two teams will fight for their first ever title at the competition.

They will play three-game series to determine the league champions.

Shahr-dari Urmia had a hard-fought 3-2 win over Labanaiat Haraz at the second day of semi-finals matches. Foolad Sirjan, on the other hand, completed their run to the final match with an easy win in straight sets over Sepahan.

Peyman Akbari, head coach of Shahr-dari Urmia, says that reaching the finals has been their goal since the beginning of the tournament.

"At the beginning of the season, we set a goal with the general manager of the club to reach the final, and we have achieved our goal in this regard. However, it is not enough for me and my players. We want to do our best to have strong performance in the final and win the Super League title. Me, my colleagues and my players, will fight to achieve this objective," Akbari said in an interview with Tehran Times.

He also talked about their opponents at the final match: "Foolad Sirjan are a strong and well-organized team. Reza Tondravan (Sirjan's head coach) and his side have been excellent in the current season and deserved to be in the final. We are all aware that it will be a very difficult match for us and of course we will make it difficult for them as well," Akbari added.

Tondravan also talked about the situation of his team and the final match.

"The final games are completely different to the previous rounds. The strategies and tactics must be different because it is the most important stage of the season and every team will look forward to win the title. Me and Peyman Akbari have so many years of experiences in this level and I think it will be an exciting and attractive final.

"They will be the technical matches. Shahr-dari are a perfect team in every aspect and have a big goal in their mind. My side are also a fighting team that will never give up in the big matches," he said.

## Steps Iran must take to become leading player in medical tourism

**BY AFSHIN MAJLESI**

As you are well aware, medical tourism is booming worldwide as about 20 to 24 million people are traveling for medical treatments annually. Factors such as increased care needs over longer lifespans, rising healthcare costs, and constant pressures on some insurance industries are reasons behind why some opt to travel abroad.

Regarding price competitiveness, Iran currently ranks first in the world but the country has not been very successful in attracting potential travelers as other competitors like Singapore and Turkey. People from the Persian Gulf littoral states, Iraq and Syria as well as Iranian expatriates residing in Canada and Germany constituted the majority of medical travelers to the Islamic Republic, who received plastic, cosmetics, open-heart, and orthopedic surgeries amongst other treatments over the

past couple of years.

A recent study co-authored by Iranian researchers Khalil Momeni, Ali Jannati, Rahim Khodayari-Zarnaq, Shabnam Ghasemyani, and Mohamadreza Havasian, suggests the main difference between Iran other countries they selected for the study lies in the organizational structure of the main stakeholders of the tourism industry; in other countries, this industry is organized and supervised by specific coordination bodies.

Data were gathered from databases, including PubMed, Web of Knowledge, Scopus, Magiran, SID, and websites of the World Tourism Association, the Ministry of Tourism, and the Ministry of Health of the selected countries from 2000 to 2020. The study was published in the Melbourne-based Healthscope, which operates private hospitals, medical centres and international pathology services.

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## Judge opens door for Lula da Silva to run in Brazil in 2022

A Brazilian Supreme Court judge on Monday annulled the criminal convictions against former leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a move that could allow the popular politician to run in next year's presidential election.

In a surprise decision, Justice Edson Fachin said that a court in the southern city of Curitiba did not have the authority to try Lula on corruption charges and that he must be retried in federal courts in the capital Brasilia.

The ruling, which will be reviewed by the full Supreme Court, restored Lula's political rights, potentially blowing open the 2022 presidential race, when right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro is expected to seek re-election.

The country's prosecutor general's office said it would appeal the decision, a spokesperson for Prosecutor General Augusto Aras said on Monday.

Lula said in a statement shared on Twitter

that the ruling on Monday "affirms the incompetence of the Federal Justice of Curitiba" and is recognition that he has been correct throughout his long legal battle.

Al Jazeera's Monica Yanakiew, reporting from Rio de Janeiro, said the court's decision does not mean Lula has been found innocent of the charges for which he was previously convicted.

"It just means that they tried him in the wrong place and he should be retried," she said. "But that does have a big political impact because it restores his rights to run in next year's election."

Yanakiew said polls before the last Brazilian elections showed that Lula would have won over Jair Bolsonaro, the country's far-right president.

Bolsonaro said on Monday he hopes the Supreme Court reverses the ruling, and that the judge who annulled Lula's convictions always had a strong link to Lula's PT party.

## Memoirs of captive of Kurdish separatists praised by Leader

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has praised the memoirs of Amir Saeidzadeh, a Kurdish Iranian soldier who was held captive by members of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, a separatist group, for 5 years.

The book entitled "Evenings of Keriskan" was written by Kianush Golzar Ragheb, a cellmate of Saeidzadeh who earlier had written about his story in another book titled "Shonam", which Suresh-Mehr published in 2015.

"It has been done in a really attractive manner," wrote the Leader in a commendation published on Tuesday.

"The story of the Kurdish youth and the forthright style of writing in the book are both attractive. Although I was already closely familiar with many Kurdish people who are supporters of the Islamic Republic, what has been recounted in this book about their devotion is totally new and amazing for me.

The roles of the mother and wife are also very powerful."

"The valor of the narrator and his family and some of the other Kurdish people in the story is extraordinary. In addition, the cruel behavior of those people who deceitfully deemed themselves as the representatives of the noble Kurdish people has been well described. It's a comprehensive book," added Ayatollah Khamenei who read the book in November 2020.

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## Centuries-old craft still alive in Iranian village

Iranian craftspeople make domed ceilings using dried branches in the village of Mayan, northeast Iran, March 9, 2021.

Locally called "Arghavan-Bafi", the craft of making traditional alcoves has been passed down from generation to generation for about 600 years in the tiny village situated near Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council.

## Palestine was reflected in Anis al-Naqqash's entire life: political activist

**BY MOHAMMAD HAGHDOST**

TEHRAN — An Iraqi political activist says that Anis al-Naqqash's life was greatly impacted by the Palestine cause as he spent his life to support the oppressed Palestinian people.

"Palestine was reflected in the whole life of the late Anis al-Naqqash from cradle to grave, until he was called 'friend of Palestine' and the Palestinian flag did not leave him until his honorable coffin was wrapped in it," Hussein al-Dirani tells the Tehran Times.

"His relationship with Palestine is like the relationship of the soul to the body, oxygen to the lung, and the mother to her child," al-Dirani comments.

Anis al-Naqqash, a seasoned Lebanese political activist concerning Islamic resistance, died at the age of 70. He died on February 22 after contracting the coronavirus.

He was also a comrade of Imad Mughniyeh, a senior Hezbollah member who was assassinated in Syria in 2008, and the CIA claimed credit for his unlawful murder.

Following is the text of interview with al-Dirani: **What are the achievements of the late Anis al-Naqqash as a resistance figure in the Islamic world?**

None of the writers, researchers, thinkers and politicians can comprehend the volume of organizational works and achievements of the late Anis al-Naqqash.

He spent his honorable life in struggle, jihad, and thinking in order to support the deprived and the vulnerable people.

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## Every citizen with 'any dress' has right to run for president: ex-defense chief

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Former defense minister Hossein Dehqan who has announced his candidacy for the June presidential elections has said that every citizen in "any dress" has the right to contest presidential elections.

The remarks by Dehqan comes as some have raised eyebrows about the candidacy of figures with military background.

In an interview with the ISNA news agency published on Tuesday, Dehqan said I believe that the society should be sensitive toward the competence of individuals rather than their profession.

Saeid Mohammad, commander of the Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters, also resigned his post on Sunday to possibly run in the presidential election. The Khatam-al Anbiya headquarters is the construction unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Dehqan, who was defense minister in President Rouhani's first administration from 2013-2017, says practicing politics is not restricted to certain individuals. He asks: "Hasn't a lawyer the right to field candidacy? Shouldn't anybody who is active in private sector field candidacy?"

He adds, "Anybody in any dress has the right to be a candidate in elections."

Dehqan says as a military person has a "civil right" to vote in elections he also has a civil right to nominate in every election.

On a question that certain politicians are concerned that if a person with military career is elected president, he will make "military thinking" dominant in the country, he asked, "What does military thinking mean?"

He says even the characteristics of a military person can be useful for the society.

"In regard to the current status of the society, even these characteristics may be more useful than the characteristics of certain politicians for the country."

He cited "patriotism" and a feeling of being the "solidier of the country" are the most important characteristics of a figure with military background.

"In fact, the military person is ready to sacrifice his life for his country. Being disciplined, timely, purposeful... having strategy to materialize a goal are other characteristics of a military person."

However, he added, a non-military person may also have such features.

Asked whether he is entering the presidential race independently or he is allied to certain faction or group, Dehqan said, "I don't believe in today's political currents, because 'real party' does not exist in the country. Unfortunately, we have 'front' or 'group' instead of party in the country, and members are constantly joining this or that group. They look where are their (personal) interests, or where are the tools of power."

On the other hand, he says, restricting presidential post to particular political faction is synonymous with losing the competence and potential of other factions.

The people are not going to vote for candidates based on their areas of activities. "In fact, people vote for the plans and competence of candidates not their job."

He said if in the previous elections candidates with military backgrounds did not succeed to win the vote of the electorate it was because they failed to clarify their plans to the people properly.

"In fact, people want a person in this post that can powerfully counter favoritism and corruption and find executive solutions for the country's crisis through prudence."

He also advises the Biden administration to respect the interests of the nations in West Asia and leave the region.

"Now it is the U.S. that must make a choice not us," Dehqan notes. "They can either make the wall of mistrust or hostility taller or abandon plot against free nations so that we can witness a 'new chapter' in the relations between the two countries," the former defense chief points out.

The remarks by Dehqan comes as Iran and the U.S. are caught in a dispute over which side should first return to its commitments under the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran has been insisting that it is still a party to the deal though it has reduced its commitments to the agreement in accordance to paragraph 36 of the multilateral agreement in order to create a balance between rights and obligations.

As a party that has left the agreement, the U.S. is legally tasked to rejoin the agreement first.

Iran has clearly and repeatedly announced if the U.S. lifts sanctions it will return to full compliance with the JCPOA.

## Rouhani praises Iranians for withstanding cruel sanctions

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani has admired the Iranian people for their fortitude and resistance against the cruel economic war imposed on the country by ill-wishers, saying the time has come for the lifting of the sanctions.

"It is now the time for the removal of the sanctions, one of whose main consequences is fluctuating prices," he remarked, according to Tasnim.

The president noted the enemies had formulated cruel sanctions with the wrong assumption that the Islamic Republic could only resist for only a few months, but the Iranian nation's maximum resistance foiled the comprehensive economic war.

Even during the coronavirus pandemic, Donald Trump refused to ease sanctions against Iran, an inhumane move that Foreign Minister Zarif said economic terrorism is being "supplanted by economic terrorism".

In remarks in November 2020, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged officials to concentrate efforts on nullifying the sanctions rather than seeking their removal, pointing to the unsuccessful outcome of years of negotiations for lifting the sanctions.

The United States, under former President Donald Trump, pulled out the 2015 nuclear deal, unraveling the signature foreign policy achievement of his predecessor Barack Obama, an illegal move that led to isolation of the United States even among its Western allies. Also, the United States reinstated all the sanctions that had been lifted under the nuclear accord and it imposed new harsh ones, including a total ban on Iran's oil export.

Iran remained fully compliant to the deal for a complete year after the U.S. exit from the agreement. Ultimately, Iran said its "strategic patience" is over and decided to scale back some commitments under the JCPOA (officially known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) and it recently restarted enrichment of uranium at 20 percent purity and restricted the access of the UN watchdog inspectors to Iranian nuclear sites.



# 'Zero hegemony' approach needed to end crisis in Iran-Saudi ties: Middle East Eye

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Decades of U.S. intervention and a regional arms race have seen West Asia embroiled in endless crises and this approach needs to end, according to Middle East Eye (MEE).

MEE acknowledged the chaos and insecurity continue to ravage West Asia region and wrote, "Saudi Arabia launched strikes against the Yemeni capital Sanaa this weekend as missiles and drones fired by Yemen's Houthis forces targeted the heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry on Sunday. Last month an explosion hit an Israeli-owned ship in the Gulf of Oman."

Pointing to Biden's policy towards the region, it reminded, "U.S. President Joe Biden ordered air strikes against facilities in Syria allegedly used by Iranian-backed militia forces, claiming retaliation for a missile attack on a U.S. base in Iraq's Erbil, which killed a contractor and wounded a soldier."

While expressing concern over repetition of U.S. failed approaches, it wrote, "Biden's election to the White House hasn't alleviated the perilous situation in the Middle East (West Asia)."

It sharply criticized the U.S. strategies towards West Asia and stressed, "The dominant paradigm for ensuring security in the region has long been based on U.S. intervention. In the post-World War II era, [Persian] Gulf states have heavily relied on alliances with the U.S. as an economic and military superpower. During the Cold War, the Shah of Iran, perceived as a regional policing figure, sought security through a strong alliance with the U.S."

**Expanded military presence**

It reminded that soon after the 1979 [Islamic] revolution and the fall of the Shah, the U.S. expanded its military presence in the [Persian] Gulf, and wrote, "Arab Gulf states



assumed that by heavily purchasing U.S. arms and bringing their troops to the region, their own security would be ensured. And in part because Iran-U.S. relations have remained hostile, other U.S. allies in the Middle East [West Asia] - such as Saudi Arabia - have been unable to reconcile with Iran."

"Observing the ruinous turmoil in the Middle East [West Asia] region today - from the destructive U.S.-led invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, to the rise of terrorism, to the medieval sectarian violence of the Islamic State - the assumption that security can be purchased has been severely challenged," it added.

MEE explained four possible approaches may be perused to create security in West Asia and said, "But what are the alternative scenarios for regional security, insofar as the U.S., Iran and Saudi Arabia are concerned? Four possible scenarios can be envisioned."

It wrote, "Firstly, there is the traditional, hegemonic approach by the U.S., where it



continues to have a military presence in the Middle East [West Asia], and [Persian] Gulf states rely on American troops for security. This approach has been applied in one way or another for seven decades, and as a result, the Middle East [West Asia] is engulfed in myriad crises."

With regard to the second strategy, it argued, "The second scenario entails the U.S. strategy of 'pivoting to the East'. This suggests that the U.S. should focus more on the real threats posed by China and Russia. In the event that the U.S. abandons the Middle East [West Asia] region, a vacuum of power would likely be filled by other powers, including Russia and China."

**Laying a new foundation**

"Under the third scenario, an Israeli-led agenda for a so-called 'Arab NATO' would replace the U.S. military presence in the region. Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz recently said that Israel intends to develop a 'special security arrangement' with Arab allies in the

[Persian] Gulf who share common concerns over Iran. But this scenario, promoted by the Trump administration, would most certainly perpetuate tensions - not reduce them," according to MEE.

"The fourth scenario, the most conducive to ensuring sustainable peace and security, is a model of collective regional security and cooperation based on 12 principles published by The Guardian," it wrote.

Some of these principles include mutual respect, preserving national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs of states, and rejecting sectarianism and the arming of illegal militias in regional states.

MEE expressed hope these principles would minimize the risk of further conflicts in the region and stressed, "Lay the foundations for sustainable peace, cooperation and friendly relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia; and pave the way for a new security paradigm towards collective regional cooperation."

**'Zero hegemony'**

Concerning the tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, it underlined, "While Riyadh and Tehran focus on each other, and smaller [Persian] Gulf countries have cause for concern about the potentially hegemonic tendencies of Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq. As such, a regional security system should be based on the 'zero hegemony' concept. Fostering dialogue and cooperation among [Persian] Gulf states is necessary for any potential rapprochement."

Finally, it concluded, "At the same time, one of the biggest challenges to regional peace and security stems from Israel's longstanding violations of Palestinian rights. One cannot perceive sustainable peace in the Middle East [West Asia] without a fair and just solution to this tragic conflict."

## IAEA says Iran starts enriching uranium with third cascade of IR2-m machines at Natanz

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Iran has started enriching uranium with a third cascade of advanced IR-2m centrifuges at its Natanz nuclear facility, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) tells its members, according to Press TV.

"On 7 March 2021, the Agency verified ... that: Iran had begun feeding natural UF6 into the third cascade of 174 IR-2m centrifuges," the UN nuclear agency announced in a Monday report obtained by Reuters, referring to uranium hexafluoride, the feedstock for centrifuges.

"The fourth cascade of 174 IR-2m centrifuges was installed but had yet to be fed with natural UF6; installation of a fifth cascade of IR-2m centrifuges was ongoing; and

installation of a sixth cascade of IR-2m centrifuges had yet to begin," it stated.

Iran's representative to the Vienna-based organizations said in February that the country had installed new cascades of advanced centrifuges at two nuclear sites in Natanz and Fordow to increase enrichment capacity.

"Thanks to our diligent nuclear scientists, two cascades of 348 IR2m centrifuges with almost 4 times the capacity of IR1 are now running with UF6 successfully in Natanz," Kazem Gharibabadi said in a post on his Twitter account.

Back in May 2018, former U.S. president Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the multilateral nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

(JCPOA), reached between Iran and major world states in 2015 and adopted the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran with the declared aim of forcing Tehran to negotiate a new deal.

Iran remained fully compliant with the JCPOA for an entire year but as the remaining European parties failed to fulfill their end of the bargain, Tehran began in May 2019 to scale back its JCPOA commitments under Articles 26 and 36 of the accord covering Tehran's legal rights.

In one of its latest steps away from the deal, Iran on January 4 announced the beginning of the process to enrich uranium to 20-percent purity at Fordow to reciprocate the American withdrawal and the European failure.

## Iran advises U.S. to rejoin JCPOA unconditionally Tehran renews call for prisoner swap with U.S.

Under certain circumstances, to stop complying with the deal if the other side is out of compliance."

Talking in a regular news briefing, Rabiei also reiterated the position already declared by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif about a prisoner swap with the U.S., saying, "We are ready to exchange all inmates. Such a thing has not happened so far because the U.S. has not

been prepared."

"The two sides can make a decision about it," Tasnim quoted the government spokesman as saying.

"There are many Iranians across the world who have been jailed on the U.S. order. Decisions and measures are being adopted in this regard, but we believe that, as mentioned by Mr. Zarif, we can negotiate about all the inmates

at once and solve the problem all at once," Rabiei said.

Last month, Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, rejected a claim by a U.S. official that Tehran and Washington have begun direct talks over American prisoners in Iran and vice versa, saying that there have been no direct negotiations between the two countries on any matter.

## Republicans join Democrats to urge Biden make 'comprehensive' deal with Iran

One hundred-forty U.S. lawmakers from both parties urged the Biden administration on Tuesday to aim for bipartisan consensus and seek a «comprehensive» deal with Iran that addresses not just its nuclear program, but a range of other national security issues, according to a letter shared first with ABC News.

«Despite everything you see, there is bipartisanship going on in DC, even over something as contentious as the Iran deal,» said Rep. Mike Waltz, R-Fla., who helped spearhead the letter.

The letter, sent to Secretary of State Antony Blinken Tuesday, was signed by 70 Republican and 70 Democratic House members.

«We're encouraging the administration to look at how do you bring Democrats and Republicans together around an issue that should unify us, and that is addressing the risk presented by Iran,» said Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Md., who helped organize Democratic signatures.

The letter's signatories cross the ideological spectrum and include some top lawmakers on both sides, like Rep. Albio Sires, D-N.J., a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee chair, and House Democratic caucus chair Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., as well as Rep. Mike Rogers, the top Republican on the Armed Services Committee, and Republican whip Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La.

In December, 150 House Democrats urged Biden to swiftly return to the nuclear deal in order to bring Iran back into compliance as well, saying that should serve as «a starting point for further negotiations.» Some of those Democrats, including Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., signed Tuesday's letter as well.

That December effort was met with a Republican effort last month. One-hundred-and-twenty House Republicans wrote to the administration to say do not rejoin the nuclear deal, arguing that Trump built leverage with his maximum pressure campaign that Biden shouldn't release until Iran agrees to address all the issues.

Did you know that to today several thousand Sunni seminary students and scholars engaged in educational activities and religious preaching have been exempted [from military service] by the Secretariat of the Planning Council of Sunni religious schools?

This indicates Iran's recognition of religious rights of Sunni Muslims.

SYMPTOMS

# Irish FM sees 'fundamental' change in U.S. approach to JCPOA

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Ireland's

Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney has said the U.S. has adopted a fundamentally different approach to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and that there is a new window of opportunity to revive the pact.

"We have seen a change of policy in the United States, which is very fundamental, towards the JCPOA and working to protect that agreement in the future and of course we have had strong signals from Iran also that if there are moves in that direction, we will respond positively," the Irish foreign minister told Iran's state news IRNA during his recent visit to Iran.

Referring to the damages caused by the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the Iran deal, he said: "The challenge now, I think, for senior politicians and decisions makers in the key countries involved is to find a way of building sufficient trust that can allow the negotiation to proceed and to allow the JCPOA to be rebuilt because of the damages that have been done in recent years."

He said there is a new opportunity to revive the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Underlining the fact that rebuilding the JCPOA won't be easy, the chief Irish diplomat noted that now there is a window of opportunity to revive the deal.

"That won't be easy but in my view, it is an opportunity that we should not lose and I think many countries Iran included will regret it if they don't," he said, adding, "I certainly think that there is a window of opportunity now that all of us who are committed to the JCPOA and the nuclear agreement needs to take. There will always be some who will oppose this in key positions but in my view, this is an opportunity that potentially could ease tensions in the region and globally."

Coveney elaborated on his talks with Iranian officials and the relations between Iran and Ireland.

"The bilateral relationship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ireland is going to take a jump forward in the months and years ahead," he said, adding, "We are committed to reopening the Irish embassy in Tehran in the next few years and in the short term we are going to have a charge de affaires who will be in the German embassy but to work with our consular who is based here in Tehran and to prepare for setting up our Irish embassy here."

Commenting on his meetings with Iranian officials, the Irish foreign minister stated,



"The main focus of my visit today and we had the privilege of meeting President Rouhani and Foreign minister Zarif was to focus on the JCPOA and we are on the (UN) Security Council for the next two years and we have a specific role as a facilitator for Resolution 2231 which is the resolution which is the basis for the JCPOA from 2015."

"I think most people in Iran know what has happened since then and the last few years have been difficult but I believe there is an opportunity now with the new administration taking office in the U.S. and also with an opportunity for Iran to move back in compliance with the JCPOA in a way that the deal was originally intended."

"There is an opportunity to improve our relations with other parts of the world and to ensure that what was a historic agreement in 2015 from an Iranian perspective to a global perspective can be put into practice in full again that what happened by itself," he continued.

The top Irish diplomat gave further details about his meeting with the Iranian president and foreign minister.

"Iranian concerns" "It involves governments that are willing to take risks to start to build trust and that won't be easy. My meeting with President Rouhani was primarily about this issue to understand the Iranian concerns but also ambitions in the context of the JCPOA in the future and of course, we have followed that up nearly three hours of discussions

with foreign minister Zarif; of course, we spoke about many other things as well from Yemen to Syria, to Lebanon, to Afghanistan, to Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

"Historic agreement"

He added, "We touched on a lot of regional issues but we spent about half of our time on discussing the JCPOA and why would we take forward back into full compliance by what we regard as a historic and important agreement from 2015 that unfortunately since 2018 has been very damaged so this is a historic opportunity in my view for Iran to take and we hope that the other countries that are involved in the JCPOA would encourage a move in the right direction, of course, we hope that the new U.S. administration will also have given a signal and that the direction that we want to move in."

Coveney stated that new U.S. President Joe Biden has changed Washington's policy on Iran in a short time. "I think we have seen in a relatively short time and the new U.S. president and administration changed policy, give a very clear signal that they are interested in re-engaging positively in the context of the JCPOA," he said, adding, "They along with EU partners have invited Iran to come and talk about how that might work. They have taken some actions also in terms of removing some travel restrictions from Iranian diplomats and so there have been very clear signals coming from Washington that they want to engage positively."

The Irish foreign minister said he understands the skepticism in Iran about the West.

"I can understand the skepticism and cautions coming from Iran because of recent years but let me assure you the European Union wants to see the JCPOA protected; the E3 wants to see the JCPOA protected and reenacted if you like and I believe that the U.S. wants that too and what is required now is engagement with all of the key players who are responsible for the JCPOA in the first place P5+1 structure and we all need to work to ensure that we can provide reassurance to Iran and to others that engagement is what we have trust in so that we can move this process in the new political environment that is now available. We can move forward in a progressive way that protects the JCPOA and to put its benefits in place," he stated.

"We want to work with Iran in a constructive way"

He went further to say, "Ireland is a country that is well-traveled we have less than 5 million people living in the Republic of Ireland but we have about 70 million people of Irish [descent] to send across the world so we are a global nation in many ways and we take interest in global affairs and Iran is a very significant country in this region. We want to understand this and we want to work with Iran in a constructive way when possible and I hope we can do that in relation to Yemen, JCPOA, humanitarian access to Syria, to take decisions in Afghanistan, supporting elections in Palestine while we disagree to some foreign policy issues."

"There are certain things we can work on together and we try to focus on the positive things as we can say this is a fascinating country, with an incredible history and I hope we can look to the future with more optimism."

Coveney said Ireland is going to open an embassy in Iran.

"Last week, the Irish government formally made the decision to reopen our embassy in Tehran. In 2012 Ireland closed a number of its embassies in the world we had a very difficult economic recession and we had to make some difficult choices for financial reasons. We are now in a stronger position and the combination of Ireland being on the Security Council and therefore relevant to the foreign policy to this part of the world but also our willingness to expand our global diplomatic footprint has meant that we want to have a presence in this region and in this country," he said.

## Russia calls on U.S. to abandon 'meaningless policy of maximum pressure' on Iran

**POLITICAL**

TEHRAN — Russia has welcomed American signals of readiness for talks with Iran to revive a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major world powers but says the United States needs to end "the meaningless policy of maximum pressure on Iran."

"The US is sending signals of readiness for dialogue to restore the JCPOA. It is welcomed," Russia's Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said in a Russian-language tweet on Monday, using an acronym for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the official name of the nuclear accord, according to Press TV.

"It's time to put an end to the meaningless policy of maximum pressure on Iran and ensure the normal functioning of the nuclear deal, the most important component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime," he added.

Ulyanov's comments came days after the U.S. mission to the Vienna-based international organizations said in a tweet that Washington "is ready to reengage in meaningful diplomacy to achieve a mutual return to compliance with" the Iran deal "in close coordination with our allies and partners."

Earlier on Sunday, Ulyanov welcomed America's readiness to reengage in diplomacy to revive the nuclear deal.

"The United States, in close coordination with our allies and partners, is ready to reengage in meaningful diplomacy to achieve a mutual return to compliance with the JCPOA, a key achievement of multilateral diplomacy," the U.S. mission to the UN in Vienna said in a tweet on March 4.

In response, Ulyanov said Russia is ready to engage with the U.S. as well.

"Welcome, dear #US colleagues! #Russia is ready to engage with you and all other #JCPOA participants in order to restore full compliance with the nuclear deal as soon as possible," the Russian diplomat tweeted on Sunday.

"And this voluntary restrictions are temporary. According to JCPOA, they are aimed at restoration of confi-



dence in exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program. But in real life-you are right- this aim can be misinterpreted," he added.

Ulyanov also commented on another tweet by the U.S. mission pertaining to Iran.

"The United States will not treat reliable verification in Iran as a bargaining chip. Rather, such continued verification is an enabler for the outcome so many of us now seek with Iran," the U.S. mission had said.

Commenting on this tweet, the Russian ambassador wrote, "Of course, reliable verification in Iran will not be a bargaining chip. It will be a part of restoration of full implementation of the JCPOA by all sides which must include sanctions lifting as well."

Iran and the U.S. have been locked in a bitter dispute over who should make the first move toward reviving the JCPOA. Iran has said that the U.S. must lift sanctions before any new talks over the JCPOA can take place. But the U.S. keeps refusing to lift the sanctions. It insists that the path of diplomacy with Iran is still open but Iran should make the first move.

"We've been clear that the path of diplomacy is open. The ball's in Iran's court to decide if it agrees," U.S. Secretary of State Blinken has recently said.

On the other hand, Iran has said the U.S. removal of sanctions will lead to the Islamic Republic reversing the JCPOA measures it has taken following the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said if Washington takes practical steps to remove the illegal sanctions it has unilaterally imposed on Tehran, the Islamic Republic will reciprocate the measure by reversing steps it has taken to reduce its commitment under the 2015 nuclear deal with the world powers.

Mohammad Javad Zarif made the remarks in a Sunday meeting with Ireland's visiting Foreign Minister Simon Coveney in Tehran, during which the two sides discussed issues of concern to both countries at bilateral, regional and international levels, Press TV reported.

Zarif, while reiterating Iran's position on the nuclear agreement, said a "complete and effective removal of U.S. sanctions" will be met with Iran's reversing of its move to walk away from its nuclear obligations under the deal.

The Irish foreign minister, who arrived in Tehran on Sunday for an official visit, also met with Iran's President Hassan Rouhani earlier in the day.

During that meeting, Coveney said the JCPOA had a substantial influence on global peace, adding that his country would do all in its power to preserve the deal.

Rouhani said Iran was prepared to "immediately" reverse its nuclear counter-steps once the U.S. lifted the sanctions and "abandoned its policy of threat and pressure" against the Islamic Republic.

Washington and Tehran are yet to reach common ground on how to revive the nuclear deal. They have not even started direct talks. However, the Iranian foreign minister has said that he is preparing a "constructive concrete plan of action" on the JCPOA.

"As Iran's FM & chief nuclear negotiator, I will shortly present our constructive concrete plan of action—through proper diplomatic channels," he tweeted on March 5.

## SPORTS

### Nemati awarded 2021 International Women's Day Recognition

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — On this day as the world collectively raises its voice towards gender equality, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is lifting up three notable leaders who have done just that to earn the 2021 International Women's Day Recognition awards.



Kate Caithness of World Curling Federation (Builder category), Iranian Para archer Zahra Nemati (Next Generation Leader category) and World Para Powerlifting (National Paralympic Committee/International Federation category) were named this year's winners, Paralympic.org reported.

The annual recognition, which coincides on 8 March's International Women's Day, celebrates primarily women in the Paralympic Movement who have inspired and emulated the Paralympic ideals and are positive role models.

This is the second year the IPC International Women's Day Recognition has expanded into categories since its inception in 2013. The winners were decided by the IPC's Women in Sport Committee, chaired by Rita van Driel.

Iran's first gold medalist at a Paralympic or Olympics has used her platform to be an activist for women and people with disabilities in her home country. Since making history at the London 2012 Paralympics, Nemati has been on the forefront of showing what women with an impairment can achieve as she continued collecting Paralympic and World Championship medals.

Nemati said: "The Next Generation award to is not only a reason to leap for joy, but it also means I have a huge responsibility to bear on my shoulders. I am now a woman pioneer who is branded by the IPC not only to inspire her peers and contemporary generation, but also to think, speak and act as a role model for the next generation of ladies who will make this planet a better place to live on an equal basis and more inclusivity than ever."

Nemati also participated at the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in May 2018, she was designated as the first Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Ambassador by the president of Global Understanding (GU) Regional Action Centre in Iran.

### Nasrollah Abdollahi named Esteghlal sporting director

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Nasrollah Abdollahi has been appointed as Esteghlal sporting director.

The former Esteghlal player and coach replaced Parviz Mazloumi in the position.

Last week, Farhad Majidi was named as new head coach of Esteghlal football team.

He replaced Mahmoud Fekri in Esteghlal.

On Monday, Ahmad Maddadi, general manager of Esteghlal football club, introduced Abdollahi as the team's new sporting director.

### Three Para badminton players to represent Iran at Fazza championship

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Iran will send three athletes to the 2nd Fazza Dubai Para Badminton International in April of this year.

The competition has been slated for April 1 to 7.

The 2nd Fazza Dubai Para Badminton International is a qualifying event for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Para badminton is a variant of badminton for athletes with a range of physical disabilities. Badminton World Federation (BWF) is the main governing body for para badminton starting from June 2011.

Players are classified to six different classes determined by BWF.

### Khaled Shafiei extends deal with Bashundhara Kings

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Iranian defender Khaled Shafiei has extended his contract with Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings.

Khaled joined Kings from Persian Gulf Pro League outfit Sepahan FC on a one-year deal in October 2020.

The 33-year-old defender has penned a two-year extension deal with the team on Tuesday.

Khaled played 12 games for Bashundhara in the 2020-21 season where he netted one goal. Khaled has also played for FC Seoul in the K-league, South Korea's premier football league, in 2018.

### Ansarifard scores twice to help AEK defeat Apollon Smyrni

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — AEK Athens forward Karim Ansarifard scored a brace in the match against Apollon Smyrni in Super League Greece.

The Iranian striker was on target twice in the 7th and 25th minutes in the match held at the Athens Olympic Stadium.

"After my injury in the match against Aris, I was left out for 3-4 matches. It was a bit difficult for me to find a goal but I am happy that I scored and helped my team once again," Ansarifard said at the end of the match.

Ansarifard was also named the Man of the Match.

"I was thinking about what to buy for my wife as her birthday's gift. Now, I want to present her my MVP award," he added.

Ansarifard has scored 10 goals so far in the 2020-21 Super League Greece.

## UAE, Bahrain to face major challenges for normalizing ties with Israel: aide

**POLITICAL**

TEHRAN — The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain would face major problems within their own countries due to their normalization of ties with Israel, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, a special aide to the speaker of the Iranian parliament on international affairs, has predicted.

"In the near future, rulers of the Emirates and Bahrain, who announced the normalization of ties [with Israel], will face problems and major challenges within

their countries," Amir-Abdollahian told Russian state-run Sputnik News agency.

The normalization act was taking place under "tremendous" pressure on Manama and Abu Dhabi from the United States, the diplomat added, noting that the Persian Gulf states had no say in the matter.

The special aide also commented on recent Israeli statement that it intends to form a "special security arrangement" with some of the Persian Gulf's Arab states,



who share common concerns about Iran. Amir-Abdollahian called the claim a fraud.

"[Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's claims on the creation of such alliances is nothing but a lie," Amir-Abdollahian remarked.

Israel has normalized diplomatic relations with a number of Arab countries such as the UAE, Bahrain, and Sudan. Israel tried to portray normalization deals with these countries as an alliance with the Arab countries against Iran.

## Iran, Uzbekistan consider establishing joint ventures to boost trade

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie met with Uzbekistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Furqat Sadiqov on Tuesday to explore ways of expanding cooperation between the two countries' private sectors.

The officials discussed establishing joint ventures as a positive step toward boosting the two countries' trade exchanges, the portal of ICCIMA reported.

Speaking in the meeting, Sadiqov noted that his country aims to increase trade with Iran within the next five years and expressed hope that Iran-Uzbekistan trade would reach \$1 billion by that time.

Referring to the significant growth of investment companies in Uzbekistan, he underlined some of the most important areas for cooperation between the two sides including tourism, agriculture, mining, pharmaceuticals, and technology.



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) holds talks with Uzbekistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Furqat Sadiqov in Tehran on Tuesday.

The official further mentioned holding exhibitions as one of the most important tools for realizing joint cooperation between Iran and Uzbekistan, and also stressed the establishment of joint economic companies as a good way for strengthening mutual relations.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Shafeie emphasized the long history of Iran and Uzbekistan's economic and social relations and praised Uzbekistan's new economic system and the incentives envisaged for foreign investors.

He expressed the Iranian private sector's readiness and interest in developing mutual relations with their Uzbek counterparts in various areas like agriculture, medicine, medical equipment, housing, automobiles, and transportation.

The ICCIMA head also emphasized the need for the development of cooperation between Iran and Uzbekistan in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and underlined establishing joint ventures as a major requirement for realizing this goal.

Shafeie further referred to the establishment of an Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Economic Committee in the ICCIMA and expressed hope that the Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Chamber of Commerce would also be established as soon as possible.

Resolving transportation problems, customs tariffs, issuing technical and engineering service guarantees, and forming an arbitration committee were other issues that Shafeie talked about in his speech.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Sadiqov visited Tehran to attend the sixth round of political consultations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan which was held on Monday.

## TEDPIX up 10,000 points on Tuesday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 10,265 points to 1.21 million on Tuesday.

Over 7.96 billion securities worth 89.56 trillion rials (about \$2.132 billion) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first market's index rose 8,829 points, and the second market's index gained 16,210 points.

After several days of decline, growth finally returned to TSE, Iran's major stock exchange, as TEDPIX gained 5,861 points to 1.175 million on Sunday.



The index had dropped 2.3 percent during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

Iranian Capital Market Analyst Soheil Kolahchi believes the stock market is not going to go through many ups and downs over the next six months and the market is expected to follow a stable trend.

"In the coming months, the market will not fall heavily, but we also can't expect the index to enter an uptrend soon," Kolahchi told IRNA earlier this week.

Pointing to the recent decline in the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) main index, the expert said: "The stock market is in a good condition both technically and fundamentally, but despite the positive measures that the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has put on the agenda to improve the market, it is still following a downward trend; and this has increased the shareholders' skepticism and anxiety."

He noted that the Iranian stock market is usually negative during the last Iranian calendar month of Esfand (February 19-March 20) and that is a normal trend for the country's capital market in the last days of the year.

"Because most of the companies active in the market are looking for selling their shares and somehow turn their assets into liquidity by the yearend," Kolahchi explained.

"We look forward to a positive trend of trading in the next year, he said, adding that the market is now in a very good condition for growth and we can hope for positive days in the stock market and improve the situation in the coming months", he added.

# 9,000 new industrial units established in Iran since late Mar. 2020

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade added: "This year, the number of foreign investment applicants has also been growing; wherever there is interest for investment we are obliged to provide desirable conditions."

Rasoulmanesh further pointed to knowledge-based companies as one of the priorities of the Industry Ministry and said: "We are trying to solve the problems of knowledge-based companies by providing them with necessary space in industrial parks."

Back in January, Rasoulmanesh had said that 1,160 new industrial units have gone operational in Iran's industrial parks since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year.

According to the official, the mentioned units created job opportunities for over 20,000 people.

The official noted that his organization was going to take all the necessary measures to support the newly established units and also to help those who want to establish new units put their projects into operation.

"Fortunately, this year's budget bill has



allocated a good amount for providing the necessary infrastructure in industrial parks," he said.

He further noted that although about

22-24 percent of the country's industrial units were inactive and semi-active in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2020) the figure has decreased

to 18.7 percent this year.

According to Rasoulmanesh, 1,170 idle industrial units have also been revived in the country since the beginning of the current year, creating 19,400 job opportunities.

Based on the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry data, the ministry was initially planning to revive 1,500 idle units in the current year, but then it revised its programs to revive 2,000 units.

Iran's industrial parks play a significant role in making the country independent through boosting production, which is a major strategy of Iran to combat the U.S. sanctions.

In fact, strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance is the most important program that Iran is following up in its industry sector in a bid to nullify the effects of the U.S. sanctions on its economy.

In this due, the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20) has been named the year of "Surge in Production", and all governmental bodies, as well as the private sector, are moving in line with the materialization of this motto.

## Tehran, Tokyo discuss expansion of trade ties

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum met with Japan's Ambassador to Tehran Aikawa Kazutoshi to discuss expansion of economic ties between the two countries, Mehr News Agency reported.

In this meeting, Zadboum expressed the Iranian private sector's readiness for cooperation with their Japanese counterparts in various areas like petrochemicals, oil, mining, and agriculture.

Referring to the declining trend of bilateral trade exchanges between the two countries, Zadboum noted that the reason for this fall could be the shift in Iran's foreign trade policies which has resulted in more focus on neighboring countries.

"This has caused the share of trade with these countries [the

neighbors] to reach 60 percent [of the total non-oil trade]," the official said.

The official noted that Iran is going to expand its trade relations with other countries as well, saying: "Despite sanctions and communication problems caused by the coronavirus outbreak, Iranian markets are expanding in the Far East, Africa, and Latin America."

He also mentioned a recent visit of a Japanese trade delegation to Iran's southeastern port of Chabahar and invited the ambassador to visit this port as soon as possible.

Zadboum stated that Oman, India, and Pakistan have invested in Chabahar port and are interested in developing their investments.

"Japanese companies can also be present and invest in this region along with other foreign investors," he added.

The official further referred to the holding of more than 80 specialized exhibitions at Tehran Permanent International Fair-ground every year and invited Japanese companies to participate in these exhibitions.

Kazutoshi for his part underlined economy and trade as key players in cementing relations between the two countries and praised the role of TPO and its Japanese counterpart Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in strengthening and developing mutual economic and trade relations.

The head of JETRO office in Tehran also accompanied Kazutoshi in this meeting.

## 16 idle mines revived in Kermanshah province

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — As announced by a provincial official, 16 idle mines have been revived in Kermanshah province, in the west of Iran, since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020).

Mohsen Darabi, the head of Industry, Mining and Trade Department of the province, stated that these mines have been revived through making an investment of 140 billion rials (about \$3.3 billion), and created jobs for 127 persons.



Saying that 202 mines have permits for operation in the province, the official said that of this figure 163 mines are currently active.

According to the available statistics, the number of active mines in the country is more than 5,600 mines, from which an average of 400 million tons of various minerals are extracted annually, and the share of construction materials is estimated at 60 to 65 percent.

Currently, 257 mines are being equipped as part of a comprehensive program for reviving idle small-scale mines across the country.

Reviving 200 idle mines and setting up 25 processing units have been planned for

the current Iranian year (ends on March 20, 2021).

Last year, 146 mines were revived throughout the country.

According to the information released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the most small-scale inactive mines are located in Khorasan Razavi Province and the least of them are located in the south of Kerman Province and North Khorasan Province.

## TCCIMA board of representatives hold 21st meeting

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The 21st meeting of the Board of Representatives of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) was held on Tuesday in which the attendees addressed some of the country's recent economic issues.

The meeting was attended by TCCIMA head and board members as well as Ali Firouzi, the head of the National Center for Monitoring and Improving Business Environment at Iran's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, the TCCIMA portal reported.

The challenges related to the government's new directives, regulations, and licensing procedures were the major focus of the last round of TCCIMA board meetings in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20).

Speaking at the meeting Firouzi mentioned the efforts of his center to reduce the cumbersome regulations, directives and bureaucracy in order to facilitate the activities of the private sector.

TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari also mentioned several



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (2nd R) speaks at the 21st meeting of TCCIMA board of representatives in Tehran on Tuesday.

issues in the meeting, including the public's demand to reduce inflation, which has greatly reduced the purchasing power of the people, as well as the need for transparency for restoring public trust in government's economic policies.

He further addressed some of the current issues of the country's economy and reviewed major economic indexes for the current year.

At this meeting, the TCCIMA budget for the next Iranian calendar year was also presented to the members by the secretary-general of the chamber and put to a vote.

The chamber's budget bill, which had previously been evaluated and amended in working group meetings, was approved by the majority of those present at the meeting.

TCCIMA board members had discussed recent developments in the White House and their impact on the Iranian economy, the Iran-Eurasia free trade agreement, the strengths and weaknesses of the steel production and supply chain in the country, the next year's national budget bill, and raising prices in their previous gathering.

## Commercial ports' capacity should double to 600m tons: PMO head

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said that the country's commercial ports' capacity should be increased to 600 million tons.

Emphasizing that Iran's commercial ports' capacity should be doubled, Mohammad Rastad said the current 300 million tons of capacity should become 600 million tons.

He pointed out that commercial ports act as an important infrastructure for development and centers of employment, added value and income, adding the Ports and Maritime Organization should be able to take a fundamental and strategic step to achieve the set goals by creating and developing commercial ports on the Makran coast.

"According to the past experiences in the development of Chabahar port, one of the key areas that can lead the country to economic prosperity along the Makran coasts is to create and increase the capacity of commercial ports along these coasts", the official further reiterated.

In late January, Rastad announced the plans for the construction of the country's largest commercial port in Jask Island, southern Hormozgan Province.

The official made the announcement during a visit to the mentioned port city.

"The development of Jask is very important and strategic at the national level, and we have reached a conclusion in the recognition phase to build the country's largest commercial port in this city," Rastad said.

According to the official, PMO has determined the final location of the mentioned port in collaboration with the Oil Ministry and the primary research studies on the project have been already started.

Noting that transportation and maritime trade in the east of the Strait of Hormuz is being considered for the first time by the Iranian government, the official said: "Through this port, we intend to be able to receive large-scale oceanic vessels in the east of the Strait of Hormuz, in addition to Chabahar port."

The port of Jask is a small port on the western part of Iran's coast along the Gulf of Oman. However, over the last few years, it has seen a steady growth of its export freight flows to Oman, mostly agricultural products, including refrigerated, and construction materials.

Major developments for the port of Jask have been announced by Iranian authorities since early 2019, i.e. the construction of a new oil terminal, the construction of a refinery, and of a petrochemical plant.



Meanwhile, as announced last month by the head of Ports and Maritime Organization, the capacity of Iranian ports is expected to increase to 280 million tons by the end of the current government's incumbency (early August).

Rastad put the current loading and unloading capacity of the country's ports at 250 million tons.

"We have signed 300 contracts with the private sector for conducting development projects including the construction of structures, equipment, and even infrastructure in ports," Rastad said.

According to the official the private sector has currently invested over 160 trillion rials (about \$3.8 billion) in the country's ports.

Mentioning the restrictions created by the U.S. sanctions in the country's ports and

maritime activities, the official said: "In all areas which were affected by the U.S. sanctions we tried to rely on domestic capacities and managed to keep the ports active and the country's imports and exports afloat."

The capacity, infrastructure, and equipment of the ports have made it possible for them to be able to load and unload goods in accordance with international standards, he stressed.

"For all kinds of goods and all types of vessels, including light to heavy goods and also super-sized commodities and vessels, there are berths and special terminals in the country that can provide the necessary services," Rastad added.

The official put the total length of the Iranian port wharves at 39 kilometers, saying that this has made it possible for different types of ships and vessels to be able to dock and load or unload their cargoes.

"Today, we have no problems regarding the loading and unloading of basic goods, bulk goods, and containers in the country's ports, and the commodity owners are not obliged to pay demurrage charges (damages for delayed unloading and loading) to ships because of port operations, and this shows how standard the Iranian ports are," the PMO head added.

# Israeli adventures in Iraq to disrupt JCPOA revival can't be ruled out: American professor

**1 →** While some sources have said that a number of Iraqi security figures are also playing a facilitating role in managing operations against U.S. bases in the country, Al-Khazali said the Zionist regime is taking advantage of the situation in Iraq to blame resistance groups for such unlawful military acts.

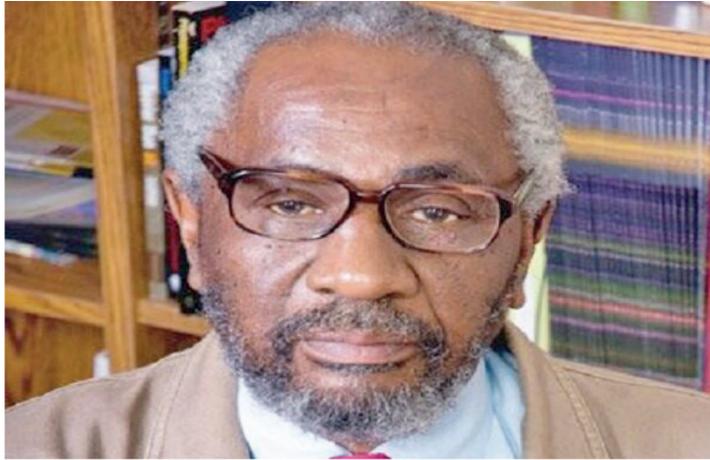
Apparently, Israel is trying relentlessly to bring the Biden administration and the resistance groups into a conflict to complicate any compromise on the 2015 nuclear deal as there is a wrong assumption that resistance groups are allied to Iran. This is while there are widespread differences between resistance groups that fought Daesh (ISIS).

On the other side, Biden has sent confusing signals to Tehran when it comes to lifting sanctions on Iran, after his predecessor Donald Trump reimposed economic sanctions on Tehran in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 that confirmed the 2015 nuclear deal.

Trump pulled out of the nuclear pact, unraveling the signature foreign policy achievement of his predecessor Barack Obama.

The 2015 agreement was concluded between seven countries – Iran and the 5+1 nations – after more than two years of grueling negotiations. The Trump administration not only returned the sanctions lifted under the nuclear deal, it also added new harsh ones, including a total ban on Iran's oil exports.

Nevertheless, Biden pledged in his election campaigns that the U.S. will return to international agreements including the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the



official name for the nuclear agreement.

After coming into power, Biden has taken hesitant steps toward Iran without any significant move to remove American sanctions. Some American officials have urged Iran to comply fully abide by the JCPOA as Iran has

scaled back some of its commitments due to the violation of the deal by the other sides.

However, professor Smith notes that "the U.S. should take the first step, as Biden seemed imply it would do if he became President, i.e., U.S. should rejoin the JCPOA and lift the sanc-

**"Certainly, conservatives in Congress and the media will try to cripple the process, along with some liberal supporters of Israel in the administration and Congress." San Francisco State University professor Robert C. Smith warns.**

tions imposed by the previous administration."

Iran removed some limits on its nuclear program as a remedy to create a kind of balance between rights and obligations. Iran took these steps exactly one year after Trump abandoned the deal and the remaining sides took not step to compensate Iran from illegal sanctions.

Moreover, Israel and Saudi Arabia along with Iran hawks in the Senate are making every effort to prevent the revival of the JCPOA, claiming that the pact will increase Iran's regional influence.

"Biden is under tremendous pressure from some of his advisors, conservatives in Congress and the media, some liberals in his own Party, Israel and Saudi Arabia to attempt to renegotiate the agreement, as well as include extraneous matters such as Iranian missiles and its alleged support for proxy wars in the region," San Francisco State University remarks.

According to the American professor, the situation is complicated by divisions within the administration, as well as concerns about the upcoming presidential election in Iran.

"Certainly, conservatives in Congress and the media will try to cripple the process, along with some liberal supporters of Israel in the administration and Congress," Smith emphasizes. "I think the delayed decision on the JCPOA, reflecting divisions in the administration, domestic pressures and lack of a clear stand by the UK and France on the imperative of an immediate return to the agreement are 'negative signals' and with all the aforementioned pressures likely will inhibit Biden taking 'the brave decisions' that are necessary."

## Hezbollah, Lebanese army target Israeli spy drones violating airspace

The Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah says it has intercepted and targeted two Israeli unmanned aerial vehicles, which crossed into Lebanon's airspace near the border village of Blida in the south of the Arab country.

Hezbollah said in a brief statement carried by Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Manar television network that it had intercepted an Israeli drone that had entered the Lebanese skies at 22:40 p.m. local time (2040 GMT) on Monday.

The aircraft was targeted with "appropriate weapons," according to the statement, which was followed by Israeli forces firing flares in the area.

"Another drone that had also trespassed the Lebanese airspace in the same area on Monday afternoon, was confronted with appropriate weapons and forced to retreat to occupied Palestinian territories," the Hezbollah statement added.

Additionally, the Lebanese army fired at an Israeli drone flying over an army post in Meiss Ej Jabal village of the country's southern Marjeyoun district.

## Resistance News

### ICC war crimes probe in Palestine angers U.S. and Israel

**INTERNATIONAL** TEHRAN — The ICC probe into war crimes committed by the United States and Israel in Palestine, headed by chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, has concluded war crimes were committed by Israel, the U.S. and their allies.

In December 2019 Bensouda announced that such crimes have been, or were being committed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. She named the Israeli military, which has for years unleashed a reign of terror on Palestinians, as a perpetrator of war crimes.

The ICC prosecutor further noted that there was a reasonable basis to launch a probe into Israeli military actions in the besieged Gaza Strip, as well as illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Bensouda then asked the judges to rule on the extent of the court's jurisdiction in the case. And the court last month established that it had jurisdiction.

The announcement was not received well by Washington and Tel Aviv.

The U.S. Vice President, Kamala Harris, told Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, in a phone call that the U.S. opposes any such probe as the court has no jurisdiction over the matter.

## Palestine was reflected in Anis al-Naqqash's entire life: political activist

**1 →** He was crafting and developing practical strategies to be practiced and applied on the ground. He made every effort to establish a school of thought by which everyone who believes in resistance, jihad and change in the Arab and Islamic world could join in.

**Why did he focus on research and studies after a period of struggle and Jihad?**

I think that Anis al-Naqqash believed that a continuous struggle entailed delving into the field of research and studies, therefore, he harnessed all his intellectual energies to secure and protect the achievements of the resistance movement.

Just as the revolution needs honest revolutionaries who believe in the sacrifice for the message of the revolution and its success and victory, it requires sincere leaders, thinkers and geniuses to maintain its dynamism and progress towards the goals and interests of peoples and nations in the region and the world.

**What are the works of Anis al-Naqqash in the field of research and science?**

Naqqash had great and huge achievements

in the field of research and science; he was the head and coordinator of the Aman Network for Strategic Studies, an analyst and a global strategic political expert, brilliant in his insightful political outlook.

Anyone who wants to know and analyze the developments in West Asia as well as conflicts and wars that are taking place in our Arab and Islamic world, was waiting for his media appearances.

One of his most important scientific and political researches that will see popularity among politicians, researchers and thinkers after his death is his book «The Eastern Confederation; A Struggle between Identities and Policies».

In this book, Naqqash, sets out a strategy for uniting intellectual, political and military efforts and energies in the Middle East (West Asia) in order to form a coalition to resist Zionist-American hegemony and authoritarianism.

**What are the main sources that actually inspired Anis al-Naqqash in his struggle and scientific life?**

At: Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the late Anis al-Naqqash was

a fighter in the front ranks of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon and one of the most prominent security and military figures in it. He participated in military operations outside Lebanon for the sake of the Palestinian cause.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Naqqash was associated with the Iranian revolutionaries, where he found his intellectual and revolutionary goals in line with this great revolution.

He served as a coordinator between the Islamic revolution and the Palestinian resistance, and regarded the late Imam Khomeini, his honorable leader and inspirer who possesses all the elements of leadership for the Ummah.

**What is the position of Palestine in Anis Naqqash's thinking?**

Palestine was reflected in the whole life of the late Anis al-Naqqash, from cradle to grave, until he was called «friend of Palestine» and the Palestinian flag did

not leave him until his honorable coffin was wrapped in it.

His relationship with Palestine is like the relationship of the soul to the body, oxygen to the lung, and the mother to her child.

He gave Palestine all his breath, thought and genius in support of Palestine, the resistance fighters and the oppressed people.

## Lead Strip Line(CRS ) for Battery Plate Production Line in Khansar

**Tender no: 9922**

**Faraz Battery Co. intends to open a tender with the following conditions for Lead Strip Line (CRS) for Battery plate production project :**

● **Scope of work :**

● **Lead Strip Line(CRS)**

● **Location :**

● **Khansar City ( 5 hours driving to Tehran , 2 Hours to Isfahan)**

● **Performance period :**

● **6- 8 months**

● **The minimum capacity of the plate making line in 2 shifts per day, must be Plate for 2,000,000 battery/year, 66 plates / 1 battery.**

**Bidders who have ability and experiences in this field are requested to send the primary P/I included price and all technological information about this machines within 30 days from this announcement.**

● **Address for willing to participate and submission :**

● **Third floor, No.: 38, Esfandiyar Blvd. Vali-e-asr Street, Tehran- Iran**

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**Fax: +982188650859**

**E-mail: info@farazbattery.ir**

**Faraz Battery Novin Parsian**

## U.S. proposes interim gov't could run Afghanistan until new polls

A draft peace plan proposed by the United States for Afghanistan has called for the current government to be replaced with an interim administration until a new constitution is agreed and elections held, while a joint commission monitors a ceasefire.

The Afghan warring parties, however, have long harbored deep objections to key ideas in the proposal, reviewed by the Reuters and The Associated Press (AP) news agencies on Monday.

The U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad,

shared the eight-page Transitional Peace Government proposal last week with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, opposition and civil society leaders and Taliban negotiators.

Under the interim government, the national parliament could either be expanded to include Taliban members or suspended until after the election, the plan suggests.

It also says Afghanistan could "not host terrorists or permit terrorist-related activity on its soil" that threatens other countries and that the Taliban

would have to abandon safe havens and military ties "in neighboring countries".

The document outlines the terms of a ceasefire and its enforcement, calls for the protection of the rights of women, children and minorities and envisions a truth and reconciliation commission aimed at healing 42 years of conflict.

According to al Jazeera, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price would not confirm the draft, saying: "It's often important for our diplomatic efforts that we're able to conduct them in private."

## Curing Chamber for Battery Plate Production Line in Khansar

**Tender no: 9920**

**Faraz Battery Co. intends to open a tender with the following conditions for Curing Chamber of Battery plate production line:**

● **Scope of work :**

● **Curing Chamber For battery plate production Line**

● **Location :**

● **Khansar City (5 hours driving to Tehran, 2 Hours to Isfahan)**

● **Performance period :**

● **6- 8 months**

● **The minimum capacity of the plate production Line in 2 shifts per day, must be Plate for 2,000,000 battery/year, 66 plates / 1 battery.**

**Bidders who have ability and experiences in this field are requested to send the primary P/I included price and all technological information about this machines within 30 days from this announcement.**

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## Lead Oxide system for Battery Plate Production Line in Khansar

**Tender no: 9921**

**Faraz Battery Co. intends to open a tender with the following conditions for Lead oxide system of Battery plate production line :**

● **Scope of work :**

● **Lead Oxide Process , Mixing dept. and pasting platform**

● **Location :**

● **Khansar City ( 5 hours driving to Tehran , 2 Hours to Isfahan)**

● **Performance period :**

● **6- 8 months**

● **The minimum capacity of the plate production Line in 2 shifts per day, must be Plate for 2,000,000 battery/year, 66 plates / 1 battery.**

**Bidders who have ability and experiences in this field are requested to send the primary P/I included price and all technological information about this system within 30 days from this announcement.**

● **Address for willing to participate and submission :**

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## Archeological survey sheds new light on prehistoric site in eastern Iran

**TOURISM** TEHRAN – The outcome of an archeological excavation, which was carried out Kale Kub in eastern Iran last year, has shed a new light on the antiquity of the prehistoric site, Iranian archeologist has announced.

Kale Kub is one of the few prehistoric sites in South Khorasan province with a stratigraphic sequence enabling a period-long study of archeology, Mohammad Hossein Azizi said on Monday.

There has been enough archaeological and cultural evidence from this site, which is one of the exemplar ones in the whole of eastern Iran, to show both the cultural sequence of the region and to recognize the pre-historic cultures, he added.



The most significant achievement of the excavations carried out in the site is the identification of the cultures of the 4th millennium BC, he explained.

The first season of archeological excavations on Kale Kub site was implemented in 2019 in collaboration with Japanese archeologists.

The project revealed the chronological sequence from the 5th to late 4th millennium BC. However, poor preservation and protection have damaged most parts of the site, which has been inscribed on the National

Heritage list.

A special pottery style of 4th millennium BC, which is seen on the relics found in Kale Kub, is the most important discovery on the site, as this style has been previously seen in the western Iranian plateau.

Since there are two deserts, Dasht-e Kavir and Lut desert, between these two parts of the country, the Kale Kub excavations could help us to comprehend how the culture made its way to the east.

Located in eastern Iran, South Khorasan province is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert.

Saffron and barberry, the former known as the "red gold" in the country, which are considerably produced in almost all parts of the province, have made it a significant destination for ecotourism.

## Abbas Abad caravanserai on shortlist for collective UNESCO status

**TOURISM** TEHRAN – A historical caravanserai in Taybad, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province has recently received preliminary approval to join the shortlist of historical Iranian caravanserais being prepared for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Constructed in Timurid-era (1370–1507), the caravanserai, which was very popular during the Safavid era (1501-1736), is a prominent example of ancient Iranian architecture, Taybad's tourism chief has said.

Located on the Silk Road, the historical structure, which has been inscribed on the National Heritage list, played a vital role in the economic prosperity of the region at the time, Abdolrahim Tajmohammadi said on Monday.

Because of its location, the caravanserai has suffered minimal damage over the years, and as the border of Iran and Afghanistan is nearby, it could attract foreign tourists as well, the official added.

Last year, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanserais for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture, historical and cultural values.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining "caravan" with "Sara". The first stand for a group of travelers and Sara means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a wide experience as they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age.

# Steps Iran must take to become leading player in medical tourism

→ Six countries were selected purposefully, including Singapore, Turkey, Costa Rica, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, and Iran. They were compared in terms of the status of tourism and travel competitiveness, governance and policy-making status, the status of the medical tourism industry, and medical tourism infrastructure.

In terms of tourism and travel competitiveness, Singapore, with a global rank of 17, was better than other countries. Based on the status of the medical tourism industry, Costa Rica ranked 7th in the world, and Singapore, the UAE (Dubai), Turkey, UAE (Abu Dhabi), Jordan, and Iran ranked 15, 22, 27, 31, 35, and 41, respectively. In Iran, all indicators of medical tourism infrastructure were lower than those of other countries except for competitive prices.

Comparative tables involved components, such as general profile, tourism and travel competitiveness, governance and policy, the status of the medical tourism industry, and medical tourism infrastructure in selected countries. The framework analysis based on the identified components was used to analyze the data.

Furthermore, the study has confirmed that despite the legal framework for medical tourism development in Iran, this industry is currently facing several challenges. "These challenges are lack of specific medical tourism structure at the international, national, and regional levels, the lack of a medical tourism system, definition and formulation of laws, policies, and plans, the lack of infrastructure, and the lack of supervision system."

All of the indicators in tourism and travel competitiveness are low in Iran except pricing, which is ranked as the first cheapest country in the world. The growing medical tourism industry requires the optimal provision of all tourism infrastructures and not only the promotion of different indicators, the study



suggests.

Based on the report of the Medical Tourism Organization, the UAE, Turkey, and Jordan are the three most important destinations for medical tourism in West Asia.

Even though Iran has good conditions in terms of competitive price, presence of skilled physicians, and low waiting time among the studied countries, but other medical tourism infrastructures are not enough invested. For example, until 2017, Iran has not been able to obtain a JCI license even for one hospital, and the average per capita physician/nurse index is much lower than the global one. To promote medical tourism, it is necessary to recognize the strategic medical tourism status of each province in the country, supply a specialized workforce, provide high-quality services, improve infrastructure, and promote a positive attitude of authorities to support the medical

tourism industry.

The study has also found that factors that can play a positive role in the development of medical tourism in Iran are advanced services for infertility treatment, cosmetic and dental surgery, organ transplantation and cell therapy, cultural similarity and familiarity with neighboring countries, and competitive prices. Measures, such as improving human resource communication skills and developing private hospitals following international standards, can also be effective in developing medical tourism.

The main difference between the selected countries and Iran lies down in the organizational structure of the main stakeholders of the tourism industry. The study showed that one of the challenges for growing medical tourism in Iran is the presence of different organs of political and decision-making, as well as the cultural and political conditions. In all oth-

er countries, this industry is organized and supervised by specific coordination bodies.

The revise of coordinating policies and strategies between various ministries, other government bodies, the private sector could help facilitate cross-sectoral coordination in this area. One of the important factors in the development of the medical tourism industry is the focus on attracting tourists from neighboring countries. Generally, certain populations are attracted more to certain locations. This might be due to a similar ethnic and cultural background.

"To increase Iran's ability to compete with countries in the region, such as Turkey, in attracting medical tourists, long-term plans should be developed to strengthen the infrastructure and cultural reforms, increase private sector participation and plan for the efficient use of mass media and local press for raising awareness. This requires a national effort and redefining the role of health tourism in the economy, as well as a strong trustee to follow up these measures," the study suggests.

According to the authors, the strengths points of the present study are the comprehensiveness of the selected countries and obtaining systematic information according to the appropriate strategy search. One of the limitations of the study is that in many items, the existing indicators are not updated, and some of the documents were in languages other than English and Persian.

The Islamic Republic has set goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around two million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025-March 2026). Amongst Iran's trump cards are the presence of credible surgeons and physicians, cutting-edge medical technologies, high-tech medicine and diverse specializations, super affordable procedures, and finally its hospitable people.

## Old cypress tree made national heritage

**TOURISM** TEHRAN – An old cypress tree in Torbat-e Heydarieh, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The evergreen tree of cypress has been presented as an outstanding tree in the world. For being always green Zoroastrians believe that the tree has always had significant importance.

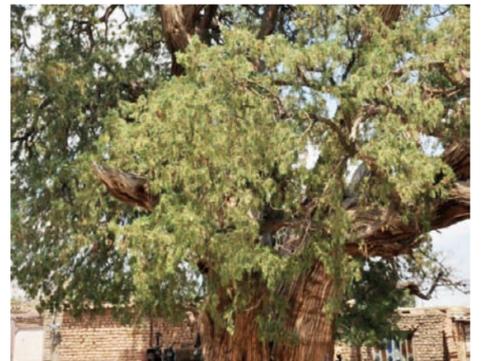
Located inside a residential area, the 900-year-old tree has been damaged over the years due to the construction of buildings, IRNA quoted the provincial tourism chief Abolfazl Mokaramifar as saying on Monday.

Adding the tree to the prestigious list could help to preserve it more properly as well as attracting more tourists to the area, the official added.

A selection of nine Iranian gardens, which bear important architectural, traditional, and cultural elements, have been collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of "The Persian Garden."

The genuine concept of the Persian Garden that is deeply rooted in time interweaves natural elements with manmade components to embody an idea of creating a paradise on Earth by the means of artistic, philosophical, figurative, and religious notions.

The UNESCO website asserts that the flawless design of the Persian Garden, along with its ability to respond to extreme climatic conditions, is the result of an inspired and intelligent application of different fields of knowledge, i.e., technology, water management and engineering, architecture, botany, and agriculture.



## Hegmataneh Hill one step closer to be World Heritage

**TOURISM** TEHRAN – Iran is completing an all-inclusive dossier for the mysterious Hegmataneh Hill to have it registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list, deputy tourism minister Mohammad-Hassan Talebian has announced.

He made the remarks during the inauguration ceremony of seven tourism-related projects in Hamedan on Monday, which was attended by the Iranian president Hassan Rouhani via video conference.

The documentation and mapping projects of the area are being finalized and the dossier is being prepared to be submitted to the UNESCO, Talebian added.

However, there are some problems and issues that the tourism ministry is doing

everything possible to remove some of these obstacles, he added.

The ruined Hegmataneh (Ecbatana) which is partly beneath the modern city of Hamedan (the capital city), is widely believed to be once a mysterious capital of Medes. According to ancient Greek writers, the city was founded in about 678 BC by Deioces, who was the first king of the Medes.

French Assyriologist Charles Fossey (1869 – 1946) directed the first excavation in Tepe Hegmataneh for six months in 1913. Erich Friedrich Schmidt (1897 – 1964), who was a German and American-naturalized archaeologist, took some aerial photos from Hamedan between 1935 and 1937.

According to the Greek historian Xenophon

of Athens (c.430-c.355), Ecbatana became the summer residence of the Achaemenid kings. Their palace is described by the Greek historian Polybius of Megalopolis. He writes that the city was richer and more beautiful than all other cities in the world; although it had no wall, the palace, built on an artificial terrace, according to Livius, a website on ancient history written and maintained since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona Lendering.

An inscription, unearthed in 2000, indicates that Achaemenid king Artaxerxes II Mnemon (404-358) built a terrace with columns in Ecbatana. Some twelve kilometers southwest of Hamedan is Gandj Nameh, where Darius I and his son Xerxes had inscriptions cut into the rock.

Polybius, a Greek historian of the Hellenistic period noted for his work The Histories, tells that the builders used cedar and cypress wood, which was covered with silver and gold. The roof tiles, columns, and ceilings were plated with silver and gold. He adds that the palace was stripped of its precious metals in the invasion of the Macedonian king Alexander the Great and that the rest was seized during the reigns of Antigonos and Seleucus. Later, Ecbatana was one of the capitals of the Seleucid and the Parthian Empires, sometimes called Epiphaneia.

Ecbatana is deemed to be remaining a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, for decades or even centuries to come as the site of the ancient city lies partly within the modern city of Hamedan, which has never been excavated before.

## Expander Line for Battery Plate Production Line in Khansar

**Tender no: 9919**

Faraz Battery Co. intends to open a tender with the following conditions for Expander Line of Battery plate production project:

● **Scope of work :**

Expander Line

● **Location :**

Khansar City ( 5 hours driving to Tehran , 2 Hours to Isfahan)

● **Performance period :**

6- 8 months

● **The minimum capacity of the plate making line in 2 shifts per day, must be Plate for 2,000,000 battery/year, 66 plates / 1 battery.**

Bidders who have ability and experiences in this field are requested to send the primary P/I included price and all technological information about this machines within 30 days from this announcement.

● **Address for willing to participate and submission :**

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**Faraz Battery Novin Parsian**

## Drum Pastor ,Divider ,Flash Oven ,Plate Stacker and Plate Palletizing for Battery Plate Production Line in Khansar

**Tender no: 9923**

Faraz Battery Co. intends to open a tender with the following conditions for Drum Pastor ,Divider ,Flash Oven ,Plate Stacker and Plate Palletizing of Battery plate production line :

● **Scope of work :**

for Drum Pastor ,Divider ,Flash Oven ,Plate Stacker and Plate Palletizing

● **Location :**

Khansar City ( 5 hours driving to Tehran , 2 Hours to Isfahan)

● **Performance period :**

6- 8 months

● **The minimum capacity of the plate making line in 2 shifts per day, must be Plate for 2,000,000 battery/year, 66 plates / 1 battery.**

Bidders who have ability and experiences in this field are requested to send the primary P/I included price and all technological information about this machines within 30 days from this announcement.

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# Angels of Sacred Defense

Leader lauds women's sacrifice during eight-year war

By Faranak Bakhtiari

**TEHRAN** – Iranian women played a remarkable role in the eight-year war against Iraq in the 1980s, known as the Sacred Defense. Undoubtedly, women martyrs, disabled, and prisoners of war – whose number is estimated at 17,000 – are at the peak of national honor.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has praised the sacrifices of the “the army of history-making angels” including the female war-disabled of the Islamic Revolution and the ensuing eight-year imposed war as well as the female medical workers currently at the forefront of the fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a message sent on Tuesday to a national congress in commemoration of the Iranian women who played a significant role during the victory of the Islamic Revolution



and the U.S.-backed eight-year Saddam's imposed war on Iran, and those involved in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year.

“Undoubtedly, female martyrs as well as those who were injured and held captive – whose number is estimated to be 17,000 – stand at the peak of these honors,” the Leader said.

“Despite the Western culture of corruption and deviation imposed on many women during the Pahlavi era, the Iranian women were able to approach Islam's desired nobility and purity, and this is a great honor; Praise is to God, Lord of the universe,” Ayatollah Khamenei added.

Sacred Defense Week starts in Iran on September 21. The Week is annually celebrated nationwide in commemoration of martyrs and war veterans of the Iraqi imposed war on Iran in 1980-88.

Iraq's eight years of the imposed war claimed the lives of 230,000 Iranian soldiers and left near 600,000 war-disabled. At the same time, about 43,000 Iranians were Prisoners of War (PoWs) in Iraq and many others were Missing in Action (MIAs).

## Tehran hosts meeting on environmental conventions

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – The first technical cooperation committee meeting of the Basel, Stockholm, and Rotterdam Conventions regional center was held in Tehran on Tuesday.

The meeting was held with the representatives of member and non-member countries to exchange information and technology in the management of hazardous waste and other wastes in the country, Mehdi Khadem Sameni, director of the Basel and



Stockholm Regional Center in Tehran said.

“Comprehensive human-environment system” was discussed as one of the main projects proposed to the member countries in order to improve and upgrade the proper management of hazardous waste and other wastes, he stated.

It was decided that in case of countries agreement and the necessary infrastructure, technical meetings and specialized training courses to be held on related fields, he noted, IRNA reported.

### Basel Convention

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, usually known as the Basel Convention, is an international treaty that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent the transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries (LDCs). It does not, however, address the movement of radioactive waste.

The convention is also intended to minimize the amount and toxicity of wastes generated, to ensure their environmentally sound management as closely as possible to the source of generation, and to assist LDCs in the environmentally sound management of the hazardous and other wastes they generate.

The convention was opened for signature on 22 March 1989 and entered into force on 5 May 1992. As of October 2018, 186 states and the European Union are parties to the convention.

### Stockholm Convention

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is an international environmental treaty, signed in 2001 and effective from May 2004, that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Key elements of the Convention include the requirement that developed countries provide new and additional financial resources and measures to eliminate production and use of intentionally produced POPs, eliminate unintentionally produced POPs where feasible, and manage and dispose of POPs wastes in an environmentally sound manner. Precaution is exercised throughout the Stockholm Convention, with specific references in the preamble, the objective, and the provision on identifying new POPs.

### Rotterdam Convention

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in international trade provides Parties with a first line of defense against hazardous chemicals. It promotes international efforts to protect human health and the environment as well as enabling countries to decide if they want to import hazardous chemicals and pesticides listed in the Convention.

## Physician sentenced to visiting 500 patients free of charge

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** – A physician who had been indicted for his default on his profession in the city of Zanjan was sentenced to pay fines and visit 500 patients free of charge in deprived areas.

In exchange for the penalty of imprisonment, the culprit was sentenced to work under the supervision of the medical and healthcare department by offering services to underprivileged people, ILNA quoted Esmaeil Sadeqi-Niaraki, the judiciary chief of Zanjan province, as saying on Tuesday.

Moreover, two nurses who had also been found to be involved in the case, have to pay fines of 15 million rials (about \$360 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials) and 10 million rials (around \$240), respectively, for providing medical equipment for hospitals to be used in the fight against coronavirus, the official explained.

## Women's Day: an opportunity to commemorate female victims of terrorism

victims of terrorism remained permanently single and thus faced many problems. “Also, some women in nursing homes do not receive effective nursing services, and some of these women suffer from unknown diseases.”

Ahangar mentioned equipping sanatoriums and hiring efficient nurses and timely payment of services provided to the disabled as factors in improving their conditions.

Zohreh Elahian, a member of the Iranian Parliament and a member of the National Security Commission, in her speech on the issue of women as a common aspect of terrorism, stated: “The issue of women affected by wars and terrorist events is an important issue. We face security and terrorist acts in the region and in various countries, from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Iraq and Palestine. Many women in different countries have suffered a lot due to the terrorist acts, and such incidents indicate that human rights and humanitarian rights are merely on word and not in practice.”

“The international community must take actions regarding this deplorable situation and use the capacity of human rights organizations to address these harms. The United Nations and the Human Rights Council and other institutions must fulfil their obligations and call on the governments of the world to take necessary steps in protecting the rights of women victims of terrorism.”

She also stressed that “From the very beginning of the revolution, we faced Saddam's attack and witnessed that other countries and great Western powers supported Saddam. These attacks left many women wounded and martyred, and today many women are injured of the Iraqi chemicals attacks.”

Referring to the terrorist incident in the parliament and the injury of women in the incident, Elahian added, “We have not forgotten the memory of the ISIS terrorist attack on the parliament. If the non-governmental organizations do not think about it now and do not have the necessary follow-up, such crimes will continue in the future and serious harm will be inflicted on the society.”

In the course of the meeting, the women victims of Saddam Hussein's terrorist acts, the MKO, al-Qaeda and Komala and ISIS extended their views about the terrorist incident that led to their disability.

“I was eight months pregnant when the terrorists placed an explosive device in front of my house,” said Fatemeh Mujbal, a victim of ISIS terrorism in Iraq, noting, “The blast wave destroyed my house. After the accident, the doctors said that my daughter would live only three days, but thank God my baby survived, but my daughter suffered from cerebral palsy.”

“I think about that incident every day and when I look at my daughter, I remember that terrorist incident. I hope that one day terrorism will be eradicated from Iraq and the world”, she said.

Zohreh Haghpanahi for her part stated, “I was injured in a bombing in Tehran in 1982. I can now feel all the symptoms of PTSD disease with all my soul. I could not enter the community after the incident and I was afraid of encountering people. Gradually, with the help of my family, I was able to return to the community, go to university, and now

serve as a teacher.

She underlined that women were the guardians of society and its real architects and they were so valuable that God had given them a mother role. “We must join hands and unite and work for freedom and justice, apart from differences between nationalities and ethnicities, and eliminate terrorism from societies. We can achieve this goal by unity among the women victims of terrorism.”

Golrokh Mehri, a Zoroastrian, said, “I was the target of a terrorist explosion by the MKO terrorists at the age of thirty. I have been struggling with the effects of that day for 42 years. I still do not know why this happened and I will leave the perpetrators of that crime to divine justice.”

Habiba Golestani, a women's rights activist in Afghanistan, said that unfortunately, since March 4, 2020, when the issue of peace in Afghanistan and the Taliban-US agreement was raised, not only has the fire of war not diminished, but it has become so hot that it has spread from street to houses. Assassinations began which took victims from different walks of life. Accordingly, we bought fourteen meters of white fabric and gave it to the active women of the Women's Social Association until they collected signatures and announced their opposition to the war, and asked the warring parties to stop fighting and respond to the call for peace.”

In another part of the meeting, Farideh Shafei described her injuries from Saddam's chemical attack on Sardasht: “Sardasht was first chemically attacked by the Ba'athist regime of Iraq in 1987. Mustard and nerve bombs landed on crowded and defenseless people in congested areas of the city, killing hundreds of people and leaving thousands more injured when they exposed to these toxic and dangerous gases.”

“The devastating effects and consequences of this tragedy were so great that after thirty-three years, it still casts a shadow over the sick and disabled people, especially children, and they are grappling with problems. It is noteworthy that the international community and the UN have never condemned Iraq for this crime.”, Shafei highlighted.

She stated, “I had to be sent abroad due to the severity of my injuries. One of my children was martyred in that incident and two other children became disabled, and I was the mother who lost one her child and the nurse of two chemical disabled during those years.”

Shafei said the assassinations were condemned wherever and in any form they were. “We hope that the international community will recognize the victims of terrorism. Hopefully, one-day peace, tranquility, uniformity and justice will prevail in all societies and we will not witness so many crimes and injustices.”

At the end of the meeting, the statement of the Association for the Defense of Victims of Terrorism on the occasion of International Women's Day was read.

In part of this statement, it states that women are the most important element of human society, which has the highest role in regulating society as a mother, and the strengthening of the world depends on this exceptional creature of creation.



The Second Meeting of “Empowerment of Women Victims of Terrorism; the Necessity for Future of Human” was held at Allameh Tabatabai University in-person and via webinar on Monday, paying tribute to women victims of terrorism.

By the effort of Association for the Defense of Victims of Terrorism in collaboration with Allameh Tabatabai University and the International Law Student Association, the event was held on Monday with scholars and women activists in human rights affairs in Iran and West Asia and the families of war veterans and martyrs of the terrorism in attendance.

Aramesh Shahbazi, a professor at Allameh Tabatabai University, said at the beginning of the meeting, “Terrorism is an ominous and unfortunate phenomenon and becomes more distasteful when it is organized. If the targets of terrorism are those who are supported by the international community, such as children and women, then these measures violate not only international values but also the human rules of societies.

“Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive definition of terrorism, and this adds to the complexity of the issue that the existing capacities and facilities in international organizations should be used and steps should be taken to empower women victims in various social and economic dimensions.”, she stated.

Shahbazi went on to say that “Women's Day is an opportunity to raise public awareness of women victims of terrorism and emphasis on the commitment to provide ample facilities for this segment of society and improve their conditions and develop national and international networks to realize their rights and follow up on necessary actions for them.”

Shoaa Kazemi, an associate professor and faculty member at Al-Zahra University, for his part discussed the mental health of women affected by terrorism, saying that people who were exposed to terrorist acts were suffering from disorders and noted, “Depression, anxiety, fear, diminished self-esteem, sleep disturbance, decreased tolerance and anger, locked up at home and quitting jobs and suicide are some of the symptoms that indicate that people, especially women, have been harmed by terrorism.”

The university professor went on to make suggestions for improving the condition of the injured. Reducing discrimination, emphasizing capabilities despite shortcomings, paying attention to victims' concerns, and creating opportunities in employment and education were some of her suggestions for women.

Dr. Ahangar, a researcher at the Institute for Social Studies and Research at the University of Tehran, said in another part of the meeting about the experience of women disabled in terrorist acts that there were cases where single women

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → €

## 20,000 residential units to be constructed for the deprived

The Welfare Organization and the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to construct 20,000 housing units for the financially struggling families, Mehr reported.

Alireza Tabesh, the Foundation's head, and Vahid Qobadi Dana, the Organization's head, inked the MOU during a meeting held in Tehran on Monday.

As per the agreement, 20,000 housing units will be provided to breadwinners with disabilities, breadwinner women, and the ex-addicts under the Organization's coverage residing in villages with a population of less than 25,000, Qobadi Dana explained.

## احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای محرومان

به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر تفاهم نامه مشترک برای احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای محرومان بین بنیاد مسکن انقلاب اسلامی و سازمان بهزیستی کشور منعقد شد.

تفاهم نامه احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی روستایی با حضور علیرضا تابش رئیس بنیاد مسکن انقلاب اسلامی و وحید قبادی دانا رئیس سازمان بهزیستی کشور روز دوشنبه به امضا رسید.

قبادی دانا گفت: این تفاهم نامه به منظور ساخت ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای معلولین سرپرست خانوار، زنان سرپرست خانوار، و بهبودیافتگان از بلای اعتیاد که در روستاها و شهرهایی با جمعیت کمتر از ۲۵ هزار نفر ساکن و تحت پوشش بهزیستی هستند؛ منعقد می شود.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 143)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

### Subjective Pronoun

### ضمیر فاعلی

ضمیرهای فاعلی دارای دو شکل جدا و پیوسته می باشند. از شکل های پیوسته (شناسه‌ها) بعد از ستاک های حال و گذشته استفاده می شود:

	جدا	پیوسته	
من	= م	من می‌روم	
تو	= سی	تو می‌روی	
او	= سِد	او می‌رود	
		آنها	= سِند : آنها می‌روند

- تمرین ۳. جمله‌ها را با ضمیرهای فاعلی کامل کنید:
- ۱. این کار را انجام می‌دهد.....
- ۲. بعد از غذا کمی استراحت می‌کند.....
- ۳. همیشه لباس قشنگ می‌پوشد.....
- ۴. صبح تا ظهر تلفن می‌زند.....
- ۵. تب دار.....؛ حتماً باید دارو بخورد.....
- ۶. خط فارسی را قشنگ می‌نویسد.....

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Keep yourself far from envy; because it eats up and takes away good actions, like a fire eats up and burn woods.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

## A memory of Dr. Hassan Rasuli

By Abbas Salimi Namin

In 1998, as the managing director of the Tehran Times and the head of the institute, I received a series of articles from one of the newspaper's readers, which showed the author's vast knowledge. Appreciating his articles and looking for a chance to meet the writer, I invited him to the office and gradually became better acquainted with him.



At that time, I learned the individual I had desired to meet was Hassan Rasuli, one of the founders of the Student Confederation in England. I knew him by name during the days when I was a student in England, but he was two generations ahead of me, and I had never met him before. He came to Iran in the 1940s and was attracted by the country's sports system.

My face-to-face acquaintance with a man whose role in the student movement abroad against the Pahlavi regime I was familiar with was intriguing. I learned that he was from a noble traditional family, and was related to many political and religious figures. During our very first meeting, the augustness and clear-headedness of this regular reader of the newspaper impressed me to such an extent that, after learning his construction company was inactive in those days, I offered him a position on the newspaper's editorial board.

With his long record of political activism, Rasuli welcomed my suggestion. His commitment to the richness of the newspaper quickly led him to accept responsibility for the Editorial Board along with two other members, Irfan Parviz and Sadreddin Musavi.

In 1980, I resigned from the management of the Tehran Times and began working as a historian, but our intellectual connection never ceased and continued until the end of his prolific life. The reason for my interest in the late Dr. Rasuli was his genuine national concern, and I had repeatedly tested his honesty in this regard. Almost every week I hosted one of the foreign ambassadors living in Tehran or some foreign officials who came to Iran and wanted to visit the most widely circulated English-language newspaper in Iran.

I shall never forget the memory of the Dutch MP's trip to Iran (the individual who later burned the Quran). The host of this representative brought him to the institute to visit the office and to talk with the directors. The guest, who was an unrepentant racist, began his tirade as soon as he sat down at the table: "I have come to teach you how to live a better life, whether you learn or not, it's up to you." We gave him a gentle answer, but the abusive guest persisted with his belittling behavior.

Rasuli, who was very upset, recited a long list of crimes committed by Europeans against each other during World War II, and then said that if anyone should learn lessons of living a better life, the priority should be with you. This racist representative of the Netherlands, now confronted with accurate historical facts, had nothing more to say, and simply got up from the table and left the Tehran Times without as much as saying goodbye.

The precious love Rasuli held for the people of Iran and his protective feelings toward his country and its dignity caused our friendship to endure until the end of his life. We often met in the Office of Studies and Compilation of Iranian History.

During the last months of his life, even after he had resigned from the company, "Kansai Paint Iranian", that he had established by his strenuous efforts in order to transfer industrial paint technology to his beloved homeland, Iran, our meetings were not abandoned. In these meetings, he always thought of Iran with reverence and pride, something that was extraordinary to me. I offer my heartfelt condolences to the people of culture and politics, as well as his family, and especially his dear wife, Mrs. Maryam, for the loss of this towering Iranian cultural figure. I shall always cherish his memory.

\* Abbas Salimi Namin is the director of Iran's Center for Study of History and former managing director of the Tehran Times.

# 31 plays on Iran-Iraq war published

**A R T** TEHRAN — The **d e s k** Foundation for Preservation of Sacred Defense Works and Values has published a collection of 31 plays on the theme of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is called the Sacred Defense in Iran.

The books were unveiled during a ceremony attended by Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini, Rudaki Foundation Managing Director Mehdi Afzali, and the director of the Art and Cinema Office of the foundation, Mahmud Sezavar, at Vahdat Hall on Tuesday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sezavar said that the books have helped preserve the culture of sacrifice and Sacred Defense.

He called the role of the writers and artists in developing the culture of Sacred Defense very important, and added, "We need a good text for a good performance because if all the actors are good but the text lacks attractiveness, it will not influence the audience."

He added that many have written about the Sacred Defense but they have not had good knowledge of the issue and it has not



This photo shows a collection of plays published by the Foundation for Preservation of Sacred Defense Works and Values. (IBNA/Majid Niknafs)

had real influence.

He said that he has written all the plays published in the books; they are all about sacrifice, bravery and martyrdom.

He added that the foundation has published 30 books previously for public performances.

Afzali next said that there must be greater efforts to keep the culture of sacrifice and martyrdom live and dynamic, and help transfer this culture to the younger generation.

He emphasized that cultural organizations have more responsibilities these days, adding, "The youth could preserve this land well and today our cultural borders are more important."

He said that the Rudaki Foundation is ready to cooperate for creating artistic works on the Sacred Defense and collaborate with other organizations.

Among the plays published in the collection are "My Father Is a Hero" and "The War of the Treasures" by Reza Bayat, "Like Nobody" by Ali Kuchaki and Chitra Naderi, "Salma" and "Bridge" by Hassan Azimi, and "A Story from the Heart of the Sand" by Mahmud Teimuri.

## Exhibit by Iranian photographer to observe anniversary of Japan tsunami



People pray for victims of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami as Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s (TEPCO) tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is seen in the background at Namie town, Fukushima prefecture March 11, 2014. (Reuters/Toru Hanai)

**A R T** TEHRAN — The Japan International **d e s k** Cooperation Agency (JICA) will open an exhibition by Iranian photographer Afshin Valinejad Thursday to mark the 10th anniversary of the disastrous Japanese tsunami.

The JICA based in Tokyo is a governmental agency that provides technical cooperation and other forms of aid promoting economic and social development in the concerned areas.

After the devastating tsunami in 2011, this exhibition has been organized for two weeks every year from March 11, Valinejad told the Persian service of ISNA on Monday.

The first edition was organized at the agency by an invitation from the then JICA president Sadako Ogata seven months after the catastrophe, he said.

The organizers also screen a short film about the tsunami made by Valinejad on the opening day of the exhibition every year.

Earlier in July 2011, a selection of Valinejad's photos featuring the tsunami and nuclear crisis in Japan was showcased in an exhibition named "Tsunami's Footprint"

at the café gallery of the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran.

A deadly 8.9-magnitude earthquake hit Japan on March 11, 2011. The powerful quake triggered a devastating tsunami along Japan's eastern coast, killing over ten thousand people and injuring thousands more.

The earthquake caused the formation of 30-foot walls of water that swept across rice fields, engulfed entire towns, dragged houses onto highways, and tossed cars and boats like toys. Some waves reached six miles (10 kilometers) inland in Miyagi Prefecture on Japan's east coast.

Valinejad was an expert at the Persian section of NHK Radio Japan for eight years. He is a freelance photojournalist who chose to help the tsunami victims handing out goods and supplies of any kind to the needy people.

He is known as an Iranian angel in Japan's tsunami. He says he's just a porter who has been given the honor to distribute goods to people in need.

"I've always believed that when you feel something in your heart and you want to do it, you don't look for plans or feel that you have to organize everything," he said at that time. "I was sure we'd be able to do some good. I had no doubt."

## Tehran theater hosts August Strindberg's "Father"

**A R T** TEHRAN — Swedish **d e s k** writer August Strindberg's 1887 tragic drama "The Father" went on stage at Tehran's Mehregan Theater on Tuesday.

Yusef Mohammadi is the director of the play translated into Persian by Fattah Mohammadi.

Ali Izadi, Amir-Hossein Seyyed-Esmail, Maryam Jamali, Amin Zarifnegar, Parisa Ghiasvand, Nazanin Amiri and Yusef Mohammadi are members of the cast.

"The Father" is a play written in three acts. Strindberg had come to believe that life is a series of struggles between weaker and stronger wills, and the influences of



A poster for "The Father" on stage at Tehran's Mehregan Theater.

Strindberg's misogyny and naturalistic fiction are evident in this play, one of his most important works.

"The Father" tells the story of the Captain, a scientist and freethinker whose marriage has gone sour, who is engaged in a power struggle with his wife, Laura, over their daughter.

He wants to send the girl away to school; Laura is determined to keep her daughter at home under her own influence. Laura resolves to drive her husband mad, and she begins by insinuating that he is not the girl's father.

This play expresses a recurrent theme in some Strindberg Naturalism: Laws and

culture may influence the dynamics of men and women within their various social contracts.

The play uncovers the inevitable struggle for legacy and power between the human sexes. At the time the play was written, Strindberg's marriage with his wife Siri von Essen was deteriorating, and situations in the play could have very loosely resembled situations occurring in his failing marriage.

Different religions, Methodist, Baptist and occult spiritualism, exist in the household and vie for Bertha's acceptance. There are also references in the play to Greek Mythology and Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" and "Hamlet".

## Roberto Santiago's series appeals to readers over its Football stories: Persian translator

**CULTURE** TEHRAN — Saied Matin, the Persian **d e s k** translator of Spanish author Roberto Santiago's "The Mystery of the Sleeping Referees", has said that the series appeals to readers for its football-themed stories.

The book series has been released by Hoopa Publications in Tehran. Hoopa, is one of the major children's books and board games publishers in Iran, and has acquired the copyrights to the books from the Spanish publisher.

"Communicating with the readers is quite challenging, and we should know that writing for children and young adults is not an easy task. Translation also helps readers become more familiar with new words and language," Matin said in a session held at Hoopa's Qaba Bookstore in Tehran on Sunday.

"Sometimes, people ask how the translators discover the needs

of the readers in translating a text. I think translators should first find out more about their own childhood, while communications with new generations make it much more tangible," he said.

"The people speaking the Spanish language have their own energetic literature with interesting narratives. The stories written based on myths and stories for children and young adults are very interesting, and Persian readers are not very familiar with them. This made the translation harder for me," he said.

He further noted that the secret behind a good translation is first to be familiar with the subtleties of Persian literature and the concerns of children and adolescents.

"The book series 'The Mystery of the Sleeping Referees' is interesting for the readers because of their topic which is football. The first volume was warmly received in Spain

and it still continues to be," he concluded.

Santiago was born in Madrid in 1968. He studied image and sound at the Faculty of Communication Sciences at the Complutense University of Madrid and literary creation at the Madrid School of Writing.

He has worked as a TV screenwriter, an editor for Madrid advertising agencies and a video clip producer and has published several novels.

Among others, his collection Footballisms is a publishing phenomenon that has become one of the bestselling collections of children's literature in Spain in recent years and has been translated into several languages.

His first novel, "The Lie Thief", was a finalist for the Barco de Vapor Prize, and he won the Edebé Prize for Children's Literature.

## John Gray's "Isaiah Berlin" appears in Persian

**CULTURE** TEHRAN — A Persian **d e s k** translation of John Gray's "Isaiah Berlin: An Interpretation of His Thought" has recently been published by Now Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Khashyar Deihimi.

Isaiah Berlin was the greatest intellectual historian of the twentieth century, but his work also made an original and important contribution to moral and political philosophy and to liberal theory.

In 1921, at the age of eleven, Berlin arrived in England from Riga, Latvia. By the time, he was thirty he was at the heart of British intellectual life. He has remained a commanding presence ever since, and few would dispute that he was one of Britain's greatest thinkers. His reputation extends worldwide, as a great conversationalist, intellectual historian and man of letters. He has been called the century's most inspired reader.

Yet Berlin's contributions to thought,

in particular to moral and political philosophy, and to liberal theory, are little understood, and surprisingly neglected by the academic world.

In this book, they are shown to be animated by a single, powerful, subversive idea: value-pluralism which affirms the reality of a deep conflict between ultimate human values that reason cannot resolve. Though bracingly clear-headed, humane and realist, Berlin's value-pluralism runs against the dominant Western traditions, secular and religious,

which avow an ultimate harmony of values. It supports a highly distinctive restatement of liberalism in Berlin's work, an agnostic liberalism, which is founded not on rational choice but on the radical choices we make when faced with intractable dilemmas. It is this a new statement of liberalism, the central subject of John Gray's lively and lucid book, which gives the liberal intellectual tradition a new lease on life, a new source of life, and comprises Berlin's central and enduring legacy.

## Memoirs of captive of Kurdish separatists praised by Leader

→ Keriskan is the name of an area in Koy Sanjaq, a town and district in Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan. The area was home to a camp for Iranian captives during the separatist civil war in the Iranian Kordestan region in the early 1980s. Saiedzadeh is one of the few survivors of the camp. Most of his cellmates were executed by the separatists without any trial.

Memoirs by war veterans have always been hailed by the Leader in commendations he has written for the books.

The latest one was written for "Red Squares", a memoir by IRGC commander Hossein Yekta. The commendation was published in September 2020.

Yekta has always been praised by Ayatollah Khamenei for arranging tours of the former warzones named Rahiane Nur (The Travelers of Light) for school and university students.

"It has been written in a really delightful style. It represents clear signs of Mr. Hajji Hossein Yekta's eloquence. The elegance coming from the fine sense of expression, which dominates the entire book, may be rooted in the remarkable ability of the writer or in the impressive language of the narrator," the Leader wrote.

"The most attractive part of the book is that which is dedicated to describing martyrs, and their divine mood before martyrdom, which has been illustrated extremely well," he added.



A combination photo shows an image of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's commendation for "Evenings of Keriskan" and the front cover of the book.