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42 amazing years; and still counting

Marking the 42nd anniversary of the Tehran Times' establishment

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Humanitarian aid to the needy during Ramadan

BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI
More than one million food packages have been distributed among the deprived families through a national campaign since the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan (April 13).

During the third phase of Iran-e Hamdel (literally meaning sympathetic Iran) national campaign, 600,000 warm meals, 1.2 million iftar packages, have been distributed among the needy in 3,600 neighborhoods, mosques, and charities.

Over 3,300 kitchens are operating to provide warm meals, Mehr reported on Monday.

It is planned to provide 12 million warm food and 888,000 food packages during the holy months of Ramadan.

The campaign was first launched in 2020 aiming to provide financial assistance to the needy affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has collected 1.5 trillion rials (nearly \$35 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

The second phase of the sympathetic Iran movement with the aim of cooking and distributing 27 million warm foods among the deprived started on Eid al-Ghadir Khumm (August 9, 2020) until the end of Safar (the second month of the lunar-based Islamic calendar).

Iranian benefactors, charity centers, and religious organizations take part in the campaign by cash and kind contributions.

In a televised speech on April 9, 2020, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the coronavirus outbreak is a test for all the world, both for governments and for nations. The Iranian Nation shone brightly in this test, and at the peak of this national pride are the health professionals.

Besides the health professionals, volunteers, university students, and Basij forces have entered the battlefield against the disease and their services are indescribable, the Leader's Twitter account wrote.

People's participation in the fight against coronavirus was truly amazing: 1) people feeding the needy; 2) turning houses into workshops to sew free masks; 3) disinfecting public areas; 4) talking to landlords and shop owners to exempt people from their rents.

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Tehran, Rome discuss ways to expand tourism

TEHRAN – Iranian Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan and Giuseppe Perrone, the Italian Ambassador to Iran, discussed ways to expand tourism and cultural ties on Monday.

Iran's tourism sector achieved growth despite the adverse effects of the U.S. sanctions and the country tried to minimize the effects of the sanctions, Mounesan said.

Given the positive trend of the ongoing negotiations, good opportunities will be provided to strengthen Iran's cooperation with various countries, he added.

The minister also announced Iran's readiness to hold a joint handicrafts exhibition in Iran and Italy.

Perrone, for his part, said that Iran enjoys enormous tourist attractions, which could be a good opportunity for tourism prosperity and cultural cooperation with different countries.

Pointing to the joint archeological projects, carried out by Iranian and Italian experts over the past decades, he asked for more strong cooperation in this field.

In 2019, the two nations celebrated 60 years of joint missions in the field of archaeology. Tehran and Rome have enhanced cooperation over the past couple of decades, with the arenas of archaeology and cultural heritage at the topmost level.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times in August 2020, Perrone said: "Archaeology is certainly an area for us that is extremely important because it tells the world how our countries are heirs to ancient civilizations and this extremely important because it is part of identity, it's part of who we are, and it helps us to better connect with one another."

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U.S. mourners gather for Black man funeral in North Carolina, call for police reform

Mourners have gathered at a North Carolina funeral for Andrew Brown, an American Black man shot to death last month by sheriff's deputies - the latest in a spate of U.S. police killings of African Americans and members of U.S. minority groups.

Along line of mourners filed into Elizabeth City's church, many wearing white T-shirts with Andrew Brown's image and the words "Say his name".

Rev. Al Sharpton delivered the eulogy and told the mourners that the drive to reform policing in the United States was a chapter in a decades-long struggle by Black Americans.

"We must deal with the inequality in the criminal justice system today," said Sharpton at the Fountain of Life Church in Elizabeth City. "That's the sign of the time."

Brown, 42, was shot and killed by police during a morning raid at his home on April 21 as Pasquotank County sheriff's deputies attempted to

serve arrest warrants, sparking days of protests in Elizabeth City in northeastern North Carolina. An autopsy commissioned by his family said that he was shot five times by police, including once in the back of the head.

The gruesome cop killing and authorities' decision not to make public a video of the murder triggered suspicion.

"I know a con game when I see it," said Sharpton. "Release the whole tape, and let the folk see what happened to Andrew Brown."

"If he did wrong, bring him to court," he added. "But you don't have a right to bring him to his funeral."

According to Press TV, a North Carolina judge has rejected requests to release four videos from body-worn police cameras of the shooting, claiming he was delaying the release for up to 45 days to allow investigators and the prosecutor to complete their investigations.

CBI allocates over \$23b to provide capital for SMEs

TEHRAN – The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced that one quadrillion rials (about \$23.8 billion) is going to be allocated for providing working capital to the country's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

In an Instagram post on Monday, Abdolnaser Hemmati mentioned the central bank's program to support SMEs in the current year,

saying: "Banks will offer this amount to provide working capital to these units [SMEs], with the aim of expanding their role in the country's production and employment."

The official made the announcement following the Leader's remarks on Sunday in which he stressed the need for supporting SMEs alongside the country's large-scale production complexes in order to create more job opportunities and boost the economy.

"Small and medium-sized enterprises are recognized today as one of the main axes of sustainable growth and development in many countries; high added value, innovation, employment, and flexibility are some of the benefits of these enterprises," Hemmati said.

According to the official, the central bank has been following a serious plan to increase the financing of SMEs over the past few years.

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Trump remains popular with Republicans: academic

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN – An American academic says that Trump is yet popular among republicans though he has lost parts of his appeal.

"Trump remains popular with Republicans, even though it does appear that his appeal is eroding," Anthony Pahnke, the assistant professor of international relations at San Francisco State University, tells the Tehran Times.

Donald Trump returned to the spotlight, telling enthusiastic conservatives in the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando that he may run for president again in 2024, as he sought to reassert his dominance over a Republican Party that is out of power.

Former President Donald Trump staked his claim to the Republican Party in his speech, casting his populist policies and attack-dog politics as the key to future Republican success.

Trump also reinforced his commitment to the GOP in his address.

"The big issue that Republicans - and Trump - are latching onto is immigration. If Biden fails to make a difference in this area, then this paves the way for Trump, or someone like him, to stage a comeback and mount another campaign on extreme U.S. nationalism," according to Pahnke.

Following is the text of the interview:
How do critics of Biden see his first 100-days? What are his achievements compared with the Trump presidency?

Biden's critics see his first 100 days, specifically, the COVID relief bill and the proposed infrastructure legislation, as wasteful.

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Iranians observing Qadr nights

Communal praying and recitations of the Holy Quran are being held across the country during Qadr nights - 19th, 21st, and 23rd of the holy month of Ramadan which fall on May 2, 4, and 6 this year - observing health protocols amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The last 10 days of Ramadan are especially important because the Quran was revealed in this month on Laylat al-Qadr (Qadr Night).

Leader to talk to nation on Quds Day

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN**—The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, will talk to the nation in a televised speech on May 7.

According to Nosratollah Lotfi, deputy chief of the Islamic Development Coordinating Council, there will be no rallies or gatherings on the last Friday of Ramadan this year in Iran due to the spread of coronavirus. Still, the Leader will give a televised speech at 11:00 a.m. local time.

The International Quds Day marks the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, which is May 7 this year.

Raeisi only Principlist candidate

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Manouchehr Mottaki, the spokesman for the Unity Council of Principlists, stated that the Judiciary chief, Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi is the final and only definite candidate of the principlists, ruling out rumors about Ali Larijani being a favorable principlist candidate.



“We in the unity council have come to the conclusion that Raeisi is the righteous candidate for the presidency, and we hope to hear from him in his own words the announcement of his candidacy for the 1400 presidential election and to see his registration,” he said.

He said that he has the utmost respect for Ali Larijani, former parliament speaker, yet stating that he is not on the unity council list.

The presidential election falls on June 18.

Many prominent figures have declared candidacies, such as Rostam Ghasemi, former Minister of Petroleum, Ezzatollah Zarghami, former Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, and Fereydoun Abbasi, head of the Energy Committee of the parliament.

The Leader assigns the framework of the negotiations: Rabiei

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN**— In his weekly press briefing, Ali Rabiei, spokesman for the Iranian government, stated that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution had assigned the framework for the Vienna negotiations.



Responding to a question about sanctions on individuals and entities, the spokesman said that Iran’s position in the negotiations has been clear. The position is based on the framework assigned by the Leader.

According to Rabiei, the negotiating team is working hard and in utter seriousness to achieve the agenda assigned by Ayatollah Khamenei.

He also noted that the criterion of the obligations for all sides is the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“According to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the U.S. government is entirely responsible for fulfilling its obligations, and therefore the domestic policy of the United States is not the subject of our attention. There are also disagreements over the lifting of sanctions list, but we have managed to reduce these disagreements, and consultations and talks are ongoing,” the spokesman remarked.

According to Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the Joint Commission will reconvene on Friday to resume talks about reviving the nuclear deal.

IRGC demolishes terrorist group

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN**— The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran has defeated an armed gang in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

The IRGC Ground Force’s Quds Base reported on Tuesday that its forces have ambushed members of the terrorist gang in the province, killing two and capturing another.

According to the statement released by the IRGC, the band had a history of mischief, kidnappings, and murder.

A cache of weapons, ammunition, and explosive materials were also seized during the operation.

The IRGC Ground Force’s Quds Base destroyed a terrorist team in Sistan and Baluchestan Province last week, whose members had infiltrated the area to carry out terrorist actions. During the clashes, three members of the squad were killed.

Iran expresses condolences to Switzerland

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN**— Following the passing of a Swiss diplomat, the Iranian ministry of foreign affairs sent a message of condolences, stating that the authorities are investigating the matter.

The police announced on Tuesday morning that a Swiss diplomat fell from the 18th floor of a tower in the Kamraniyeh district of Tehran.

She was reportedly 52 years old.

The ministry assured the Swiss officials that the authorities would investigate the matter with great care.

Iran, P4+1 reach two drafts, says spokesman

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — In his weekly press briefing on Monday, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gave updates on the Vienna negotiations. He also welcomed the change of tone in Saudi Arabia yet called for a change of behavior.

Khatibzadeh began his press briefing by stating his condolences for the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Ali (PBUH), which marks the 21st day of Ramadan.

Responding to various questions about the Vienna negotiations and their current status, he said that the two sides have drafted two texts about sanctions removal and the nuclear issue. They are ironing out the disputes.

“We believe that all the sanctions that Trump has imposed on Iran are related to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and all of them aimed at destroying the JCPOA and preventing Iran from benefiting from the deal,” the spokesman noted.

He said that the lifting of financial, banking, oil, and public and sector sanctions is a matter of course, and what is being discussed is a matter of disputes.

The diplomat clarified Iran’s position on the issue of sanctions, stating that the ministry’s position on the subject of sanctions is the establishment’s position, which is the lifting of all sanctions imposed on Iran in the post-JCPOA era.

In response to a question about lifting sanctions on individuals and entities and opinion differences in this issue, Khatibzadeh said that what is discussed during the negotiations cannot be addressed in the public space, referring these debates to the Joint Commission of the JCPOA.

“All I can say is that our red lines, which has been the same since day one, is that all the sanctions imposed on Iran after the nuclear deal must be lifted, including public sector sanctions and sector sanctions. Good progress has been made in this round of talks, and the two sides have been able to reach a common understanding in many areas,” he remarked.

On the other hand, he noted severe disagreements in the area of sanctions against individuals.

He stressed, “We must continue the talks in this regard in the course of the negotiations



of the Joint Commission.”

He noted that dialogue must move forward in its own space. Significant and outstanding progress has been made, but progress has been slow in some areas.

Responding to a question about the damage the United States has caused Iran by leaving the JCPOA and whether there are debates about this in the Joint Commission, Khatibzadeh said that the sides are currently concentrating on how the United States should return to its full obligations. Yet, there are discussions about the U.S. damage in the Joint Commission as well.

Khatibzadeh emphasized that Iran should have access to all its resources all around the world.

Responding to a question about the temporary suspension of sanctions for 120 or 180 days, the spokesman said, “Scattered reports should not be the basis of analysis. What is Iran’s definite position is that all sanctions should be lifted and negotiations are underway.”

“What is written in the JCPOA will be the criterion of our action, and we have nothing to do with American domestic policy. Certainly, all of the U.S. commitments must be fulfilled by the U.S. government, and how it implements will depend on the U.S. itself,” he noted.

Criticizing the behavior of the United

States, the diplomat said that the U.S. has time and again proven that, especially under Trump, it cannot abide by any treaty and withdraw from it. In this context, it is essential for Iran that the Americans fulfill their verifiable commitments.

Khatibzadeh stressed that the delegate is in no hurry to continue the talks, and it is doing its mission tactfully, yet Iran will not get into an “erosive game.”

He also noted that the Joint Commission would reconvene on Friday.

‘Zarif’s regional tour in line with Ramadan diplomacy’

Referring to Mohammad Javad Zarif’s visits to Qatar, Iraq, Oman, and Kuwait, the spokesman stated that these visits were part of Iran’s “Ramadan Diplomacy,” bearing the message that the region is Iran’s top priority. “We have regional and bilateral relations with all these countries, and talks have been made regarding these relations,” he said.

‘Iran is worried about recent Afghanistan events’

“We are worried about what is happening in Afghanistan, and we have done whatever we can to ensure Afghanistan’s future is peaceful and stable, and we are in touch with the Afghan government and other groups to achieve success,” Khatibzadeh said.

He noted that Iran is consulting with other regional countries about Afghanistan, express-

Iran-Sweden discuss Yemen crisis

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN**— Iranian and Swedish diplomats met online to discuss the latest developments in Yemen and possible solutions to the Arab country’s crisis.

Tasnim News Agency reported that in the webinar held on Monday, senior adviser to the Iranian foreign minister for special political affairs Ali Asghar Khaji and Sweden’s special envoy for Yemen Peter Semneby discussed various issues relating to Yemen.

They also reviewed the latest developments in the peace process in the war-hit Arab country.

The Iranian and Swedish diplomats stressed the need

for closer consultations and cooperation between Tehran and Stockholm to reach a political solution to end the crisis in Yemen.

They also talked about the results of Peter Semneby’s recent visits to Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, and Yemen, the discussions about Yemen held during Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif’s recent regional tour, and the consultations to draft a peace deal for Yemen.

Saudi Arabia and some of its Arab allies have been carrying out deadly airstrikes against the Houthi Ansarullah movement to restore power to fugitive former president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, a loyal confidant of Riyadh,



since March 2015.

According to the United Nations, the war has killed tens of thousands of people, mainly civilians, and has resulted in the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

A closer look into the presidential election candidates

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN**— As we get

closer to the registration date for the upcoming presidential election, which is on May 11, more political figures are announcing candidacy. In this report, we explore the possible candidates and their agendas.

The presidential election will take place on June 18. According to the election’s schedule, the registration will open on May 11 and will last for five days. So far, many political figures have declared candidacy. Some have even chosen campaign slogans.

‘An ambitious nuclear physicist’

Fereydon Abbasi, head of the Energy Committee of the parliament, announced that he is running for president.

His campaign slogan is “Elite government, a return to the people.” He has made it clear that he will not back off under any circumstances and will continue the battle for the presidency until the very end.

Abbasi announced that he will seek the experts’ opinion, whether they are Reformists, or Principlists.

“We have to employ different people who have style and thinking, whether they are young or middle-aged,” he said.

Abbasi has declared that he is an independent candidate, who is only dependent to people. He bases his cabinet on honesty and he thinks that the government should return to the people.

Abbasi is also the former head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. He is one of the nuclear physicists who was Mossad’s assassination target in 2010, alongside martyr Dr. Majid Shahriari. A bomb was strapped to the door of his car while driving, yet, he narrowly escaped the assassination attempt.

‘The political general’

Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of the

Expediency Discernment Council is another candidate who has officially announced that he would run for the president.

In his statement he said, “Iran seeks the establishment, stability and consolidation of successes and the growing growth of the horizons of progress and independence of the country and right and justice.”

He noted that his future government, with the help of God and the talented youth of Iran, will be named “The government of the national movement for the development of Iran and the fight against corruption and the network of infiltration.”

Rezaei believes that the imperialist system tries to prevent the advancement of the front and the movement of resistance in the region by using evil-seeking, rioting and expanding the scope of psychological and perceptual warfare in various political, social, cultural and economic fields and this decade would be the “last step to the victory of the Islamic Republic and consolidation of successes and independence and freedom of the country.”

Rezaei had previously announced candidacy three times in 2005, 2009, and 2013.

‘Economic security with Ghasemi’
Rostam Ghasemi, former Minister of Petroleum in Ahamdinejad administration, also declared candidacy.

In part of his statement prior to his press conference, Ghasemi said, “We should turn secure economy to economic security.”

He also said he will extend his hand to all Iranians whose “hearts beat for Iran” with “different political persuasions” to help make the country prosperous.

He is in the belief that Iran should change the ‘imploing diplomacy’ to diplomacy of power.

Ghasemi also believes that the United States “must return to the JCPOA without any preconditions.”

He notes, “If I am elected (president) I myself will take the driver seat in the negotiations and negotiate with power.”

In his April 20 press conference, he also said lifting sanctions is a “first priority” and making sanctions ineffective comes next. “Now removing sanctions is the first priority and making them ineffective is the next priority. If I want to negotiate, I will strengthen the country’s economy,” Ghasemi pointed out.

The former director of the IRGC construction unit says, “I see no ban on having relations with all countries in the world except the Zionist regime.”

On the issue of corruption, Ghasemi believes in the need to counter corruption and creating a transparent atmosphere to develop the economy.

He says he has a plan to overcome the “difficult living conditions” but his major plan is to restructure state institutions.

Ghasemi was the chief of the Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters before becoming minister of petroleum.

‘The mysterious Mohammad’

Saeed Mohammad is perhaps the most mysterious and unknown figure on this list. He has acted off the radar for a long time during his career.

Former director of Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters has been traveling to many cities these days, holding press conferences.

He recently stated that Iran has the capacity to enrich uranium to up to 93%, stating that he is planning to do so if he is elected as president.

He stressed that Iran needs this level of

ing hope that the government of Afghanistan will also take serious considerations.

“We hope that the process of change will proceed in the interest of the people of Afghanistan and to establish peace and stability in this country,” he remarked.

Responding to a question about Iran’s participation in the Istanbul Summit, Khatibzadeh referred that question to its right time in the future.

The Istanbul Summit was scheduled to be held from April 24 to May 4, yet, the host postponed it to after the holy month of Ramadan. Turkey, Qatar, and the United Nations will host the summit.

‘Change of tone is not enough. Iran must see the change of actions’

In response to the possible Tehran-Riyadh dialogue, Khatibzadeh welcomed the change of tone in Saudi Arabia, yet stating that it is not enough.

“There won’t be de-escalation without change of action and behavior,” he said.

The spokesman highlighted Iran’s readiness to hold talks with all its neighbors, including Saudi Arabia.

Responding to a question about the presence of Jordan and Egypt in talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the diplomat said that he could not verify the news. Therefore, he cannot comment on it.

‘Iran is seriously concerned about Yemen developments’

Responding to a question about Foreign Minister’s meeting with Muhammad Abdul Salam, Houthi’s chief negotiator in Muscat, Khatibzadeh expressed his deep concern about the recent developments in Yemen, describing the human conditions in Yemen as “the worst possible.”

He also said that what is going on in Ma’rib should be seen in the context of Yemen’s general picture.

“If there is a serious will to end the current miserable humanitarian situation in Yemen, the siege must be lifted at the same time as the general ceasefire in Yemen, human access must be provided, and Yemeni-Yemeni talks must take place. The Yemeni National Salvation Government not only supported this path but also played an effective role in defining it, and the negotiations that took place in Oman were within this framework,” the spokesman elaborated.

42 amazing years; and still counting

Marking the 42nd anniversary of the Tehran Times' establishment

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — After 42 years of continuous work, the Tehran Times is proud to commemorate yet another anniversary of its founding with a clear vision for the future.

Since day one, Tehran Times has vowed to place itself at the disposal of its readers. "The publisher and staff of Tehran Times are proud to place this first issue of this newspaper in the hands of their readers. It is not for us to pass judgement on our effort. We place ourselves at the disposal of our readers," said the Tehran Times in its first issue, which was published on Saturday, May 5, 1979. "Its primary aim is to keep the English-speaking readers informed of all local and foreign news development through impartial, unbiased, and objective reporting," the editorial of the Tehran Times continued.

Exactly 42 years have passed since this editorial was published. And the Tehran Times has the honor of keeping its word. Over the past 42 years, despite all the highs and lows of Iran's modern history, the Tehran Times, with its dedicated staff, has sought to be a reliable source of news on Iran. And, thankfully, it has succeeded in doing so.

The Tehran Times now stands as one of the most reliable sources of information on Iran. Every day, 'Tehran Times' capable reporters and other staff put a lot of energy into their work to provide our readership with the most accurate pieces of news on Iran. This work has been driven by the belief that the Tehran Times should step



up to the plate and take the responsibility of providing a clear picture of what is happening in Iran.

Publishing newspapers has never been an easy job. It takes a lot of effort and resources to publish one. Like many other publications in the country, the Tehran Times also went through a considerable number of challenges the severity of which would have been difficult to face without a dedicated group of staff. But the Tehran Times successfully overcame all of these challenges thanks to its hardworking people.

Over the past year, these challenges have even intensified due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which really put the

life of journalists across the globe in real danger. Fortunately, the staff of the Tehran Time has been able to continue their work while observing Covid-19 health protocols such as wearing masks and observing social distancing.

Despite the difficulties arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Tehran Times managed to achieve success while maintaining professionalism. It also worked hard to diversify its wide range of views on various domestic and global issues. To this end, the Tehran Times made use of its excellent status as the oldest English-language daily newspaper in Iran to reach out to officials, diplomats, experts, and analysts

both at home and abroad. This paved the way for various views to get their share of the newspaper's coverage.

The new approach has resulted in the newspaper being a source of, in some cases exclusive, news and in-depth analysis for a wide range of local and foreign news media outlets, think tanks, experts, and so on. The Tehran Times is committed to continuing this course of action.

With its various sections covering all aspects of Iranian society, the Tehran Times also enjoys an archive that a few other Iranian publications, whether in Persian or English, do. Publishing the newspaper was kicked off in the early, historic days of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Since then, the Tehran Times has been continuously covering almost everything related to Iran from sports to politics. This continuation has allowed it to basically record Iran's history in English over more than four decades. No other Iranian publication possesses such a rich archive in English.

With the Tehran Times turning 42, the newspaper, however, is more looking to the future than to the past. The Tehran Times stands ready to build on its rich history and experience in covering Iran news to improve its output and provide its readership with "impartial, unbiased and objective reporting" as it vowed in its first editorial 42 years ago. In doing so, the Tehran Times pursues no other goal than being at the disposal of its readers whose attention was bestowed on it over the past four decades.

Russia says Vienna talks making progress

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The current nuclear talks over Iran's nuclear program in Vienna are moving forward, a senior Russian diplomat said at the third round of the talks were concluded earlier this week.

The diplomat, Mikhail Ulyanov, who serves as the Russian envoy to the Vienna talks, said he was surprised that some commentators claimed that the Vienna talks are collapsing. The talks, Ulyanov asserted, are making progress instead.

"Read with surprise comments of some analysts who claim that the Vienna talks on JCPOA are 'collapsing'. This is wishful thinking of those who are against efforts to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation regime based on NPT. In real life the talks are making progress," he said on Twitter.

Nuclear negotiators from Iran and the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal held another meeting earlier this week to discuss the ways to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Ulyanov held a meeting with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, who is leading the Iranian negotiating team, hours before the start of the third round of nuclear negotiations. The top Iranian nuclear negotiator said his meeting with Ulyanov was "relatively long."

"During this meeting, the two delegations re-coordinated their positions and stressed the need to maintain the closeness of the positions of the two countries," Araghchi said in a statement. "The Russian side also reiterated its support for the nuclear deal and the need for the United States to lift sanctions on Iran."

The JCPOA Joint Commission convened a meeting on Saturday to "take stock of intermediate results of the Vienna talks on full restoration of the nuclear deal," according to Ulyanov.

Ulyanov also held an informal meeting with the U.S. and the remaining parties to the JCPOA, before the JCPOA Joint Commission.

"JCPOA participants held today informal consultations



with the #US delegation at the Vienna talks on full restoration of the nuclear deal (without #Iran who is still not ready to meet with US diplomats)," the Russian diplomat said on Twitter hours before Iran and the P4+1 group of countries hold another meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission.

Last week, negotiators at Vienna talks announced the establishment of another expert group in addition to the existing ones. So far, the Vienna talks have resulted in the establishment of three expert-level working groups, one to identify the sanctions that the U.S. should remove in order to return to the JCPOA, and another to specify the nuclear activities that Iran should reverse. The third group was set up recently and is called "Expert Group on Practical Arrangements," which is formed with the aim of holding talks on the practical arrangements required for the removal of sanctions and then the U.S. return to the JCPOA.

According to Araghchi, these groups held bilateral and multilateral meetings to announce positions and study draft texts over the past few days.

Following the Saturday meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission, it was agreed that the talks will be resumed

on Friday, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Saturday.

According to the statement, participants discussed the latest developments related to the discussions of the three expert groups.

"It was decided that after this meeting, the delegations would return to the capitals and that the talks would resume next Friday," the statement continued. "The parties agree that in the next round of talks, work should continue more quickly and seriously."

The Vienna talks have not resulted in a new agreement yet but they are expected to lead to a new one, according to a senior Iranian lawmaker.

The lawmaker, Alireza Salimi, who is a member of the parliament's presiding board, said the new agreement must be submitted to the Iranian parliament for ratification.

"Since the Vienna talks are supposed to lead to an agreement and the parties will sign it, it must be ratified by the Islamic Consultative Assembly because it is a new and binding agreement, so if the legal issues mentioned in the agreement are not included, it will face problems in the Assembly," he said.

He pointed out that the Vienna Agreement would have no value without parliamentary ratification.

"If the sanctions are to be lifted step by step, or partially, or if the lifting of sanctions is only for a period of 120 days and tougher sanctions are imposed, we will certainly not accept the Vienna agreement," he continued.

Salimi said the Vienna talks only have a window of three months opportunity to succeed, potentially hinting that if these talks fail to result in a deal within three months, they will not continue.

"In the Vienna negotiations, the law of the parliament and the policies announced by the Leader must be observed, and any agreement beyond the framework set by the parliament will not be accepted," he told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

Reports of prisoner swap with U.S. not true, Iran says

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian officials have responded to press reports alleging that Tehran and Washington agreed to swap prisoners amid nuclear talks in Vienna.

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi has not confirmed some news about an alleged agreement on the reciprocal release of prisoners between Tehran and Washington, according to the Iranian government's official website.

Earlier on Sunday, the Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen news television reported that the U.S. agreed to release four Iranian nationals accused of bypassing sanctions and unblock \$7 billion of Iranian assets in the U.S. in exchange for Iran releasing four American citizens detained in Iran on charges of conducting espionage for the U.S.

The Biden administration wanted to avoid paying any sums of frozen Iranian money during the negotiations but the Iranian side insisted on the necessity of releasing part of the Iranian funds, according to Al Mayadeen.

Al Mayadeen also reported that similar security negotiations between the Iranian and British sides were underway with the British side discussing with Iran the release of 400 million pounds of frozen Iranian funds in the UK.

The news is not confirmed [by Iran], Takht Ravanchi said.

However, Iran has always emphasized

comprehensive exchange of prisoners between the two countries, he added.

As Takht Ravanchi noted, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly presented the issue of the exchange of prisoners, but the American side has rejected it under baseless excuses.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, also repudiated the Al Mayadeen report, saying while the issue of prisoners has always been on Iran's agenda, the Sunday evening report by Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Mayadeen news network is untrue.

Khatibzadeh said the issue of prisoners is a humanitarian one and has not been pursued through nuclear talks aimed at reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Khatibzadeh said, "The issue of prisoners has been a humanitarian issue which has always been on the agenda of the Islamic Republic of Iran and has been pursued through other conversations and [diplomatic] channels separately from the JCPOA or related issues."

Khatibzadeh also denied reports that Tehran and London had been in talks over the release of Nazanin Zaghari, an Iranian national who was found guilty of propaganda activities against the government last month and sentenced to one year in prison, according to Press TV.

"There are no legal talks between us and Britain on this. The Judiciary must comment on the case," the spokesman said, adding, "What is being discussed is about issues related to relations between the two countries. Of course, the British government has presented its views to us on various issues, and we have given back very clear answers."

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price also denied the report on Sunday. "As we have said, we always raise the cases of Americans detained or missing in Iran. We will not stop until we are able to reunite them with their families," he said.

White House chief of staff Ron Klain similarly said the report was untrue, adding there was no agreement to release the four Americans.

"We're working very hard to get them released," Klain told CBS's Face the Nation. "We raise this with Iran and our interlocutors all the time, but so far there's no agreement."

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab also claimed that the fate of Nazanin Zaghari was tied to the outcome of talks in Vienna on the future of the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement in addition to a debt that the UK government owes to Iran.

Tehran has repeatedly said that the debt Britain owes to Iran arising from the non-delivery of Chieftain tanks ordered by Iran's former regime is not related to Zaghari's case.

Khatibzadeh said the debt dates back to



several decades ago but has not been paid due to unimportant reasons.

"The original debt must have been paid off a long time ago," the spokesman stated. "The sooner the British government fulfills its obligation, the better."

Iran has been open to talking about the release of prisoners. Mahmoud Vaezi, the Iranian president's chief of staff, had said that Iran has "not blocked the way to negotiate the release of prisoners abroad, and we seek to release all our prisoners in the United States or other countries."

Responding to a question on whether Iran and the U.S. have negotiated about the release of prisoners, Vaezi noted, "This issue has always been raised and we have never opposed it and it is always raised between us and others."

"There are talks on this issue through intermediaries so that we can release all our prisoners in the United States or other countries," Vaezi said in April.

SPORTS

Maryam Irandoost takes charge of Iran's women's football team

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Maryam Irandoost was appointed as new head coach of Iran's women's national football team on Monday.

She replaced Maryam Azmoon, who has been named as head coach of Iran's women's U20 team.

Irandoost will have to prepare the team for the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup qualification in September.

She started her coaching career in 2005 as head coach of Iranian club Malavan and was appointed as Iran assistant after three years.

Irandoost had also been previously headed Iran's women's team for two years from 2010 to 2012.

Six powerlifters to represent Iran at Bangkok 2021 World Cup

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Six Iranian powerlifters will participate at the Bangkok 2021 Para Powerlifting World Cup.

The competition will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from May 6 to 9.

Bangkok 2021 World Cup will also serve as Tokyo Paralympic Qualifier," Iran head coach Aliasghar Ravasi said. "Due to the coronavirus pandemic, our athletes didn't participate in any tournament and the Bangkok 2021 World Cup could be a serious preparatory event for our powerlifters."

"The Thailand competition is the final phase of qualifying. Our powerlifters must partake in the event to be eligible for Tokyo Games," he added.

Amir Jafari Arangeh (65kg), Nader Moradi (72kg), Rouhollah Rostami (80kg), Hamed Solhipour (97kg), Saman Razi (107kg) and Mansour Pourmirzaei (+107kg) will represent Iran in the competition.

Three Iranians nominated for Best Goal of 2021 ACL

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — After an action-packed 2021 AFC Champions League (West) Group Stage concluded on Saturday, the-AFC.com has announced the contenders for the best goal of the first phase.

A total of 150 goals rained in over 60 matches in Goa, Jeddah, Riyadh and Sharjah with the teams from the West Asia section of the draw delivering plenty of drama as the games came thick and fast.

From long-range screamers to acrobatic efforts and stunning free-kicks, the-afc.com has compiled a list that is sure to delight.

Mohammad Abbaszadeh

Tractor FC vs Pakhtakor FC, April 14, 2021

One of the most exciting games of the opening round of fixtures was the 3-3 draw between Tractor FC of Iran and Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor and dangerman Abbaszadeh lived up to his pre-tournament hype with a brace. The 30-year-old's opener was the pick of the pair, blasting his shot into the roof of the net after he was sent through by Akbar Imani.

Mehdi Ghaedi

Esteghlal FC vs Al Ahli Saudi FC, April 14, 2021

Tipped to be one of the stars of the 2021 AFC Champions League, Ghaedi graced the group stage with a demonstration of his prodigious talent in the very first game, rifling home from 30 yards out for his second of the match against Al Ahli Saudi FC.

Shahriyar Moghanlou

Persepolis FC vs Al Rayyan SC, April 29, 2021

Yahya Golmohammadi's side broke the deadlock in some style against Al Rayyan SC when Shahriyar Moghanlou finished off a rapid break that saw Omid Alishah feed Mehdi Torabi down the left before receiving the return pass and setting up Moghanlou to score from the edge of the area. Five wins from six saw Persepolis FC book their ticket to the next round with minimal fuss.

Sitting volleyball to play friendlies against Russia

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran sitting volleyball team will play several friendly matches with Russia in Iran and Russia.

The matches have been scheduled for June, Iran sitting volleyball coach Hadi Rezaei said.

"The friendlies will be held as part of preparation for the 2020 Paralympic Games," he said.

Iran sitting volleyball team have won six gold medals in eight Paralympics editions so far. The Dream Team are ready to win one more gold at the Tokyo 2020.

"As you know, Iran sitting volleyball team have won six gold medals so far and we are determined to add another gold to our tally," Rezaei satte.

"The team are holding their training camp in Kish Island at the moment. We will hold five more camps ahead of Paralympic Games," he added.

"We have been the best team in the world ranking over the past 30 years. With all due respect to our opponents, we are going to win the gold medal once again," Rezaei concluded.

Iran chasing the dream of a VNL medal

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Asian powerhouses Iran look to bring it up a notch with eye on FIVB Volleyball Nations League semifinals.

Iran have been leaving their mark on the 2021 VNL rising from 10th place in the inaugural edition of 2018 to advancing to making the Final Six and finishing 5th in 2019.

And now they're looking to move things up a bit as they aim for a spot in the last four when the competition returns next month with their third edition at the Italian Adriatic resort of Rimini, volleyball.world reported.

Amir Ghafour was the top scorer overall of the 2019 VNL with a total of 249 points - but the question is can Russian legendary coach Vladimir Alekno, who took over the side this year, transform Iran?

Iran ready to raise oil exports to 2.5m bpd post sanctions

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri has said the country is able to increase its oil exports up to 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd) once the U.S. sanctions are lifted.

"Oil sales have dropped a lot, but now the situation is better, and we are in control. We will be able to increase oil exports to 2.5 million barrels per day after the removal of the sanctions," Jahangiri said on Friday.

Iran has been ramping up its oil production over the past few months as talks for reviving the 2015 nuclear deal progress. Tehran has been negotiating its conditions for reviving the nuclear deal officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with the world powers since early April.

Oil exports have also been increasing since late 2020 despite the U.S. sanctions and the Iranian Oil Ministry has announced its readiness for boosting the country's crude oil output to the pre-sanction levels in case of the U.S. rejoining the nuclear deal.

Earlier in April, Reuters reported that the Islamic Republic's crude oil exports in April remained above the level of exports during the same period in 2020.



The latest report by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) put Iranian crude output for March at 2.304 million barrels per day indicating a 137,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for the previous month.

Based on OPEC data, the country's average crude output in the first quarter of 2021 stood at 2.190 million barrels per day indicating a near 197,000-bpd rise compared to the figure for the last quarter of 2020.

Fitch Solutions Incorporation, a subsidiary of Fitch Ratings, which is one of the U.S.'s three biggest credit rating agencies, has also forecasted a 6.8-percent growth for Iranian oil exports in 2021 if the U.S comes back to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Power plants' overhaul operation completed by 77%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — As announced by an official with Iran's Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH), so far, more than 70,000 megawatts (MW) (77 percent) of the overhaul operation of the country's power plants has been done to provide stable electricity during this summer's peak consumption period.

Esmail Namazi,, the director-general of TPPH's technical office for production, said for the repairs of power plants in this period, 90,000 MW of repair programs have been predicted, of which more than 70,000 MW have been done so far, and the remaining 20,000 MW is related to the periodical repairs that should be done by the end of May, so that the thermal power plants will be ready to supply the electricity needed for the peak consumption period this summer.

Meanwhile, the head of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has recently announced that the company has defined 40 programs for maintaining electricity supply and preventing power outages during the hot season peak consumption period.

Mohammad-Hassan Motevalizadeh underlined early increase in the temperature and water shortage for hydropower plants as the most important challenges this year, saying: "These issues have forced the early implementation of preventive programs and in this regard, 40 programs have been prepared by Tavanir, and will be implemented across the country."

Based on the mentioned programs, the responsibilities of various ministries and specialized parent companies have been determined and assigned, the official said.



He noted that the ceiling for incentive packages allocated to each province has also been determined and the governorates of the provinces have been notified in this regard.

"Government organizations and entities are the first priority for implementing consumption management programs, and in this regard monitoring and optimization of air conditioning and lighting systems in such offices should be seriously pursued", he stressed.

According to the latest data provided by the Energy Ministry, currently, 55 hydroelectric power plants with a total capacity of 12,169 megawatts (MW) are operating across the country and the water shortage will seriously affect their output.

Iran's current power generation capacity stands at about 85 GW of which the share of hydroelectric power stands at nearly 16 percent.

Water shortage in Iran has become a serious issue in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20) since the amount of rainfalls in the country have declined significantly in the current water year.

Earlier this week, the Iranian Deputy Energy Minister for Water and Wastewater Affairs Ghasem Taqizadeh Khamesi said that the country will be facing some problems in providing water for various sectors in the current year.

Water projects worth over \$37m inaugurated

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian on Tuesday inaugurated seven major water industry projects valued at 1.57 trillion rials (about \$37.3 million) through video conference in five provinces, IRNA reported.

Put into operation in the fifth week of the ministry's A-B-Iran program in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), the said projects were inaugurated in Zanjan, Isfahan, South Khorasan, Bushehr and Kerman provinces.

Water supply to several rural areas in the mentioned provinces as well as some wastewater treatment plants and a water storage facility were among the inaugurated projects.

Under the framework of the A-B-Iran program, the Energy Ministry has inaugurated many projects to supply drinking water to the country's rural areas.

The first phase of the A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was



initiated in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19, 2020), during

which 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about

Mining sector records annual positive trade balance

→ 1 As reported, the Islamic Republic imported 4.156 million tons of mining and mineral products in the year under review, registering six percent and 13 percent year-on-year rise in terms of value and weight, respectively.

The exports of such commodities in the previous year, however, fell 11 percent in terms of value and 21 percent in terms of weight, compared to the preceding year.

Steel had the biggest share in Iran's export basket of mining products (53.7 percent) with \$4.127 billion worth of exports, followed by copper, cement, and zinc chain products.

In line with Iran's major plans for distancing the country's economy from oil and moving toward a resilient, oil-free economy, the mining sector has become one of the major areas of focus in recent years, since the country is one of the world's top 10 mineral-rich countries where 68 types of minerals have been identified so far, including

the world's largest deposits of copper, zinc, and iron.

Expansion and exploitation of these huge sources of income have become a top priority for the government in recent years, and various programs have been defined for the improvement of this industry.

Reviving idle small mines, increasing the tariffs on the exports of some raw minerals, defining new exploration projects, signing memorandums of understanding with domestic and foreign manufacturers for the renovation of the country's mining equipment and machinery, and allocation of funds for the completion of semi-finished projects in this sector can be mentioned as some of the programs introduced by the government for the development of the country's mining sector.

Iran had planned to raise the exports from the mining sector up to \$10.5 billion in the previous year however the restrictions created by the coronavirus pandemic prevented the realization of the mentioned goal.



CBI allocates over \$23b to provide capital for SMEs

→ 1 "Last year, about 850 trillion rials (about \$20.2 billion) of facilities were provided to more than 27,000 small and medium-sized units across the country, which was 57 percent more compared to the preceding year," he said.

In early July last year, CBI instructed the country's banking network the regulations on financing SMEs with the



aim of smoothing the path of national production and supporting enterprises in order to fulfill the slogan of the previous calendar year which was "Surge in Production", through directing society's liquidity to productive sectors and financing domestic production units, as well as providing the required working capital for the enterprises.

The aforesaid instructions offer more and more support for small and medium-sized production units in order to provide the possibility of optimal and correct leading of available financial resources in order to improve the employment situation and economic growth in the country, the central bank wrote on its website at the time.

Overhaul operation starts in South Pars platforms

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — A director in Pars Oil and Gas Company, who is in charge of developing Iran's giant South Pars gas field in the Persian Gulf, announced the beginning of the overhaul operation in 31 gas platforms of the field.

Hadi Fakhrizadeh, the director for the repairs operation and production management in POGC, said that this year, for the first time, overhaul operation is conducted in 31 platforms of the field.

He said that the operation is scheduled to be finished in 157 days.

He also pointed to the significant reduction in the overhaul period of South Pars gas platforms and added, "Now, the average daily overhaul of 31 gas platforms has been reduced to 7.5 working days, while previously, about one-third of these platforms were repaired annually in 15 days."

As recently announced by the POGC managing director, the production goals set by the Oil Ministry for the giant gasfield in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) have been completely realized.

Mohammad Meshkinfam said that the South Pars gas field's output even exceeded the ministry's production targets by 15 million cubic meters per day during the previous year's winter period.

"Fortunately, with the efforts of our colleagues in the



operations and support department, about 15 million cubic meters per day of gas was produced in excess of the target output approved by the Oil Ministry during the last winter," the official said on the sidelines of a meeting with the managers of POGC's operations and support department.

Referring to the preparation of a 20-year outlook plan for South Pars' development and maintenance, he added: "it is necessary to form a working group to prepare and

compile a guiding document for maintaining sustainable gas production from South Pars in short-term and long-term periods and in order to identify problems and to make plans for eliminating bottlenecks."

The POGC head stated that about 70 percent of the country's gas consumption is supplied from the South Pars gas field, adding that the existing problems, including the outbreak of the coronavirus, management changes, bottlenecks, and lack of financial resources should not hinder production in this giant field.

Meshkinfam also referred to the South Pars gas field's maintenance issues and noted that POGC was able to perform well in the field of production maintenance last year, and the company's plans in this regard are expected to be pursued more seriously in the current year.

The huge South Pars field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

Annual export of potato rises 83%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — As announced by a director in the Iranian Agriculture Ministry, the country's export of potato increased by 83 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), as compared to its previous year.

Hossein Asghari announced that 950,000 tons of potato has been exported in the past year, while the figure was 518,000 tons in its preceding year.

The official also said that more than 5.5 million tons of potato was produced in the country during the past year, and added that the average production of potato at each hectare has increased by 500 kilograms to 37.1 tons in the past year, from 36.6 tons in its preceding year.

He said potato was cultivated in 149,000 hectares of land in the past year.

According to the Acting Head of Agricul-

ture Ministry's Economic Affairs Department Shahrokh Shajari, development of new irrigation systems and greenhouses to improve water productivity, development of aquaculture, especially shrimp and fish farming at sea, and development of medicinal plants cultivation are among the plans underway by the ministry for increasing productivity in the agricultural sectors.

Noting that one of the major indicators of the development of the agricultural sector is the value-added, the official said in most years, the growth of value-added in the agricultural sector has been more than the growth of the country's non-oil Gross Domestic Products (GDP).

Last week, President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated several agricultural projects worth 81.47 trillion rials (about \$1.93 billion) through video conference in various provinces.

The mentioned projects which were put into operation in a variety of fields including water and soil, fisheries, livestock and poultry, are going to provide job opportunities for over 42,300 people.

Some 3,913 of the inaugurated projects were related to installing new irrigation systems that covered an area of 72,000 hectares, while 150 projects were implemented in the fisheries sector and 571 projects were related to livestock and poultry sectors.

The inaugurated projects include some pressurized irrigation systems, several projects for increasing irrigation efficiency and water consumption management, some fish and shrimp breeding plants, improvement and organization of fishing ports, and several dairy production units.

In the past forty years, since the Islamic Revolution, Iran has witnessed a remarkable improvement in various sectors and the



agriculture industry has been one of the areas in which the country has undergone huge development.

Iran is situated in a dry plateau with limited water resources, so most of the country's development projects in the agriculture sector have been focused on decreasing and managing water consumption by introducing new irrigation methods.

The imperialistic policy behind Biden's recognition of Armenian genocide: Turkish historian

Mohammad Ali Saki

TEHRAN — A Turkish historian and political scientist believes Biden's decision to recognize the Armenian genocide is an imperialistic plan that lacks historical validity.

"There are imperialist political goals behind this decision, which has no legal and historical validity," Mehmet Perincek tells the Tehran Times.

"The decision is a work of the U.S. hostile policies towards Turkey. Recognizing the alleged massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire during World War One as genocide, Biden went further than his predecessors in the White House and departed from decades of carefully calibrated language when it comes to Turkey."

Biden's statement was greeted with praise in the Armenian capital, Yerevan — and among the country's diaspora, whose activists have long campaigned for such recognition — but met with anger in Ankara, where Turkey has denied that the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians between 1915-17 should be considered genocide.

Turkish politicians say that the U.S. administration is going to expand its hegemony through meddling in the region.

"Washington wants to establish a puppet 'Kurdistan' in the north of Syria and Iraq," Perincek emphasizes.

Following is the text of the interview:

What is your comment on Biden's recognition of the so-called Armenian genocide?

Biden's statement has no meaning in terms of international law. According to the international convention of 1948, only local courts or international criminal courts can decree genocide. Therefore, it is not possible to talk about any genocide without a court decision. Biden has no such authority.

Biden's statements are also incompatible with historical facts. I have been researching this topic in the Russian state archives for over 20 years. My books on this subject were published in Iran as well. Documents from the archive prove that the imperialist states provoked a mutual massacre in order to share Turkey, while Turkey made self-defense.



There are imperialist political goals behind this decision, which have no legal and historical validity. The decision is a work of the U.S. hostile policies towards Turkey. Washington wants to establish a puppet 'Kurdistan' in the north of Syria and Iraq. Besides, it has formed a bloc against Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is making stacks in Western Thrace and the Aegean and trying to surround Turkey. In this picture, Biden's statement has meaning. Allegations of the so-called Armenian genocide have been part of plans to share Turkey since time immemorial. Today, there is the same purpose. This plan was made through the 'Great Armenia project' in the past; today, it is tried to be realized through the 'Great Kurdistan project.' As a matter of fact, Turkey's fight against terrorism is also wanted to be shown as a crime against humanity.

Many predict deterioration of relations between Turkey and the U.S. under Biden's presidency. What is the reason?

Countries with deep-rooted state traditions, such as Turkey, Iran, Russia, China, are the biggest obstacle to U.S. plans. The United States cannot carry out its own strategy

unless they bring these countries to their knees or tear them apart. Therefore, there is a strategic confrontation between Turkey and the United States. The issue is not a simple problem or misunderstanding, etc.

Turkey will not surrender to the USA. Bilateral relations cannot improve until the USA respects Turkey's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The problem originates from U.S. imperialist plans for Turkey and the region.

Biden has also shown that he will continue these plans by exacerbating them.

How can Turkey balance its ties with Russia and the U.S.?

The United States is strategically positioned against Turkey. Russia, on the other hand, is facing the U.S. threat just like Turkey and has common interests with Turkey in the region. Therefore, Moscow is one of Ankara's most important strategic allies in the region. Turkey can only eliminate the U.S. threat to itself in cooperation with countries such as Russia and Iran.

So Ankara's need is not to maintain a balance between Moscow and Washington. All she has to do is develop a strategy with Moscow, Tehran, Damascus, and Baghdad that will stop U.S. plans together.

Do you think Turkey may desire to form a bloc with regional powers to confront U.S. policies?

This is a necessity for Turkey. This is a need not only for Turkey but also for all countries of the region. Rivalries and conflicts between countries in the region are provoked by the USA. Because the USA's realization of its plans in the region depends entirely on us fighting among ourselves.

In this regard, Ankara, Tehran, Moscow, Damascus and Baghdad need to be vigilant and prevent U.S. provocations. If the U.S. comes with a gift, there will be an insidious plan behind it for sure. In return, it'll want us to do something against our neighbors.

The Astana process is a very important example in this regard. When U.S. intervention is prevented, and countries in the region take the initiative, significant achievements can be achieved for peace and stability in the region. This initiative must be further deepened and expanded.

While Turkey's relations with the U.S. are deteriorating, Ankara tries to approach Israel? How do you see this policy?

The U.S. and Israel are in the same camp and have a common strategy. Both countries are a threat to Turkey's national security and regional peace. In this respect, it is not possible for Turkey to get closer to Israel while it is falling apart with the U.S.

In order for Turkey-Israel relations to normalize, Israel, first of all, must stop supporting the 'Kurdistan' plan and the terrorist organizations PKK/PYD. Today, the biggest supporters of the PKK/PYD are the USA and Israel. Today, the Turkish army is fighting against the Israeli plan both in Syria and in the Eastern Mediterranean.

On the other hand, the normalization of relations between Israel and countries such as the United Arab Emirates is targeting Turkey as well. These agreements aim to press Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East (West Asia). It's part of a plan to isolate Turkey.

In this regard, Turkey and Iran should also come together and cooperate against the Israel threat.

Trump remains popular with Republicans: academic

→ 1 Conservative critics also see Biden as failing to act effectively on immigration.

It is hard to compare Biden's first 100 days with Trump, mainly because of the global COVID pandemic. There was no imminent spending bill that the Trump administration had to consider when he took office. Trump oversaw no significant legislation passed in his first 100 days but did many executive orders concerning immigration.

Gun control advocates pin their hopes on Joe Biden's Gun control policy. Do you predict any change in this regard?

It is unlikely that gun reform legislation will move with Congress as it is. Legislation on guns requires 60 votes in the Senate to move forward, and those votes - which would include Republicans - are not there. So, it's next to impossible to move any legislation that would address guns.

Trump is resolute to come back in 2024. What are the repercussions of his move on Democrats and Biden's administration performance?

Trump remains popular with Republicans, even though it does appear that his appeal is eroding. The big issue that Republicans - and Trump - are latching onto is immigration.

If Biden fails to make a difference in this area, then this paves the way for Trump, or someone like him, to stage a comeback and mount another campaign on extreme U.S. nationalism.

What is Biden's policy when it comes to Asia and West Asia in particular? Getting rid of West Asian crises and focusing on China?

In the Middle East (West Asia), it seems that Biden would like to approximate the Iranian government in some way. It appears now that his government is not as recalcitrant as the Trump administration. In Saudi Arabia, it appears that Biden will follow the Trump administration in appeasing the monarchy instead of challenging them. Still, overall, most of the focus of the Biden administration until now has been domestic.

Do you expect Israel may wage war if the U.S.



reaches a deal with Iran?

There may be some saber-rattling, but unlikely an actual, full-scale war.

World's most tyrannical regime can't stop babbling about 'human rights'

By Caitlin Johnstone

"America won't back away from our commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms," reads a Wednesday tweet from the presidential Twitter account. "No responsible American president can remain silent when basic human rights are violated."

The tweet, an excerpt from the U.S. president's prepared congressional address, was retweeted on Saturday by Secretary of State Tony Blinken with the caption, "We will always defend human rights at home and abroad."

Like all U.S. secretaries of state, Blinken's public statements overwhelmingly focus on the claim that other nations abuse human rights, and that it is America's duty to defend those rights. Which is very silly, considering the fact that the U.S. government is the single worst human rights abuser on planet Earth?

And it's not even close.

There is no other government that is circling the planet with hundreds of military bases and working to destroy any nation which disobeys it via invasion, proxy wars, blockades, economic warfare, staged coups, and covert operations. There is no other government on earth whose violence has killed millions of people and displaced tens of millions just since the turn of this century. There is no other government waging non-stop wars around the world and dropping scores of bombs per day on human beings in foreign nations in order to perpetuate its iron-fisted domination of our planet.

And it just says so much about who is controlling the dominant narratives in our society that these actions are not considered human rights violations. Clearly we should all have a human right to not be murdered by explosives dropped from the sky, and we

in nations where this does not commonly occur would be very upset if it suddenly began happening to us. Clearly it is an abuse of human rights to deliberately starve children to death because you don't approve of the people who run things in their part of the world. Clearly it is an abuse of human rights to turn a nation to rubble and chaos for profit and geostrategic control.

Not a day goes by when the US government is not doing these things, both directly and through its imperial member states. Yet the US secretary of state spends all day tweeting that other governments are guilty of human rights violations. Because, as far as power is concerned, narrative control is everything.

If mass murder is not an abuse of human rights, then "human rights" is a meaningless concept. But even if bombing campaigns and other acts of military butchery do not transgress your personal definition of human rights, the US still does not care about human rights.

As journalist Mark Ames recently flagged, a few years ago the imperial narrative managers were very keen on informing us that Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte was a despotic human rights abuser, but we haven't been hearing much about what an evil brute he is of late.

So what happened? Did Duterte cease promoting the extrajudicial killings of drug users and spontaneously transform into a cuddly wuddly human rights advocate?

Of course not.

What happened, as Ames points out, is that Duterte ceased publicly toying with the notion of pivoting from Washington to Beijing as he had been doing since taking office, shifting to a hard line against China in support of Manila's longtime imperial

overlord.

We saw the change in coverage because Washington and its imperial spinmeisters only care about human rights abuses insofar as they can be exploited against the few remaining nations like China that have insisted on their own sovereignty instead of allowing themselves to be converted into member states of the US-centralized empire. We know this not only from naked eye observations of the empire's behavior from year to year, but also because they have blatantly said so.

As I never tire of reminding readers, a leaked 2017 State Department memo spelled out in plain English how the US only cares about human rights when they can be weaponized against its enemies, and has a standing policy of ignoring them when they are committed by its allies/vassal states.

In December 2017 Politico published an internal memo that had been sent the previous May to then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson by virulent neocon Brian Hook. The memo provided useful insight into what it looks like when a toxic swamp monster orients a political neophyte to the inner mechanics of the empire, explaining the way "human rights" are really just a tool to be cynically leveraged to advance the goal of planetary hegemony. It reads like an old veteran explaining the backstory to the new guy in the pilot episode of a new TV series.

"In the case of US allies such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the Philippines, the Administration is fully justified in emphasizing good relations for a variety of important reasons, including counter-terrorism, and in honestly facing up to the difficult tradeoffs with regard to human rights," Hook explained in the memo.

"One useful guideline for a realistic and successful foreign policy is that allies should be treated differently — and better — than adversaries," Hook wrote. "We do not look to bolster America's adversaries overseas; we look to pressure, compete with, and outmaneuver them. For this reason, we should consider human rights as an important issue in regard to U.S. relations with China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran. And this is not only because of moral concern for practices inside those countries. It is also because pressing those regimes on human rights is one way to impose costs, apply counter-pressure, and regain the initiative from them strategically."

In Imperialist Brain Worms World, "human rights" is nothing other than a propaganda weapon to be used for building antagonistic international coalitions, manufacturing consent for invasions and regime change ops, and spinning the dominant narrative in support of starvation sanctions and world-threatening cold war escalations. It's just mass-scale concern trolling of the most destructive and malignant sort imaginable.

This is what you are feeding into, by the way, when you parrot State Department lines about how horrible and tyrannical US-targeted governments are. You are helping to circulate the narratives our rulers are spending billions of dollars circulating, and you are doing it for free. You are making the jobs of the imperialists that much easier, because you are unwittingly operating as a pro bono Pentagon propagandist.

Don't be a Pentagon propagandist, pro bono or otherwise. Don't be an imperial concern troll. Don't let the worst human rights abuser on the face of our planet get away with pretending to support human rights.

(Source: Press TV)

Six rockets hit U.S. military base in Iraq's Al-Balad

At least six rockets have targeted an Iraqi air base hosting the occupying U.S. soldiers and warplanes following a string of similar attacks on the base during past months.

According to a Reuters report on Monday, the al-Balad base was first targeted by three rockets, which hit near U.S. military installations, situated inside the base. Soon after the first attack, three more rockets landed near the base.

Some Iraqi sources have reported that the base was targeted by at least 10 rockets during the Monday attack.

There are no immediate reports of casualties or material damage following the latest rocket attack on the base, although some Iraqi news channels reported that several American forces and contractors were injured.

No group or individual has so far claimed responsibility for the attack on the base, which is located 85 kilometers north of the capital Baghdad, and houses, among other things, F-16 fighter jets in addition to several maintenance companies employing Iraqi and foreign staff.

This was the second attack in the past 24 hours on the base as it was also targeted by several rockets on Sunday evening as well.

Yemen's army attacks Saudi Arabia

The Yemeni army said it had launched an operation using four drones of Qasif K-2 type and two ballistic missiles of Badr type against Saudi Arabia targeting King Khaled airbase in Asir and other military targets in Najran airport.

The spokesman of the Yemeni army said this attack came in response to the continued escalation of airstrikes by Saudi Arabia and its tighter restrictions on fuel imports.

He vowed larger attacks if the war is not stopped.

Saudi Arabia and its regional allies launched a deadly war against Yemen in March 2015.

The Saudi war has killed tens of thousands of civilians most of them women and children and brought about the world's worst humanitarian crisis according to the United Nations.

Experts say the Yemeni army's retaliatory attacks send this clear message to Saudi Arabia and its allies that the more attacks against Yemeni civilians and tighter blockade, the more painful attacks against Saudi facilities.

In arms race for air superiority, Russia challenges U.S. hegemony

Five years since its return to the Middle East with a military base in Syria, Russia is moving into weapons markets left vacant by the United States and boosting sales to traditional clients.

Moscow's expanding arms sales bring money and geo-political influence, as it seeks to challenge U.S. hegemony.

On February 25, Russia officially announced that Egypt had received five Sukhoi Su-35 advanced multi-role fighter aircraft, the first of an order of 24.

Egypt ordered the planes despite threats of U.S. sanctions after Washington refused to sell Cairo its fifth-generation F-35 fighter-bomber.

Turkey, a NATO ally, is in talks with Russia to buy the Su-35 and eventually the state-of-the-art Su-57 fifth generation combat plane, after being shut out of the US's F-35 programme.

On March 12, Russia announced it was ready to open official negotiations with Ankara, and to help Turkey develop its own fifth-generation fighter, the TF-X.

Algeria, Russia's biggest customer in the MENA, is to receive 14 upgraded Sukhoi-34 light bomber jets this year, and is also reportedly interested in the Su-57.

Iran, an historic client of Russian weaponry since the days of the Shah, is free to consider Russian goods again, since a decade-long UN arms embargo against the Islamic republic expired in October.

In part, Russia is marketing its weapons because they are a major source of foreign currency, experts said.

"Weapons exports are critical for the Russian economy, unlike the US which is such a huge market on its own that it doesn't really care about exports," said Kostas Grivas, professor of weapons systems at the Hellenic Military Academy.

Russia's share of global weapons exports was 21 percent in 2015-19, making it the world's second largest exporter after the U.S., according to figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Resistance News

Palestine PM urges UNICEF, UN bodies to follow up on HRW report about Israeli apartheid

INTERNATIONAL DESK **TEHRAN** — Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh has called United Nations bodies, particularly the Children's Fund (UNICEF), to follow up on a recent Human Rights Watch (HRW) report which says Israel is committing the crimes of apartheid and persecution in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem al-Quds.

During a meeting with Ted Chaiban, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, in Ramallah on Monday, Shtayyeh demanded greater efforts by international organizations in order to prevent Israel's crimes against Palestinian children and help stop the regime's violations of international law and humanitarian principles.

He also stressed the need for the formation of an international front to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

According to Press TV, the HRW said in a report on April 27 that Israel is committing "crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution" against Palestinians, and called on the international community to reevaluate diplomatic relations with the regime.

"While much of the world treats Israel's half-century occupation as a temporary situation that a decades-long 'peace process' will soon cure, the oppression of Palestinians there has reached a threshold and a permanence that meets the definitions of the crimes of apartheid and persecution," Kenneth Roth, executive director of the leading human rights group, said at the time.

Tehran, Rome discuss ways to expand tourism

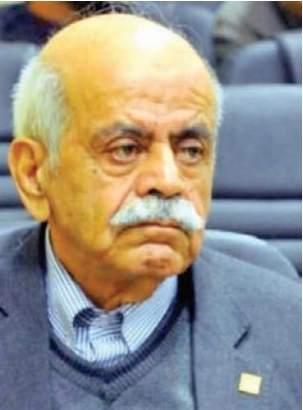
➔ **1** “And I think because our cultural ties are so deep and so complete in every area, that we do have a responsibility to showcase this richness and to tell people the story of this important connection that has always existed between Italy and Iran in different areas so we look forward to our future projects which are going to be quite amazing,” he stated.



Tens of Italian archaeologists have worked with their Iranian fellows to ace important discoveries. Their cooperation can be classified into four major lines of Joint mission in Fars province, Archaeological project in Shahr-e-Soukhteh, Sapienza University in Kermanshah project, and Expedition in Khuzestan.

Iranian archaeologist Ahmad Kabiri Hendi dies at 76

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – The Iranian archaeologist and architectural conservator Ahmad Kabiri Hendi, who joined plenty of archaeological explorations in his motherland, died in a Tehran hospital on Sunday. He was 76.



Temple at Kangavar, archaeological surveys at Shah Zand, Delazian near Semnan, Qasr Bahram Caravanserai, Persepolis, Farah Abad at Sari, etc.

Furthermore, Jebrael Nokandeh, the director-general of the National Museum of Iran expressed his deep sorrow over the death of the prominent researcher and offered his condolences to his family, and the Iranian archeological community, and the ICOMOS of Iran. He added his name and valuable works will be remembered.

Relics donated to Kerman cultural heritage directorate

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – Two Iranian individuals have recently donated 15 relics to the directorate of the cultural heritage and tourism in the southeastern Kerman province.

Estimated to date from the third millennium BC to the Islamic era, the objects include a chlorite bowl, bracelet, bronze ring, goblet, and a glass vessel, IRNA quoted a senior police official as saying on Tuesday.



Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

Five historical houses under restoration in Qazvin province

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – On Monday, the cultural heritage directorate of Qazvin announced that five historical houses are currently under restoration across the west-central province.

The historical houses are being brought back to their former glory through partnership agreements with the private sector, the deputy provincial tourism chief said.

“Restoration of historic houses is one of the priorities of the Ministry of Heritage, Culture, Tourism, and Handicrafts. Owners can take part in joint projects with the general directorate to restore their historic houses,” the official explained.

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

Median-era citadel to turn into hub for intl. sightseers

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** – Local authorities are set to turn Nushijan citadel into a top destination for international sightseers and holidaymakers. The Median-era (c. 678 BC– c. 549 BC) fortress and fire temple lies 20km northwest of Malayer in Hamedan province.

“Nushijan is one of the most treasured and unique buildings in the country, which is very important for the province and the historical site is one of the main potentials for attracting tourists, especially foreign travelers,” the provincial tourism chief Ali Malmir said on Sunday.

He made the remarks during a visit to the site, adding “The tourism potential of Nushijan will be fulfilled in near future when its tourism infrastructure is developed.”

“Archaeological studies have revealed the ancient hill (monument) has three historical floors, the first of which belongs to the Median period, the second to the Achaemenid, and the third to the times of the Sassanids,” the official explained.

Not many people knew Nushijan until 1963 that a British team searched and excavated the castle for 14 years, according to Iranwatching. During the excavation, many works belonging to the Medes, Ach-



aemenid, and Parthians were found.

Excavations also show that this building has three layers. The fortress and temple which are left from the early Median period form the initial and lower layer. The middle layer contains works of the Achaemenid

people and the upper or third layer contains works from the Parthian period.

A fortress fence and two fire temples indicate the political, religious, and military functions of this castle in the Median period. In later periods, the existing

construction had been used as a platform and subsequent buildings were created on it. As a result, the building related to the Medes remained even up to a height of 8 meters and does not need any special reconstruction.

The ancient construction indicates the very first patterns of Persian architecture and that is why it has become one of the most special and unique monuments in the whole country. It was an important place of worship for Medes, assumingly worshipping the god of the sun.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Hamadan has had many names: it was possibly the Bit Daiukki of the Assyrians, Hangmatana, or Agbatana, to the Medes, and Ecbatana to the Greeks. One of the Median capitals, under Cyrus II (the Great; died 529 BC) and later Achaemenian rulers, it was the site of a royal summer palace.

New museum to highlight history of education in South Khorasan

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** – The first school museum will make its debut in South Khorasan province to turn the spotlight on the history of education in the eastern Iranian region.

The establishment of such a museum seems necessary considering the honorable educational background of the province as well as the existence of great intellectuals and thinkers in the region, the provincial tourism chief, Hassan Ramezani, announced on Tuesday.

The museum is planned to be set up in one of the schools of the provincial capital of Birjand by the provincial directorate of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in collaboration with South Khorasan's Department of Education, the official added.

The museum will display documents and objects related to education and the elites of the province will be introduced to the visitors as well, he explained.

Located in eastern Iran, South Khorasan province is

home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Forg Citadel, and Polond Desert.

It is an explorer's delight – lots to discover yet barely another visitor to be found, even at the most important sights. The region intersperses arid mountains and semi-deserts and is famed for saffron and barberries. But there's also a wealth of old mud villages that seem to have been left almost complete as though to tempt archaeologists (relatively accessible Old Esfandiar and Old Deyhuk are amongst our favorites).

Castle lovers will swoon over Birjand's fortress – which might be slightly over-restored but make a great site for a traditional restaurant – and the mountain-top fortifications at Qa'en, especially magical at sunset; Forg is one of the most picture-perfect castle-citadels in Iran. Boshrooyeh's Qaleh Dokhtar is smaller and more ruinous but clings dramatically to a spike of the lonely desert



crag, with some unique, still-functioning traditional waterwheels nearby.

Persian crafts: a glance at ‘Nazok-Kari’ in Urmia

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Nazok Kari, or craft of making very delicate objects, both applicable and artistic, from wood, is one of the Persian crafts which is practiced in Urmia for centuries.



Nazok-Kari is typically made through two approaches. In one method, small and fine pieces are cut from woods with different colors, and then they are laid and sawed next to each other in a way that they look like one piece of wood. Then they are polished and painted. This method can be compared with wood marquetry, according to Visit Iran, an official travel guide of the country.

The second method is to use one kind of wood, commonly walnut, to make objects. In this method, objects are created by cutting and polishing pieces of wood into bowls, plates, and boxes for jewelry or make-up.

Some of the woods that are used are bright cream and white pieces of wood from peat trees, which contrast the dark knots of walnut wood. The contrast of bright-dark shades of wood creates fascinating effects after they are polished and burnished.

Other woods that can be used in Nazok-Kari are Maple, Buckthorn, Plane, Pine, and Alder. There are also materials such as cold or hot gum, lacquer, and tools such as manual or electric grinds, saw chisel, clamps, and grinding machine that is used to cut, carve and polish the products.

The provincial capital of Urmia, also spelled Orumiye, lies just west of Lake Urmia on a large fertile plain that yields grains, fruits, tobacco, and other crops. The population is mainly Azeri Turkish, with Kurdish, Assyrian Christian, and Armenian minorities. The remains of ancient settlements are scattered over the plain, as are traces of the ancient kingdom of Urartu.

First Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER No:1400/108-18/01

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject Of Tender:
Purchasing Radio Transmitter Spare Parts with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

Deadline and how to receive the tender documents :
From **Saturday 08 May 2021 (1400/02/18)** until **Tuesday 11 May 2021 (1400/02/21)** by **02:00 P.m.** with Presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

Place of receiving the tender document :
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept., 4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex, Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali-Asr Ave, Tehran, Iran.

The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it :
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No. IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB .

Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender :
The amount of deposit for participant in tender is USD 8.800 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 2.200.000.000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation packages/envelopes separately packed, should be submitted no later than **09:00 a.m.** on **Saturday 12 of June 2021 (1400/03/22)** and at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes on **Saturday 12 of June 2021 (1400/03/22)** at **10:00 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

Time and place of opening Envelopes :
The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on **Sunday 13 June 2021 at 03:00 p.m. (1400/02/23)** in the office of Financial Vice President. In case of complete content in the envelopes A the participant must be qualified by the competent authorities. For more information, please see:

www.iriboffice.ir and http://iets.mporg.ir Tel: 00982122167463

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

Fight against pandemic by healthy diet during Ramadan

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – As the coronavirus pandemic is putting the world through a hard time, following a proper diet during the holy month of Ramadan is very important to provide immunity, energy, and nourishment and prevent health problems.

Muslims observe religious fast from dawn (fajr) to sunset (maghrib) and pray more than usual and with even more intensity to get closer to God. Ramadan is traditionally a time of great hospitality and generosity to needy people.

At the end of the fasting day, Muslims break their day-long fast with an "iftar" meal. In Ramadan, people rise early before dawn to have a pre-fast breakfast, called "Sahari" in Persian. The meal is usually light and normally consists of previously prepared foods.

Adherence to proper nutrition has an important effect on strengthening the body's immune system to fight infections, especially COVID-19, so essential food groups, including grains, vegetables and fruits, legumes, nuts, dairy or alternatives, and protein sources, improve the function of the body's immune system.

Hunger can weaken the immune system and not having a healthy diet at Sahari and Iftar meals or omitting one of the meals, especially the morning one, possibly increases the incidence of coronavirus, Zahra Abdollahi, director of the community nutrition improvement office of the Ministry of Health said, Mehr reported.



Hunger can weaken the immune system and not having a healthy diet at Sahari and Iftar meals or omitting one of the meals, especially the morning one, possibly increases the incidence of coronavirus.

Numerous studies have shown the effective role of fasting in health, especially on blood glucose levels, blood lipids, and blood pressure, weight control, and recovery from various diseases. Fasting is beneficial in most diseases that are associated with poor eating habits, obesity, and overweight, she explained.

Highlighting that popper fasting and following a healthy diet is effective in strengthening the immune system, she noted that due to the vital role of vitamin A in strengthening the immune system, it is recommended to a variety of vegetables, yellow and orange fruits such as carrots, squash, bananas and

citrus fruits, as well as yolk, milk, and dairy.

Try to consume food sources of vitamin D such as fatty fish, dairy products, and yolk to increase the level of immunity, she added.

To provide vitamin E as an antioxidant to help the immune system, you can use oils such as canola, sunflower, and corn in cooking; also, vegetables such as spinach, kale, soy, and potatoes or nuts such as hazelnuts, almonds, walnuts, she said, adding, consume foods rich in vitamin C, including a variety of fruits and vegetables, such as cabbage, tomatoes, lemons, oranges, tangerines, and kiwis.

To prevent the rapid progression of viral infections and provide vitamin B12, consume sources of animal protein, including meat, fish and poultry, eggs, and dairy products, she recommended.

One can also consider having coconut water and fruity drinks which are super-hydrating. Fluids are very important for the health and vitality of the body during the fasting period and it is important to drink plenty of water, in addition to other re-freshing drinks, she explained.

The foods that should be avoided in Ramadan are deep-fried foods, high in sugar, and high-fat foods including sweets.

As the pandemic continues to sweep its way across the world, iftar gatherings and family get-togethers are discouraging people from meeting each other and are also promoting social distancing. Ramadan is a beautiful opportunity to practice good habits which stay with you even after the holy month ends and during the epidemic.

Iranians donate 40% more blood amid pandemic

SOCIETY TEHRAN – Despite the prevalence of COVID-19, blood donation has increased by 40 percent since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21), compared to the same period last year, Peyman Eshghi, head of Blood Transfusion Organization has stated.

Despite the difficult conditions of dealing with coronavirus, the blood donation rate at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan (April 13) has increased significantly compared to the previous years, he further said, IRIB reported on Monday.

COVID-19 recovered patients donate plasma

Earlier on April 6, Bashir Haji Beigi, spokesman for the Blood Transfusion Organization said that some 15,039 plasma units have been donated since April 2020 by patients who have been recovered from COVID-19 throughout the country.

Following the outbreak of coronavirus, doctors, pharmacists, scientists, and others are looking for a way to control the virus, and so far, many studies and researches have been done in this regard.

One of the studies showed that the plasma driven from recovered patients can be used in the treatment of COVID-19 with the help of the patient's immune system.

Convalescent plasma therapy allows someone who has recovered from a coronavirus infection to donate their blood plasma to someone who is critically ill.

The best time for plasma donation is at least 14 and preferably 28 days after recovery, and donors should age 18 to 60 years.

Blood donation in Iran

While blood donation in 70 countries still depends on replacement or paid donors, Iran is the first country in the region that has enjoyed voluntary blood donation by 100 percent since 2007.

More than 85 percent of all donated blood worldwide is used to produce blood products, while the rate is 65 percent in Eastern Mediterranean countries. Iran ranks among the highest-income countries in terms of converting more than 97 percent of the blood donated by people to plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMP).

Only 55 of 171 countries produce PDMP through the fractionation of plasma collected in the reporting country. A total of 90 countries reported that all PDMP are imported, 16 countries reported that no PDMP was used during the reporting period, and 10 countries did not respond to the question, according to WHO.

Iran currently has the highest blood donation rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region so that out of 9.9 million blood donation units in this region, more than two million belongs to Iran.

Also, the index of blood donation is 25 per 1,000 populations, while in the member states of the Eastern Mediterranean region, this number is 14.9 per 1000.

Blood donation saves millions of lives

According to the World Health Organization, blood transfusion saves millions of lives and improves health, but many patients requiring transfusion do not have timely access to safe blood. Providing safe and adequate blood should be an integral part of every country's national health care policy and infrastructure.

About 117.4 million blood donations are collected worldwide. 42 percent of these are collected in high-income countries, home to 16 percent of the world's population.

About 12,700 blood centers in 170 countries report collecting a total of 100 million donations. Collections at blood centers vary according to income group. The median annual donation per blood center is 1,300 in the low-income countries, 4,100 in lower-middle-income countries, and 8,500 in upper-middle-income countries, as compared to 23,000 in the high-income countries.

Data about the gender profile of blood donors show that globally 32 percent of blood donations are given by women, although this ranges widely. In 14 of the 119 reporting countries, less than 10 percent of donations are given by female donors.

Moreover, 62 countries collect 100 percent of their blood supply from voluntary, unpaid blood donors. Some 108 million blood donations are collected globally, half of these are in high-income countries. Meanwhile, blood donation by 1 percent of the population can meet a nation's most basic requirements for blood.

Humanitarian aid to the needy during Ramadan

→ 1 Volunteer efforts in light of pandemic

In the fight against coronavirus, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Basij along with the Ministry of Health and other responsible organizations, has undertaken important activities, from rapid diagnosis and screening to providing medical services and shelter, but the most important activity of this population has been informing the public about healthcare and treatment.

Since the onset of the outbreak, more than 980 voluntary plans and projects to contain the epidemic has been implemented across the country, with 72,694

volunteers participating in the implementation of these projects, Karim Hemmati, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, said in May 2020.

The first phase of public donations was allocated to provide health and essential items for the deprived and unprivileged areas, and besides, 500,000 patients suffering special diseases were provided with essential health items, he stated.

Through the second phase, the IRCS, to provide medical items for COVID-19 patients in hospitals, purchased 100 ventilators worth approximately 160 billion rials (around \$3.8 million), 52 devices have been provided with the help of char-

ities and public participation, he added.

With the efforts of the Basij, a national plan named after martyr Qassem Soleimani so far the decreased transmission chain of the disease by 50 percent.

Martyr Soleimani's plan is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Basij, and the Red Crescent Society, through which volunteer forces provide information, testing, diagnosis, referral of suspects to health centers, and offer services by visiting people's homes.

Some 22,530 monitoring teams have been formed within the framework of the plan since December 2020 with 103,000

members, of which more than 270,000 are in contact to identify COVID-19 patients, said Jafar Sadeq-Tabrizi, head of the Network Management Center of the Ministry of Health.

Some 6,730 home care teams have been formed in the country with the participation of 18,000 forces, who have taken care of 41,000 people at home, and rapid result tests have been performed on 7,500 suspects, he explained.

Since December 2020, with the participation of 61,000 people, more than 10,000 monitoring teams have been formed. About 782,000 visits and monitoring of various places and centers have been formed.

ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → E

Educational projects worth \$330m to be inaugurated

A total of 1,015 educational projects worth 14 trillion rials (nearly \$330 million) will be inaugurated across the country, Mehrolah Rakhshanimehr, director of the organization for renovation, development, and equipment of schools, has announced.

The projects will be inaugurated by the next 10 days, on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, he stated, ISNA reported on Sunday.

According to Rakhshanimehr, the projects include 4,168 classrooms, 11 swimming pools, and 32 gyms.

About 14,000 classrooms have been built so far this year (started March 21, 2019), compared with some 10,000 last year, he concluded.

افتتاح ۱۴۰۰ میلیارد تومان پروژه آموزشی

رئیس سازمان نوسازی، توسعه و تجهیز مدارس کشور گفت ۱۰۱۵ پروژه آموزشی با اعتباری به میزان ۱۴۰۰ میلیارد تومان در سراسر کشور به بهره‌برداری می‌رسد.

به گزارش ایسنا، مه‌راله رخشانی‌مهر افزود این پروژه‌ها طی ۱۰ روز آینده و به مناسبت چهل‌ویکمین سالگرد پیروزی انقلاب اسلامی افتتاح خواهند شد. به گفته او، این پروژه‌ها شامل ۴۱۶۸ کلاس درس، ۱۱ استخر، و ۳۲ سالن ورزشی هستند.

رخشانی‌مهر ادامه داد تاکنون در سال ۹۸ حدود ۱۴ هزار کلاس درس افتتاح شده است در حالیکه در سال ۹۷ حدود ۱۰ هزار کلاس افتتاح شده بود.

Vital soil organisms being harmed by pesticides, study shows

Pesticides are causing widespread damage to the tiny creatures that keep soils healthy and underpin all life on land, according to the first comprehensive review of the issue.

The researchers found the measured impacts of farm chemicals on earthworms, beetles, springtails and other organisms were overwhelmingly negative. Other scientists said the findings were alarming, given the importance of these "unsung heroes".

The analysis warned that soil organisms are rarely considered when assessing the environmental impact of pesticides. The US, for example, only tests chemicals on honey bees, which may never come into contact with soil, an approach described as "crazy".



A UN report published in December found that the future looked "bleak" for soils without urgent action to halt degradation, given that it takes thousands of years for new soils to form. Soils are thought to contain nearly a quarter of all the planet's biodiversity.

Nathan Donley, at the Center for Biological Diversity in the US and an author of the new review, said: "The level of harm we're seeing is much greater than I thought it would be. Soils are incredibly important. But how pesticides can harm soil invertebrates gets a lot less coverage than pollinators, mammals and birds – it's incredibly important that changes."

"Beetles and springtails have enormous impacts on the porosity of soil and are really getting hammered, and earthworms are definitely getting hit as well," he said. "A lot of people don't know that most bees nest in the soil, so that's a major pathway of exposure for them."

Prof Dave Goulson, at the University of Sussex, UK, and not part of the study team, said: "The findings of harmful effects on soil organisms from the large majority of pesticides tested is alarming, given the vital importance of these 'unsung heroes' in keeping the soil healthy."

The analysis, published in the journal *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, systematically reviewed nearly 400 studies of the effects of pesticides on non-target invertebrates that live at least part of their lives in the soil. It covered more than 275 species and 284 pesticides, but excluded any chemicals currently banned in the US.

The studies provided more than 2,800 "tested parameters", where a specific pesticide had been tested on a specific organism for a particular feature, such as mortality, abundance, behaviour, reproduction, and biochemical and morphological changes.

The scientists found 71% of the tested parameters showed negative effects from pesticide exposure, while 28% showed no significant effects and 1% showed positive effects. For example, 84% of the tested parameters in earthworms were negatively affected by the most-common classes of insecticides. Some herbicides and fungicides also harmed earthworms.

Donley said: "It's not just one or two pesticides that are causing harm, the results are really very consistent across the whole class of chemical poisons." A 2012 review showed that pesticides can also harm microbial life in soils.

Review studies may be affected by so-called publication bias, if researchers have tended to publish only those experiments that show a striking result. But Matt Shardlow, at the charity Buglife in the UK, said: "The answer is clear here – the distribution of outcomes in published studies is massively weighted on the negative side."

"The high level of negative effects on reproduction across the board is one of the most concerning results they highlight," he said. "It also transpires that fungicides are almost as bad as insecticides for soil animals. This is not surprising as earthworms, woodlice, millipedes and springtails feed largely on fungi on decaying vegetable matter."

"We all want fertile agricultural soils, but this shows that the pesticides we are applying are assaulting the fertility of the animals that live in the soil," Shardlow said. "If we want to protect healthy soils we do need to take soil organisms into consideration when deciding if a pesticide is safe to use."

In the US, the only organism pesticides are tested on are honey bees, said Donley: "It's crazy to have a single species that may never come into contact with soil in its entire life as a proxy for every terrestrial invertebrate out there. You might as well use a fish." Pesticide regulation is generally even less strict in less developed nations, despite agriculture making up a bigger part of their economies.

Europe Union pesticide regulations do include tests on one species of mite, springtail and earthworm, and on microbial activity. Further tests on a woodlouse and symbiotic fungi are also being considered. "That's good, but I'd still like to see more," said Donley.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 175)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

Word Formation		واژه‌سازی	
بسیاری از واژه‌های فارسی را با پیشوند و پسوند درست می‌کنیم:			
adj	بی‌مزه	n	مزه +
n	باغچه	n	جه +
n	دانش	v	یش +
n	دانشکده	n	کِده +
n	خوابگاه	v	گاه +
n	زیارتگاه	n	گاه +
n	کارگر	n	گر +
adj, n	دانشمند	n	مند +
n	فروشنده	v	نده +
n	آزادی	adj	ی +
adj	اسلامی	n	ی +

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If the right usurped from us is given back to us we shall take it, otherwise we shall go on claiming it.

Imam Ali (AS)

Book reviewing Iran’s top leaders’ outlooks on Palestine published in Urdu

CULTURE **TEHRAN** – The Iranian Culture Center in Pakistan has published a book in Urdu that discusses the views of the top leaders of Iran on Palestine.

The book titled “Palestine, the Land of Prophets” begins with an account of the Crusades and continues with the birth of Zionism and the consequent flocking of Jewish emigrants into Palestine.



Front cover of “Palestine, the Land of Prophets”.

The book subsequently covers the historical accounts of the Israeli expansionism, including the Nakba day as well as a discussion on Quds as the official Palestinian capital, and the resistance of Hamas with reference to the first and second Intifadas while also discussing Trump’s futile Deal of the Century.

In its next chapters, the book extensively reviews the viewpoints of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, on the Palestinian issue with his emphasis on Islamic unity and the establishment of the annual International Quds Day, which falls on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan every year.

International Quds Day was initiated in 1979 by Imam Khomeini to express solidarity with Palestinians who have been under the Zionist regime’s occupation for seven decades.

Rallies are held each year in various cities around the world by both Muslims and non-Muslim communities. Many Jewish people also attend the rallies in order to draw a line between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

Citing Quds day as the day of confrontation of the oppressed with the arrogant oppressors, the responsibility of Muslims around the world in relation to Palestine has also been covered in this book.

The book also respectively discusses the impact of the Islamic Revolution in the region by referring to the perspective of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on the Palestine issue.

The Iranian Culture Center will be organizing a webinar on International Quds Day in collaboration with the Ummat Vahedeh Institute and the Pakistani Scholars Association.

Fajr festival to screen Polish drama “I Never Cry”

A R T **TEHRAN** – Polish drama “I Never Cry” directed by Piotr Domalewski will be screened at the 38th Fajr International Film Festival, the organizers announced on Monday.



“I Never Cry” by Polish director Piotr Domalewski”

The film tells the story of Olka who must travel to Ireland to bring her father’s body back to Poland after he died working at a construction site. But never mind her dad, Olka wants to know if he saved money for the car he had promised. Dealing with foreign bureaucracy in her own street-smart way, Olka learns that her biggest dream wasn’t a car, but getting to know her dad.

It has been screened earlier in several other prestigious festivals, including San Sebastian, Tokyo and Busan.

In a review published by Cineuropa, Ola Salwa wrote, “For some reason, only newspapers and writers discussed or investigated this phenomenon of the so-called ‘Euro-orphans’.”

He added that many Polish families have fallen apart due to immigration after the country joined the European Union, with thousands of children growing up away from their parents.

“I Never Cry” is scheduled to premiere in the UK in July.

Domalewski made his “Silent Night” in 2017. It won the grand prix Zlote Lwy of the 42nd Polish Feature Film Festival in Gdynia, and the Media Choice Award for Filmmaker at the Shanghai International Film Festival.

The 38th Fajr International Film Festival will be held in Tehran from May 26 to June 2.

Azar Yazdi’s “Good Stories for Good Children” published in Italian

→1 “Thirty Tales From the Treasure Chest of Ancient Persian Literature” (“Trenta Racconti Dalla Scrigno Della Letteratura Persiana Antica”) has been published by Italian company Il Cerchio in collaboration with the Iranian Culture Center in Rome, the center announced in a press release published on Monday.

The thirty stories selected from the series “Good Stories for Good Children” has been rendered into Italian by a team of translators under the supervision of Bianca Maria Filippini of the Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies at the University of Naples L’Orientale.

Elena Scarinci, Federica Pozzo, Carolina Cortoneo, Melissa Fedi and Letizia Pafumi are members of the team.

“Good Stories for Good Children” composed of eight books won a UNESCO prize in 1966 and was selected as Iran’s best book of the year in 1967.

The stories in the collection have been authored based on the great works of Persian literature such as the Gulistan (The Rose Garden), Masnavi-ye Manavi, Marzban-Nameh, Sinbadnameh, and some



Cover of the book “Trenta Racconti Dalla Scrigno Della Letteratura Persiana Antica” containing the Italian translation of stories by Iranian children’s writer Mehdi Azar Yazdi.

stories from the Holy Quran and the life of the Prophet Muhammad (S) and his

Household (AS).

Azar Yazdi planned to write other

volumes for the series, however, his plan remained unfulfilled due to his death in 2009 when he was at 88.

He was also the author of “The Naughty Cat,” “The Playful Cat,” “Simple Stories,” “Poetry of Sugar and Honey” and “Masnavi of Good Children.”

“Encouragement is the main factor that makes a person begin a task and continue it. I had no one encouraging me, and my parents taunted me about writing childlike stories,” Azar Yazdi once said during a ceremony held by the Iranian Luminaries Association in February 2007 to honor him for his lifetime achievements.

“When I was 35 years old I left Yazd (his homeland) and afterward began reading ‘Kalilah and Dimnah’, which is very difficult. However, I found it very beautiful and subsequently decided to write for children. I sought neither fame nor money. I only wanted to do a good job. So I wrote ‘Good Stories for Good Children’,” he said during the ceremony.

Previously his book “Adam” had been chosen as Iran’s best book of the year in 1968.

“The Badger” scoops awards at Riverside Intl. Film Festival

A R T **TEHRAN** – The 19th Riverside International Film Festival in the Inland Empire region of Southern California has honored the Iranian drama “The Badger” in three categories, including the best audience and best actor.

Directed by Kazem Mollai, “The Badger” is about Sudeh, a 40-year-old woman who faces a strange incident right before her second marriage. Sudeh and her son Matiar live in an old apartment. One day, she hires a pest control company to solve the termite problems in the apartment. While the pest control company is working, Matiar is recording the procedures, as this is his hobby. The next day, Matiar gets kidnapped after school, and the kidnapper asks Sudeh to pay 10 Bitcoins for her son. Tremendous pressure is put on Sudeh, but the truth hidden beneath will surprise everyone.

The film also won the festival’s President Award for

its ensemble cast.

“The Badger” had been screened at over a dozen of international events and has won several awards, including the grand prize for the best foreign feature at the Berkeley Video and Film Festival in the U.S. last November.

The Riverside International Film Festival honored winners in two categories by the jury awards and audience awards. Vishka Asayesh received the jury award for best actor for her portrayal of Sudeh in “The Badger”.

However, the award for best actress went to Kalok Tang from Macao for her role in “Patio of Illusion”, which also brought Shanghai Chen the award for best director.

“Patio of Illusion” also won the Founders Award for best picture.

Gonçalo Rabalo from Portugal was awarded the Jury Best Cinematographer for the short “The Living”, which he himself directed.

Belgrade festival to screen “Sun Children”, “No Choice”, “Tooman”

CULTURE **TEHRAN** – Iranian movies “Sun Children”, “No Choice” and “Tooman” have been selected to be screened at the 49th Belgrade International Film Festival, which will open in the Serbian capital city on May 7.

“Sun Children” directed by Majid Majidi is about 12-year-old Ali and his three friends, who do small jobs and petty crimes to survive and support their families. In a turn of events that seems miraculous, Ali is entrusted to find a hidden treasure underground. He recruits his gang, but first, to gain access to the tunnel, the children must enroll at the Sun School,

a charitable institution that tries to educate street kids and child laborers, close to where the treasure is located.

The child labor drama was among the 15 movies selected for the foreign-language film category longlist at the 93rd Academy Awards. However, it failed later to receive a nomination on the shortlist.

The movie had its Iranian premiere during the 38th Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in February 2020, garnering the Crystal Simorghs for best film, script and set design.

Numerous international events, including the 77th Venice Film Festival, have also screened the movie. The festival honored

the film’s star Ruhollah Zamani with the Marcello Mastroianni Award.

Directed by Reza Dormishian, “No Choice” tells the story of three women who clash when a determined lawyer takes on the case of a homeless girl against a doctor. A 16-year-old homeless girl repeatedly works as a surrogate mother for money. A human rights attorney tries to rescue her, but inevitably faces difficulties.

“Tooman” is about Davood who bets his entire earning from a factory job on online soccer gambling; without ever losing on any game, Davood bets until he loses his life and love. Morteza Farshabf is the



Shamila Shirzad and Ruhollah Zamani act in a scene from “Sun Children” by Iranian director Majid Majidi.

director of the film.

“Tooman” and “No Choice” will be screened in the FEST Fokus section of the Belgrade festival, which will run until May 16.

Iraqi writer Azhar Jerjis’s “Sleeping in the Cherry Field” rendered into Persian

CULTURE **TEHRAN** – Iraqi writer Azhar Jerjis’s debut novel “Sleeping in the Cherry Field” has been translated into Persian.

Saless is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Mohammad Hazbaizadeh.

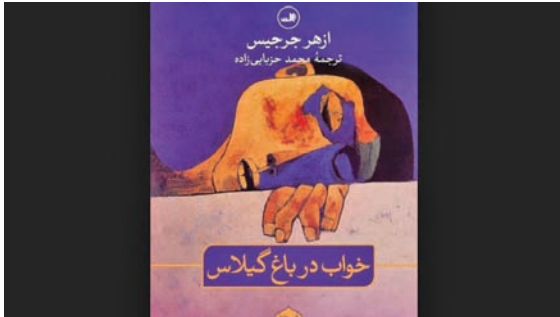
The novel tells the story of Said, an Iraqi immigrant working as a postman in Oslo, who falls in love with a young woman, Tuna Janssen, who is teaching Norwegian to immigrant foreigners.

She helps him develop his language skills and fulfil his dream of writing stories.

He even manages to get a job as a columnist with a well-known Norwegian newspaper. However, her death is a shocking and terrible blow.

After that, he spends his time writing, in isolation, only meeting his neighbor, Jacob Jondal, an old man who dreams of sleeping in a cherry field.

In his final days, he buys a cherry field and leaves instructions that he should be buried there, since he firmly believes that by doing so, he will become a cherry tree, according to an old legend, which says that after death, people turn into something suited to the place



Front cover of the Persian translation of Azhar Jerjis’s debut novel “Sleeping in the Cherry Field”.

where they were buried. If buried on a mountain, he would become a rock, if in the desert, a grain of sand, etc.

After the death of his kindly neighbor, Said becomes more isolated and cuts himself off from the outside world, until he receives an urgent letter from Baghdad calling him to return there immediately.

The female writer of the letter informs him that his

“Approaches to Literature” comes to Iranian bookstores

CULTURE **TEHRAN** – “Approaches to Literature: The Modern Scholar: Way with Words, Vol. 2” by American writer Michael D.C. Drout has recently been published in Persian.

The book, published by Morvardi, was translated into Persian by Marzieh Ashuri.

In “A Way with Words: Writing, Rhetoric, and the Art of Persuasion”, widely published professor Michael D.C. Drout embarked on a thought-provoking investigation into the role of rhetoric in our world.

Now, in “A Way with Words II: Approaches to Literature”, the renowned literary scholar leads a series of lectures that focus on the big questions of literature.

Is literature a kind of lie? Can fiction ever be “realistic”? Why do we read? What should



This combination photo shows American writer Michael D.C. Drout and the front cover the Persian translation of his book “Approaches to Literature”.

we read? Drout provides insight into these and other provocative questions, including

those related to the role of the text, author and audience in the reading process.

Throughout, Drout introduces the major schools of literary and critical thought and employs illuminating examples from the world’s most important literary works.

Literature contributes to our understanding of what it means to be human in a myriad of complex ways, and for all those who appreciate the role of literature in our lives, this course proves a wonderful exploration of one of humankind’s most cherished pursuits.

Drout is a professor of English and director of the Center for the Study of the Medieval at Wheaton College.

Drout, who holds a Ph.D. in English from Loyola University Chicago, is an author and

editor specializing in Anglo-Saxon and medieval literature, science fiction and fantasy, especially the works of J. R. R. Tolkien and Ursula K. Le Guin.

He is best known for his studies of Tolkien’s scholarly work on Beowulf and the precursors and textual evolution of the essay “Beowulf: the Monsters and the Critics”, published as “Beowulf and the Critics by J. R. R. Tolkien”, which won the Mythopoeic Award for Scholarship in Inklings Studies.

He is the editor of the J.R.R. Tolkien Encyclopedia: Scholarship and Critical Assessment, a one-volume reference on Tolkien’s works and their contexts.

With Douglas A. Anderson and Verlyn Flieger, he is co-editor of “Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review”.