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# Gone with the wind

## How Netanyahu botched the normalization hype



### Leader says malicious Zionist regime will become even weaker

TEHRAN—In a message to the Palestinian nation on Friday evening, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei congratulated the "powerful, oppressed Palestine" for their victory against the Zionist regime in the 12-day war.

In the 12-day war the Palestinian resistance groups succeeded to fire missiles all across the lands occupied by Israel. Failing to make resistance groups to give in in their missile war

against occupation and injustice, finally the Zionist regime agreed to an unconditional ceasefire. The ceasefire brought a wave of joy and happiness to the Palestinians, who poured into the streets showing V signs and waved flags.

The following is the full text of the message posted on the khamenei.ir: "In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

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### Over 1,600km of freeways, highways to be inaugurated by Mar. 2022

TEHRAN – Iranian Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Kheirollah Khademi has said 440 kilometers (km) of freeways and 1,200 km of highways will be added to the country's road network by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2022).

Khademi noted that the ministry prioritized the completion of nine major freeway projects which would have the biggest impact on the country's transportation and transit operations over the past two years and these projects have had average progress of more than 70 percent so far.

"Two of the mentioned projects were put into operation in the previous year and 221 kilometers of freeways were completed across the country," he told IRIB. Khademi, who is also the managing director of Iran's Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC), stressed that the completion of 221 km of freeways in the previous year was achieved despite the fact that the annual freeway construction in the country has been 80 km.

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### Iranian institute launches intl. short story competition on COVID-19

TEHRAN – The Iran Book and Literature House has launched an international competition for short story writing on COVID-19.

In a call published on Saturday, the cultural center invited all people writing in Persian across the world to participate in this competition, which will be held

on the theme of "The Story of Corona and Us".

The organizers have also dedicated a special section for health workers. Only people working in hospitals and medical centers are allowed to compete in this section.

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### Biodiversity conservation, an asset to fight coronavirus

**BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI**

Loss of natural habitats is the reason behind the outbreak of zoonotic diseases so that biodiversity protection is a great tool to fight epidemics such as coronavirus.

In a message on the occasion of The International Day for Biological Diversity, Kioumars Kalantari, head of the natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment stressed that the most unique feature of the planet is the existence of life on the planet and the most amazing aspect of life is biodiversity.

"The term biodiversity encompasses all forms of life on Earth at all levels, from genes to ecosystems, which provides evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes for the enrichment and stabilization of life.

Biological diversity by providing essential components and infrastructure of life including food, water natural resources, healthy climate, soil formation, and protection against natural hazards and diseases (through climate change, floods, pests and...), especially in agriculture and industry, has played a significant role in the formation and prosperity of human societies," Kalantari wrote.

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 "The International Day for Biological Diversity" to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. When first created by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly in late 1993, December 29 (the date of entry into force of the Convention of Biological Diversity), was designated The International Day for Biological Diversity.

In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted May 22 as IDB, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on May 22, 1992, by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

This year the Biodiversity Day 2021 theme is "We're part of the solution". From nature-based solutions to climate, health issues, food and water security, and sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity is the foundation upon which we can build back better.

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### Resistance will never forget Iran's support: Palestinian activist

**BY REZA MOSHFEQ**

TEHRAN – A Palestinian political activist says the resistance movement in Palestine will never forget Iran's contribution in terms of military and financing.

"The Resistance axis is an honest voice echoing the suffering of Palestinians, in the meantime transmitting the complete image of massacres in Palestine," Saleh Abu-Ezzah tells the Tehran Times.

"The Palestinian resistance will never forget the role of Iran, Syria and Hezbollah in supporting the Palestinian resistance at military level, and their contribution to development of Palestinian missiles, training and financing," Abu-Ezzah adds.

On May 18, Palestinian resistance groups thanked Iran for its firm position on Palestine in a letter to the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

In separate letters, five resistance groups lauded the Islamic Republic, especially Ayatollah Khamenei, for supporting the national resistance of the Palestinian people and their refusal to recognize Israel.

"On the political level, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Hezbollah and the Iraqi resistance endorsed all Palestinian positions and defended the Palestine cause in local, regional and international forums," Abu-Ezzah notes.

Following is the text of the interview: **What is the message of the recent Palestinian uprising to the region and the world?**

The recent Palestinian movement started against Israeli aggressions on the Sheikh Jarrah and Bab al-Amud neighborhoods in occupied Jerusalem, in addition to the city of Jaffa.

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### UK implicated in aggression against Palestinians through military relationship with Israel

The deep military relationship between the UK and the Israeli regime, including in the form of providing training and advice, plays a key role in the oppression of Palestinians, reports say.

As a result of a UK-Israel military agreement, Israeli soldiers have been trained in the UK, and the two countries regularly carry out joint aerial exercises.

According to Declassified, the UK is running a multi-million-pound aid project in occupied territories through the "Capability, Accountability, Sustainability and Inclusivity Program" to develop "more capable" forces who can prevent the "potential overspill of violence into Israel."

The project, managed jointly by the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, lasts until 2022 and aims to "deal with threats to Israel originating in the West Bank."

The British program is funded through the

Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) and includes the presence of seven UK army and air force personnel in the West Bank to train units that confront Palestinian protesters.

According to a written parliamentary question answered by the British government in March, the country also provided military education to Israeli forces in 2019/20 and 2020/21 under the MoD's "International Defense Training" program, which covers modes combat.

The trained units and military equipment provided by the UK government are utilized by the IDF in devastating aerial bombardments in the Gaza Strip.

Additionally, 15% of the F-35 fighter jets that have been used in Israeli attacks on Gaza are reportedly provided by the UK government.

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### Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System dredging work starts

TEHRAN – A vast dredging project has started at the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, a UNESCO-registered prehistorical ensemble in southwest Iran, which is known globally as a masterpiece of creative genius.

A budget of 35 billion rials (some \$830,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project intended to clearing mud, plants, and silt from various canals and waterfalls of the ancient site, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The ensemble comprises bridges, weirs, tunnels, canals, and a series of ancient waterfalls powered by human-made waterfalls. It is named after an ancient city of the same name with its history dating back to the time of Darius the Great, the Achaemenid king.

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2009, the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System may testify to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian

knowhow. According to UNESCO, the ensemble was probably influenced by the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.

UNESCO says that the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System demonstrates outstanding universal value as in its present form, it dates from the 3rd century CE, probably on older bases from the 5th century BC. It is complete, with numerous functions, and large-scale, making it exceptional.

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### Iranian football in paddy field

TEHRAN – The people of north of Iran play a new type of football namely, football in their fields during paddy season.

Footshal is a type of football played between two teams of nine players on a muddy field.

The size of the field is 50 meters long and 25 meters wide.

Footshal derives from Football and Shalzar (paddy field) and is played in Iran northern provinces Gilan and Mazandaran.

Footshal is very popular in north of Iran.

### Clock running down on Israel's ability to commit genocide without consequences: activist

**BY M.A. SAKI**

TEHRAN – Greta Berlin, a female author, journalist and "activist", tells the Tehran Times that "I'm extremely hopeful this time that the clock is running down on Israel's ability to continue to commit genocide without consequences."

Berlin, the co-founder of the "Free Gaza Movement" who actually organized the very first boat to Gaza in 2009, also says Israel has no alternative other than making Palestine "a state for all citizens."

Israel can't continue to marginalize 7 million Palestinians, she predicts.

"Israel will have no choice but to change and become a state for all its citizens. It can't afford to alienate 7 million Palestinians living in Israel and the occupied territories," notes Berlin, who is currently based in Nice, France.

Following is the text of the interview: **How do you analyze the recent developments in Palestine?**

Palestine has been occupied for 73 years. In that time, Christian and Muslim Palestinians have witnessed four major wars; 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973 as well as dozens of massacres, from Sabra and Shatila to the current holocaust on Gaza that stopped today (early Friday). Yet, they are still there in the land of their ancestors. They are not going to go away and recent developments haven't changed their 'sumud.' One time, I asked a man from Jerusalem how he could tolerate the oppression and brutality of the Israeli occupation.

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# Gone with the wind

## How Netanyahu botched the normalization hype

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – The Israeli regime sought to use the normalization deals with some Arab states to project a different image of itself to the Arab world but the recent carnage against Gaza once again brought it into disrepute.

The Egyptian-brokered ceasefire between the Gaza Strip and the Israeli regime held into Saturday as mediators continued consultations with the Israeli and Palestinian sides to make sure that the war would not break out again.

Having failed to achieve its goals, Israel unilaterally announced a ceasefire with Gaza on Friday midnight after 12 days of heavy bombardment against Gaza. The Palestinians from all walks of life celebrated their victory while Israel and its newfound allies in the region remained silent. This silence is telling. Israel lost more than it achieved. Resistance groups in Gaza are still around and they became even more confident due to their shrewd management of the fighting with an enemy enjoying overwhelming military support from a number of Western governments.

Israel's loss is not limited to damaged buildings and cars; its global standing also was severely damaged as hundreds of thousands of people around the world took to the streets to denounce Israel's brute violence against civilians in Gaza. Furthermore, Israel's much-vaunted myth of co-existence between Jews and the so-called Israeli Arabs was shattered when the Israeli police resorted to the use of lethal force to quash Arab protests inside Israel, prompting some of them to push back against the police. There were also clashes between Arabs and Jews in several mixed cities.

Observers say the last round of violence between Arabs and Jews in Israel has left them afraid of each other, with some of them refraining from leaving their homes even for medical treatment out of fear that they would be targeted by the other. Individuals



from both sides began to apply for weapons licenses, and everyone exchanged accusations, amidst extremely tense situations.

The Israeli Ministry of Interior revealed that the number of Jewish gun license applicants doubled seven times over the past week, from 270 requests to 1926, noting that there are about 145,000 Jews who possess licensed weapons at present.

An Israeli security official has said the hike in demand for the weapon is dire, but it is based on an understandable logic, signaling that fear has prevailed over Israeli society. As a result of this tense atmosphere, fear and anxiety spread widely on both sides. Many Arab workers complained of receiving dismissal orders, and Arab university students refused to go to their universities, according to Asharq Al Awsat. Several hospital administrations revealed that Arab doctors

and nurses were absent from work, and they explicitly said that they feared attacks, the newspaper said, adding that Arab students at a Beersheba university complained that right-wing activists attacked them for participating in a demonstration.

Before the 12-day Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, there was a belief among some Israeli Arabs that without co-existence between Arabs and Jews inside Israel it is impossible to achieve peace between Israel and the Arab world because if Israel was to suppress its own Arab "citizens" it would fail to make the case that it can live in peace with Arab states.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought to downplay this belief, believing that peace is possible with the Arab world while trampling on the rights of Palestinians. From this perspective, Netanyahu pressed

ahead with his normalization deals with a number of Arab states such as the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco.

Last year in August, then U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he brokered a "historic deal" between the UAE and Israel to normalize their relations, the first such deal between Israel and an Arab country since 1994. The last time an Arab country signed a deal with Israel to normalize relations was on October 26, 1994, when Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel. Following in the footsteps of the UAE, Bahrain and Sudan also normalized relations with Israel.

These countries enumerated a variety of reasons to justify their controversial decision to normalize ties with Israel and mitigating Israeli aggression against the Palestinians was the prime one. For example, the Emiratis said their normalization with Israel would encourage Tel Aviv to treat Palestinians well and make it more receptive to internationally recognized solutions to the decades-long Palestine-Israel conflict.

To back their arguments, the Emiratis largely pointed to the Israeli decision to suspend plans to annex large swaths of the West Bank in exchange for normalization with the UAE.

But the Israeli aggression showed that the Emirati reasoning was flawed. Israel can never be expected to behave normally or to respect the rights of the Palestinians without pressure. Netanyahu showed that the hype surrounding the normalization deals with Arab states was a ploy to hoodwink more Arab countries into accepting normalization without first addressing the Palestinian issue. But as the Israeli warplanes pummeled Gaza with rockets and missiles, this ploy went up in smoke. Now, the Arab world understands that Israel only understands the language of power and that it will never be willing to make peace with the Palestinians through diplomatic compliments.

## Lawmakers to discuss Vienna talks amid nuclear deliberations

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – Members of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee will hold a meeting on Sunday with relevant officials to review the latest developments concerning the Vienna nuclear talks.

The committee will hold a hearing session at first and then discuss the Vienna talks. Iranian Intelligence Minister Seyed Mahmoud Alavi is also expected to attend the meeting.

Iranian news media outlets did not specify which relevant officials will attend the meeting, but it is highly likely that Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, who lead Iran's negotiating team in Vienna, would attend the meeting to brief the lawmakers on the talks.

Araghchi has just returned to Iran after concluding the fourth round of the Vienna talks, which are aimed at reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The last meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission was held on Wednesday. After the meeting, Araghchi said good progress was made during the talks but they needed to return to capitals in order to make some final decisions.

"After two weeks of negotiations, we will have a meeting to conclude, and then the delegations will return to the capitals for consultations," Araghchi told Iran's state media.

He added, "There are a few key issues that need further review and decision-making in the capitals, and we hope that they will take place in the next few days and that we will be able to conclude on these issues in the next round of talks."

According to Araghchi, intensive talks and meetings were held at all levels. He said that Iran and its negotiating partners had bilateral and multilateral talks at expert and political levels. "During these discussions, we tried to reach a conclusion on the issues at stake, either to resolve the differences or to decrease them, and the result is that we are in a position where we can have a general conclusion," he pointed out.

He continued, "There are some key issues that need to be resolved and there is agreement on the rest; the texts



have been well written and so now is the time to go back to the capitals and have the final consultations and then continue the negotiations."

Araghchi, along with a delegation of Iranian experts and diplomats, left Tehran for Vienna nearly two weeks ago to start the fourth round of talks over the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal.

On Thursday night, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell discussed the latest developments pertaining to the Vienna talks and the considerable headway made with the negotiations, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

In a phone conversation on Thursday night, Zarif appreciated efforts made by Borrell and his colleagues at the EU's External Action Service.

Meanwhile, the top Iranian diplomat criticized Washington's ongoing "economic terrorism" over the past five months as well as its continued violation of its commitments.

Zarif reiterated that it would not be acceptable to see the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden continue to use the illegal and inhumane sanctions imposed by his predecessor Donald Trump as leverage in the talks.

"A fundamental change in this approach is a sine qua non for the Vienna talks to be fruitful, and this is a political decision that the U.S. president should adopt," Zarif said.

The recent meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission wrapped up two weeks of intensive talks at expert and political levels.

At the end of the fourth round of talks in the Austrian capital, the JCPOA Joint Commission held a plenary meeting on Wednesday at the Grand Hotel of Vienna, attended by delegations from Iran and the JCPOA member states, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

In the meeting, the heads of negotiating teams reviewed the progress made in the fourth round of talks and the latest status of the texts, and exchanged views on the path ahead.

Referring to the drafts prepared after several bilateral and multilateral meetings at different levels, the delegations expressed satisfaction with the overall trend of talks and the path taken so far, and underlined the necessity of maintaining the current fast pace of talks.

During the past two weeks, intensive negotiations and consultations have been underway among delegations, either at the level of deputies or experts.

A few hours before the plenary meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission, the expert group on removal of sanctions and the expert group on practical arrangements, in a joint meeting attended by representatives of all JCPOA member states, tried to prepare the drafts as much as possible so that the heads of delegations would be able to check them and then report to their respective capitals.

As a result of these consultations and the efforts of the expert delegations of the parties involved in the talks, the drafts have been developed and revised to a large extent, so much so that except for some complicated points of disagreement which require political decisions at the capital of JCPOA member states, the rest of the text is almost ready.

Following the conclusion of this round of talks, the delegations headed to their capitals. The next round of talks is to be held next week.

## Rouhani lauds Palestine 'major victory'

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has praised the Palestinian response to Israel, calling it a "major victory."

"The unity of the Palestinian nation and Gaza's decisive response to the Zionists was a major victory," Rouhani said, according to state news IRNA.

The president made the remarks on Saturday during a meeting of the national task force to combat Covid-19.

Rouhani said during the last round of fighting between the Palestinian people and the occupying regime of Israel, all Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, and the occupied lands of 1948 as well as the Palestinians living in refugee camps abroad were unified.

The president also praised the people of the world who showed support for Palestine by staging demonstrations around the world.

"All nations did well. People took to the streets in Europe and the United States, but some Western countries took the wrong positions, most of the Islamic countries had good positions, although more was expected from the Arab world, some of them were silent until the last days," Rouhani pointed out.

He added, "The resistance of a nation

brings victory; for example, the nation of Palestine won against a regime that is armed to the teeth and is supported by all. We congratulate the resilient, patient and struggling nation of Palestine on this victory."

The remarks came amid celebrations in Palestine and elsewhere in the world on the ceasefire that Israel unilaterally announced late on Thursday night after failing to defeat the Palestinian resistance.

Nearly two weeks ago, Israel began an air raid campaign against the Gaza Strip after the Palestinians there protested against Israel's atrocities in the West Bank, where Israeli authorities imposed new bans and doubled down on their crackdown against the Palestinians.

The whole episode began when Israel moved ahead with its 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.

During the war on Gaza, Israel targeted civilians and killed at least 60 children,

something that fits well into Israel's global reputation as the killer of children.

The international community, including Iran, called on Israel to stop its atrocities.

Iran hailed the Palestinian resistance as a victory over Israel. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament on international affairs, has praised the Palestinian resistance against the Israeli regime, saying the resistance has achieved a "tremendous victory" in the face of Israel.

In a tweet on Friday, the diplomat said Israel's security has been destroyed and that al-Quds remains the eternal capital of Palestine.

"Palestinian Resistance & people made a tremendous victory. Palestine's unity has been demonstrated in Gaza, al-Quds, West Bank, & occupied territories. So-called Israel's security was shattered & fully destroyed. Quds remains Palestine's perpetual capital," Amir-Abdollahian said on Twitter.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, also issued a message late on Friday congratulating the Palestinian people on their victory in the 12-day war against the Zionist regime.



"My greetings to the powerful, oppressed Palestine. Greetings to the brave, zealous Palestinian youth. Greetings to the heroic, resistant Gaza. Greetings to Hamas, Islamic Jihad and all Jihad and political groups in Palestine. I thank God, the Almighty and Omnipotent, for granting His assistance and for the honor He has bestowed on the Palestinian fighters. I ask God, the Beneficent, to bestow tranquility and peace of mind on the injured hearts of the bereaved, to shower His mercy and glad tidings on the martyrs and to completely heal the wounded. I also extend my congratulations on this victory against the criminal Zionist regime," the Leader said in the message.

## SPORTS

### Iran's Kiani secures taekwondo berth at Olympics

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Taekwondo athlete Nahid Kiani from Iran secured her place at the 2020 Olympic Games.



She qualified for the final match of the -57kg in the Asian Taekwondo Olympic Qualification Tournament in Amman, Jordan.

Kiani will meet Lo Chia-ling from Chinese Taipei in the final. Kiani started the campaign with a 14-0 win over Law Sin Yi from Hong Kong. She then earned a narrow 18-16 win over reigning champion Phannapa Harnsujin from Thailand. Kiani also defeated Natali Hamaidi from Jordan in semifinals and advanced to the final match.

She will be Iran's only woman taekwondo athlete in Tokyo 2020. Iran's Mahla Momenzadeh also participated in the competition but failed to earn her ticket to the Games in the -49kg weight category.

Men taekwondo practitioners Mirhashem Hosseini in -68kg and Armin Hadipour in -58kg have already booked their spot in the Games.

Taekwondo at Tokyo will feature 128 taekwondo fighters competing in eight weight categories from July 24 to 27.

### Six weightlifters to represent Iran at world championships

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Iran will send five weightlifters to the 2021 IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships.

The event was originally scheduled to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia but was relocated to Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The 2021 IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships will be held from May 23-31 in Tashkent.

The event will bring 244 weightlifters together in Uzbekistan.

**Women:**  
76kg: Elnaz Bajalani  
87kg: Yekta Jamali  
**Men:**  
81kg: Abdollah Beiranvand  
96kg: Hossein Beiranvand  
+109kg: Reza Hassanpour, AlirezaZandi

### Iran's practice schedule for World Cup qualification released

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Iran football federation announced on Saturday the practice schedule for the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

Dragan Skocic's side will begin the two-day training camp in Tehran on Tuesday.

The team will travel to Kish Island on Thursday to continue the training until May 31.

Iran national football team are scheduled to fly out to Bahrain on May 31, where the 'Persian Leopards' will meet Hong Kong, Bahrain, Cambodia and Iraq, respectively in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification.

The competition will be held in centralized venue in Bahrain. Iran are third in their group of five, but have a game in hand over their opponents.

They sit on six points from four matches, having won 14-0 at home to Cambodia and 2-0 away to Hong Kong.

Iraq are top on 11 points, with Bahrain second on nine after five matches.

**Fixtures:**  
June 3: Iran v Hong Kong  
June 7: Iran v Bahrain  
June 11: Iran v Cambodia  
June 15: Iran v Iraq

### Majid Hosseini to leave Trabzonspor: report

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Qatari media reports suggest that Iranian international defender Majid Hosseini will leave Trabzonspor to join Qatari football clubs.

Qatari newspaper Al-Sharq has reported that the 25-year-old defender will join Qatar Stars League (QSL) in the summer. Hosseini joined Trabzonspor in 2018 but he doesn't want to extend his contract with the Süper Lig team.

The Qatari daily has also reported that Russian clubs are interested in signing the iconic defender.

### Iranian wrestling referee to officiate at Tokyo

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Iranian Mohammad Mosallaeipour was chosen to officiate at the 2020 Olympic Games.

Mosallaeipour had already refereed at the 2020 wrestling test event along with his two countrymen Mohammad Ebrahim Emami and Nima Sadeghi.

The organizers have invited Mosallaeipour to the Games as the only referee from Iran.

Russia, Germany and Turkey have three referees in the Olympics each while two Japanese and two Americans have been selected for the Games.

Wrestling at the 2020 Summer Olympics will be held from August 1 to 7.

## Over 1,600km of freeways, highways to be inaugurated by Mar. 2022

➔ As for the country's highways development, the official said the completion of 2,000 km of highways has also been put on the agenda, of which last year 170 km was completed.

"Most of the highways that are going to be inaugurated this year are part of the East-West and North-South corridors, which will be a big step towards the development of freight, transit, and passenger transportation in the country," he noted.

## Energy Ministry cuts off power of 4 govt. entities for over-consumption

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iranian Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said the ministry has cut the power of four major government entities for violation of consumption criteria set by the ministry.

"The electricity supply to these organizations was cut off since they have had previously received warnings for violating the consumption ceiling and the criteria set by the ministry," Mashhadi said.



According to the official, Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry, Bank Mellat, Cooperative Foundation, and the State Organization for Registration of Deeds and Properties were the organizations whose power supply was cut off.

Earlier this month, Managing Director of Tehran Electricity Distribution Company Hassan Sabouri had announced that a group of 2,500 supervisors has been tasked to monitor the electricity consumption in government entities during the peak consumption period in order to report any misuse back to the governor to be pursued.

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.

## NIGC issues 8m free gas bills for efficient subscribers

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Managing Director of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Hassan Montazer Torbati said his company has issued over eight million free natural gas bills for efficient subscribers following a program for encouraging consumption management.

"This doesn't mean that eight million subscribers have been offered free gas but the figure is the sum of the issued free bills since the beginning of the program, since some consumers have been given 100 percent discount over their bills for several consumption periods," Torbati explained.

According to the official, in terms of percentage, nearly 17 percent of the subscribers have been offered free gas so far. The figure is estimated to reach 30 percent in the current year, he said.

Back in December 2020, First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri sent a decree to the Oil Ministry providing the cabinet's approval and the necessary instructions for offering free natural gas to low-consuming subscribers.



Based on the mentioned decree, NIGC was required to give a 100-percent discount on the gas bill of those households whose consumption is in accordance with some criterion provided by the cabinet.

Earlier that month, government spokesman Ali Rabiei had announced that the cabinet approved a plan to provide some 35 percent of the country's 83 million population with free water, electricity, and gas in a bid to support low-income families.

"Energy-efficient households, who are mostly from low-income strata of the society, will receive free-of-charge water, gas, and electricity," Rabiei had said.

The new incentive packages are implemented following the successful implementation of a similar program by the Energy Ministry based on which the ministry awarded low-consuming households with a 100 percent discount on their electricity bills.

Back in August 2020, Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian had announced his ministry's plan for awarding low-consuming electricity subscribers with free electricity.

"This program will be implemented to both reward low-consuming subscribers and to encourage others to consume less, Ardakanian said in a press conference on the occasion of the Government Week.

President Hassan Rouhani said in early December 2020 that it is a great honor for the government to provide low-income families with free water, gas, and electricity.

"We supplied people with free gas, but we became self-sufficient in gas production beforehand so that we can meet the domestic demand in winter and even be able to export."

"In the field of electricity, we achieved notable growth. We added the generation capacity and then we made supply free of charge. We also took substantial measures for reducing water consumption and water loss in different sectors," Rouhani explained.

# Jask terminal ready to receive crude oil from Gulf of Oman

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Jask oil terminal, in southern Iran, is ready to receive crude oil from the Gulf of Oman, the managing director of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) stated.

Announcing the 98-percent progress in the project of constructing the terminal, Mohammad Meshkinfam said Jask terminal is prepared for receiving, loading, and transferring crude oil via the single point mooring (SPM) export facility.

Making the remarks while visiting the stages of the project for constructing the terminal, Meshkinfam said, "Due to the experience and expertise in the implementation of offshore projects, the construction of this oil terminal was entrusted to Pars Oil and Gas Company, and fortunately, with the unremitting efforts of my colleagues, this project has achieved considerable progress."

As the country's second major oil terminal, Jask terminal is under construction by POGC on 60 hectares of land and with nearly €260 million of investment.

In line with the development of the mentioned oil terminal, a pipeline project, dubbed the Goreh-Jask oil transfer



project, is also underway which is going to provide Iran with an alternative route for the country's crude oil exports that are currently carried out through the Strait of Hormuz.

Last week, the managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) announced the beginning of oil transfer operation through Goreh-Jask pipeline which is laid from Goreh oil terminal in

the southwestern Bushehr Province to Jask oil terminal along the Gulf of Oman.

Stating that the Goreh-Jask oil transfer project is currently the largest project in Iran's oil industry, Masoud Karbasian said: "Production of transmission valves, electric pumps, laying a thousand kilometers of pipeline along with the construction of storage tanks, terminals and the single point mooring (SPM) in Jask port using domestic capacities shows the national determination for completing this great and strategic project."

According to the official, the Goreh-Jask project, due to its high sensitivity, has gone through several additional tests in various stages to make sure that the project will be completed without any defects and with the best quality.

He further noted that it will take less than a month for the pumped oil to reach Jask oil terminal and then the project will be officially inaugurated by President Hassan Rouhani.

Goreh-Jask project, which is aimed at expanding the oil transport capacity in the south of the country to one million barrels a day, was started in late June 2020.

## Home appliance industry registers annual growth of 78%

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iran's Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeghi Niaraki said that the country's home appliance industry experienced a 78-percent growth in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Last year, the industry was able to achieve 78 percent growth despite the restrictions on the manufacturing sector, the official said, adding, "While foreign brands left Iran, manufacturers were able to achieve this leap by relying on domestic capacities."

Back in April, the official had said that considering the Iranian home appliance industry's infrastructure and capacities, the country will be able to become an exporter of such products in the near future because most of the raw materials needed by the mentioned sector are produced domestically.

Stating that the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry will definitely support domestic manufacturers and national brands, the official added: "Today we have the necessary manpower, knowledge, and infrastructure in the field, so there is no reason to look for foreign sources to meet the country's demands."

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S.

sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past two years so that this industry's production capacity increased by 24 percent in the past Iranian year, and by 10 percent in its preceding year.

Earlier this month, the secretary of the Association of Industries of Household Appliances of Iran announced the 24-percent growth in the home appliance output over the past year and said, "We expected to produce about 12 million units, including small and large appliances in the previous year, however, the figure increased to about 15 million by the yearend, registering a 24 percent growth compared to the preceding year."

"We also had good growth in after-sales service, product quality improvement, indigenization and exports, so that last year \$345 million worth of home appliance products were exported," Abbas Hashemi added.

Pointing to the advantages of home appliance industry in Iran, the official said: "Production of home appliances in the country is an advantage considering cheap energy and workforce and the country's geographical situation", he noted.



"This industry should be more supported," he stressed. Regarding the return of foreign brands to the country, Hashemi said: "we should prevent the imports of foreign finished products into the country in order to support domestic producers."

He further noted that foreign companies can invest in this industry and co-produce their products with local manufacturers.

## IOOC implements new high-tech EOR pilot project

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) has implemented a pilot enhanced oil recovery (EOR) project in which a nanofluid has been injected to an oilfield southern Iran for the first time to boost its recovery factor.

The high-tech project was unveiled in a ceremony attended by officials from IOOC, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), and Iran's Research Institute of Petroleum Industry (RIPI) on Saturday, Shana reported.

The pilot project includes injecting 18,000 barrels of nanofluid into one of the wells of Belal oil field in Hormozgan Province.



As reported, the primary research on the project was started in the Iranian

calendar year 1394 (started in March 2015) and following the approval of the project's plausibility, NIOC's research department started working on producing the necessary nanofluids in collaboration with the RIPI.

In the first phase of the project, nanoparticles were used to prepare stable emulsions in laboratory-scale, and the second phase included the simulation of injecting the mentioned nanofluid into the wells of the targeted oilfield.

The third phase of the project included the production of the selected nanofluids on a semi-industrial scale for injection into Belal oil field's Surmeh reservoir, and finally in the fourth phase, the pro-

duced nanofluids have been injected into the Well 10 of the mentioned reservoir.

Belal oil field is located in Hormozgan province's Lavan region, in the Persian Gulf.

Enhanced oil recovery (EOR), also called tertiary recovery, is the extraction of crude oil from an oil field that cannot be extracted otherwise. EOR can extract 30-60 percent or more of a reservoir's oil, compared to 20-40 percent compared to primary and secondary recovery.

EOR techniques include thermal injection, gas injection, and chemical injection. More advanced, speculative EOR techniques are sometimes called quaternary recovery.

## Bushehr Port ready to receive large-scale vessels

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Siavash Arjmandzadeh, the director general of ports and maritime department of southwestern Bushehr Province, has announced that the port is ready for receiving large-scale vessels with over 45,000 tons of capacity.

Mentioning the dredging operations conducted in the port over the past two years, Arjmandzadeh said: "The access channel of Bushehr port has become ready to receive vessels with over 30,000 tons of capacity and even higher."

Noting that one of the major policies of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) is to enhance distributing basic goods through different ports of the country, Arjmandzadeh said: "Facilitating distribution, reducing costs and shortening transportation route are some of the benefits of decentralization of loading and unloading of basic goods in the country's ports."

He further pointed to the good performance of Bushehr



port in loading and unloading operations, saying: "Fortunately, ships do not face demurrage in Bushehr port so the port is suitable for importing basic goods."

The official also announced that his office is going to offer a 100 percent discount on loading and unloading fees for large-scale vessels with 40,000-45,000 tons of capacity.

Earlier this month, Arjmandzadeh had stated that loading and unloading of commodities at the ports of Bushehr province doubled in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), as compared to the same month of the previous year.

He announced that 401,000 tons of goods have been loaded and unloaded at the ports of province in the first month of the present year.

The official said that the mentioned commodities were loaded and unloaded from 28 vessels.

He also announced that over 246,000 tons of goods were exported from the ports of Bushehr in the first month of this year, indicating 179 percent growth compared to the first month of the past year.

## TEDPIX drops 27,500 points on Saturday

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 27,591 points to 1.127 million on Saturday (the first day of Iranian calendar week).

Over 5.976 billion securities worth 42.668 trillion rials (about \$1.015 billion) were traded at the TSE on Saturday.

The first market's index fell 22,697 points, and the second market's index dropped 47,182 points.

TEDPIX lost 29,000 points, or 2.5 percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.154 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Iran Khodro Company, Isfahan Oil Refining Company, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, and Saipa Company were the most

widely followed indices.

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

Also, the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said that the central bank welcomes the prosperity of the capital market.



# Clock running down on Israel's ability to commit genocide without consequences: activist

Israel is beginning to be a pain in the neck, Greta Berlin says

→ "We will remain as the earth remains," he said. "Palestine will return, if not in my generation, then my children's generation or their children's generation. This is something the West does not understand. It's why we will eventually win."

**Some argue that the recent escalation in Palestine has opened a wide door for a new intifada. What is your comment?**

An intifada appears to be a possibility. On Tuesday, May 18, most Palestinians in Israel and occupied West Bank went on strike, proving they could bring Israeli construction projects to a standstill. I hope this kind of intifada continues, an economic one, hurting Israel where they hate being hurt...economically.

**The Supreme Court has voted to evict residents of Sheikh Jarrah. How can such a cruel verdict be issued by those who consider themselves as top judges who should uphold justice?**

Just because the Israeli Supreme Court is made up of judges does not mean they uphold justice. They don't. They uphold the white/racist/colonial principles in place since the founding of this rogue state.

**Why is most of the world silent on such inhuman acts by the Netanyahu regime?**

This time, the world has not been silent. Governments might be silent, even some journalist outlets like CNN and the BBC might be silent or not tell the truth of what is actually happening. But social media has changed the playing field. Just look at the tens of thousands of protestors out on the streets around the world, standing up for the rights of Palestinians. Social media has

**"The man (Netanyahu) is a vicious sociopath and will do anything he can to stay in power."**



done that. Grassroots organizing has done that work. Connecting to other initiatives such as "Black Lives Matter" has made the public realize that what happens to American black families in the U.S. is happening to Palestinian families in occupied Palestine. I'm extremely hopeful this time that the clock is running down on Israel's ability to continue to commit genocide without consequences.

**Some political observers argue that public anger against the Israeli regime is widespread inside and outside of occupied territories. What is your opinion?**

Public anger against Israel is not only widespread in occupied Palestine, it's widespread in communities across the world. We're going to see a change, as the younger generations who don't remember WW II or the founding of Israel as a haven for Jews fades. Young Jews in the U.S. are saying "Not in Our Name" Palestinians are running for office in the U.S. and Europe. And the public no longer believes Israel's constant whining that they are the victims. Israel will have no choice but to change and become a state for all its citizens. It can't afford to alienate 7 million Palestinians living in Israel and the

occupied territories.

**For the first time in decades, it is noticed that the Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Arabs of the 1948 territory are rising up against occupation, aggression and injustice. What does this move indicate?**

Back in 1968 after Israel had stolen the remaining lands of Palestine, I was working with activists in Chicago trying to craft strategies for returning the land to its rightful owners. A Pakistani professor of international affairs told us one day, "The only way Palestinians are going to return to Palestine is if they line up on the borders of Israel and march home. They may lose 100,000 people, but Israel will be incapable of stopping them." This is what we are seeing today as Palestinians marched from Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, some actually crossing the borders into Israel. It's too soon to tell if the strategy will work, but I am hopeful.

**How can developments in Palestine reverberate in countries that have normalized ties with Israel?**

The Arab countries that normalized ties with Israel under the Trump regime were never at war with Israel and have made

these deals for economic reasons. Morocco has made the deal because it was hoping the Republican administration in the U.S. would recognize its occupation of Western Sahara. It's going to be interesting to see if the Biden administration accepts this 'quid pro quo' that Trump was offering. None of these countries made the deal with Israel to help Palestinians or to quell the unrest. They did it for the money and for strategic benefits.

**Also, some analysts say Netanyahu is resorting to such violent and illegal acts to remain in power because he is facing corruption charges. Your comment please.**

It's entirely possible that Netanyahu thought he could save himself from prison as well as remain the prime minister. The man is a vicious sociopath and will do anything he can to stay in power. He is a menace to the area and should be standing in the docks at The Hague and not proselytizing on the floor of the Knesset

**Any more comments?**

I've been involved for over 54 years in the search for justice in Palestine. This is the first time I've ever seen such an outpouring of support for Palestinians and am encouraged that we're seeing the end of Israel in its current Apartheid form, but saddened that so many Palestinians and Israelis have died in the process. The major players, U.S./EU/UK/Russia are tiring of the chess game, oil is not the commodity it once was, Iran is not going away ever, and Israel is beginning to be a pain in the neck. Once Israel loses support from the U.S. in particular, the game is over. I look forward to that day and continue to support the social avalanche of support we've all seen over the past two weeks.

**"He (Netanyahu) is a menace to the area and should be standing in the docks at The Hague."**

## Resistance will never forget Iran's support: Palestinian activist

→ It was a reaction to the Israeli settlers' attempts, supported by Israeli police, to evict Palestinian families from their homes by force, threats and terror.

Then the settlers began sabotage operations against the Palestinian people and their properties in Jerusalem, which prompted the Palestinians to confront organized terror led by extremist right-wing groups.

But when the situation deteriorated, after the Israeli aggression on Jerusalem and the Palestinian cities in the occupied territory of 1948 increased, the Islamic Resistance in Gaza engaged in the conflict in response to the Israeli aggression to stop its terrorist operations in Jerusalem, the West Bank and other occupied territories.

**What are the latest developments on Palestine and the exchange of rocket fire between Gaza and the occupied territories?**

The Palestinian resistance began firing rockets at different ranges, according to the developments in the battlefield. It started its missile operations by 20 kilometers, then 40 kilometers, and finally it targeted Tel Aviv and Herzliya, and its missiles reached Eilat and Ramon Airport in the south of occupied Palestine.

The Islamic Jihad and Hamas ramped up their rocket-firing as Israeli massacres were increasing, so the more the Zionist regime increased its crimes, the more resistance intensified its missile strikes.

**How do you see the role of the Arab regimes in supporting the Palestinian uprising?**

The Arab and Islamic peoples moved to support the Palestinians and declaring solidarity with Palestine. There

were demonstrations and activities in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan and Algeria.

But the reaction of the Arab regimes was shameful and did not serve the Palestinian cause, especially the stances of the Saudi, Emirati and Bahraini regimes, which were consistent with the Israeli behavior.

**How do you see the response of the Islamic Resistance Axis in Palestine, Lebanon and Iran when they were expected to support the Palestinian uprising?**

As for the positions of the resistance axis, it has stood on the side of Palestine in everything. At political level, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Hezbollah and the Iraqi resistance endorsed all Palestinian positions and defended the Palestine cause in local, regional and international forums, emphasizing the right of the Palestinian people to resist occupation.

On the media level, the countries affiliated with the resistance axis adopted language in support of the Palestinian uprising and opened their TV channels around the clock to convey the terror committed by the Israeli regime.

The Resistance axis is an honest voice that echoes the sufferings of Palestinians, in the meantime transmitting the complete image of massacres in Palestine. The Palestinian resistance will never forget the role of Iran, Syria and Hezbollah in supporting the Palestinian resistance at the military level and their contribution to development of Palestinian missiles, training and financing.

**Do you expect a new "intifada" to take place that would prompt the Arab public to pour into**



**the streets to support their brothers in Palestine?**

The United States, alongside Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and the Axis of evil, have spent billions of dollars to falsify Arab consciousness, destroy its culture, and diminish the resistance in the Arab and Islamic region.

As soon as Trump awarded Jerusalem to Israel in a unilateral move, the Gaza Resistance aborted their dreams, and we saw that the peoples regained their consciousness, declaring their solidarity with Palestine.

Arab people condemned the normalization move and considered it as a failed and worthless step that must be stopped.

The resistance in Palestine revived the validity and reputation of the Palestinian cause anew and pushed Arabs to restore their collective awareness.

## Recent conflict illustrates Israel's growing weakness: American expert

By Payman Yazdani

TEHRAN — Commenting on the recent failure of the Israeli regime in face of Palestinian Resistance groups Brian Berletic says recent events show the growing weakness of the Israeli regime and its western allies in the region.

After a week of Conflict between the Israeli regime and Palestinians, the regime was forced to accept a ceasefire which means a victory for the Resistance.

Following the victory thousands of Palestinian took to the streets in different parts of the world and the region to celebrate it.

We discussed the issue with Brian Berletic, an American geopolitical researcher.

Here is the full text of our interview

with him:

**How different was this conflict from the previous ones?**

Israel began as an Anglo-American project to help balkanize and reassert Western control over the Middle East (West Asia) in the wake of the World Wars. As Western influence over the region has waned in recent years, so has the influence and capabilities of its regional allies - including Israel.

This conflict was one of several recent events illustrating that growing weakness which - in many ways - was exposed very significantly in 2006 in Israel's war on Lebanon and its loss to Hezbollah. What may have made this particular conflict different was the inability for the West to monopolize and dominate the global media narrative - with Israel's long and

carefully hidden brutality finally and fully exposed for the whole world to see.

**What are the elements behind this Resistance's victory, particularly Iran's role?**

I believe several factors combined ranging from Israel and its Western sponsors' growing weakness, the resistance's growing unity and capabilities, and of course the continued commitment to the resistance from nations like Iran who have steadily filled the vacuum U.S. meddling and now its waning presence in the region has created.

**Considering the new facts on the ground, how do you see the future of the "Deal of Century" and particularly the Zionists plans to redraw the map of the region to the geopolitical interest of the West?**

## Nigeria's army chief, 10 others killed in plane crash

Nigeria's top-ranking army commander Lieutenant General Ibrahim Attahiru and other military officers have been killed when their plane crashed in the country's north, according to officials.

The incident on Friday occurred "due to inclement

weather" as the plane was landing at the Kaduna International Airport, the armed forces said in a statement, adding that the crash "claimed the lives of 10 other officers including the crew".

There was no immediate information provided

about what may have caused the plane crash, but Brigadier General Mohammed Yerima said more details would be released soon. The names of the other military officials who died were not made public.

## UK implicated in aggression against Palestinians through military relationship with Israel

→ The British government announced its support for Israel's latest military aggression against Gaza through a statement on Wednesday, saying the Tel Aviv regime had a "legitimate right to defend itself."

Speaking in the House of Commons, Middle East Minister James Cleverly depicted the Israeli attacks as "proportionate" and condemned the "acts of terrorism by Hamas," saying that Israel was reacting to provocation by the Palestinian resistance group.

"The UK unequivocally condemns the firing of rockets at Jerusalem and other locations within Israel," Cleverly said, adding, "Hamas and other terrorist groups must permanently end their incitement and rocket fire against Israel."

Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn hit back by questioning the nature of "Britain's military relationship with Israel."

Corbyn asked if "munitions sold by Britain to Israel have been used to bomb places in Gaza or if any drone equipment supplied or bought by Britain has been used as a surveillance method on either the West Bank or Gaza that has been followed up by destruction of civilian life and the death of many people."

## Syria hails 'massive' turnout of expatriates in presidential election

The Syrian Foreign Ministry has extended its appreciation to expatriates and refugees for their "massive participation" in presidential election.

In a statement released on Friday, the ministry said the Syrians abroad honored their duty as they cast their votes at the county's embassies.

"A handful of countries hostile to Syria have deprived the Syrians from their constitutional right by preventing holding of elections on their lands, [but] the large turnout to polling stations by the Syrians all over the world is an expression of the deep belonging to the homeland, rejection of any form of dependency and external interference in its affair, and adherence to the independent national decision," it added.

The ministry also reiterated the important role of the expatriates in participating in national events and contributing to Syria reconstruction.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011, with Western countries and their regional allies aiding Takfiri terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the Arab country.

Syrian forces, backed by Iran and Iran, have managed to win back control of almost all regions from militants.

The Damascus government has now been engaged in a liberation operation in Idlib Province, the last major bastion of terrorists in Syria.

Syrians abroad voted on Thursday before the May 26 poll inside Syria.

Syria's Supreme Constitutional Court has accepted three applications out of 51 for candidacy for the election, including incumbent President Bashar al-Assad.

According to Prees TV, Assad, who secured 88.7 percent of the vote in Syria's last presidential election in 2014, is widely expected to win a fourth seven-year term.

## Ansarullah: Operation al-Quds Sword a blow to those normalizing ties with Israel

The spokesman for Yemen's Ansarullah movement says Operation al-Quds Sword, launched by Palestinians in retaliation for Israel's acts of aggression, delivered stinging blows to those seeking full normalization of ties with Tel Aviv.

"We extend our felicitations to the Palestinian nation as well as brave and courageous resistance forces on their victory in the Operation al-Quds Sword. The latest triumph taught many lessons to the Muslim world in order to notch up greater and more outstanding victories," Mohammed Abdul-Salam said in a post published on his Twitter page on Friday evening.

According to Press TV, he added, "The operation shook the pillars of the Zionist regime, and established a turning point in line with the interests of al-Quds and al-Aqsa Mosque."

"The Operation al-Quds Sword reiterated the aspirations of a nation, whose retaliatory missile response was so shocking that tightened the noose around the occupying regime. It dealt heavy blows to compromisers and dispelled their illusion that Israel could defend them," the Ansarullah spokesman noted.

"The battle once again asserted the belief within the Muslim world and regional nations that Palestinians will ultimately emerge victorious, and the occupying Zionist regime is doomed to decline and destruction," Abdul-Salam said.

On September 15, 2020, former U.S. president Donald Trump hosted a White House ceremony, where Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed normalization agreements with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif al-Zayani.

Trump later announced at the White House on October 23 last year that Sudan and Israel also agreed to normalize relations.

## Resistance News

### Haneyya: We proved to world that Jerusalem is a red line

INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN — Ismail Haneyya, Hamas's leader, said on Friday that the Palestinian people everywhere have proven to the whole world that the Al-Aqsa Mosque is for Muslims and Jerusalem is a red line.

Haneyya added in a speech on the occasion of the victory of the Palestinians over the Israeli occupation in Saif Al-Quds battle that with the help of Allah the resistance on the land of Gaza was able to defend Jerusalem and to initiate a new page in the history of the Palestinian people.

He congratulated the Palestinians for this great victory recorded by the valiant resistance against the "Zionist enemy."

The Hamas leader said that all Palestinian factions had dealt painful blows to the "Zionist enemy" that will have deep impact on its society, security, military institutions, and even on its future existence on the Palestinian land.

Haneyya saluted the resistance and its leaders and stressed that the Palestinians and the resistance will not retreat and will continue to march towards liberation of Jerusalem.

## Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System dredging work starts

→ 1 The property is as rich in its diversity of civil engineering structures and its constructions as in the diversity of its uses (urban water supply, mills, irrigation, river transport, and defensive system). The Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System testifies to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian knowhow; it was probably influenced by the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.



"The hydraulic system has been considered a Wonder of the World not only by the Persians but also by the Arab-Muslims at the peak of their civilization," according to the UN cultural body.

Furthermore, one of its main canals is a veritable artificial watercourse that made possible the construction of a new town and the irrigation of a vast plain, at the time semi-desert.

The Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System sits in an urban and rural landscape specific to the expression of its value.

## Fort, mansion, and bridge made national heritage in southwest Iran

HERITAGE TEHRAN — A total of six historical monuments in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Saturday in a letter to the governor-general of the southwestern province.

The remnants of the ancient fortress of Arend in Choram county and the historical castle of Sarkhuni in Bahmei county were among the properties added to the list.

Modaresi Mansion, Perin Bridge, Gachsaran's Oil Company Club, and a paved road to Mount Pat were other properties, which gained national status.



Ruined forts and strongholds are almost ubiquitous in every Iranian city. They were designed primarily to defend territories in warfare and were also used to solidify rule in a region during peacetime. From ancient to modern times, defensive walls have often been necessary for cities to survive in an ever-changing world of invasion and conquest.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad is known for being home to various nomadic tribes. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

## Parthian, Sassanid, Islamic coins under restoration by Iranian experts

TOURISM TEHRAN — Some 200 historical coins are currently being restored by a team of Iranian experts at Mofakham Museum of Bojnurd in North Khorasan province.

The coins, which date back to the Parthian, Sassanid, the early Islamic eras, will go on display after being fully restored and documented, according to Ali Mostofian, the provincial tourism chief.

The Parthian Empire (247 BC – 224 CE), also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power in ancient Iran. Their wealth obtained through lucrative trade networks resulted in substantial patronage of the arts, in particular, relief sculpture, statuary (large and small scale), architectural sculpture, metalwork, jewelry, and ceramics; coins with images of Parthian rulers form another important category of objects.



The Sasanian dynasty (224 CE–651) of Iran introduced the concept of thin flan coins, issues that were struck in relief on both sides. In that era, crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, as scholarship was encouraged by the state; many works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the official language of the Sassanians.

The conquering Muslims at first mimicked the coinage of their predecessors. In the western provinces, they issued gold and copper pieces imitated from contemporary Byzantine coins, modifying the cross on the reverse of the latter somewhat to suit Muslim sensibilities.

# Bronze Age Konar-Sandal getting ready for UNESCO status

TOURISM TEHRAN — Preparatory work has been commenced on Iran's Konar-Sandal to get the Bronze Age site ready for a possible UNESCO registration. The site is situated in the Jiroft plain of southeastern Kerman province.

Furthermore, the archaeological site is currently being demarcated to determine its legal properties, provincial tourism chief Fereyduun Fa'ali said on Friday.

A budget of three billion rials (about \$71,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated for the demarcation project, the official noted.

He also noted that the biggest challenge in preparing the dossier for the hill's registration is the construction of a village on the site, which needs to be carefully relocated under the supervision of the cultural heritage experts.

Based on archaeological investigations, the site consists of two mounds a few kilometers apart, called Konar Sandal A and B with a height of 13 and 21 meters, respectively. At Konar Sandal B, a two-story, windowed citadel with a base of close to 13.5 hectares was found. Tablets with scripts of unknown nature were reportedly discovered at the site.

The discovery of the magnificent Jiroft site came by accident in the very early 21st century when rounds of heavy flood along the



Halil River swept the topsoil off thousands of previously unknown tombs and led to the discovery of many artifacts believed by archeologists to belong to the Early Bronze Age (late 3rd millennium BC).

Geological factors have led to it being

overlooked for years by tourists and archeologists, who have generally been more interested in Mesopotamia some 1,000 km away.

Jiroft artisans fashioned pieces with what seems strange and enigmatic iconography.

Some were encrusted with lapis lazuli from Afghanistan, carnelian from the Indus Valley, turquoise, agate, and other semiprecious, imported stones.

Jiroft is surrounded by mountains on three sides, rising some 4,000 meters high. Many Iranian and foreign experts see the findings in Jiroft as signs of civilization as great as Sumer and ancient Mesopotamia.

According to Encyclopedia Iranica, during the Bronze Age, the populations of the Iranian plateau bounded on the east by the Hindu Kush and the Himalayas and on the west by the lowlands of Khuzestan and Mesopotamia. There is also evidence that at the end of the 4th millennium BC settlements throughout Iran were linked in a common cultural network, the "Proto-Elamite horizon."

The big and sprawling province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

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

## Over 100 years of Iranian postage stamps under one roof at newly-established museum

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Various collections of the Iranian postage stamps issued since the Qajar era (1789–1925) onwards have been put on show at a newly-established museum in the historical city of Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbaijan province.

Setting up inside the 200-year-old mansion (locally named "Khaneh Mojtahediha"), the museum was officially inaugurated on Saturday during a ceremony attended by Ramezani Sobhanifar, the managing director of the National Post Company, and several local officials, IRNA reported.

Furthermore, the museum turns the spotlight on the progress of communication and information technology tools in the country, showcasing numerous items from horse-drawn carts, scales, post boxes, as well as antique telephones and radios.

Iran is one of the world's pioneers in rendering post-

al services which dates from about 2,500 years ago. The modern post was launched more than one-hundred and fifty years ago by Amir Kabir, who was chief minister to Naser al-Din Shah Qajar.

The historical city of Tabriz became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor, Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.



## Virtual show to spotlight Armenian monastic ensembles of Iran

HERITAGE TEHRAN — The Iranian National Commission for UNESCO will be hosting a virtual photo exhibit of the three photogenic ancient churches that constitute the Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran.

A selection of 70 pictures captured by Iranian photographer Ebrahim Khadembayat will go on show during the exhibit, which officially starts on May 25, according to organizers.

To the untrained eye, Iran's earliest churches may seem modest structures to some but they bear testimony to a vast panorama of architectural and decorative scenes associated

with Armenian culture blended with other regional cultures: Byzantine, Orthodox, Assyrian, Persian, and Muslim.

St. Thaddeus, St. Stepanos, and the Chapel of Dzordzor are three photogenic ancient churches that constitute the Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran, which were collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage in 2008. They are dotted in fresh and green lands of northwest Iran and are important pilgrimage sites for Armenian-Iranians and others from across the globe.

Also known as the Qareh Klise ("the Black Church"), St. Thaddeus, as one of the old-

est surviving Christian monuments in the country, is situated in Chaldoran county some 20 kilometers from Maku, adjacent to the borders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey. The ancient Church shows off elaborate bas-reliefs of flowers, animals, and human figures on its façade and exterior walls. It bears verses of Old and New Testament in Armenian calligraphy as well.

The Chapel of Dzordzor stands tall on the outskirts of Maku. The name narratively originates from a famous painter Hovans Yerz, known as Dzordzortzi, who supervised the chapel's restoration for a while. What is present

now is a remnant of the large monastery that once existed there, as the entire chapel has been shifted to a new location 600 meters away due to submergence resulting from a dam that was built on the river.

St. Thaddeus Monastery plays hosts an annual religious ritual every summer. Last July, it hosted over 3,000 Christian worshippers coming together from Iran, Armenia, Syria, Lebanon, the Netherlands, France, Austria, Germany, Canada, and some other countries.

Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians are the most significant religious minorities in Iran with Christians constituting the bulk.

## Relocated stone blocks brought back to Pasargadae

TOURISM TEHRAN — A number of once relocated stone blocks have recently been brought back to the UNESCO-registered Pasargadae in southern Iran, the director of the World Heritage site said on Saturday.

"A total of 58 stone blocks have recently been returned to Pasargadae after cultural heritage experts traced them being used in the construction of a nearby 100-year-old two-story building nearby, named Saeidi Mansion," Afshin Ebrahimi said on Saturday.

"The slabs were returned to the site after full cooperation from the Saeidi family," he added.

Most of the materials used at the Pasargadae are white, black, and sandstones that have been brought from the



surrounding mountains and are used in the form of rectangular or cylindrical blocks in different parts of the site's monuments, the official explained.

Pasargadae lost its main function as a seat of government after the Achaemenid era (c. 550 – 330 BC) and slowly began to be destroyed, and it was then the blocks were removed and used in other places by the locals, the official added.

The blocks have been used in surrounding areas and buildings including Atabaki Mosque, Mozaffari Caravanserai, and Saeidi Mansion, he noted.

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

The complex was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2004.

## Chabahar, Konarak coastlines projected for tourism development

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Local authorities in close collaboration with the private sector have prepared a plan to buttress tourism infrastructure across the coastlines of Chabahar and Konarak in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

"Private investors will be supported in their tourism-related projects by the province's Culture, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, including setting up tourist complexes as well as accommodation centers," CHTN quoted provincial tourism chief Alireza Jalalzai as saying on Saturday.

Investors have also committed to operating the projects within a year, the official added.

Chabahar is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle Asian countries to free waters. Boasting various natural and historical attractions, Chabahar could be named as one of the most underrated destinations in Iran. However, in recent years various measures have been taken to promote the port as a safe and hospitable choice for both domestic and foreign visitors.

In 2019 the High Council of Free Trade Zones announced that it is ready to start construction of a new airport inside the Chabahar free trade zone. Currently, air travelers to Chabahar need to use



the airport of Konarak city.

Currently, there are some 20 tourist resorts in Chabahar, including four hotels and eco-lodges. The collective province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossroad of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.



Considering that Sepahan Sport club intends to purchase sports equipment for its training teams, including GPS devices and body muscle strength assessment devices, through a tender. Eligible applicants are invited to receive the tender form no later than 27/05/2021 to the head office of the purchasing Department and to complete the tender form.

# Iran experiences 60% rainfall drop in 2 months on year

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN – Precipitation has declined by 60 percent in Iran over the first two months of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21-May 21) compared to the same period last year.

The whole country received 16 millimeters of rain over the last month, meanwhile, the average normal rainfall is reported 18 millimeters in this month, showing a 15 percent decrease in rainfall, Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management said.

Although some areas received a good amount of rainfall, including Tehran province and parts of the east and northeast of the country, in general, the average rainfall in Iran, was less than the long-term average, he added.

On the other hand, rainfall during the second month of spring was very low in a number of provinces, including Fars, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Kordestan, Kermanshah, and Ilam.

This is while the normal amount of rainfall in the country during the first two months of the year is 52 mm, so this year, the country was short of rain by 60 percent, he explained.

Precipitation in Iran amounted to 128 millimeters from the beginning of the current water year (September 22, 2020), which demonstrates a 41 percent decline compared to the long-term average.

Now, the eastern and southern provinces of the country have experienced a severe



**Precipitation in Iran amounted to 128 millimeters from the beginning of the current water year (September 22, 2020), which demonstrates a 41 percent decline compared to the long-term average.**

shortage of rainfall compared to the same period last year.

The highest percentage of rainfall was reported in Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Kerman provinces by 86, 82, and 65 percent drop, respectively.

The normal amount of rainfall in Tehran province is 260 mm, but so far this province has received only 212 mm of rainfall, which is about 47 mm (18%) below normal.

**Moderate to very severe drought in Iran**

Vazifeh further forecasted that the country will not receive much rain until the end of summer (September 23), but in the southeast of the country, the Indian monsoon currents will be more active than before. However, the amount of rainfall is not enough to cause a major change in the country.

According to the forecasts, the amount of precipitation during August and September on the northern coasts of the country will be approximately less than normal.

Stating that the decrease in precipitation has a direct effect on temperature rise, he said that therefore, the average temperature in the country during the first two months of this year was about 2 to 2.5 degrees higher than normal.

On the other hand, it is predicted that the temperature in the country will continue to rise and we will have a hotter summer than normal.

**Watershed management: a solution**

Earlier in April, Abolghasem Hosseinpour, director of flood control at Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization said that Iran will probably experience drought over the current [Iranian calendar] year (began on March 21), as only four provinces out of 31 provinces of the country received normal rainfall last year.

Given that Iran is an arid and semi-arid region, the rainfall rate is low, in other words, the fluctuations of rainfall vary significantly from year to year, he added.

Over the last two years, Iran was doused with rain which was unprecedented during the past 50 years, but last year, the country faced drought, which shows a 40 percent decrease in rainfall, he explained.

Watershed management is a solution to strengthen the ecosystem in the face of subsequent droughts by penetrating rainfall into the ground.

## Biodiversity conservation, an asset to fight coronavirus

**→ 1 Biodiversity matters to stop future pandemics**

Bats, civets, pangolins, and snakes have all been rounded up as potential suspects for the COVID-19 outbreak at some point. But when the smoking gun is finally found, it is likely to have the fingerprints of us - humans - on it, according to UNDP. Major outbreaks of zoonotic diseases (infectious diseases caused by pathogens jumping from animals to humans) are associated with the increasing loss of natural habitats. Research suggests that as the habitats of (disease) host populations disappear, those hosts become less available, creating an incentive for diseases to jump to other species. Outbreaks like Ebola and HIV also emerged from areas where forests, among the biodiverse habitats of our planet, were disappearing.

In fact, when biodiversity is in trouble, so is humanity. It should also be noted that biodiversity does not only include wildlife. This fundamental fact involves genetic differences in each species - for example, between different types of livestock products or even ecosystems (lakes, forests, deserts, agricultural areas).

Fish provide about 20 percent of animal protein for three billion people, and 80 percent of the human diet is provided by a variety of plants, so the loss of biodiversity threatens many things, including human health. It has been proven that biodiversity damage can spread diseases transmitted from animals to humans.



**Biological diversity protection in Iran**

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have been designated for preservation and protection, including, national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas, and natural national monuments. In 1997, the DOE held supervision over 7,563,983 hectares of such areas.

Currently, the supervised areas reached about 18.5 million hectares, including, 30 national parks, 170 protected areas, 45 wildlife refuges, and 37 national natural monuments.

Iran has a high diversity of species due to geographical conditions, climatic diversity, huge water resources of the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman in the south.

According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphib-

ians, and aquatic fish, about 30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

Unfortunately, over the past two decades, human activities have led to alarming degradation of ecosystems, deletion of genes, species, and biological capabilities; Human threats to biodiversity have accelerated the most over the past 50 years over the entire history of human life.

According to the United Nations, three-quarters of the Earth's environment and about 66 percent of the marine environment have been altered by human activities, and the latest report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that more than one million species of animals and plants are in danger of extinction.

Therefore, any planning and action in the direction of optimal and principled management of biodiversity protection in the country, interaction and continuous cooperation of responsible bodies, and benefiting from international opportunities and their financial and professional resources can play a very important and key role in maintaining biological diversity alongside sustainable development.

We hope that with the common determination of officials and policymakers, the people, the media, and environmental activists, will preserve and protect this valuable asset for future generations.

## Charity foundation to conduct 4,000 job creation plans for women breadwinners

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN – The Berekat Charity Foundation, affiliated to Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, will carry out 4,000 plans to create sustainable jobs for female heads of households this year (began on March 21).

So far, 6,000 sustainable jobs have been generated for female heads of households, which led to the employment of 20,000 women, Seyyed Amir Hossein Madani, head of the Barakat Foundation said.

It is also expected that this year, 4,000 new job creation plans will be launched for

this vulnerable group, he further stated, YJC reported on Saturday.

He went on to announce that this year, 2,000 new employment projects for persons with disabilities, 2,500 job generation projects for prisoners and their families, 2,000 plans for soldiers, and 2,000 for the families of martyrs will be implemented.

In Iran, there are 3 million women-headed households, out of a total of 22 million families, and most of the women breadwinners can be found in less developed areas of the country, according to the UNDP office in Iran.

**Budget for women breadwinners up 50%**

The budget for women and family affairs in the national budget bill for the current calendar year (starting on March 20), is equivalent to 37 trillion rials (nearly \$880 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

Female-headed households' share of the national budget accounts for 23 percent of the total credits for women and the family.

Supporting women heads of households in the form of insurance, services, and social support is another important issue, which



accounts for 25 percent of the budget, which has grown by about 50 percent.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

### Medical waste disposal become possible using plasma technology in Iran

Using plasma gasification, Iranian researchers managed to dispose medical wastes and disassemble all its hazardous gases by filters, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Considering numerous problems encountered in medical and urban waste management in the country, we decided to employ high technology to overcome them, Mahmood Quran-Nevis, an official with Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has said.

He went on to add that currently, autoclaves are used as waste disposal facilities in hospitals; the temperature of the autoclave is 130 degrees and most of the bacteria are not killed and subsequently they can contribute to various environmental problems.

Referring to the foreign countries reluctance to provide us with high technology machines, he noted that regarding the importance of medical waste disposal and disinfection, we managed to domestically produce the necessary equipment needed for healthcare waste treatment and disposal.

### امحای زباله‌های بیمارستانی با کمک فناوری پلاسما

محققان کشورمان با بهره‌گیری از فناوری پلاسما موفق شدند ضمن امحای تمام زباله‌ها، گازهای خطرناک آن را توسط فیلتری جداسازی کنند.

محمود قرآن‌نویس مجری طرح امحای زباله‌های بیمارستانی به روش پلاسما گفت: با توجه به مشکلات زیادی که در حوزه زباله‌های بیمارستانی و شهری در کشور وجود داشت، به این نتیجه رسیدیم که باید این مشکل را از طریق فناوری «های تک» حل کنیم.

وی افزود: در حال حاضر در بیمارستان‌ها برای امحای زباله از اتوکلاوها استفاده می‌شود که دمای حرارت این اتوکلاوها ۱۳۰ درجه بوده و بیشتر باکتری‌ها در این دما از بین نمی‌روند و مشکلات زیست محیطی زیادی را به وجود می‌آورند.

رئیس مرکز تحقیقات فیزیک پلاسما دانشگاه آزاد با اشاره به این موضوع که هیچ کشوری حاضر نشد فناوری «های تک» را به ما عرضه کند، بیان کرد: با توجه به اهمیت امحای زباله بیمارستانی بر آن شدیم تا با حمایت مادی و معنوی معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری (مرکز طرح های کلان ملی فناوری)، واحد علوم و تحقیقات دانشگاه آزاد، مرکز تحقیقات فیزیک پلاسما و با همکاری برخی شرکت‌های داخلی، ساخت و تولید تجهیزات مورد نیاز این طرح را انجام دهیم و در داخل کشور بومی‌سازی کنیم.

## Iranian bird fauna

(Part 2)

Forests and woodland. Although of rather limited extent, Iran's forested regions possess a very rich bird fauna, which is largely Western Palearctic in affinities. The luxuriant forests of northern Azerbaijan and the south Caspian region have a bird fauna scarcely different from that of a central European woodland, with common species including: wood pigeon *Columba palumbus*, green woodpecker *Picus viridis*, great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*, tree pipit *Anthus trivialis*, red-backed shrike *Lanius collurio*, jay *Garrulus glandarius*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, duncock *Prunella modularis*, blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, icterine warbler *Hippolais icterina*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*, several species of thrush *Turdus* sp., several species of tit *Parus* sp. and chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*.

The drier and more open oak woodlands of the western Zagros lack some of the true forest species and have a Mediterranean element which includes species such as Syrian woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*, masked shrike *Lanius nubicus*, black-eared wheatear, somber tit *Parus lugubris*, and cinereous bunting *Emberiza cineracea*.



In the even drier mixed pistachio, sycamore, and almond woodlands of the eastern Zagros, the Kerman highlands, and isolated mountains in northern Baluchistan, only a handful of Western Palearctic species occur.

Characteristic birds here include a mixture of Middle Eastern specialties e.g., white-throated robin *Irania gutturalis* and plain leaf warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus*, Eastern Palearctic species, e.g., isabelline shrike *Lanius isabellinus* and Hume's lesser whitethroat *Sylvia (curruca) althaea*, Oriental species, e.g., bay-backed shrike *Lanius vittatus*, and Western Palearctic species at the extreme edge of their ranges, e.g., wood pigeon, nightingale, and blackbird *Turdus merula*.

Finally, throughout the remoter mountain ranges of Iran there still exist good stands of juniper forest with specialties such as gold-fronted serin *Serinus pusillus* and, in the northeast, white-winged grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes*.

The hot southern lowlands. The arid tropical climate of the southern coastal lowlands supports a flora and fauna quite unlike that of the rest of Iran. Open park-like stands of *Acacia*, *Prosopis*, and *Tamarix* and extensive date-palm groves provide suitable habitat for a variety of Oriental/Afrotropical species, such as palm dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*, indian roller *Coracias benghalensis*, little green bee-eater *Merops orientalis*, white-eared bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*, graceful prinia *Prinia gracilis*, common babbler *Turdoides caudatus*, purple sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica* and yellow-throated sparrow *Petronia xanthocolis*.

A number of species of Oriental origin, such as Indian sand lark *Calandrella raytal*, common mynah *Acridotheres tristis*, and Sind jungle sparrow *Passer pyrrhonotus*, are confined to extreme southeast Persian Baluchistan, while several others extend only as far west as the Bandar-e Abbas region, e.g., white-eyed buzzard-eagle *Buteo teesa*, Indian gray partridge *Francolinus pondicerianus*, and Sind pied woodpecker *Dendrocopos assimilis*. In the west, the riverine poplar thickets and marsh edge habitat hold several specialties, such as gray hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus*, Iraq babbler *Turdoides altostris*, and Dead Sea sparrow *Passer moabiticus*.

The wetlands. Although much of Iran is extremely dry, there are several very extensive wetland systems of great importance for a wide variety of waterfowl species. The south Caspian Sea, its 700 km of sandy shoreline, and the fresh-water lakes, marshes, and brackish lagoons in central Gilan, the Gorgan Bay area, and the Turkoman steppes provide a complex of breeding and wintering areas for waterfowl almost unequaled in the Western Palearctic. The region is best known for its wintering waterfowl and the traditional commercial duck-harvesting which this has supported (Savage, pp. 30-46).

Regular censuses in recent years have estimated the mid-winter population of ducks, geese, swans, and coots at well over a million birds, with perhaps as many birds again occurring on passage in spring and autumn. In addition, there are large wintering populations of Dalmatian pelicans *Pelecanus crispus*, greater flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber*, grebes *Podicipedidae*, herons and egrets *Ardeidae*, shorebirds *Charadriidae* and *Scolopacidae*, and gulls *Laridae*.

During the spring and autumn migration seasons, large numbers of shorebirds pass through the south Caspian on their way between breeding grounds in the Arctic and wintering grounds in the Persian Gulf and East and South Africa, and in summer the marshes teem with breeding cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo*, herons, egrets, gallinules including purple gallinule *Porphyrio porphyrio*, and whiskered terns *Chlidonias hybrida*.

The other major wetland areas in Iran are hardly any less spectacular. The wetlands in Urmia basin in Azerbaijan, centered on the very large and highly saline Lake Urmia, support large breeding colonies of waterfowl, notably greater flamingo (20,000 to 25,000 pairs), white pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (1,000 to 1,600 pairs), spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, white stork *Ciconia ciconia*, shelduck and ruddy shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* and *T. ferruginea*, avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, and herring and slender-billed gulls *Larus argentatus* and *L. genei*. The wetlands are extremely important for passage shorebirds and in mild winters can hold over 50,000 wintering ducks and geese.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
www.tehrantimes.com

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Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
P.O. Box: 14155-4843  
Zip Code: 1599814713



Patience is of two kinds: patience over what pains you, and patience against what you covet.  
Imam Ali (AS)

## Translations of Hafez poetry in English

Part 2

It is true that behind the two literary traditions lie fundamentally different aesthetic principles, even contradictory 'formal conceptions' of poetic unity and design.

Far too many translators in this category have tried to judge the Persian poet according to their own understanding of Western classical literary theory and thus have felt obliged to "improve" upon his work.

Alexander Rogers (1825-1911) thinks the poems "give an appearance of patchwork that greatly detracts from their value as literary compositions." Herman Bicknell is certain that there is a "want of unity in many of the Odes."

The most outspoken expression of such opinions comes from Richard Le Gallienne (1866-1947), who was not, in fact, familiar with the originals, and was reliant on the versions by Clarke and Payne.

Le Gallienne is confident of the superiority of classical poetry and thus declares, "the difficulty of inconsequence I have endeavored to overcome, partly by choosing those poems that were least inconsequent, partly supplying links of my own, and partly by selecting and developing the most important motive out of the two or three different motives which one frequently finds in the same ode."

Le Gallienne's translations are in stanzaic form with varied meter and rhyme. The translators who chose to employ English stanza form had Jones's "A Persian Song" as a model. Jones translates each bayt into a six-line stanza. His own prose translation of the poem changes the original drastically by both omission and addition, trivializing and muddying the clarity of the original's imagery.

Unfortunately, almost all the translators who have chosen this way of working have followed in Jones's footsteps in this regard; one honorable exception is offered by the translations of Gertrude Margaret Lowthian Bell (1868-1926). Her versions are still the most lucid, musical and accurate of the verse translations.

Another English verse form that has been frequently employed (e.g., by A. J. Arberry) is that of the quatrain of octosyllabic iambic lines. Amongst translations in this form, those of Colonel Frank Montague Rundall (1851-1930) successfully imitate the monorhyme of the original.

A reluctance to impose a foreign form upon the classical Persian ghazal has encouraged some modern translators to employ free verse. Some of the earlier translations in free verse fail to give even a glimpse of Hafez's greatness.

Among the more recent translations those of Avery and Heath-Stubbs are probably the best of the free verse translations. They present each bayt in an unrhymed couplet of loose six-stress lines, which preserves something of the essentially symmetrical form of the original.

The third category of translations, though one hesitates to call them translations at all, are those in which the author exercises the liberty not only of changing the words and sense of the original but also abandoning them as he or she pleases.

This kind of version has been called both "imitation" and "creative translation" in recent times. Several translators have tried to follow in the footsteps of that supreme imitator, Edward FitzGerald, and have presented Hafez in the form of rubai. One such translator writes, "I have occasionally contracted into one rubai ideas expressed in a whole ghazal, or in several couplets..."

Among the imitators of Hafez there are three eminent figures, Reynold Alleyne Nicholson (1868-1945), Elizabeth Bridges (1887-1977), and Basil Bunting (1900-85); the Sonnets of Bridges, and the 'Overdrafts' of Bunting, are both highly accomplished, and they communicate much more of the nature of Hafez's greatness than is communicated by the more "faithfully" literal translations.

The twentieth century has seen the emergence of yet another type of translator, the scholar-translator. Such translators have generally rendered Hafez into English so as to support their own line of argument or interpretation.

Among them, Iraj Bashiri, Michael C. Hillmann, Julie Scott Meisami, and Robert M. Rehder are notable examples. Their work is as diverse as that of the earlier translators, but their translations are generally presented in simple idiomatic English; Rehder's translations are in free verse.

Beyond the choice of form and the problem of communicating within one literary structure and tradition the aesthetic principles of a different tradition, the translators of Hafez have had to confront the presence — or otherwise — of Sufism in the poems.

Some, like Payne and Le Gallienne, have found Hafez to be no Sufi, but the majority of translators have tried to present him as a mystical poet.

The recent renewal of western interest in Sufism has resulted in a number of recent translations in this vein, such as those of Michael Boylan, Elizabeth T. Gray, Jr., and Reza Saberi.

The multi-facetedness of Hafez has baffled almost all translators and the results of their efforts, unfortunately, have not generally been very successful. With only a few exceptions, the English translations generally lack any great poetic merit, and they have rarely managed to allow the English reader even a glimpse of the rich clarity and vigorous beauty of a great medieval Persian poet.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
Concluded

# Iranian institute launches intl. short story competition on COVID-19

Winner will be selected from ten short stories shortlisted by a jury of writers and literary critics in the summer. Two other stories will be honored as runner-up and third place.

Five writers in the special section for health workers will be honored by the jury.

The Iran Book and Literature House plans to publish the finalists in a collection after announcing the winners.

Coronavirus has become the subject of several cultural contests in Iran since February 2020, when the first cases of the disease were detected in the country.

The Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults launched the International Clean Hands, Save Lives Painting Contest in March 2020.

In addition, a number of Iranian authors began writing stories on the virus to teach children and others how to take care of themselves during the pandemic.



A poster for an international competition for short story writing on COVID-19 launched by the Iran Book and Literature House.

One of the writers is Ali-Asghar Seidabadi, who wrote "Hannah, Our Hero".

It is about several children including Hannah that go to visit their uncle, Bahman, who doesn't know that he is infected with COVID-19. All the children are infected, but Hannah escapes uninfected due to her care about the tips for dealing with coronavirus.

The book was also translated into Croatian, Turkish, English, Italian, French and German.

Simaye Sharq Publications released a book series recounting educational stories for children on COVID-19 last October.

The collection was composed of the books "A Bride and Groom Wearing Face Masks" and "The Crow Did Not Reach Its House" by Zahra Musavi, "Take Care that Your Covij Doesn't Become 19" by Nastaran Fathi and "Hand Washing" by Shahram Rafiei.

## 15 shorts to compete in Fajr Intl. Film Festival



"Fibonacci" by Czech director Tomas Hubacek.

**A R T TEHRAN** – Fifteen short movies will be competing in the 38th Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran.

Among the films is "Bum Bro" by Russian director Peter Timofeev. It is about a young rapper and musician, who walks the streets of the city in search of the homeless. He hunts for their stories, which he records on his phone. After one of these sessions, he gets an unusual idea.

"Fibonacci" by Czech director Tomas Hubacek has

also been selected to be screened at the event, which will open on May 26.

A human swarm running through the land, thirteen performers in a drop-shaped formation create a single organism, controlled by a collective intelligence or intuition. It spills over the land of geometric patterns, terrain waves, divides and re-connects. It stops at the horizon to rest and then runs on, making a contrast between lively movement and the still geometry of the land.

"A Hole" represents New Zealand in the short competition lineup.

Directed by James Solomon, the film tells the story of a skilled workman who digs a perfect hole in a cracked earthen plain in an endless warehouse, a series of well-dressed people come and sit on comfortable couches offering contradictory opinions, and the job gradually unravels.

Portuguese director Luis Costa will participate in the festival with "Our Kingdom", whose story is set in a village where time and space run out, as a child dwells in the vortex of death.

"Pilar" co-directed by Yngwie Boley, J.J. Epping, and Diana van Houten will also be screened.

A co-production between the Netherlands and Belgium, the animated movie is about a dangerous intruder that gives Pilar the chance to discover the wild animal within and the means to escape the post-apocalyptic village she lives in.

The lineup also features "Cell 364" co-directed by Mathilde Babo and Zoé Rossion from France. In this film, while Germany sits as one of the major democratic models, an ex-prisoner of the Stasi delivers from his former cell a frightening testimony that questions the sustainability of our contemporary democracies.

The selection also includes the mockumentary "Whatever Happened to Ms. Longstocking" by Jimmy Olsson from Sweden.

The digging journalist Olsson wants to know what happened to Pippi Longstocking, the fictional main character in an eponymous series of children's books by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren, after she grew up. What happened to her and her relationship with Tommy and Annika? Jimmy finds her at the race tracks and starts to interview her.

Movies from Luxemburg, Albania, China, Italy, and Germany will also be screened in the short competition.

The lineup also has three Iranian shorts, including "Emergency" by Maryam Esmikhani.

The film is about Nazanin, a seven-year-old girl, who is trying to reveal a secret that bothers her by getting close to the emergency agent who has come to their house to check on her mother.

Fifteen feature films will be competing in the official section of the festival.

## "Good Lost Days of Calendar" named best at Intl. Earth Film Festival

**A R T TEHRAN** – "Good Lost Days of Calendar" by documentary filmmaker Hojjat Taheri has won the award for best feature documentary at the first edition of the International Earth Film Festival.

The film is about Keisan, the director of the Togabri Village Council, who is faced with the dilemma of choosing between staying in the village and immigration while he is viewed as a savior by the villagers in their numerous problems, in particular, the water crisis.

The awards ceremony was organized on Friday evening in Tehran's Mellat Park

due to the pandemic.

The award for best short documentary was given to filmmaker Delavar Doostanian's "Slow and Sluggish", which is about the troubles, the adventures and the wonders two snails encounter on the long road back home.

The short movie "Haboob" by Mahsa Samani won the award for best animation.

"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.

The movie has recently won a special

mention from the Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (ITFS) in Germany.

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

The International Earth Film Festival has been established by the Green Civilization NGO, Ordibeheshte Oudlajan Art and Cultural Complex and Hashur, a platform providing video on demand (VOD) service, to promote environmental issues and sustainable development.



A scene from the documentary "Good Lost Days of Calendar" by Hojjat Taheri.

## "The Crab", "The Hand and the Egg" competing in Finland Animatricks

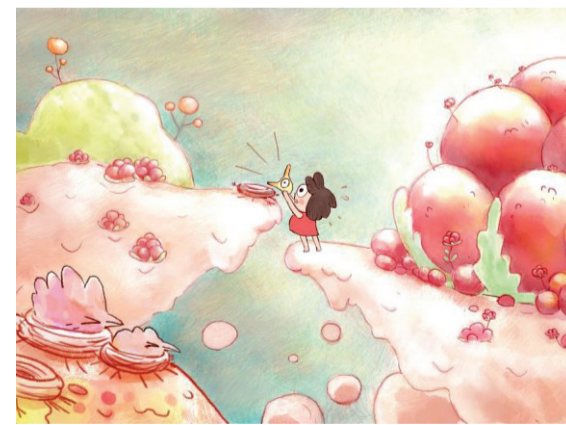
**A R T TEHRAN** – The Iranian animations "The Crab" and "The Hand and the Egg" are competing in the 21st edition of Animatricks, an international animation festival currently underway in the Finnish capital of Helsinki.

Directed by Shiva Sadeq-Asadi, the short film "The Crab" is competing in the category for dreamy and surreal movies.

The movie tells the story of a shy schoolboy who is interested in performing in a play with his school's theater troupe. But the only part offered to him is to play the role of a crab.

The animation produced at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults has been screened in various international events, including the 23rd Shanghai International Film Festival in China.

It is also competing in the official section of the 62nd International Documentary and Short Film Festival of



"The Hand and the Egg" directed by Fatemeh Gharavi Manjili.

Bilbao-Zinebi in Spain in November 2020.

"The Hand and the Egg" directed by Fatemeh Gharavi Manjili is about a cheerful little girl who meets a tiny bird, right before her egg goes missing. She decides to help her find it. Going on a journey together, they find out a mysterious long hand is stealing all the eggs.

The animated film has been selected to be screened in the Junior Competition 2 section of the festival, which comes to an end on Sunday.

Nearly 200 short animations from around the world are competing in the Animatricks festival, which is running online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The jury for the international competition consists of Ami Lindholm, the director of "Mother and Milk", Janne Korsumaki, former creative director of Animatricks, and animation historian Heikki Jokinen.

The Junior Competition will be judged by artist Anne Savitie, who is a graduate of animation at the Turku Academy of Arts.

## French philosopher Georges Bataille's "Literature and Evil" published in Persian

**CULTURE TEHRAN** – French philosopher Georges Bataille's book "Literature and Evil" has recently been published in Persian in Tehran.

Sibe Sorkh is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Farzad Karimi.

"Literature is not innocent," Bataille declares in the preface to this unique collection of literary profiles. "It is guilty and should admit itself so."

The word, the flesh, and the devil are

explored by this extraordinary intellect in the work of eight outstanding authors: Emily Bronte, Baudelaire, Blake, Michelet, Kafka, Proust, Genet and De Sade.

Born in France in 1897, Georges Bataille was a radical philosopher, novelist and critic whose writings continue to exert a vital influence on today's literature and thought.

Often called the "metaphysician of evil", Bataille was interested in sex, death,

degradation, and the power and potential of the obscene.

He rejected traditional literature and considered that the ultimate aim of all intellectual, artistic, or religious activity should be the annihilation of the rational individual in a violent, transcendental act of communion.

Roland Barthes, Julia Kristeva and Philippe Sollers have all written enthusiastically about his work.



Cover of the Persian translation of French philosopher Georges Bataille's book "Literature and Evil".