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## Mahmoud Abbas plunges into the unknown as Israel represses Palestinians

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### Iran censures Israeli aggression against Palestine

TEHRAN – Iran has condemned in the strongest terms the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and called for a plebiscite to settle the longstanding Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In a statement issued in Persian and Arabic on Monday, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, denounced the Israeli attacks against civilians in Palestine.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran

strongly condemns the Zionist aggression on the land of Palestine, the holy Quds and the noble Gaza, which has led to the martyrdom of dozens of civilians, including women and children, and the destruction of many of inhabited homes, something that blatantly violates the principles of human rights and international laws," the statement said.

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### NIOC awards Farzad-B gas field development project to domestic firm

TEHRAN – National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has signed a \$1.78 billion deal with a domestic company called Petropars for the development of Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf, Shana reported.

The deal was signed by Mohammad Meshkinfam, the managing director of Iran's Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), as NIOC representative, and Hamidreza Masoudi, the managing director of Petropars, in a ceremony on Monday.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.

Based on the deal, Petropars is going to develop the field to boost its output to 28 million cubic meters per day of sour gas over a five-year period.

The gas produced by this field will be transferred to the onshore facilities of Pars 2 Region in Kangan for processing.

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### Doc portraying volunteer doctors in Iran's deprived area produced

TEHRAN – A documentary portraying activities of a group of Tehran's renowned doctors, who volunteered to give treatment for people living in Bashagard, a deprived area in the southeastern Iranian province of Hormozgan, has recently been completed.

Entitled "26° East", the documentary has been directed by Amir-Mehdi Nejadnik. "This documentary is initially about

a visit a group of physicians and dentists paid to the region last summer," Nejadnik said in a press release published on Monday.

"The film is composed of two chapters, the first of which familiarizes viewers with the residents' simple lifestyle, shortages and problems facing the people in the region.

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### Iran football needs VAR as well as cultural improvement

**BY FARROKH HESABI**  
The lack of modern technology in Iranian football has become evident after some dubious decisions in recent weeks of the Iran Professional League (IPL). The IPL's referees have come under fire for some of their calls in the recent games, and it shows that the use of Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology to help the referees is a necessary.

The Tehran derby's result was overshadowed by the complaints about the refereeing decisions, especially by Esteghlal's coaches, players, and the fans who believed they should have been awarded a penalty in the third minutes of the match. However, Persepolis also objected to some decisions by the referee Mohamadreza Akbarian, publishing some videos which show that one penalty in their favor was ignored.

It is not the first time, and will not be the last one, that controversy arises for refereeing decisions. However, former elite referee Navid Mozafari believes that VAR is not the only solution because there are cultural problems in Iranian football.

"First of all, VAR needs budget, infrastructure, and training program. But above that, we should notice that the pressures on our referees are more because of cultural problems than technical issues. In the VAR, we have a video operation room that includes some referees. Do you think that the Iranian coaches and players will accept the decisions made by the VAR team?"

"Yes, VAR's philosophy is to correct the clear and obvious errors, but the major problem of Iranian football is a wrong culture that a team's staff object to any decision of the referee and blame him when they lose a game," Mozafari said.

"In previous years, we had big referees like Mohsen Toriki and Masoud Moradi who took charge of the games, and we had much fewer controversies. Also, we had a powerful and decisive disciplinary committee in the football federation that dealt with any unfair behavior or abuse by the football coaches and players.

"Let me emphasize once again that VAR is useful for us. Still, in the current situation, with a third of its cost (the cost of the use of VAR for a season is estimated \$6.2 million), a large part of the refereeing problems can be solved. We need to solve the cultural problem, and if not, even with the VAR, the problems will continue," he concluded.

### Russian tourists eager to visit Iran: expert

TEHRAN – Many Russian tourists are eager to travel to Iran, an Iranian travel expert said on Monday, recounting his Russian counterparts.

"Many [potential] Russian travelers are motivated to visit novel and lesser-known destinations such as Iran that could be a safe and attractive destination," said Mostafa Sarvari who presides over the tourism marketing and advertising office of the Iranian Tour Operators Association.

He quoted the idea from a host of Russian tourism insiders, ISNA reported.

"According to Russian tourism experts, the feedback from Russian tourists who have traveled to Iran has been very positive, and its reflection, especially on social media, has caused a great deal of enthusiasm and interest."

Sarvari even believes that if visas for travel groups are waived between the two countries, Iran would be the winner; because more Russians will travel to the Islamic Republic.

Visa-free travel for group tours between Iran and Russia could proffer equal conditions for both nations, according to Mohammad Qasemi, the director for marketing and advertising at the ministry of tourism. "This agreement provides equal conditions for both sides, now it is the private sector effort of the two countries as well as the approach of the nominated agencies, which determines which side will benefit from this exchange."

Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ebrahim Pourfaraj said last year that new rounds of negotiations were commenced between Iranian tour operators, travel marketers, and their Russian counterparts. "We've been commenced talks with some Russian travel agents to put Iranian destinations on their itineraries.... And the Iranian Tour Operators Association has also entered negotiations with Russian unions for outbound tours to attract more travelers from Russia."

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### Recent escalation in Palestine has opened a wide door for a new intifada: senior Hamas official

**BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI**

TEHRAN - A former senior Palestinian official says the recent developments in Jerusalem and other areas in Palestine have created an opportunity for a new uprising (intifada).

"The recent escalation opened a wide door in front of the Palestinian people for a new 'intifada' to be unified behind their resistance to restore their rights," Basem Naim, the former Palestinian health minister, tells the Tehran Times.

Tension in East Jerusalem has been escalating in recent weeks, centering on the Sheikh Jarrah and the Old City areas. Between May 7 and 10 alone, 1,000 Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces, 735 of these due to rubber bullets.

Widespread clashes erupted in East Jerusalem, particularly in the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Damascus Gate area. A heavy Israeli security presence and large numbers of worshippers

contributed to the tensions. On May 10, 657 Palestinians were injured, mostly in the upper bodies, with at least one Palestinian losing his eye. According to Israeli media and Israeli police reports, 32 Israeli officers were reportedly injured on May 10, of which 21 were in the Al Aqsa compound.

Some political observers believe that public anger against the Israeli regime is widespread inside and outside of the occupied territories.

"For the first time in decades, we see that the Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Arabs of 1948 territory are rising up against the occupation, aggression and injustice inflicted on them, in an effort to support of their sanctities, especially the Al-Aqsa Mosque," emphasizes Naim, member of the International Relations Office of the Hamas movement.

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### Iran announces readiness to treat victims of Israeli attacks on Gaza

TEHRAN – Iran's Emergency Services Organization has announced readiness to provide medical treatment for the victims of the Zionist regime's brutal attacks on Gaza.

"Iran's Emergency Services is ready to send medical teams in order to help the Gazans wounded in the wake of Israel's brutal attacks and it is doing its best to transfer the injured to Iran for treatment if necessary,"

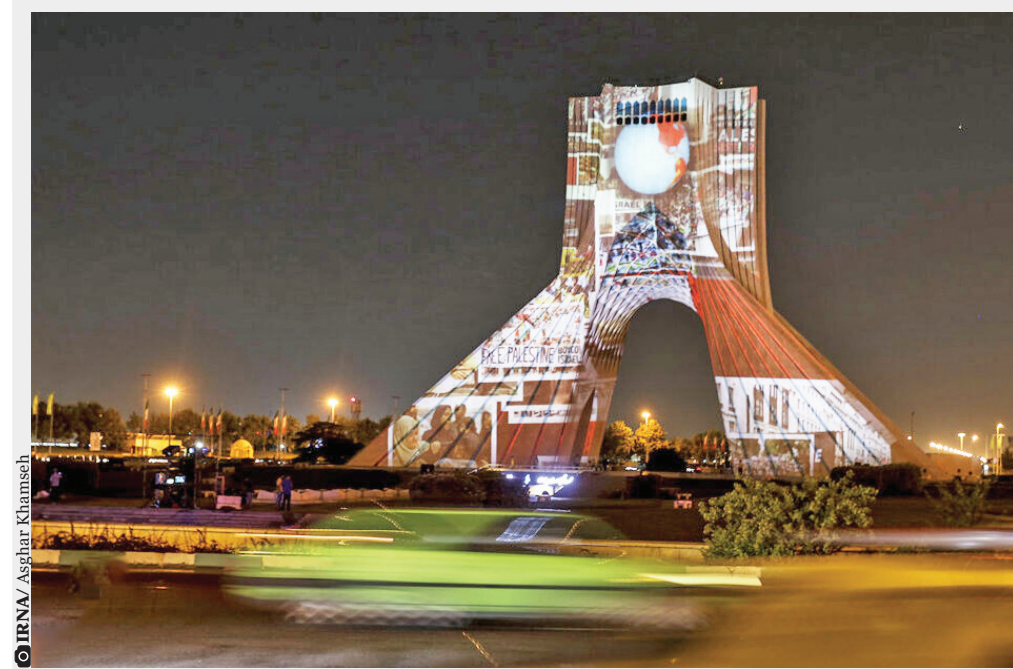
the organization's head Pir Hossein Kolivand wrote in a letter to Health Minister Saeed Namaki.

On May 6, the Israeli Supreme Court decided a forced eviction of the Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem. The Palestinians protested over the unfair ruling, as they were forced to leave their homes.

Israeli forces stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, and dispersed the

Palestinian worshippers elsewhere in East Jerusalem. Israel has been heavily bombing Gaza since last Monday, in which 197 Palestinians have been killed so far, including 58 children and 34 women, and 1,235 Palestinians were also injured.

The Palestinian resistance has also launched rain rockets in the occupied territories in response to the Israeli aggression and attacks on Gaza.



### Tehran Municipality highlights solidarity with Palestine

TEHRAN — Following the recent brutal atrocities committed by the Israeli regime against the Palestinians, especially the defenseless people of Gaza, the Municipality of Tehran declared its support for the Palestinians by video mapping a picture of the Palestine flag on Azadi Tower.

### Western media keeps public unaware of reality in Palestine: Pakistani researcher

**BY M. A. SAKI**

TEHRAN – A Pakistani researcher says that Western media outlets are trying to keep the public unaware of what is going on in Palestine.

"Western media is successfully keeping its domestic audience unaware of the actual on the ground situation. People in the West don't really know what is actually going on," Arhama Siddiqi tells the Tehran Times.

"Going against all ethics which principled journalism demands, they have unabatedly picked one side-Israel," Siddiqi adds.

In recent years, social media have become a lifeline for many who want to raise awareness about causes and struggles ignored or undermined by mainstream media outlets.

Yet tech companies are now actively working to exclude Palestinian voices from their platforms, silencing the Palestinians in an expanded and calculated manner.

"The taking down of posts on Facebook and Instagram and even some cases Twitter showcase their fear of what the reaction will be if they engage in objective reporting," the Pakistani expert on West Asia notes.

Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you describe the recent escalation in Palestine? Why is Israel committing barbarity against Palestinians?**

Saying that the recent escalation in Palestine is completely barbaric would be an understatement.

*Continued on page 5*



ELECTION WIRE

## Prominent candidates introduced

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — As the registration for the June 18 presidential elections closed on Saturday, the Tehran Times has decided to provide respectful readers with brief introductions of prominent presidential candidates. This series of introduction will continue tomorrow.

### Es'haq Jahangiri

Currently serving as the first vice president, Jahangiri, a key member of the Executives of Construction Party, was born in 1958.

He served in various positions, such as MP (two four-year terms), governor of Isfahan (5 years), and minister of industries (two four-year terms).

In the 2013 presidential election, Jahangiri was a potential reformist candidate, but he withdrew in favor of Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and later became Rafsanjani's campaign manager. However, Rafsanjani's candidacy was rejected by the Guardian Council in 2013.

Jahangiri ran for president in 2017, quitting the race on the last days in favor of Rouhani. Many interpreted his candidacy as a supporting move for Rouhani during the debates and withdraw before the voting commenced.

Jahangiri is publicly known as a pro-reform figure.

He stated that he is running for president to "protect the freedom and fundamental rights of the citizens."

Jahangiri noted that he didn't intend to enter the presidential race, but since Foreign Minister Javad Zarif refused to field candidacy, he had the feeling it is necessary to run in the presidential elections.

He believes that the winner of the elections is a high voter turnout.

### Saeed Jalili

Known as a conservative politician, he was born in 1965. He may not have a record as prolific as some other important candidates, yet he held key positions during his political career.

Being secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) and chief nuclear negotiator in Ahmadinejad's administration from 2007 to 2013, he held several meetings with the European Union to discuss possible solutions to lift sanctions on Iran, yet due to various differences of opinions between the two sides, Iran and the EU failed to reach an agreement.

He ran for the 2013 presidential elections, but failed to acquire enough votes. He came third, losing the battle to Hassan Rouhani.

He then proposed the idea of a "shadow cabinet" to help compensate for the Rouhani administration's shortcomings. Over the past years he has held numerous meetings, discussing problems and offering solutions.

After his registration at the Ministry of Interior for the June election, Jalili challenged other nominees to present their plans for running the country to the people.

He said the candidates should tell the people the result of their 4-year plan if elected president.

"If we do not address the main issues well, some rhetoric can even take the center stage. I hope that in the upcoming elections, rhetoric will not overcome the needs of the people," he remarked.

### Saeed Mohammad

Serving as the director of Khatam al Anbia Construction Headquarters of the IRGC, Saeed Mohammad was born in 1968.

From 2007 to 2014, he was the CEO of Sepasad Group (affiliated to the Khatam Camp) and from 2018 to March 2021, he was the commander of the Khatam Al-Anbia Construction Camp and holds the military rank of Brigadier General at the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

He nominated as a candidate on the very first hours of the election registration, saying that this shows his determination to win the race.

He is unknown to the public, as he has never been involved in politics. Although he has tried to clarify his plans to the public, many analysts cast serious doubts over his ability to execute the Islamic Republic's foreign policy plans.

After his registration at the Ministry of Interior, Mohammad noted that he has "a good resume and a strong team of experts" that helped him set foot in the path of presidential race.

## Defense Ministry plans to provide 1000 new drones to Army

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Defense Ministry plans to supply the Army with 1,000 unmanned aerial vehicles UAVs, commonly called drones, in the near future.

The plan to provide the army with drones was signed in a "strategic agreement" between the Defense Ministry and Army on Monday, Tasnim reported.



The agreement is intended to promote the drone power and the equipment carried by the unmanned military aircraft.

Under phase one of the agreement, the ministry undertook to supply the Army with 1,000 drones in a short time.

In comments at the event, Army Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi highlighted the growing power of drones used by Army units, saying the UAVs have increasingly been employed in war games for various purposes.

After the agreement was signed, Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami told reporters that Iran is ranked fifth or sixth in the world in terms of drone capability.

Nowadays drones play a significant role in the reconnaissance and combat missions, Hatami said, adding Iranian military industries have become self-sufficient in manufacturing advanced drones.

In January, the Army staged a massive exercise using various homegrown drones for different operations including aerial interception, launch of air-to-air missiles, detonation of ground targets with bombs and missiles with pinpoint accuracy, and suicide strikes.

Military officials say Army experts have dramatically increased the flight endurance of suicide UAVs, manufacturing drones with an operational range of 4,000 kilometers.

# Khatibzadeh: We need to give Vienna talks time

**POLITICAL d e s k**

**TEHRAN** — Speaking at his weekly press briefing on Monday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the Vienna talks are ongoing and many empty brackets have been filled.

"It seems that we should give an opportunity (to talks)," Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

He noted that Iran does not allow these talks to protract, as it does not want an agreement to be reached that is not within the framework of the establishment's policies and instructions issued by Tehran.

The spokesman referred to Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, the head of the Iranian negotiating team's meeting with the European delegations in Vienna on Sunday, saying that it was decided to help the working groups in the next few days.

The spokesman did not rule out the possible return of the delegations to their capitals, saying that if they cannot reach conclusions in the coming days, they might return to their capitals on the weekend for further consultations.

"We have to wait and see where these technical talks will go in the next day or two," the diplomat remarked.

Responding a question about the three-month agreement between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the spokesman said that the parliamentary law emphasizes suspension of access beyond the safeguards agreement to the (International Atomic Energy) Agency.

"This has been going on for the past three months and the Agency has no access beyond the safeguards agreement. The agreement reached between the two parties was that the films should be recorded and not given to them (the IAEA). At the end of three months



we can decide whether to delete the tapes or extend the agreement based on the decisions made. The agreement reached between Iran and the Agency, including on these films, is an internal matter between Iran and the Agency, and if we continue this agreement, it will not be a violation of parliamentary law," he remarked.

Khatibzadeh added, "According to the negotiation process, there have been talks to give an extension to the agreement and the opportunity created, and if the negoti-

ations are on the right track, this decision may be made, but in any case, access by the safeguards agreement will not be given to the Agency."

The spokesman emphasized that the talks will continue in Vienna.

"A significant percentage of the remaining brackets or vacancies in these working groups have been completed and arrangements have been made. Some of these brackets require political decisions, which must be made in the capitals of the countries," he noted.

**“A significant percentage of the remaining brackets or vacancies in these working (nuclear) groups have been completed and arrangements have been made. Some of these brackets require political decisions, which must be made in the capitals of the countries,” the Foreign Ministry spokesman says.**

## The original 2015 nuclear deal and a revived one; 10 things to know

### Efficiency of the original and revived nuclear deal

**By Mehrdad Pahlavani**

The 2015 nuclear deal that was kept on file in some capitals is taken to the negotiation table. It aspires to find a solution for full operation. It was put on life support by a mad decision by Donald Trump, the former president of the U.S., in May 2018. And now, some sort of strong willingness has emerged among all parties to revive the multilateral deal.

In this vein, President Biden and President Rouhani share a common goal: They are ready to re-enter the nuclear deal as a limitation on Iran's production of nuclear fuel would be swapped with a lifting of sanctions.

Nevertheless, if the ongoing talks in Vienna reach a favorable outcome, no one can claim that the 2021 deal will be like the original one (the 2015 one) or it can materialize what the 2015 deal was intended to, although the text and content of both deals are the same and will remain intact. In other words, the original deal had efficacies which should be distinguished from the situation or context of a revived deal in 2021. Discrepancies between the operative context of the original and a revived one, that would subsequently have their implications, should be enumerated as follows:

1- Taboo: The initial deal broke the taboo of direct talks between Iran and the U.S. Mistrust is perpetual between both sides because the U.S. was not a compliant party to its commitment.

2- Attraction: The 2015 nuclear deal was very attractive for

Iranian citizens and international media; all were following developments every moment. Every quotation of negotiators was instantly forwarded or retweeted but the current talks in Vienna are not as attractive as the 2015 ones, neither for Iranians nor for foreign media outlets.

3- Modification of situation: While the original deal was supposed to improve Iran's economic, regional and international relations, a revitalized deal in 2021 at first might be able to alleviate the implications of serious economic problems in Iran caused by Trump's reckless withdrawal from the deal.

4- Transformation of public opinion: The positive changes recorded by the 2015 deal in the Iranian public opinion marked a turning point toward relations with the West. However, the U.S. withdrawal from the deal solidified and awaken four-decades of distrust.

5- Iran's presidential election: The 2015 nuclear deal made the 2017 presidential election in Iran a sailing victory for President Rouhani; but a resurrected deal should not be accounted as a game-changer. It can't guarantee the victory of one party in the presidential election. In other words, in 2015 the implications of foreign policy changed internal policy in Iran but now it is vice versa; the June presidential election results can guarantee the enforcement of a revived deal.

6- Investors' perspective: The original deal portrayed Iran as a new attractive market; investors could rely on Iran on as a riverbed for production and marketing, but now they assess Iran as a market that needs only short-term plans,

not strategic planning.

7- Dualism of attracting investment and trade: In 2015, foreign companies were eagerly willing to flood into Iran to seal contracts, but right now investors believe capital requires perpetual, not transitional, security. A 2021 deal at best can boost Iran's foreign trade.

8- Regional countries' concern: Worries among some regional countries over the original deal had no legal justification; but as President Biden's administration cannot afford to stay in the Middle East for a long period, a new variable is added to complicated power politics in the region. It runs the risk of uncontrolled measure by particular players, so regional countries should build on their capabilities. Nonetheless, the deal - the original or revived one - will prevents a power gap that others might try to fill.

9- The sense of success: For the West, including the U.S. and European countries, whether the 2015 or the 2021 nuclear deal would be a great success because it reassures them that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful. A revived deal is unlikely to meet expectations, because the degree of economic damages caused by the original deal is incalculable. A resurrected deal at best can fulfill a minimum of the economic demands of Iran.

10- The slow pace of the talks: While the Americans see a restoration of the 2015 nuclear deal as a first step to extend it to other issues, the Iranian side has been repeatedly insisting that negotiation is only limited to the original agreement.

## Rouhani, Iraq PM insist on need to counter moves by terrorist groups

**POLITICAL d e s k**

**TEHRAN** — In a telephone conversation on Monday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi discussed the need for cooperation between the two countries to counter the movements of Takfiri and terrorist groups.

Stating that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers security and stability in Iraq as its own, the president stated that the terrorist groups are seeking to harm the good relations between the two countries.

While congratulating the government and people of the neighboring country of Iraq on Eid al-Fitr, Rouhani said, "The terrorist group Daesh remains an important threat to the security of the region and

the cooperation of the two countries is necessary to confront this terrorist group."

Rouhani also lamented the recent attacks on Iranian diplomatic facilities in Iraq by some individuals and suspicious groups, and stressed the need by the Iraqi government to respond decisively and quickly to these attacks.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rouhani said, "The United States has always played a destructive role in the region, and their presence in Iraq will not contribute to the stability and security of this country."

Rouhani also welcomed Baghdad's positive role as a mediator in resolving disputes between countries in the region, supporting Iraq as an important member of the Arab League in regional engagement.

### Rouhani wants Iraq to play active role to resolve Palestine issue

Welcoming Iraq's position on Palestine and condemning the recent crimes committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza, Rouhani stressed, "We expect Iraq, given its potential in the Arab League, to be active and try to make this union contribute to (resolving) the issue of Palestine."

Rouhani also stressed the need to deepen relations between the two countries in various political and economic fields and expand regional cooperation, stating that Iran and Iraq can cover each other as two complementary economies due to their economic potential.

For his part, the Iraqi prime minister also congratulated the government and people of Iran on Eid al-Fitr and strongly condemned

the recent crimes of the Zionist regime in Palestine including the killing of the defenseless people in Gaza.

Urging a serious and decisive confrontation against these atrocities, the prime minister said after consultation with the leaders of Islamic countries and the Arab League, Iraq will definitely take a firm position in this regard.

Al-Kadhimi also said it is necessary to seriously confront the terrorist activities of the Daesh group in the region and appreciated the cooperation of the Islamic Republic with Iraq in this regard.

He also expressed his regret and apology for the recent attack by some individuals on Iran's diplomatic facilities in Iraq, emphasizing that this issue is being pursued and the perpetrators will be dealt with seriously.

## Iran: Referendum only solution to Palestine issue

tion, especially the private sector.

Considering the positive view of Iran's public opinion to cooperate with the Italian parties, Zarif stressed the need to remove obstacles and prepare for the resumption of economic relations in favor of relations between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Zarif also addressed the virtual emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Palestine and strongly condemned the racist and belligerent actions of the Zionist regime against the Palestinians including Gaza citizens. Zarif also pointed to his meeting with the leaders of Palestinian groups in Damascus.

He clarified the principled view of the Islamic Republic in holding a referendum with the presence of all native Palestinians with different religious denominations and once again condemned the actions of the Zionist regime in its brutal attacks on the Palestinian people.

Issues related to cooperation with the countries of the Persian Gulf and regional arrangements by the countries in this region, issues related to Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq and the latest developments related to the Vienna talks were other topics discussed between the two ministers.

Di Maio also stressed his country's desire to expand bilateral cooperation with Iran, espe-

cially in political, economic and cultural fields.

While supporting the full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action by all parties, he called for active exchange of views and consultations with the Islamic Republic on important regional and international issues.

Talks are taking place between Iran, the four remaining members of the 2015 nuclear deal and the United States to revive the JCPOA.

### Zarif meets Pope Francis

On continuation of his European tour, Zarif also visited Vatican on Monday to meet with Pope Francis, Cardinal Parolin, Vatican's Secretary of State, and bishop Paul Gallagher, Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States.



# Mahmoud Abbas plunges into the unknown as Israel represses Palestinians

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — As Israel continues to pummel Palestinian civilians in Gaza with airstrikes and cracks down on their compatriots in the West Bank and the Green Line zone, the internationally recognized leader of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is being caught between a rock and a hard place.

Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the PNA, is going through one of his worst experiences as the leader of the Palestinian people. On the one hand, his perennially extended hands to the Israelis for appeasement talks have gotten him nothing. Israel continues to brazenly push away any meaningful solution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict while shamelessly pursuing state-sanctioned racist policies such as expanding settlement programs and evicting Palestinians from their ancestral homes.

On the other hand, the Palestinian people, groaning under the weight of Israeli hubris, are turning their back on the PNA and its leader. They saw Mahmoud Abbas unable to do anything when the Israeli regime showed disrespect for democratic trappings by preventing the PNA from holding the long-awaited elections in al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Mahmoud Abbas also failed to prevent the Israeli inhumane and racist decision to evict a number of Palestinian families from their ancestral homes in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and replace them with extremist Jews, a move that caused an international outcry and eventually provoked Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to strike back at Israel.



And when Israel began its campaign of air raids against civilians in Gaza Abbas also failed to organize an international diplomatic pressure campaign against Israel to stop it from continuing its killing spree in the coastal strip. This was despite the fact that public opinion in the West was overwhelmingly in favor of Palestine because Israel's behavior in Gaza is untenable. At the end of the day, no one can come to understand why Israel should demolish a tower hosting international correspondents and raze to the ground residential towers. The image of children and women being taken out of rubble weighed heavy on the conscience of humanity.

As Israel pounded Gaza with rockets

and artillery shells, several leaders and diplomats in the region and beyond began a flurry of diplomatic efforts to put pressure on Israel to stop its disregard for international law and human rights.

Abbas, however, was almost absent from these efforts. He hit the headlines only when he, all of a sudden, spoke with U.S. President Joe Biden, who is widely seen as complicit in the Israeli atrocities because he stopped short of putting real pressure on the Israeli regime. In fact, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu even boasted that Biden supports the Israeli crimes against Gaza. This happened at a time when even Biden's fellow Democrats believe that Israel is an "apartheid" regime.

"Apartheid states aren't democracies," Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said in a tweet that garnered more than 310,000 likes.

Recent developments in Palestine, especially in the West Bank and in Arab cities inside Israel, showed how irrelevant Abbas became. Jibril Rajoub, a Palestinian leader close to Abbas, admitted his boss's isolation by saying that no Arab leaders called Abbas since the latest round of Israeli violence began.

Abbas faces growing criticism from Palestinian intellectuals to keep up with the people he claims to represent. For example, the Palestinians were in favor of holding the election even after Israel banned Palestinians residing in occupied East Jerusalem from participating in the election. But some Palestinian voices believe that the PNA should have gone forward with its decision to hold the election.

"The excuse of Jerusalem [PNA] to justify the postponement of the Palestinian election is a flimsy one, and the strongest image we had hoped to see was stolen from us, which is a picture of an Israeli soldier confiscating an election box or a soldier arresting voters for voting in elections," Said Azmi Bishara, a prominent Palestinian intellectual and former member of the Knesset, said in a recent interview with Al-Araby Television.

Others have long criticized the PNA for continuing what came to be known as "security coordination" with Israel, a type of cooperation mainly aimed at boosting Israel's security at the expense of the Palestinian struggle for basic human rights.

## Iran censures Israeli aggression against Palestine

### Tehran renews plebiscite to settle the longstanding Palestinian-Israeli conflict

**→1** It added, "Unfortunately, we are witnessing a great escalation of the Zionist regime's attacks, in light of the blatant support of some Western countries. From this standpoint, we believe that the Palestinian people, who are struggling to restore all their rights, have the natural right to defend themselves, and that legitimate resistance is the only way to confront the aggression and occupation, until the moment these steadfast people restore all of their fair rights and fulfill their sovereignty on all their soil."

The strengthening of the Palestinian people's rights is not only an Arab and Islamic matter, but it is also an international responsibility and the Islamic Republic of Iran, along with the Islamic world and the Islamic peoples as well as all free people of the world who are committed to defending the oppressed, stand by the brave people of Palestine and call on governments and international organizations to stop siding with the aggressor, the statement continued.

**"Genocide against a whole people and crimes against humanity"**

It noted, "We also call on the peoples, international organizations and Islamic countries, especially the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to stand together with the oppressed and defenseless Palestinian people, in the face of the horrific terrorist attacks and practices of the Zionist army. The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates that the criminal acts committed by the occupying regime of Jerusalem must be classified, by the relevant international and regional organizations, as genocide against a whole people and crimes against humanity."

Khatibzadeh also warned about the consequences of the Israeli crimes, saying they threaten peace and security. "We also warn the international community that the Zionist entity seeks, through destabilizing regional security and stability, to achieve its ominous and dangerous goals that ultimately lead to threatening international peace and security," the statement said, adding, "In this context, we call on the International Security Council to assume its responsibilities, in putting pressure on the Israeli regime, to stop its aggressive and terrorist operations, and not to allow the occupying regime of Jerusalem and its protectors to go too far in trampling on the rights of the Palestinian people."

The statement concluded, "We would like to emphasize that the only and just solution to the question of Palestine, within the framework of the right to self-determination, is the holding of a popular referendum, with the participation of all indigenous people of the land of Palestine such as Muslims, Christians, and Jews."

Iran has launched a diplomatic campaign to help the Palestinian people since Israel started its air raid campaign against the Gaza Strip. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani spoke by phone with a number of leaders in the region to discuss the situation in Palestine.

On Sunday, Rouhani told Turkish President Recep Tayyip



Erdogan that "Islamic countries, especially Iran and Turkey, as two important and effective countries in the region, should collaborate with each other and take advantage of all international potentials, including the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to confront the aggression and crimes of the Zionist Regime."

The Turkish president, in turn, said, "Unfortunately, these days we are witnessing Israel's crimes and brutal attacks in Palestine, which is very worrying."

Erdogan added, "The international community must show powerful, deterrent reaction to Israel's insolent attacks on the oppressed people of Palestine."

Referring to today's extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Erdogan expressed hope that an appropriate decision would be made at the meeting to end these crimes and brutal killings. The OIC held a virtual emergency meeting of foreign ministers on Sunday. During the meeting, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said, "We witness the most heinous crimes being perpetrated against our brothers and sisters by Zionist forces in occupied Palestine."

Zarif noted, "Innocent men, women and children are being massacred by the deadliest and most sophisticated weapons. Homes are being demolished while their residents are trapped inside. Whatever remains of the infrastructure in Gaza—including power and water supply—is effectively destroyed. We are facing blatant and systematic violations of human rights, humanitarian law and international law."

He added, "The massacre of Palestinian children today follows the purported 'normalization.' This criminal and genocidal crime has once again proven that friendly gestures only aggravate its atrocities. The sole aim of Israel's hypocritical gestures is to divide Muslims and isolate the people of Palestine. Make no mistake: Israel only understands the language of resistance and the people of Palestine are fully entitled to the right to defend themselves and to defy the bullying of this racist regime. These barbaric acts have proven once again that the only peaceful path to peace in

Palestine is the holding of a referendum among all residents of Palestine, including displaced Palestinians and refugees."

The chief Iranian diplomat also said that the Palestinian question is not only an Arab or Islamic issue, but also an international dilemma. He said the international community has a duty to stop the Israeli atrocities.

"It must not be forgotten that Palestine is not only an Arab or Islamic issue, but also an international dilemma. The crimes committed against the innocent Palestinian people over decades weigh heavy on the conscience of humanity. The international community, therefore, has a duty to condemn the Israeli regime in the strongest terms and compel it to end the destruction and siege of Gaza," the foreign minister pointed out.

**Iran says Israel is committing all four major international crimes at the same time**

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi also denounced the Israeli aggression during a UN Security Council meeting.

During the Sunday meeting of the Security Council, Takht Ravanchi said Israeli forces are committing a disastrous massacre in Palestine.

"They cowardly kill defenseless women, brutally kill infants and children; they brutally kill families all at once. They shamelessly desecrate holy places; they cowardly bomb and shell residential areas, schools and health facilities, and crazily demolish homes. In short: they are committing all four major international crimes at the same time," the Iranian diplomat said.

Takht Ravanchi pointed out that the Israeli regime has committed the worst international crimes, namely genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and aggression, it has waged more than 15 wars, it has occupied the territory of other countries, it has attacked all of its neighbors without exception, invading countries in the region and beyond in the Middle East to Africa, acquiring a variety of weapons of mass destruction, and the list goes on.

He condemned the UN body's silence toward the Israeli crimes, saying this silence was due to the U.S. backing of the Israeli regime. As a permanent member of the Security Council, the United States, under both Democrat and Republican presidents, has systematically supported the Israeli regime against any Security Council action and has so far vetoed 44 draft Security Council resolutions against Israel.

Takht Ravanchi stated that the current U.S. administration has also decided to support the Israeli regime and shamelessly speaks of the so-called "Israeli right to security" and uses the so-called "Israel's right to self-defense" to justify its crimes; It denies the inherent rights of the oppressed Palestinians, including the right to life, dignity, liberty, self-defense, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

lawmaker noted.

Zolnouri also accused Israel of trying to "create dispute among the region's countries and muddy the waters in order to fish in the troubled waters."

Israel is doing so to later intervene in the region, he said.

The lawmaker said terrorist Takfiri groups are being organized in the vicinity of Iran's borders with help from Israel and some countries in the region, and this issue is very sensitive in the view of Iran and it won't let it happen.

"Any insecurity on our borders will be severely responded to and there is no way for foreigners to enter this area," he said.

## SPORTS

### Reza Ghoochannejhad blames PEC Zwolle staff

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian forward Reza Ghoochannejhad strongly criticized PEC Zwolle coaching staff for lack of playing time in the Eredivisie side.

Gucci joined PEC Zwolle in 2019 but was only 14 times in the starting line-up in two seasons. The 34-year-old striker has already announced that he would leave the team at the end of the season.



Ghoochannejhad said he is happy that his period is over at PEC after the last league match against FC Groningen (1-0 win).

"I've become the club's top scorer twice in a row, with 13 goals in two years but was forced to remain substitute. I think the technical staff missed the opportunity since I could have helped the team," Gucci said in an interview with destentor.nl.

It is said Gucci is among the strikers who cannot start the match but ex-Iran forward was angered by this.

"It is utter nonsense about me. Because I'm sure I could have helped the club even more. I don't think it doesn't come down to one person. You have to look at the entire technical staff," he added.

"I can't blame myself. I've always behaved very professionally. Now, I need some rest and then just see what comes my way. But I will surely leave PEC. I've always had a good relationship with the fans. I have always felt a lot of support from them. But not from the club itself. I am very disappointed with the club," Gucci concluded.

### Faraz Fatemi steps down as Saipa coach

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Faraz Fatemi announced his resignation as head coach of Saipa just two matches in charge.

Struggling football team Saipa lost to Paykan 2-1 Sunday night and moved one step closer to relegation from Iran Professional League.

After the match, Kamalvand protested the referees and said that the decisions went against his team.

He also stepped down from his role.

Saipa club have not yet accepted the resignation.

### Brighton coach Potter praises Jahanbakhsh

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Brighton and Hove Albion manager Graham Potter praised Alireza Jahanbakhsh in West Ham clash

The Iran international twice tested Lukasz Fabianski and hooked an effort narrowly off target from a wide angle.

But he did not finish the game as Percy Tau took his place in the 73rd minute and created the opening goal for Danny Welbeck.

Jahanbakhsh has suffered plenty of frustration in his three seasons with the Seagulls. But he has started the last two matches.

"I thought Ali had a good game. He helped us more in the second half. We adjusted his position a little bit at half-time and I think he threatened the back line really well," Potter said.

"He had a couple of opportunities and was unlucky not to score but he contributed to some good attacking play for us. He linked up as well so pleasing for him.

"We were a little bit concerned for Ali just because he hasn't played so many 90s and we didn't want him to break down after a good performance so some fresh legs in that position," he added.

### Iran football 5-a-side beat Russia in friendly

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran football 5-a-side team defeated Russia 2-1 in a friendly match held in the Persian Gulf island of Kish, southern Iran on Monday.

Iran will also play Russia on Tuesday.

Five-a-side football is a variation of association football, in which each team fields five players (four outfield players and a goalkeeper).

Other differences from football include a smaller pitch, smaller goals, and a reduced game duration. Matches are played indoors, or outdoors on artificial grass pitches that may be enclosed within a barrier or "cage" to prevent the ball from leaving the playing area and keep the game constantly flowing.

### Stramaccioni to replace Ghotbi at Cangzhou Mighty Lions

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Former Esteghlal coach Andrea Stramaccioni has been nominated to take charge of Chinese club Cangzhou Mighty Lions.

Italian media reports suggest that the ex-Inter coach has also been linked with Qatari teams.

Stramaccioni is a candidate to replace former Persepolis and Iran coach Afshin Ghotbi in the Chinese football club.

Cangzhou Mighty Lions Football Club are a professional football club that currently play in the Chinese Super League under license from the Chinese Football Association (CFA).

## Iran warns against change in international borders in Caucasus region

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A senior Iranian lawmaker has warned against any effort to change international borders in the South Caucasus region, saying Iran will not accept such a thing after border tensions soared between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The lawmaker, Mojtaba Zolnouri, who serves as the head of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said Tehran has made it clear that it will not accept any change in international borders in the region.

"The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is very clear, unequivocal and decisive. We do not accept any change in the borders

of the region. The territorial integrity of the countries in the region must be preserved. At the same time, we do not accept the deployment of any supra-regional forces near our borders," Zolnouri told Russian state news Sputnik.

"Therefore, if part of the territory of Armenia is to be taken and our border conditions change, that is, to have a new neighbor, it is not acceptable for us. The existing borders must be completely protected and the shared border of the Islamic Republic of Iran with Armenia must be maintained," he continued.

The comments came after Armenia claimed that the Azerbaijani forces have advanced into its sovereign territory in Syunik province.

Azerbaijan confirmed that it had deployed troops to the borders with Armenia but said its forces did not enter Armenian territories.

Zolnouri said Iran backs the territorial integrity of both Azerbaijan and Armenia. "We support the position of Azerbaijan in preserving the territorial integrity of this country and the position of Armenia in preserving the territorial integrity, territory and neighborliness with Iran. We are neighbors of both countries and based on the conditions we had in the past, both countries are viewed as our neighbors, and by maintaining this neighborliness without accepting any change in the region, we support the territorial integrity of both countries," the



## IME’s weekly worth of trades up 4%

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — During the past Iranian calendar week, the value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) rose four percent.

According to a report by the IME’s International Affairs and Public Relations Department, 631,879 tons of commodities worth \$400 million were traded at the exchange in the past week, showing also two percent rise in terms of the volume of traded goods.

As reported, the exchange sold on its mineral and industrial trading floor 232,884 tons of commodities worth almost \$207 million.



On this floor there were 191,824 tons of steel, 6,880 tons of copper, 660 tons of aluminum, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 33,000 tons of iron ore concentrate, 400 tons of coke and 3kg of gold bars traded.

The next trading floor was the IME’s oil and petrochemical with 396,578 tons of commodities sold on it, valued at more than \$193 million.

Items traded here were 203,300 tons of vacuum bottom, 64,162 tons of bitumen, 55,680 tons of polymeric products, 28,984 tons of chemicals, 40,500 tons of lube cut, 1,927 tons of base oil, 150 tons of insulation, 500 tons of slop wax, 80 tons of argon and 1,000 tons of sulfur.

Also, on its side market, the IME saw trade of 2,417 tons of various commodities.

As previously reported, the value of commodities traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 54 percent during the past Iranian calendar month (March 21-April 20), compared to the same month in the past year.

The exchange’s Public Relations and International Affairs Department reported that 2.7 million tons of commodities worth \$1.5 billion were traded at the exchange in the past month, showing also a 350-percent growth in terms of weight as compared to the same month of the previous year.

On its metal and mineral trading floor, the exchange traded within that month 1.421 million tons of commodities worth more than \$790 million.

Commodities purchased were 1.097 million tons of steel, 11,780 tons of copper, 360 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 11,325 tons of aluminum, 400 tons of coke, 300,000 tons of iron ore, 200 tons of cast iron and 100 tons of lead.

Oil and petrochemical was the next trading floor on which the IME saw trades of more than 1.318 million tons of various types of commodities in both its domestic and export rings with a trading value of more than \$700 million.

On this floor the IME traded 354,567 tons of bitumen, 237,258 tons of polymeric products, 124,668 tons of chemicals, 12,446 tons of base oil and 460,100 tons of vacuum bottom.

There were also 10,040 tons of sulfur, 310 tons of argon, 500 tons of insulation floors and 111,200 tons of lube cut traded on the same floor.

Moreover, on its agricultural trading floor the IME saw trade of 2,500 kg of saffron.

The last trading floor was the IME’s side market with 3,754 tons of commodities - not listed on the exchange’s main spot market - sold on it.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) rose 108 percent compared to the preceding year.

During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commodities were traded at the mentioned market.

In the past year, several new records were achieved in terms of the volume and value of transactions in the mentioned market’s various floors including the industrial, petroleum, and petrochemical floors.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran’s over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

## TEDPIX drops 14,000 points on Monday

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** —TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 14,138 points to 1.174 million on Monday.

As reported, over 4.785 billion securities worth 33.088 trillion rials (about \$787.8 million) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

The first market’s index fell 14,444 points, and the second market’s index lost 14,440 points.



TEDPIX gained 11,000 points, or one percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.183 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi, the chairman of the Iranian parliament’s economic committee has said that the stock market is going to follow a positive trend in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

“[This year] the profits of major industries and influential companies in the capital market have been assessed positively, which is why the market will follow a positive trend this year,” Pour-Ebrahimi told IRIB.

The official said that part of the current negative trend in the market is due to psychological factors and the fact that people have lost their trust in the capital market.

# Programs underway to prevent power outage in peak consumption period

By Mahnaz Abdi

**TEHRAN** — The rising trend of electricity consumption in Iran has created serious concerns about power outage in the summer peak consumption period.

On Monday, Mohammad-Hassan Motevalizadeh, the managing director of Iran’s Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir), warned, “This year, we will have a difficult peak period”, and called for the people’s cooperation so that this period can be passed without outages.

Mentioning three major factors creating some severe condition in terms of power supply in this year, the official last week explained, “This year, we are facing three issues. First, there was a very severe drought during which we saw a reduction in the water supply of the country’s hydropower plants to less than half. In this way, we lose the generation of about 4,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity from hydropower sources.”

On the other hand, due to the intense premature heat, the cooling equipment entered the consumption circuit earlier than usual, he mentioned.

“And a new problem we are facing this year is the power consumption of illegal cryptocurrency mining units”, Motevalizadeh added.

Although every year nearly 3,000 MW is added to the country’s power generation capacity, the reduction in the rainfalls and the decline in the water storage behind the dams has reduced the electricity generation



offsetting the added capacity.

In the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease of rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new strategies in recent years to manage the consumption and lessen the electricity losses in the national grid.

In late July 2020, Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said that his ministry was considering new incentive packages for low-con-

suming households and industrial electricity subscribers.

He also said that two programs were prepared for high-consuming subscribers so that by implementing these plans, these subscribers would also join the low-consumer group.

The official described the first program as a training course to teach consumption management methods with the help of knowledge-based companies and start-ups, and said: “Start-up companies will be formed in this field and will help us optimize the

## NIOC awards Farzad-B gas field development project to domestic firm

**→ 1** Back in July 2020, NIOC Managing Director Masoud Karbasian had said that the operator for Farzad-B gas field was determined and the deal for the development of the field was going to be signed in the near future.

Farzad-B, with estimated reserves of 12.8 trillion cubic feet of gas, was opened in 2008 by a consortium of three Indian companies: ONGC, Oil India Limited, and Indian Oil Corporation.

India was supposed to develop the field after its exploration, but the Indian side stopped its activities after the West intensified sanctions on the Islamic Republic in 2012.

With the lifting of the sanctions, India once again

called for the development of Farzad-B by ONGC Videsh which is the overseas investment arm of the country’s biggest energy exploration firm.

In May 2019, Zanganeh said the Oil Ministry had prepared a plan for financing the project and the framework of the contract was going through final editions.

NIOC asked the Indian side to submit a technical plan and then a financial proposal for the development of the field, however, after submission Iran did not agree with the other side’s financial proposals.

Later in August 2019, Karbasian announced that Iran was not going to wait for India on developing Farzad-B gas field, and soon the project would know its operator.



## MAPNA group producing over 200 high-tech industrial products

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Managing Director of Iran’s MAPNA group has said his company is currently producing over 200 types of high-tech industrial products, IRNA reported.

Speaking on the sidelines of a visit to Wagon Pars Company in Arak city, known as industrial capital of Iran, Abbas Ali-Abadi said: “MAPNA Company strives to establish a constructive interaction with its subsidiaries, and in this due, tries to establish connections not only in terms of structure but also in terms of culture, work ethics, and capacities.”

MAPNA Group is a group of Iranian companies involved in the development and execution of thermal and renewable



power plants, oil and gas, railway transportation, and other industrial projects as well as manufacturing main equipment

including gas and steam turbines, electrical generator.

The company is currently collaborating with several domestic manufacturers for producing high-tech machinery and equipment needed in various sectors.

One of the companies that MAPNA is working with is Wagon Pars which is currently manufacturing 1,000 wagons for MAPNA. MAPNA took over Wagon Pars in December 2020.

Wagon Pars has a plan for manufacturing 2,500 wagons over the next five years under the supervision of the parent company MAPNA.

The group has also prepared a package to be used in the production line of

electric cars or to turn regular cars into electric ones.

MAPNA has also inked a deal for manufacturing MGT-75 gas turbines with Iran’s Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH).

“Iran now has the knowledge and technology to design and manufacture a variety of new gas turbines on a global scale,” Ali-Abadi had said in the signing ceremony of the mentioned deal back in March.

Iran used to import such pieces of equipment from foreign sources such as Germany’s Siemens. And now enjoying such technology, the country is among the world’s top manufacturers of power plants with high efficiency.

## TCCIMA proposes policy package to reform economy

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Representatives of the Iranian private sector at Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) in a meeting on Monday presented a policy package that according to its creators is going to reform the country’s economy and solve many of the current economic issues.

The mentioned package dubbed “Iranian Structure”, prepared by a number of young economists and academics, is claimed to be containing practical solutions for the serious challenges that the Iranian economy is currently facing.

As reported by the TCCIMA portal, the TCCIMA and Sharif University’s Policy Research Institute have stated that this package can be considered as an economic program for the presidential candidates and the future government so that they can have a clear vision of what is going on in the country’s economy.

According to the creators, after the presentation at TCCIMA, criticisms and potential proposals for editing would be considered and applied.



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (2nd L) and TCCIMA Secretary-General Bahman Eshqi (2nd R)

Speaking in the meeting for the presentation of the mentioned package, TCCIMA Secretary-General Bahman Eshqi mentioned the cooperation of this chamber with Sharif University’s Policy Research Institute in developing the “Iranian Structure” plan, saying that this cooperation has been in line with the economic and social responsibilities of the Tehran Chamber increasing scientific understanding and deepening the economic knowledge of the private sector.

“The Iranian Structure Project, which is the result of collaboration among academic elites in the field of economics and the private sector entrepreneurs, is an attempt to resolve the current economic situation and to reconstruct the country’s economic structure,” Eshqi said.

Elsewhere in the meeting, TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari noted that the main goal of preparing the mentioned package is to address some of the major issues and challenges that the country’s economy is facing and to see how presidential candidates are going to address these issues.

## Stock market able to provide necessary investment for refining industry: SEO head

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Head of Iran’s Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said the country’s refining industry requires \$30 billion of investment for completing semi-finished projects and the capital market is the best place to provide this funding.

Speaking in an online meeting with the heads of the country’s major companies active in the mentioned industry on Sunday, Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi said the stock market can provide solutions to finance petrochemical companies and increase investment in this area.

He mentioned forming expert desks

as a productive way for discussing and resolving the issues of various industrial sectors and noted that SEO is seeking to establish expert desks for all the industrial sectors active in the stock market.

He pointed to the holding of the first meeting of the industry desk in SEO and added that in this meeting, which was dedicated to review the issues of the refining industry, the existing problems, obstacles, and challenges in this area were addressed and some solutions were proposed.

Dehnavi said that the refining industry accounts for an important part of the capital market and added: “We must use the capital

market as a platform to finance projects in this industry and increase investment.”

“We believe that the capacities of the capital market can be put alongside the potentials of the industrial sectors to facilitate development of those sectors,” he stressed.

The official further noted that policies and regulations affect the value of people’s assets in the capital market and the legislators should not make decisions without considering the interests of small shareholders.

Increasing the capital of companies, issuing bonds, forming funds for special



projects are some of the ways through which the capital market can help finance projects in various industrial sectors, Dehnavi said.



# Recent escalation in Palestine has opened a wide door for a new intifada: senior Hamas official

➔ 1 Following is the text of the interview:

## How do you describe the recent developments in Palestine?

On the one hand, the recent developments in Palestine and the Al-Aqsa Mosque are very dangerous that signaled the beginning of a new Zionist offensive against the Palestinians and Islamic sanctities, especially the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Zionists were planning to take advantage of recent problems in the Muslim world and preoccupation of Arabs and Muslims with their wars and internal differences, as well as the preoccupation of the international community with other issues, whether the negative developments between the United States and China or the dispute between America and Russia. These developments signal the beginning of a new Zionist attack against the Palestinians and Islamic sanctities, first and foremost of which is Al-Aqsa Mosque.

On the other hand, the recent escalation opened a wide door in front of the Palestinian people for a new “intifada” (uprising) to be unified behind their resistance to restore their rights.

For the first time in decades, we see that the Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Arabs of 1948 territory are rising up against the occupation, aggression and injustice inflicted on them in an effort to support their sanctities, especially the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Zionists did not expect this reaction, especially since the circumstances were not proper for the Palestinians to rise up with this force and with this violence.

## Given the reaction of the Lebanese and Jordanian public to the events in Palestine, do you expect a new “intifada”?

Up to now, except for some of the movements that we have seen in Lebanon and Jordan, Arab reactions, whether at the official level or the popular level, are still weak or much less than expected.

If we compare today's events with the events of the “intifada” in the year 2000 or the uprising of 1987, we would see Arab and Muslim capitals rose up and bring hundreds of people out to the streets in support of Jerusalem and Palestine.

Unfortunately, today the reactions are very



weak, but our hope in the Islamic Ummah is great, especially in these difficult circumstances that the Ummah is going through as a result of the severe differences between Muslim countries, as well as the recent normalization campaign and the attempt of some Arab states to divert the compass from the Zionist enemy towards secondary and marginal issues.

Our hope is in the Palestinian people, their steadfastness and their sacrifices that encourage the Arab and Islamic public to support Jerusalem and the Islamic sanctities, especially the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which does not belong to the Palestinians only but is for all Arabs and Muslims.

We certainly offer from here a great greeting to the Jordanian and Lebanese people for their supportive move and the great interaction with our people's uprising in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories. What we saw these days with pictures and videos, when people bravely advanced towards the borders, signals more help from Islamic Ummah to support Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque and Palestine.

**“We expect that these agreements (Abraham Accords) will go down in history. They will have no effect as long as our people are alive and capable of sacrifice and as long as the Islamic Ummah supports the Palestinian people and stands behind them.”**

## Western media keeps public unaware of reality in Palestine: Pakistani researcher

“What Israel is committing against Palestinians are genocide and pitiless inhumanity”

➔ 1 It is apartheid, ethnic genocide and pitiless inhumanity all culminated in one.

Why is Israel doing this now? I believe it has to do with Netanyahu who is aiming for a fifth win to match David Ben Gorion, which would explain the intensity.

## How are developments in Palestine reflected in Pakistan?

Pakistan has always stood by and will continue to stand by the people of Palestine. Our passport, which clearly states its abhorrence of Israel, is evidence of this. Apart from the official statements, all social media in Pakistan—official/private have been increasingly calling out Israel for its war crimes. Because of strict Covid lockdown, there have not been mass protests, but people have been showcasing their solidarity in every way they can.

## Why have Arab countries failed to put an end to successive Israeli aggressions?

Without specifically giving names, I will say only this both Arab and non-Arab states have vested interests. Palestine has long been on the back burner for many countries

and for others, the issue has been completely obliterated from memory a long time ago. Those countries that do not recognize Israel officially, unofficially accept it and profit from it. At the end of the day, money rules. It also explains the empty rhetoric, condemnation and statements with no actual action.

## How do you see the U.S. role when it comes to conflicts in West Asia, especially Palestine?

The U.S. has made it abundantly clear that it considers Israel their only ally in the Middle East (West Asia) and its security is their priority, which explains their latest veto at the UN and there. I would call Both-side-ism policies where instead of calling Israel out, they merely keep asking both sides to de-escalate the conflict.

## What is your comment on Western media coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Western media is successfully keeping its domestic audience unaware of the actual on-ground situation. People in the West don't really know what is actually going on. Going against all ethics that principled journalism demands, they

## In Palestine, the cruelty of apartheid is being met by the courage of resistance

By John Wight

Commentators in the West firmly in the pocket of the Israel lobby (in truth the apartheid lobby), would have us believe that Israel is a lone beacon of civilization and modernity in a region dominated by backwardness and regression. They would also have us believe that the generational conflict and antagonism between Israelis and Palestinians is the product of Palestinian intransigence, violence and terrorism, rooted in an unreconstructed hatred of Jewish people.

As part of this lie, onto the Palestinians is projected the sins of the Holocaust, thus allowing Israel to adopt the mantle of a state and people whose own violence is anointed with the memory of the six million Jews massacred in that horrific event.

However, the hard and unimpeachable reality is that the oppressed Palestinian indigenous people have far more in common with those six million Jewish victims of European fascism than those who claim to act in their name, while the latter stand in same tradition as the Hitlerite fascists responsible for murdering them.

You see, victims of oppression - of ethnic cleansing and state sanctioned murder, occupation and siege — share a historical bond that transcends religious or cultural beliefs, nationality or citizenship, as do their oppressors.

The violence that has been taking place in Jerusalem, sparked by the outrageous desecration of the Al Aqsa Mosque in the Old City

by Israeli security forces forcing their way into the chamber to disperse worshippers with tear gas and stun grenades, and also by the planned eviction of Palestinian families from East Jerusalem to make way for Jewish settlers, has arrived as a reminder that while Israel enjoys the benefits of a technologically advanced army security forces, the Palestinians benefit from the justice of their cause.

Irish revolutionary leader Terence MacSwiney, it was, who whilst on hunger strike in a British prison in 1920 proclaimed: “It is not those who can inflict the most, but those who can suffer the most who will prevail.”

The Palestinians have, with the connivance of champions of liberal democracy in the West, suffered more than enough at the hands of this juggernaut of settler-colonialism and apartheid known the State of Israel. Daily, Israel exists in clear and open violation of international law with its ongoing occupation of the West Bank, settlements expansion, ethnic cleansing, and also collective punishment when it comes to the siege of Gaza. Yet, no matter, Palestinian suffering has been, in the West, sanitized by one of most foul and studied exercises in circumlocution ever engaged in.

Thus, rather than describe what's been taking place in Jerusalem as brutal violence unleashed in the name of settler-colonialism and apartheid, we are regaled with ‘clashes’ between Israeli security forces and Palestinian rioters.

Thus, instead of attributing responsibility for the scenes we've been witnessing to a state

underpinned by the racist and white supremacist ideology of Zionism, we are regaled with the same line of verbal ordure to the effect that Israel, like any state in its situation, is merely protecting its citizens from the threat posed by Palestinian terrorist organizations such as Hamas.

Here, let us take brief detour to make the point that Hamas is a child of Israeli oppression and brutality. Israeli oppression and brutality is not a child of Hamas. Moreover, given the nature of this conflict, the IDF not Hamas is the terror group, backed by the government of a state originally born in terror and sustained by terror ever since.

The violence unleashed by Israel against first Palestinian defenders of Al Aqsa, then the people of Gaza after the Palestinian resistance there entered the fray with the launching of rockets into Israel, has so far accounted for hundreds of injured and 32 dead Palestinians, among them nine children. It has also succeeded in uniting the people of Gaza with those of Quds and the West Bank against a common enemy in a way they have not been united in a long time.

It has also re-awoken all right-thinking people in the West as to the hypocrisy of their leaders, media and respective political establishments, in their continued defense of this apartheid state. People that crow about the sanctity of human rights and democracy, while defending the crushing of both when it comes to Palestine, make a virtue of dishonor and turn truth and

the most affected are our Arab and Islamic countries and peoples. It is Arab security and the future of the Ummah that has been greatly affected by such agreements. These accords expose our people, our nation and our region to danger by allowing the Zionist enemy to expand in the region and control its capabilities and future. Therefore, I believe that this uprising will contribute greatly to abrogating these agreements and throwing them down in history.

## What is the message of the popular moves to Arab governments, especially regimes that have normalized ties with Israel?

The messages of the people's moves when they come out into the streets are clear and strong that these peoples are no longer able to tolerate the silence of the Arab regimes on this continuous aggression against the Palestinian people and Islamic sanctities.

Therefore, they warn that the public anger may explode at any moment if they do not see a strong movement commensurate with the scale of the crime committed by the Zionist enemy against Jerusalem and the Palestinian people.

## According to some opinion polls, the Zionist settlers want to expel the Arabs from the land of Palestine. What is your comment on that?

The idea of displacing the Palestinians from their lands has not been revealed by the opinion polls. These plans are announced and work has been underway for more than seventy years, that is, at the end of the nineteenth century.

The Israeli regime began to expel the Palestinian people from the land of Palestine, repeating the slogan, “Palestine is a land without a people, for a people without a land.”

But our people, with their steadfastness, solidity, and sickness to their land, as well as their continuous resistance and their willingness to sacrifice and provide hundreds of thousands of martyrs, who sacrificed for the sake of Palestine, prove that these plans will not pass and that this regime is temporary.

At the end of the day, the Palestinian people will certainly fulfill their dream to put an end to the occupation through establishing its independent state while its capital is Jerusalem.



have unabatedly picked one side-Israel. The taking down of posts on Facebook and Instagram and even some cases, Twitter showcases their fear of what the reaction will be if they engage in objective reporting.

## Hamas fires rockets at Ashkelon, Be'er Sheva after deadliest night of Israeli raids on Gaza

Hamas' military wing says it has fired rockets at the Ashkelon and Be'er Sheva areas after the deadliest night of Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip since the beginning of relentless attacks on the besieged enclave last Monday.

In a statement early Monday morning, the Ezzedine al-Qasam Brigades announced that it targeted areas in the southern Israeli-occupied territories with rockets in response to the Israeli regime's continued onslaught against Palestinians in Gaza.

Israeli media reported rocket warning sirens in the Ashkelon area as well as in communities surrounding Gaza and in Netivot following the Hamas rocket attack.

Warning sirens were also heard in the southern city of Be'er Sheva and several nearby communities.

The retaliation came after the Israeli military unleashed a fierce bombing attack on Gaza on Sunday. Reuters reported that the aerial bombardment involved more than 100 strikes.

According to the AP, explosions rocked the city from north to south for ten minutes, lasting longer and targeting a wider area than previous air raids.

## China: U.S. choking criticism of Israel at UNSC

China's foreign minister blasts the United States for choking any criticism of the Israeli regime's barbarity against the Palestinians at the United Nations Security Council.

“Regrettably, simply because of the obstruction of one country, the Security Council hasn't been able to speak with one voice,” Wang Yi told an emergency meeting of the Council on Sunday.

Since Monday, as many as 192 Palestinians, including 58 children and 34 women, have died during a significant escalation in the Israeli military's attacks against Gaza, according to Gaza's health ministry.

One strike recently slew a 10-member family, including eight children.

More than 1,200 others have also been injured so far. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has, however, said the regime's strikes against Gaza were to continue “with full force.”

“We are acting now, for as long as necessary,” he said, claiming that the aggression was necessary “to restore calm” and “will take time” to cease.

## G7 urged to donate excess COVID vaccines to global sharing scheme

The head of UNICEF, the United Nations children's agency, has asked G7 countries to donate excess supplies of COVID-19 vaccines to the global COVAX sharing scheme as an emergency measure to address a severe shortfall following a curb on exports from India.

India had pledged supplies of the AstraZeneca vaccine produced by its Serum Institute to COVAX but a devastating surge in cases at home has restricted exports.

According to al Jazeera, UNICEF, which is in charge of supplying coronavirus vaccines through COVAX, estimates the supply shortfall will reach 140 million doses by the end of May and about 190 million by the end of June.

“Sharing immediately available excess doses is a minimum, essential and emergency stop-gap measure, and it is needed right now,” said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore on Monday, adding that the move could help prevent vulnerable countries from becoming the next global hotspot.

Leaders of the G7 are due to meet in Britain next month. The United States and Canada, both members of the group, are among the countries that have authorised vaccines for those aged 12 and above in recent weeks.

## Thousands march across Pakistan against Israel's aggression

Tens of thousands marched across Pakistan on Sunday to denounce Israel's attacks in Gaza, which has killed at least 181 Palestinians, including women and children.

Rallies and demonstrations were held in the capital Islamabad, commercial capital Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Faisalabad, Multan, Hyderabad and other cities on the call of Milli Yakjehti Council, a conglomerate of Sunni and Shia schools of thought.

In Islamabad, thousands rallied at the capital's famous D-Chowk roundabout, less than a mile away from the Parliament House, to express solidarity with Palestinians.

Carrying Palestinian flags, banners and posters, some of them plastered with the pictures of Shaikh Ahmed Yasin, the slain leader of Hamas, the protesters chanted anti-Israel slogans.

According to Anadolu, in Karachi, thousands took part in a car rally that culminated at the Karachi Press Club after passing through key city roads.

Several cars were decorated with Palestinian flags, while angry protesters also burned Israeli flags.

Addressing the rallies, the political and religious leaders regretted the mere “lip servicing” by Muslim leaders, mainly the Arab world and the Organization of Islamic Countries against Israeli atrocities.

This continuing inaction, they said, has encouraged the Zionist state to evict Palestinians from their lands.

## Resistance News

## Hamas calls for all-out uprising against Israeli occupation

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** TEHRAN — A spokesman for the Hamas Movement in Occupied Jerusalem has urged the Palestinian masses to use all available means to spread the flame of confrontation with the Israeli occupation state across Palestine.

In press remarks on Sunday, Hamas spokesman Mohamed Hamadah called on the Palestinians in the holy city, the West Bank and the 1948 occupied lands to keep confronting the Israeli occupation state, its forces and settlers in all flashpoint areas.

Spokesman Hamadah also urged the Palestinian Authority security men and everyone who owns a weapon to rise up against the occupation. “This is the time for victory, so write for yourself a bright chapter in the battle: “Sword of Jerusalem.”

(Source: Press TV)



## 60 Hamedan historical monuments restored in year

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Over 60 historical buildings across the west-central Hamedan province underwent restoration during the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – March 21, 2021), the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 292 billion rials (\$6.9 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) was allocated to the restoration projects, Ali Malmir announced on Sunday.

Mir Fatah Yakhchal (traditional ice storage), Taj Abad Caravanserai, Kababian public bathhouse, Eqtedari Mansion, and Marianj Bridge were among the monuments, the official explained.



Moreover, with a budget of 400 million rials (\$9,500), some 3,300 historical objects including 600 Safavid-era (1501–1736) coins and 1,800 copper coins as well as 500 semi-precious stones and 50 metal objects were also documented and organized during the mentioned time, the official added.

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.

About 1220, Hamedan was captured by the sweeping army of Mongol invaders. In 1386 it was sacked by Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, and the inhabitants massacred. It was partly restored in the 17th century and subsequently changed hands often between Iranian ruling houses and the Ottomans.

Sitting on a high plain, Hamedan is graciously cool in August but snow prone and freezing from December to March. In summer the air is often hazy. Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan's attractions to name a few.

# Russian tourists eager to visit Iran: expert

**→ 1** According to Pourfaraj, the majority of potential Russian travelers are unaware of vast tourist attractions that exist in every corner of Iran. “The fact is that Iran's political and economic relations with Russia are considered as good, but this has nothing to do with attracting tourists because it is directly connected with the Russian people. It is the Russian people who must choose Iran as their destination.”

In 2017, President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin inked a visa-free agreement for tourist groups. The agreement, however, seems to be implemented in the near future as a joint technical committee on Wednesday reached an initial agreement in this regard.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under



the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

## Ancient pigeon tower awaiting restoration

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A historical pigeon tower, where droppings were once collected as fertilizer centuries ago, is planned to be restored in the city of Varnamkhast, central Isfahan province.

Due to its geographic location, it is difficult for the historic monument to access city services such as water, electricity, and other facilities, however cultural heritage experts strive to find a way to preserve the tower, a local tourism official has announced.



The structure is also planned to be registered on the National Heritage list after being fully restored, Ahmad Fathi said on Sunday.

Isfahan is famed for having a rich heritage of pigeon towers, where the droppings could be collected and used as fertilizer. There are still many ruined or well-preserved “luxury” accommodation buildings across the province, which are specially designed and constructed for pigeons and can hold as many as 14,000 pigeons.

It is not clear when such pigeon houses were built first but according to the comments by ancient travelers, at least they have been existed since some 800 years ago. For the first

time, “Ibn Battuta” the famous Moroccan traveler mentioned pigeon houses.

The environs of Isfahan are dotted with bizarre but very picturesque pigeon towers. In contrast to a European dovecot, which often housed pigeons to be used as meat, in Iran, the pigeons were never eaten. Here pigeon towers were used as guano factories to produce fertilizers for the melons that have always been the pride of the region. The guano was also used

in the manufacture of gunpowder.

Pigeon towers are of considerable size, often 10.5-12 m high, of sturdy construction and fine proportions. The pigeon houses are usually built of mud-brick. Unbelievably varied, often decorated by ornate cupolas and muqarnas friezes, they are so charming that it is well worth going even great distances to see them.

Although there are never two identical pigeon towers, all conform to a single plan. Each tower consists of an outer drum, buttressed internally to prevent collapse and to support the inner drum that rises perhaps a third as high as the main structure.

Pigeons can get to their nets through some passages which are such narrow that is impossible to other birds such as eagles or falcons to enter. At the bottoms, there are some smooth parts of stucco works. These parts can avoid snakes to ascend. In some cases, they put a bowl of milk at the center with limes around it. As snakes like milk, they try to get it but will be stuck in the lime.

Nowadays, due to the wide usage of chemical fertilizers, such pigeon towers just convey memories of the past as significant but strange buildings.

## Cultural heritage elements in western Iran added to national list

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A total of eight cultural elements, which are passed down from generation to generation in Kordestan province, have recently been added to the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Sunday announced

the inscriptions in an official document it submitted to the governor-general of the western province, CHTN reported.

The local games of Taqilebesar and Chemeh Qujaili as well as the skills of making local dishes of Valush and Salimali were amongst entrees to the prestigious list.

The talent of making Yeghan, a tradition-

al decorative box, and the skill of making Berchavilkeh, a kind of fly mask for horses, were other elements being registered, the report added.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuq period), the name Kurdistan

was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains. It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

Second Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

**INTERNATIONAL TENDER No:1400/108-23/26  
Renewal**

**Tender Holder:**  
**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)**

**Subject Of Tender:**  
Purchasing MV& LV SWITCHGEAR, Dry transformer with enclosure, MV&LV voltage power cable, UPS& Battery, Isolated trans, Duct Split, Industrial Laptop... Plus Installation and Commissioning in accordance with the technical specifications and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

**Deadline and how to receive the tender documents :**  
From **Tuesday 18 May 2021 (1400/02/28)** until **Monday 24 May 2021 (1400/03/03)** 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., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of IRIB Administration Complex , Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali-Assr 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 29,960 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 7.490.000.000 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 26 of June 2021 (1400/04/5)** and at the address mentioned in 4<sup>th</sup> clause.

**Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:**  
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes on **Saturday 26 of June 2021 (1400/04/5) at 10:00 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

**Time and place of opening Envelopes :**  
The envelopes A & B of the participants will be opened on **Sunday 27 June 2021 at 03:00 p.m. (1400/04/6)** in the office of Financial Vice President 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

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

Second Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

**INTERNATIONAL TENDER No:1400/115-16/07**

**Tender Holder:**  
**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)**

**Subject of Tender:**  
Supply, Installation and Commissioning of hardware and network items for server storage and processing resources with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

**Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:**  
From **Tuesday 18 May 2021 (1400/02/28)** until **Monday 24 May 2021 (1400/03/03)** 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., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of IRIB Administration Complex, Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali-Assr 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 17,500 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 4.375.000.000 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 package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:00 a.m. on Saturday 26 of June 2021 (1400/04/05)** and at the address mentioned in 4<sup>th</sup> clause.

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Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB



# Iran receives second shipment of COVAX vaccines

**SOCIETY**  
d e s k

**TEHRAN** – Iran has received the second batch of the COVID-19 vaccine from the COVAX facility on Sunday.

The shipment consisted of 1,452,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by Catalant Agnati of Italy.

The COVAX Facility is a partnership, co-led by Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi-The Vaccine Alliance, and the World Health Organization (WHO), alongside key delivery partner United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The consignment is the second COVAX shipment to the country, with future consignments of the approved allocation of COVID-19 vaccines to be delivered, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran, through the UNICEF procurement channel.

With the support of the UNICEF procurement channel under the COVAX facility, I.R Iran received the first batch of AZ COVID-19 vaccines, produced by SK-Bio Institute of South Korea, containing 700,800 doses on 5th April.

Mass vaccination against COVID-19 started



on Iranian citizens with the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine on February 9.

While Iran continues efforts to mass-produce local candidates, several foreign vac-

cines have already been imported and others are expected soon.

Iran is currently producing vaccines jointly with three countries of Cuba, Russia, and Australia, which may also be released by September.

According to the Ministry of Health, about 3.2 million coronavirus vaccines have been imported into the country so far. Some 1,713,648 people received the first dose and 342,950 people have also received the second dose so that the total number of vaccines injected in the country has reached 2,056,598 doses.

## New cases and mortalities

In a press briefing on Monday, Health Ministry's spokesperson, Sima-Sadat Lari, confirmed 14,319 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 2,765,485. She added that 2,242,023 patients have so far recovered, but 5,264 remain in critical conditions of the disease.

During the past 24 hours, 286 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 77,222, she added.

So far, 18,151,487 COVID-19 diagnostic tests have been performed in the country.

## Over 1,200 prisoners of unintentional crimes freed in Ramadan

**SOCIETY**  
d e s k

**TEHRAN** – Iranian philanthropists helped release a total of 1,216 inmates of unintentional crimes across the country over the holy month of Ramadan (April 13-May 12), Asadollah Joolaei, head of Blood Money Organization has said.

Some 1,206 male and 10 female prisoners, who were convicts or financial crimes, have been released, he added, IRIB reported on Monday.

A total of 1.5 trillion rials (nearly \$35 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been donated to pay the debt of the released prisoners, which has grown by 100 percent compared to the same period last year, he explained.

Isfahan province topped the list for the most contributions to release involuntary crime doers, following by two provinces of Kerman and Mazandaran, he said, adding, Isfahan, Gilan, and Tehran, released the highest number of prisoners amounting to 313.

With the support of philanthropists during the holy month of Ramadan, the number of involuntary crimes prisoners has decreased to 4,938, he concluded.

## 9,398 inmates freed nationwide

Iranian benefactors helped release a total of 9,398 inmates



of unintentional crimes across the country over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2020-March 2021), according to the Blood Money Organization.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways; the first way is granting prisoners leave and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison.

The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt; last year, a total of 35 trillion rials (nearly \$833 million) has been donated to pay the debt of the released prisoners.

Last year, Isfahan province topped the list for releasing the highest number of prisoners amounting to 677 involuntary crime doers, while Sistan-Baluchestan at the bottom of the list.

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes during the holy month of Ramadan (which started on April 13 this year), through which, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has donated 5 billion rials (about \$120,000).

Last year, heads of the three branches of the government and the private sector donated 6.5 billion rials (nearly \$150,000) to release prisoners who had committed involuntary crimes.

President Hassan Rouhani, former Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, and Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi made a total of 3.9 billion rials (around \$92,000) in contributions to free prisoners of unintentional crimes.

## Sharks use Earth's magnetic field as 'GPS' guidance system, study says

Scientists in Florida have concluded that sharks possess an internal navigation system similar to GPS that allows them to use Earth's magnetic forces to travel long distances with accuracy.

The researchers from Florida State University made the discovery by subjecting 20 bonnethead sharks, part of the hammerhead family, to "magnetic displacement" exercises that replicated geographical locations hundreds of miles from where they were captured.

When the sharks were exposed to magnetic cues emulating a site about 375 miles south of where they were captured, they turned to swim north, exhibiting a "homeward orientation" suggesting the use of magnetic forces in their navigation, said Bryan Keller, the lead author of the study.

The research published in the scientific journal Current Biology helps explain why

sharks can travel across vast oceans but return to exactly the same location annually to feed, breed and give birth, Keller said.

"We've known for some time they have the ability to detect the magnetic field, this is the first time that's tested successfully that they use those abilities to infer their location or if they're garnering map-like information from the magnetic field," he said.

"We expect these abilities are also observed in other species like the great white to migrate 20,000km out and back to the same spot."

Keller and his team believe the bonnetheads' "onboard" navigation system is probably common to other species of sharks because it is unlikely bonnetheads evolved with sensitivity to magnetic forces while others that also travel long distances did not.

The team captured the juvenile bonnet-

heads in St George Sound off the Florida panhandle and placed them in a room-sized pool surrounded by copper wire. This allowed researchers to simulate magnetic cues from the capture site and from positions roughly 375 miles north and south.

In the southerly case, the sharks responded uniformly with "homeward orientation", suggesting they can "differentiate geographic locations using map information from the geomagnetic field", the study said.

From the capture site simulation, the sharks swam in random directions, and from the north the sharks appeared disoriented. Sharks rarely migrate north. Keller said it was likely because "they've never been up there".

"It wasn't a dramatic effect," he said. "We tracked their behavior with a camera and we used software to track their sleep patterns and analyse the statistics. We learned that

the mean average angle of the shark was towards their capture area, to their summer residence."

According to Science Magazine, in 2005 a great white shark was tracked swimming from South Africa to Australia and back again in almost a straight line, leading scientists to believe sharks have a magnetic sense to steer themselves similar to those found in sea birds, lobsters and turtles.

Until now, however, little research has been conducted.

"It's one thing if you have a small lobster, or a baby sea turtle, but when you work with sharks you have to upscale everything," biophysicist Michael Winklhofer of Germany's University of Oldenburg told Science.

Other experts said the Florida team's findings were "compelling" but said more research was necessary before an internal GPS system in sharks is proven.

## ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → E

## \$7b to be allocated to retrofit, rebuild flood-devastated houses

A budget of 290 trillion rials (nearly \$7 billion) will be allotted to reconstruct and repair housing units destroyed by flood in 18 provinces across the country, Mehdi Jamalnejad, deputy interior minister for urban and rural development has announced.

Flood has devastated some 169,377 housing units, 68,333 of which are beyond repair and must be reconstructed, he stated. Moreover, household appliances of 109,832 families also have suffered damages, he further regretted.

He went on to say that 20,000 housing units, undergone devastation by recent flooding in Aq-Oala county in northern Golestan province, are under construction.

Non-repayable loans amounting to 25 trillion rials (nearly \$600 million) will be provided for retrofitting of houses, 7.4 trillion rials (around \$177 million) will also be earmarked to compensate for the infrastructure damages, he explained.

## اختصاص بیش از ۲۹ هزار میلیارد تومان برای بازسازی خانه های سیل زده

معاون عمران و توسعه امور شهری و روستایی وزیر کشور گفت: براساس مصوبه اخیر هیات وزیران مبلغ ۲۹ هزار و ۱۳۰ میلیارد ریال برای بازسازی و جبران خسارات ناشی از سیل در بخشهای مختلف ۱۸ استان پرداخت می شود.

بر اساس ارزیابی های انجام شده در ۲۱ استان کشور، بیش از ۱۶۹ هزار و ۳۷۷ واحد مسکونی شهری و روستایی در سیل های اخیر در کشور آسیب دیده اند که باید دوباره احداث شوند. جمالی نژاد بیان داشت: در اثر سیل به ۱۰۹ هزار و ۸۳۲ واحد مسکونی نیز خسارت معیشتی وارد شده است.

وی اضافه کرد: امروز ساخت ۲۰ هزار دستگاه واحد مسکونی که در سیل آسیب دیده بودند نیز در آق قلا شروع شد.

دبیر کمیته نوسازی و بازسازی قرارگاه بازسازی مناطق سیل زده در ادامه گفت: ۲۵ هزار میلیارد ریال تسهیلات قرض الحسنه و همچنین مبلغ ۷ هزار و ۴۶۰ میلیارد ریال برای مرمت زیرساخت های آسیب دیده از سیل پرداخت خواهد شد.

## 25 injured as magnitude 5.5 quake hits northeast Iran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** – A 5.5 magnitude earthquake struck the northeastern North Khorasan province on Monday, leaving at least 25 people injured.

The earthquake occurred at 3:34 a.m. local time at a depth of 16 kilometers in Sankhast, 70 km southwest of the capital city of Bojnourd, according to the Seismological Center of the Geophysics Institute of Tehran University.

No fatalities have so far been reported in the aftermath of the quake, IRNA reported.



Twelve other quakes measuring 2.6-5.4 on the Richter scale shook the area within 6 hours.

Some 11 rescue and relief teams and a helicopter have been dispatched to the quake-hit areas for assessment, and in addition, relief items have been sent to the scene.

North Khorasan province is located on active and important faults, which sometimes cause destructive earthquakes with their movements.

The most important fault of North Khorasan is Esfarayen fault, which is about 170 km long, Baghan-Garmab fault is also a fault with a length of 55 to 50 km.

According to the statistics, 13 earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 5.5 occurred in North Khorasan over the current century.

## Seismically active

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes of the world occur in Iran but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes. This shows the high level of vulnerability in Iran, according to Mehdi Zare, a professor of engineering seismology.

Most recently, a magnitude 5.9 earthquake jolted southwestern Bushehr province on April 18, leaving 5 injured.

## Could 'engineered' coral save the planet's reefs from destruction?

This weekend, conservationists will put the final touches to a giant artificial reef they are assembling at London zoo. Samples of the planet's most spectacular corals – vivid green branching coral, yellow scroll, blue ridge and many more species – will be added to the giant tank along with fish that thrive in their presence: blue tang, clownfish and many others.

The scene will then be set for Monday's opening of the zoo's new gallery, Tiny Giants, which is dedicated to the minuscule invertebrate creatures that sustain life across the planet. The coral reef tank and its seven-metre wide window will form the core of the exhibition.

The aim of the new gallery goes beyond merely demonstrating the wonder and glory of coral reefs, however. It will also showcase the research that is now being carried out in a bid to halt the destruction of the world's reefs as global heating warms the oceans and bleaches and destroys their coral.

"Coral reefs are the most diverse ecosystems on Earth and we want to show people how wonderful they are," said Paul Pearce-Kelly, senior curator of invertebrates and fish at the Zoological Society of London.

"However, we also want to highlight the research and conservation efforts that are now being carried out to try to save them from the threat of global warming. We want the public to see what is being done to try to save these wonders."

Corals are tiny animals, known as polyps, that have mouths surrounded by tentacles for capturing food. These polyps are clear but get their brilliant colour from algae that live within them. The algae get protection while their photosynthesising of sun's rays provides nutrients for the polyps.

This comfortable symbiotic relationship has led to the growth of coral reefs that cover 0.1% of the planet's ocean bed while providing homes for more than 25% of marine species, including fish, molluscs, sponges and shellfish. As a result, they are sometimes described as the "rainforests of the sea", though the comparison is disparaged by some naturalists, including David Attenborough.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 185)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

حروف همزه، ث، ح، ص، ض، ط، ظ، ع، ق معمولاً در کلمات عربی

که به فارسی وارد شده اند به کار می روند. این حروف می توانند به شناختن کلمات عربی در فارسی کمک کنند.

چهار حرف پ، چ، ژ، گ حروف فارسی اند و هر کلمه ای که دارای یکی از آنها باشد معمولاً فارسی و غیرعربی به شمار می رود.

## کلمات آروپایی در فارسی – در یکی دو قرن گذشته، واژه های

اروپایی، مخصوصاً فرانسوی و انگلیسی، هم وارد زبان فارسی شده اند. مانند اتوبوس، اتومبیل، پست، تاکسی، ترافیک، تلفن، دکتر، رستوران، سالاد، سوپ، فامیل، کارت، کت، کلاس، مترو، مینی بوس، نمره.

## واژه های فارسی در زبان های دیگر – از فارسی هم واژه های

زیادی وارد زبان های دیگر شده است:

فارسی در انگلیسی: بازار، پوسه، پیژامه، خاکی، شاه، کاروان، کاروانسرا

فارسی در ترکی: انار، بازار، پنیر، تخته، تمیز، خانه، کشور، کوچک، هفته

فارسی در عربی: استاد، بخشش، پنجره، تازه، دین، زود، شاه، گل، هوا



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If you overpower your enemy, then pardon him  
by way of thankfulness to Allah, for being able  
to subdue him.

Imam Ali (AS)

## Doc portraying volunteer doctors in Iran's deprived area produced

→1 And in the second chapter, the film portrays how the doctors have abandoned their offices in Tehran's wealthy neighborhoods, adapting themselves to the harsh living conditions in the region to provide services to the deprived people."

He expressed his hope that the film helps attract the attention of donors and officials to help improve living standards for the people.



A poster for the documentary "26° East" by Amir-Mehdi .Nejadnik

He noted that the trip to the region was not the doctors' sole mission and added that the group makes frequent visits to the region over the year.

The title of the documentary refers to the geographical location of Bashagard on the map.

"26° East" was broadcast from the Mostanad Channel, an IRIB network dedicated to screening documentary films.

Over the past few years, Iranian doctors and medical workers have engaged in doing volunteer work for the people in the deprived regions across the country and their activities have been highlighted by filmmakers.

"There, Dawn" is another example co-directed by Mohsen Jahani and Hashem Masudi in 2020.

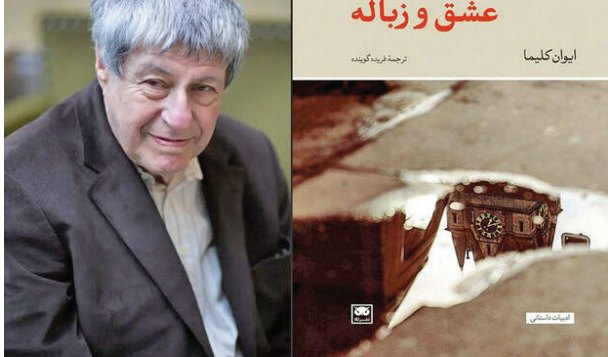
The film is about a nurse in a hospital for burn patients who volunteers to work in an ICU for people with COVID-19 after the outbreak of the virus.

It won the special jury award at the 14th edition of Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major international festival for documentary films.

## "Love and Garbage" comes to Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — Iranian publishing house Lega Press has recently released a Persian translation of Czech writer Ivan Klima's novel "Love and Garbage".

Farideh Guyandeh is the translator of the book that was originally published by Vintage in 1986.



A combination photo show Czech writer Ivan Klima and the cover of the Persian translation of his novel "Love and Garbage"

The narrator of Klima's novel has temporarily abandoned his work-in-progress - an essay on Kafka - and exchanged his writer's pen for the orange vest of a Prague street-sweeper.

As he works, he meditates on Czechoslovakia, on Kafka, on life, on art and, obsessively, on his passionate and adulterous love affair with the sculptress Daria.

Gradually, he admits the impossibility of being at once an honest writer and an honest lover, and with that agonizing discovery comes a moment of choice.

Klima has received the Magnesia Litera Award and the Franz Kafka Prize, among other honors.

His early childhood in Prague was happy and uneventful, but this all changed with the German invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1938, after the Munich Agreement.

He had been unaware that both his parents had Jewish ancestors; neither were observant Jews, but this was immaterial to the Germans.

He, his parents and brother were ordered to leave for the concentration camp at Theresienstadt (Terezín), where he was to remain until liberation by the Russian Liberation Army in May 1945. Both he and his parents survived incarceration.

# Berlin Sinema Transtopia to review Iranian New Wave masterpieces

A R T TEHRAN — Nine masterpieces of the Iranian New Wave cinema will be reviewed in a massive program at Sinema Transtopia, a center in Berlin that explores cinema as a space for social discourse and a place for exchange and solidarity.

The program traces the course of the blazing years before the Revolution with the newly restored movies from the movement that started and moved forward from the 1962 Oberhausen prize-winner, "The House Is Black", directed by poet Forugh Farrokhzad.

"Brick and Mirror" (1963-64) by Ebrahim Golestan will open the program on September 9. Curator Ehsan Khoshbakht and American critic Jonathan Rosenbaum will discuss the movie after a screening.

The film is about Hashem, a cab driver who finds an infant child in the back seat of his cab one night after he gives a ride to a young woman. He and his girlfriend, Taji, try to cope with this unwanted child. Hashem insists on getting rid of the child, Taji on keeping him. By the end, Hashem gets rid



Ezzatollah Entezami acts in a scene from director Dariush Mehrjui's drama "The Cow".

of them both. The program will go on September 10 with a screening of director Dariush Mehrjui's 1969 drama "The Cow".

## Iranian photographer Armin Karami honored at Istanbul Photo Awards



A photo from Iranian photographer Armin Karami's series "Foreign Mirror", which won first prize in the Portrait Story of the Istanbul Photo Awards.

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian photographer Armin Karami won first prize in the Portrait Story category of the Istanbul Photo Awards, the organizers announced last week.

He received that award for "Foreign Mirror", a series of portraits made in his homeland.

Karami works for Middle East Images, an independent photo agency that presents West Asian photography by accomplished local artists who seek to share their deep understandings of their homeland through visual storytelling.

The Istanbul Photo Awards is an international news photography contest organized by Anadolu Agency. The contest aims to contribute to the sphere of news photography and offers a perspective shaped by the region's unique position at the center of diverse cultures.

The organizers also intend to reward the endeavors of courageous and talented photojournalists from around the world on merit.

Bangladeshi photographer Mohammed Shajahan's "Mom Love", selected from among nearly 15,000 photographs submitted from different parts of the world, won the Photo of the Year 2021 award and Single News First Prize.

Single News Second Prize went to Yuri Cortéz's photo depicting members of the MS-13 and 18 gangs in an overcrowded cell at Quezaltepeque prison in El Salvador.

A photo by Petros Giannakouris that shows refugees and migrants carrying their belongings fleeing from

a fire burning at the Moria camp on the northeastern Aegean island of Lesbos, Greece, won Single News Third Prize.

Single Sports First Prize went to the photo "Loyal Fans in Covid Era" by Czech photographer Vondrous Roman. The photograph shows football players of the Bohemians 1905 Prague thanking their fans after a match against FK Příbram.

"Superbikes Crash" by Scott Robin Barbour from New Zealand received Single Sports 2nd Prize and "Log Pile Boulderling" won third prize in this category.

Italian photographer Fabio Bucciarelli was given first prize in the Story News section for his series "We Take the Dead from Morning Till Night".

Second and third prizes in this category went to Ugur Yildirim from Turkey and Chris McGrath from Australia respectively.

Alain Schroeder from Belgium was honored with first prize in the Story Sports section for his series "Dead Goat Polo", while Barbora Reichova from Czech and Anas Alkharboutli from Syria took second and third prizes.

"Doctor Peyo and Mister Hassen" by Jeremy Lempin from France received first prize in the Story Daily Life category.

## "Asak" named best short doc at Vienna Ethnocineca festival

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian filmmaker Mehdi Zamanpur Kiasari's "Asak" won the award for best short documentary at the 15th edition of the Vienna Ethnocineca International Documentary Film Festival.

"Asak", which means a small hand-mill in the local dialect of southern Iran, is about the life of an 80-year-old blind man who lives in that area.

He earns money by making handicrafts and utensils from stone. The documentary's most remarkable feature is the spiritual divine talent of the old man in interpreting dreams as well as his fascinating ability to climb

mountains to collect stones and identifying the right types of stones by simply touching and tasting them.

"Asak" had previously received several other awards from numerous festivals, including the International Golden Saffron Documentary Film Festival in Turkey, Arica Nativa Rural Film Festival in Chile, Parnu International Documentary Film Festival in Estonia, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in the U.S., Golden Tree International Documentary Festival in Germany, and the Belgrade Documentary and Short Film Festival in Serbia.

The Ethnocineca festival, which ran online this year due to the pandemic, announced

the winners last Thursday.

The award for best feature documentary was given to "The Rain Never Stops" by Alina Gorlova from Ukraine.

The Excellence in Visual Anthropology Award went to "The Body Won't Close" by Mattijs van de Port from the Netherlands.

"Once Upon a Time in Venezuela" won the award for best Austrian documentary. Directed by Anabel Rodriguez Rios, the film is a co-production from Austria, Venezuela, the UK and Brazil.

The Ethnocineca Student Shorts Award went to "Marea" directed by Vania Quevedo. It is a co-production between Mexico and Cuba.



"Asak" by Iranian filmmaker Mehdi Zamanpur Kiasari.

## "Brother's Keeper", "Deadlock" join Fajr festival lineup

CULTURE TEHRAN — The 38th International Fajr Film Festival's growing list of international films will now also be featuring the Turkish drama "Brother's Keeper" and the Slovenian film "Deadlock", the organizers have announced.

Directed by Vinko Modernodorfer, "Deadlock" begins with the old torrential rain cliché amid heavy traffic, and narrates the story of two married couples from different classes of society who incidentally meet on a single night following a tragic event that later changes their lives forever.

Modernodorfer started his career in Ljubljana, working with numerous theater companies in Slovenia after studying at the Academy for Theater, Radio, Film and Television. He has also published several poetic writings and books as well as children's stories and poetry.

In his film "Deadlock", Modernodorfer focuses on morality and questions the worthiness of one's life over the other based on social class or ethnic background,



"Brother's Keeper" by Turkish director Ferit Karahan.

## "Haboob" honored at Stuttgart Intl. Festival of Animated Film



"Haboob" by Iranian director Mahsa Samani.

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian short movie "Haboob" has won a special mention from the Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film

(ITFS) in Germany.

The movie directed by Mahsa Samani received the honor in the international animated short film competition.

"Haboob" tells the story of a man and his daughter, who are accustomed to living in harmony and peace with nature, but some disruptions change their lovely little life.

"We decided to give a special mention to 'Haboob' because we found it to be a very sensitive and touching film with a very clever use of the material it's talking about as the medium of the film," the jury said in their statement.

"The ending in particular put the whole film together and shared a light on the phenomenon of Haboob in south Iran," the jury added.

Earlier in January, the film received the award for best short animation at the 11th Karama Human Rights Film Festival in Amman, Jordan.

The Stuttgart festival, which is one of the most outstanding events for animated films, announced winners last week.

The Grand Prix went to "Precious" directed by Paul Mas from France, while "Only a Child" directed by Simone Giampaolo from Switzerland won a special mention.

The short movie "Have a Nice Dog!", a co-production between Germany and Syria, received the Lotte Reiniger Promotion Award, which is given to the best graduation film.

"I'm Here" by Polish director Julia Orlik won an honorable mention in this category. "Have a Nice Dog!" also garnered the

Young Animation Award for the best student film.

The AniMovie Award for the best animated feature film was presented to "Wolfwalkers", a co-production of Ireland, Luxembourg and the USA. The movie was directed by Tomm Moore and Ross Stewart.

The Trickstar Nature Award, which is given to the best international animated short film that deals with the topics of climate protection, biodiversity, environment and sustainability, went to "Migrants" from France.

"Cha" by Gagandeep Kalirai from the UK was honored with the FANTastic Award for best animation talent, and "Roberto" by Spanish director Carmen Córdoba González won the Tricks for Kids Award for best children's animated film.