



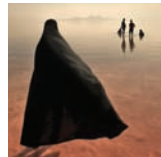
Soleimani assassination, sale of F-35 jets to UAE deeply linked to Abraham Accords *Page 3*



Iran fall short against Germany at 2021 VNL *Page 3*



Cabinet approves bill on protection of animals *Page 7*



“The Lake” by Masud Mirzai named photo of the year at Siena Awards *Page 8*

Mossad admits assassinating Fakhrizadeh, sabotage at Natanz

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Iranian warship on Atlantic mission



Demographic change, a big opportunity to U.S. democracy: professor

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI
Professor Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute, says that the shift in American demographic structure is an important opportunity to save democracy in the United States.

“The biggest opportunity for change is rooted in the changing demographic structure of the country,” Professor Adib-Moghaddam tells the Tehran Times.

Many political scholars believe that racism and white supremacy can be a big threat to U.S. democracy, while the American society is ethnically diverse.

Trump’s presidency and his far-right policy were an alarm to U.S. democracy; however, many political pundits say that the change in U.S. population makeup will shift the course in the future.

“In less than 20 years, one third of the population in the United States will be Hispanic, moving the country much closer to a ‘Latin’ identity,” Adib-Moghaddam notes.

“It is inevitable, that the right-wing narrative which tries to hold on to white supremacist ideas, will be increasingly shattered. It is this inevitable reality that fuels White Supremacist terrorism. It’s the desperate, last stand of the ‘White Man’, as I use this term not in racial terms, but as a synonym for a colonial mentality that is being overrun by history,” the leading professor states.

Following is the text of the interview:
How do you assess democracy in the U.S. right now? Is it an ethical democracy or just a plutocracy influenced by money and media?

All governments of the world are influenced by the media and capital. While this problem may be compounded in the United States, it is certainly not unique to the country. The main threat to democracy in the United States and elsewhere in the world comes from extremist politics, mainly from the right-wing. This is one of the main arguments of “What is Iran?”. Donald Trump represents exactly the politics of this globally networked right-wing. It is based on xenophobia,

Continued on page 5

Iranian handicrafts evolved to meet more consumer, market needs: minister

TEHRAN – Iranian handicrafts have been evolved to meet more customer tastes and to enter new markets, thanks to its immense capacities, and creativity of craftspeople, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan has said.

“High capacity of Iranian handicrafts such as ingenuity of its artisans has led to the creation of new beautiful handicrafts by the means of combining various crafts fields, to meet more customer tastes, and to enter new markets,” Mounesan said on Thursday.

He made the remarks on the occasion of World Handicrafts Day, adding “115 handicrafts fields have been revived across the country over the past couple of years.”

World Handicrafts Day shows its importance among art-loving people around the world. Naming a day for handicrafts shows the high value of handicrafts of any nation

and nationality. Every year, World Handicrafts Day is celebrated in Iran. Due to the historical and ancient background of this country, handicrafts have a special place among the people. This day is equivalent to June 10th in the calendar.

There are some 300 handicrafts in Iran. The most famous Iranian handicrafts include kilim, carpet, engraving, glassmaking, inlay work, enamel work, pottery, wood, tapestry embroidery, and so on. Among the country’s top handicrafts that have received international attention, handmade carpets represent the cultural and artistic strength of Iran in the world.

Hand-woven carpets and kilims are a symbol of Iran since ancient times, and this popularity has been accepted internationally too.

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Houthi official after new sanctions: U.S. prioritizes war in Yemen

A high-ranking Yemeni official has condemned the U.S. decision to impose new sanctions on Yemen, saying the measure falls within a systematic plot aimed at suffocating the impoverished state’s economy.

“America prioritizes the option of war in Yemen at the same time as pretending to be supportive of peace. The imposition of sanctions on the pretext of securing peace represents an obstacle to the latter,” Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a member of Yemen’s Supreme Political Council, tweeted Friday.

He said the punitive measures against the Yemeni private sector following bans on the country’s central bank plus airstrikes on factories and production plants, starvation of Yemenis through a blockade as well as halt to the payment of civil service salaries are all crimes, which fall within a systematic plot to exterminate the Yemeni economy.

The U.S. Treasury on Thursday slapped sanctions on a money network which it accused of funding Ansarullah – a popular movement which is at the center of a national government administrating the country from capital Sana’a.

“This network generates tens of millions of dollars in revenue from the sale of commodities, like Iranian petroleum, a significant portion of which is then directed through a complex network of intermediaries and exchange houses in multiple countries to the Houthis,” the Treasury said in a statement.

According to press TV, among those identified as targets of the newly announced U.S. sanctions were two Yemenis, two Syrians, one Emirati, one Somali and one Indian national, as well as entities based in Dubai, Istanbul and Yemen’s capital, Sana’a.

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A question from Ilhan Omar sparks furor in U.S. Congress

Democratic leaders in the United States House of Representatives sought to quell a furor among legislators on Thursday over a question Representative Ilhan Omar asked about U.S. opposition to International Criminal Court (ICC) inquiries into alleged war crimes in Israel and Afghanistan.

Omar, one of only three Muslim members of the U.S. House, had asked in a hearing on June 7 where victims of war crimes committed by Israel and Hamas should go to seek justice if the U.S. opposes action at the ICC.

According to al Jazeera, it was a fair but pointed question and Secretary of State Antony Blinken responded that courts in the U.S. and Israel can provide adequate judicial forums for such claims.

However, Omar’s question sparked condemnation by some of her own Democratic colleagues and howls of “anti-Semitism” from the Republican right amid a new round of death threats issued to her office.

“Equating the United States and Israel to Hamas and the Taliban is as offensive as it is misguided,” a group of 11 Jewish Democrats said

in a statement two days after Omar posed her question to Blinken.

Omar pushed back, calling the group of Democrats’ statement “shameful”.

“The Islamophobic tropes in their statement are offensive. The constant harassment and silencing from the signers of this letter is unbearable”, Omar tweeted.

And Omar shared an example of the kind of death threats her office receives whenever she is targeted by accusations like those she received this week.

Discover thriving crafts village in northern Iran

Siah Rudbar in northern Iran is a traditional hub of handwoven textile where the majority of its female residents are practicing crafts skills passed down from generation to generation. Located in Aliabad county of Golestan province, the village is home to tens of small and medium-sized workshops many of which are situated within house premises.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.



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Aluminum ingot output up 33% in 2 months on year

TEHRAN – Production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 33 percent during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The country’s aluminum ingot output stood at 86,216 tons in the two-month period of the present year, while the figure was 64,689 tons in the same time span of the previous year, data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) showed.

As previously announced by IMIDRO, the production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 61 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20) compared to the figure for the preceding year.

The country’s aluminum ingot output stood at 446,800 tons in the previous year.

Iran’s major aluminum producers had managed to produce 278,318 tons of the product in the Iranian calendar year 1398.

The country’s aluminum ingot production in the Iranian calendar year 1398 had declined eight percent in comparison to the figure for its preceding year.

IMIDRO data show that among the country’s top producers, Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) had the best performance in the previous year producing 185,000 tons of aluminum ingots.

Aluminum ingot production in the country reached 41,000 tons in the last month of the previous year (February 19-March 20), registering a 38 percent rise compared to the 30,000 tons in the preceding year’s same period.

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Russia will provide Iran with cutting-edge satellite: Washington Post

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — According to the Washington Post, Russia is planning to equip Iran with an advanced satellite that will allow it to track possible military targets across West Asia.

According to the Post, the plan would provide a Russian-made Kanopus-V satellite outfitted with a high-resolution camera, which could be launched from Russia within months.



The report was published only days before U.S. President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet in Geneva, and as Iran and the U.S. engage in indirect discussions to resurrect a 2015 nuclear deal aimed to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

According to the paper, the satellite would allow "continuous monitoring of facilities ranging from Persian Gulf oil refineries and Israeli military bases to Iraqi barracks that house U.S. troops," citing three unnamed sources - a current and former U.S. official, as well as a senior West Asian government official briefed on the sale.

While the Kanopus-V is promoted for civilian use, officers of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps have traveled to Russia numerous times since 2018 to help negotiate the arrangement, according to the Post.

Russian scientists flew to Iran this spring to assist in the training of crews who would operate the satellite from a newly built station near Karaj, west of Tehran, according to the report.

According to the Post, the satellite would be equipped with Russian hardware, including "a camera with a resolution of 1.2 meters — a major advance over Iran's current capabilities, but still well short of the quality obtained by US espionage satellites."

The IRGC said in April 2020 that they had successfully launched the country's first military satellite into orbit, prompting then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to demand that Tehran be held accountable because the move violated a UN Security Council resolution.

Foreign Ministry: Iran to boost cultural ties with Iraq

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Following a visit to Baghdad, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday Iran plans to strengthen civilizational and cultural contacts with Iraq, according to Tasnim.



Pointing to the results of his recent trip to Baghdad, Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a post on his Twitter account that he is delighted to have held meetings with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein and Minister of Culture Hassan Nadhem.

The spokesman also said he has held talks with his "colleagues at the Foreign Ministry and other friends of the brotherly Republic of Iraq."

"(We) Agreed to enhance civilizational ties and cultural, media and art exchanges," Khatibzadeh stated.

He finally emphasized that "Iran supports a stable, unified and strong Iraq."

Khatibzadeh met several senior Iraqi officials during the stay in Baghdad.

Jalili: Iran should promote its films and music on global scale

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Presidential candidate Saeed Jalili said on Thursday the future administration should view art as a path to success in other fields and actively seek to promote the country's films and music on a global scale.

"If the administration wants to succeed in other areas, it should treat art as a necessity and approach it not passively, but proactively," said Jalili, a member of Iran's Expediency Council. "Why shouldn't our cinema compete with that of Hollywood? Our music should be shared with the rest of the world."

Later that day, during a news broadcast on IRIB Channel 2, Jalili discussed his strategy for the young generation, particularly in areas of job creation.

"One of the goals that we will pursue in the future administration is to create four million jobs for the youth over the next four years, and we have an agenda for that," he stated.

According to the Iranian Constitution, everyone has a right to a proper, satisfying job, according to Jalili. He added, "We have analyzed this issue and devised a range of programs for it."

Jalili stated that the country has significant potential in mining, industry, fishing, and tourism, among other areas, which should be capitalized on.

Furthermore, many of the administration's research projects may be assigned to adolescents concentrating in human sciences to assist them in entering the labor market, he argued.

The presidential election will be held on June 18. The Guardian Council announced on Friday that the ballot boxes will open at 7 am and close at 00:00 (GMT+4:30)

Rezaei says won't wait for Vienna talks

Presidential candidate says Americans "should be compelled to make good on their commitments"

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Presidential hopeful Mohsen Rezaei has said he will not wait for a revival of the 2015 nuclear deal if he wins the presidential elections.

Instead, Rezaei says, his government will work to keep the country moving forward by activating national economy.

Talks are underway in Vienna, Austria, to restore the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

So far, the remaining parties to the JCPOA — Iran, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China — along with the United States have held five rounds of talks with the hope of restoring the nuclear deal. The next round is set to start next week.

Rezaei presented his views on a series of foreign policy issues ranging from the fate of the nuclear deal to ties with neighbors in an interview with English-language Press TV and Arabic-language Al-Alam news networks

The presidential election in Iran will be held on June 18. Some analysts argue that the election may go a second round if some principlist candidates don't withdraw candidacy.

Rezaei, the current secretary of the Expediency Council, said the JCPOA was "an international commitment" and that his administration would "stick to the country's international commitments."

Former U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned the JCPOA in May 2018 in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that endorsed the multilateral agreement. Trump introduced the harshest sanctions in history against Iran under his "maximum pressure" campaign against the Islamic Republic.

Rezaei said Americans "should be compelled to make good on their commitments."

The nuclear agreement was signed between Iran and the 5+1 group in July 2015. At the time Joe Biden, the current U.S. president, was acting as vice president under President Barack Obama. During presidential campaigns Biden vowed to return to the nuclear deal if he wins the presidency. However, the

Biden administration has so far refused to meet Iran's demand for a practical and verifiable lifting of sanctions.

Rezaei said, "Although we will have the right diplomacy ahead of us, we will not be waiting for any agreement in Vienna."

"By activating our national economy, we will try to be independent of having to have relations with the Americans... so that they would feel the more they waste time, the more they will lose," said Rezaei. "We'll start [boosting] our national production, and they are the ones who'd be following us."

Iran remained fully loyal to the nuclear deal for a complete year after Trump quit the deal. At the time Iran said it is waiting for the remaining members of the JCPOA, especially European signatories to the JCPOA, to compensate Iran for the U.S. sanctions. However, seeing no tangible action by the European sides, Iran said its "strategic patience" is over and started to gradually reduce its commitment to the JCPOA.

Iran's nuclear steps were in accordance to paragraph 36 of the JCPOA.

Paragraph 36 provided a mechanism to resolve disputes and allows one side, under certain circumstances, to stop complying with the deal if the other side is out of compliance.

Iran was insisting that if the Europeans compensate Iran for the sanctions, it will immediately reverse its decision.

Rezaei also said the Americans should know that Iran "will never go back to the unilateral, one-sided ties with the United States," which existed prior to the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Our administration will welcome any relations that provide for national interests in practice, not on paper," said Rezaei. "It's [thus] in their interest to stop animosity. Antagonism will get nowhere."

Neighbors are a priority

Rezaei, the former chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, also said ties with neighbors would top his foreign policy priority if he wins the presidency.

"I take good neighborly ties seriously. There are certain challenges and dif-

ferences of opinion in ties with some neighbors. I will try to calm things down," the presidential candidate said in an open reference to the tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"There are some differences of opinion. We need to look into them and resolve them. Our administration will be the frontrunner to resolve those issues," Rezaei remarked. However, he added, it will depend on those countries' willingness to repair their ties with the Islamic Republic.

'Resistance saved Europe, U.S. from terrorism'

Elsewhere in his remarks, the former top military officer emphasized the importance of the resistance movement in the region, saying, "Had it not been for the axis of resistance, Iraq and Syria would have now been run by Daesh."

Besides supporting the Palestinians against the Israeli occupation, the resistance front acts against terror and insecurity, Rezaei stated.

"It is in the interest of Europe and the U.S. to back the axis of resistance. They should not have unilateral relations with Israel," Rezaei remarked. He advised the West to negotiate with the resistance front, which he said prevented terrorism from spreading to the entire world by defeating Daesh.

In his interview, Rezaei also said those Arab countries which normalized ties with the Israeli regime in fact made "a mistake".

"They committed "political suicide" and "stabbed themselves" in the back, he added.

The presidential candidate warned these countries to reverse their decisions and "compensate for their mistake" before Israel infiltrates into all layers of their ruling structures.

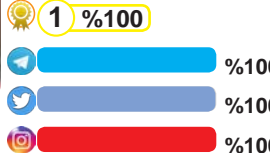
Under the so-called Abraham Accords, the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco normalized ties with Israel in 2020. The Arabs and Muslims considered the move a betrayal of the Palestinians whose lands have been occupied by Israel.

Comparative analysis of the presidential candidates in Instagram, Telegram and Twitter

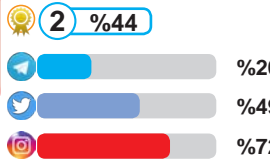
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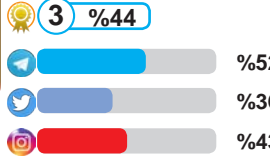
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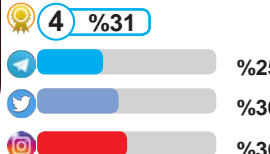
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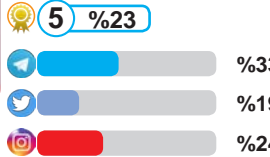
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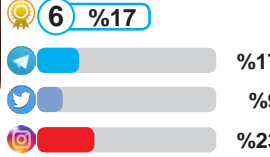
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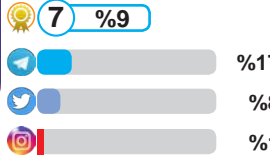
Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh



Alireza Zakani



Amir Hossein Qazizadeh



🏆 **Dataak score**

🐦 **Total retweets and likes**

📷 **Total likes and comments**

📈 **Total views**

Source: Dataak

Canada deliberately sabotaging Iranian presidential polls

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — The secretary of the Iranian presidential election headquarters has chastised the Canadian government for its lack of cooperation in engaging Iranians living in Canada in the Iranian presidential elections.

According to Esmail Mousavi, vote would be collected from Iranian citizens residing in Canada at a U.S. border city adjacent to the Canadian border, thanks to steps done by Iran's Foreign Ministry.

Unfortunately, no proper response from the Canadian government has been received to hold direct presidential elections in the country, he observed.

Because of the short time remaining and the Foreign Ministry's inability to send executive staff, it is not viable to organize direct elections in the state for the time being, he added.

The presidential election in Iran will take place concurrently with the sixth round of council elections in cities and villages on June 18.

Zakani vows to establish 'ministry of family'

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — Presidential candidate Alireza Zakani said on Friday that if he succeeds in the presidential race, he will establish a ministry for the family, children, and teenagers and youth which will be run by a female minister.

In a meeting with a group of women on Friday, Alireza Zakani stated

that the "train of change" in society is based on culture, adding, "The role of women in the family is very important and they need protection. In addition, the role of women in society is very fundamental and important."

Zakani continued by saying that currently there are 3.5 million female heads of households in the country,

a small number of whom have insurance. Also, there are 21 million housewives in the country who, if trained to achieve a good family, will see a serious change in Iranian culture.

He expressed hope that the Islamic Republic can have a new model of women's presence and protect their rights in the family and society.

Hemmati: I will dedicate 50% of cabinet team to women, youth

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — In a televised speech broadcast by local Hamedan TV channel on Friday, presidential candidate Abdolnasser Hemmati said if he is elected president, he will select 50% of his cabinet team from women and the youth, and employ women in 30% of government positions.

He said now the economic condition in the country entails serious reforms.

"Currently, more than 60 percent of the people are concerned about livelihoods and the economy, so the future government cannot be non-economic, and we need to avoid past mistakes and reform the economic and governance trail," he said.

Hemmati said that these days the purchasing power of the people has decreased, explaining, "Investment and productivity growth have decreased. I was in charge of the economy and I was the head of the central bank. I know the problems are serious and we have no time to make mistakes."

The former central banker said it is the economy that must govern politics, and if that does not happen, Iran may continue on the same path of inefficiency, inefficient allocation of resources, and increased government intervention in the economy.

He reiterated his slogan of "interaction from homes to the world," noting that interaction between family members, members

of society, organizations, and foreign countries is not optimal.

And in some cases, he said, it is "confrontation" that depletes Iran's strength, and the government must be based on resolving problems through interaction.

"We must remove barriers to economic growth. The unpredictability of the economy is a deadly poison to domestic and foreign investors, and we need to curb inflation," he pointed out.

Hemmati said that most of the problems are due to sanctions and the incapability of the central bank, adding that the central bank alone cannot solve the problems.

"We need to lift the sanctions because they have affected all government revenues and economic relations. At one time our annual revenue was \$100 billion, but in 2019 it was reduced to \$5 billion," he stated.

Hemmati said that he is not competing with the other five candidates, but his rival is refusal to attend the ballot boxes, and if people participate in the elections and a decision is made by collective wisdom, they will never make a mistake.

"In my government, I will pay serious attention to foreign policy in the direction of national interests and development. we can interact with the East, our neighbors, the West and Africa, because we will not get anywhere with confrontation

and people's livelihood problems will not be solved by isolation, confrontation and sanctions. It is wrong to make progress without interaction."

Hemmati continued by saying that the country is gifted with vast resources, which can seriously boost Iran's development. "On the other hand, we have good social capital in the country that must be strengthened because, unfortunately, the trust of the people has been damaged."

The presidential candidate said that the government must build highways, provide internet platforms, build railways, and invest in infrastructure in general. It should not interfere in the details of the economy and pricing.

Hemmati added, "Production barriers such as licenses, insurance and taxes make the investor regret and cause a recession, so we must do all the business environment to develop production."

The former central banker concluded by saying that Iran needs to solve the basic problems in the next four years and achieve positive economic growth of 5% per year and control inflation in the range of 8 to 12% within four years, because controlling inflation means controlling the purchasing power of the people.

Raeisi: Maritime economy must be activated at Golestan province

POLITICAL d e s k TEHRAN — In a televised speech broadcast at local Golestan channel, presidential candidate Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi said on Friday that if he wins

the presidency, he will counter carelessness with regard to protecting the environment.

Criticizing unemployment rate at Golestan province, he said that a prov-

ince with such high capacities must not have such a high unemployment rate.

He added that maritime economy and tourism must be activated at Golestan, and certainly such things can

be achieved through planning.

"We must open the way for lawful work in the government and prevent legal violations. Violation by anyone should be stopped," he insisted.

Iranian warship on Atlantic mission

➔ In late May, the website Politico cited anonymous officials as suggesting that the ships' final destination may be Venezuela.

Venezuela is also under sanctions by the United States.

In a press briefing on May 31, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh said, "Iran is always present in international waters and it has this right based on international law and it can be present in international waters."

He added, "No country is able to violate this right, and I warn that no one makes miscalculations. Those who sit in glass houses should be careful."

The United States has reportedly threatened Venezuela and Cuba against letting in two Iranian ships that are claimed to be headed to South American shores with a weapons cargo.

Citing an unnamed senior official with the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden, Politico claimed the ships are believed to be carrying weapons from Iran to Venezuela under a deal between the two countries during the administration of former President Donald Trump.

"The delivery of such weapons would be a provocative act and understood as a threat to our partners in the Western Hemisphere," the official said in a statement to Politico. "We would reserve the right to take appropriate measures in coordination with our partners to deter the transit or delivery of such weapons."

During his tenure, Trump withdrew U.S. recognition of the Venezuelan president and pulled Washington out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Under Trump, Washington tightened its economic sanctions on both the Iranian and Venezuelan nations.

"The sale of the Iranian weapons happened one year ago under the previous administration and like many situations related to Iran under the previous administration — including the breakout of Iran's nuclear program following the Trump administration's reckless withdrawal from the [Iran nuclear deal] — we are working to resolve it through diplomacy," the U.S. official said.

"But to be clear, Iran sold weapons to Venezuela over a year ago, which we believe was to test the Trump administration's maximum pressure posture," he said.

Meanwhile, hawkish U.S. Senator Marco Rubio claimed in a tweet on Thursday that Venezuela had bought military equipment from Iran and then invited the Iranians into the Western Hemisphere.

"So don't be surprised if in less than 3 weeks, we have Iran's largest military vessel & their most modern warship (a guided missile corvette) patrolling the Gulf of Mexico," Rubio claimed.



Deputy Chief of Iranian Army for Coordination Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari

U.S. can't take action against warship under intl. law, says Foreign Policy

The United States cannot take action under international law against two Iranian ships on voyage toward the North Atlantic Ocean even if the vessels are violating U.S. sanctions, Foreign Policy said in a commentary on Thursday.

Citing three people familiar with the situation, the American news website said the vessels have been heading south along the east coast of Africa.

Foreign Policy argued that any U.S. action against the vessels would be unlawful and undermine sovereign immunity as a core tenet of international order.

"The costs of direct action would be severe, exposing the United States to charges of hypocrisy toward the rules-based order and potentially opening U.S. naval vessels to similar treatment by adversaries," the American news publication said, arguing that the United States should "employ diplomacy rather than force" and encourage states along the route to deny the Iranian vessels port access if requested.

It added that in times of peace, sovereign immunity is a practically all-powerful ward against a foreign state's jurisdiction, with exceptions only in extreme circumstances

involving failed states, fake warships, or weapons of mass destruction. "This case, however, is textbook."

Admiral Sayyari reiterating that Iran is entitled under international law to have a naval presence in international waters. He said the ships have managed to reach the Atlantic Ocean without calling at other countries' ports.

"Significant step"

The Iranian ships' journey across the Atlantic has been described as a "significant step" for the Navy, showing Iran's naval capabilities and the Navy's increasing access to the Western Hemisphere.

According to Press TV, Sayyari explained that the vessels departed from the port city of Bandar Abbas in the Persian Gulf on May 10 and has so far sailed some 6,000 nautical miles, about 12,000 kilometers, going around the Cape of Good Hope during their thirty days of traveling in high seas.

While Tehran has not commented on the ships' destination nor their cargo, it has pointed out that there is no ban on Iran's sale of weapons to other countries under UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

"America has long tried to get the resolution violated [by others], but to no avail," Iranian government spokesman Ali

The Iranian deputy Army chief for coordination affairs Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari says the vessels departed from the port city of Bandar Abbas in the Persian Gulf on May 10 and has so far sailed some 6,000 nautical miles, about 12,000 kilometers, going around the Cape of Good Hope during their thirty days of traveling in high seas.

Mossad admits assassinating Fakhrizadeh, sabotage at Natanz

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The outgoing head of Israel's Mossad spy agency has given the most direct acknowledgement that the Tel Aviv regime was behind the recent sabotage attacks on Iran's nuclear enrichment facility at Natanz and assassinating nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

Yossi Cohen's statements to Israel's Channel 12 investigative program "Uvda" aired on Thursday night provided an extraordinary debriefing by the head of the traditionally secretive agency in what appears to be Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's final days in office.

It also sent a clear message to other nuclear experts in Iran's nuclear program that they, too, might become targets for assassination, even as diplomats in Vienna are negotiating hard to rescue the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Cohen did not outright claim responsibility for the strikes, but his specificity was the closest confirmation yet of an Israeli involvement. The interviewer, journalist Ilan Dayan, also appeared to provide a comprehensive explanation of how Israel sneaked the bombs into the Natanz nuclear site's underground passageways, which Cohen did not contest.

When asked about sabotage in the Natanz facility, the interviewer asked Cohen where he'd take them if they could go there, and he said, "to the cellar," where "the centrifuges used to spin."

"It doesn't look like it used to look," he added.

As a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Iran has been insisting that its nuclear program is peaceful. Before Iran's recent measures to limit cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in retaliation for the violation of the JCPOA by the U.S. and imposition of sanctions, the UN nuclear watchdog issue a report that Iran's nuclear activities were subject to the most intensive inspections in the history of the UN body.

While Cohen did not claim assassination on record, Dayan describes Cohen as having "personally signed off on the entire effort" in the program.

Iran has repeatedly expressed its disdain with Israel's attacks, with Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Kazem Gharibabadi, warning on Thursday that the incidents "not only will be responded decisively, but will also certainly leave no option for Iran but to reconsider its transparency measures and cooperation policy."

Yossi Cohen's interview comes amid U.S. disruption in the Vienna talks as Biden's administration is insisting on keeping Iran's nuclear science at its bare minimum, since they consider Iran's nuclear science as a gamechanger.

During the Vienna talks, the U.S. has demanded that Iran "destroy" the advanced centrifuges it started to spin at the Fordow and Natanz facilities one year after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA. These centrifuges, known as the IR9, are 50 times more powerful at pro-



ducing uranium than the ones covered by the JCPOA, according to Reuters.

Iran has flatly rejected the U.S. demand just as Washington is refusing to lift all the sanctions imposed, re-imposed, or relabeled by the Trump administration against Iran.

The incumbent U.S. administration seems to follow Israel's hawkish policies toward Iran, distancing itself from the slogans made earlier to revive the nuclear deal.

Ex-Mossad chief's acknowledgement coupled with the stubbornness of the U.S. on its irrational demands may prove that United States is an accomplice in Israel's assassination of Fakhrizadeh.

Rabiei told a press conference on Tuesday, making a reference to Washington's failed attempts last year to keep a 13-year-old arms embargo on Iran, which finally expired on October 18.

"Iran reserves the right to enjoy normal trade ties in the framework of international law and regulations, and considers any interference and monitoring of these relations as illegal and insulting, and strongly condemns it," Press TV quoted Rabiei as saying.

Asked about the arms embargo, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price confirmed that it expired in October, saying, however, that "it is in many ways a shame that an important tool was no longer available."

Nevertheless, Price told reporters on Thursday that the United States is prepared to "leverage our applicable authorities, including sanctions, against any actor that enables Iran's ongoing provision of weapons" to what he called violent partners and proxies.

"We will continue to apply pressure on Iran if it attempts to transfer any weapons to violent partners and proxies," he said.

While underlining the necessity of freedom of navigation and admitted that the U.S. is unaware of the destination and cargo of the Iranian ships, the State Department spokesman went on to warn Tehran against "the transfer of weapons or other illicit materials," claiming Washington can try to "eliminate such activity."

Foreign Policy further pointed to the UN Convention's Article 5, which reads: "Warships on the high seas have complete immunity from the jurisdiction of any State other than the flag State," arguing that even in the territorial sea, sovereign immunity remains a powerful protection and that warships enjoy the right of innocent passage in foreign territorial seas.

"As long as the warship is engaged in innocent passage, not threatening the coastal state, the coastal state can, at most, order the warship to leave the territorial sea," it said. "Interdiction or arrest are out of the question unless the warship threatens the coastal state, at which point self-defense would be permitted."

The article maintained that nothing changes even if U.S. officials ascertain the vessels are carrying conventional arms that violate U.S. sanctions on Caracas, and so long as the Iranian warships do not threaten use of force, sovereign immunity protects them wherever they are.

The Foreign Policy article also noted that even if an attempted enforcement action by the U.S. succeeds both operationally and legally, Washington could put U.S. naval vessels around the world at jeopardy.

SPORTS

Iran fall short against Germany at 2021 VNL

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran ended 2021 Volleyball nations league Week 3 with a loss against Germany in a five-set thriller (25-23, 20-25, 19-25, 25-19, 13-15) on Friday.

Saber Kazemi scored 27 points for Iran and Weber Linus earned 15 points for Germany.

"It was a tough battle. In the first set we struggled a bit, but we found our rhythm in the end. It was a hard battle, since they were pushing us in the fourth and last set again. We had to stay a little bit calm at these moments. And pushed back against them, but we are happy that we won this important match and points for us," Jan Zimmermann said in the post-match news conference.



"We had two difficult games this week, yesterday we played really bad against USA - two sets were really bad, so it was important for us to come back today and take some points. It was nice to have some atmosphere and some loudness here," he added.

"Sometimes it's difficult to stay in the game when you don't hear anybody, so it was a nice change. Saeid Marouf is a really good setter and it's great to play against players like him, so I was happy that I could play against setters like him. I want to get there, that's why I'm here," Zimmermann concluded.

Iran volleyball team are scheduled to meet Australia, Brazil and Slovenia in Week 4.

A total of 32 of the world's top national teams compete at the VNL 2021 bubble in Rimini to showcase electrifying volleyball action for millions of fans worldwide.

The 16-team tournament began with a round-robin phase where each side play 15 games.

Iran wraps up Poland Open with three gold medals

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran freestyle team won three gold medals, one silver and one bronze at the Poland Open Ranking Series event in Warsaw.

Mohammadhossein Mohammadian won the gold medal in the tournament's Day 1 by beating his compatriot Ali Shabani in the 97kg. Iran's Alireza Karimo also seized a bronze medal in the weight class, defeating American wrestler Kollin Raymond.

On Day 2, Mostafa Hosseinkhani won the gold by injury default against Italian wrestler Frank Chamizo Marquez in the 74kg.

Kazakhstan's Daniyar Kaisanov and Khadzhimurad Gadzhiev of Azerbaijan took bronze.

Vice-president of the Iran Wrestling Federation Hamid Sourian told UWW that they will take a decision at 74kg after conducting a technical committee meeting in Therman.

"We will sit with the committee and decided whether or not to host a trial for 74kg," Sourian said. "For now, the 74kg weight class is the only undecided for Iran."

Amir Zare won Iran's third gold after defeating Nicholas Gwiazdowski of the United States, with the Iranian wrestler getting the decision via cautions in the 125kg.

Yusup Batirmurzaev of Kazakhstan and Ukraine's Oleksandr Koldovskiy won bronze.

Karate athlete Mahdizadeh fails to qualify for Olympics

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian karate athlete Amir Mahdizadeh failed to book his place at the 2020 Olympic Games.

In the Male Kumite -67 Kg, Mahdizadeh started the campaign with a 4-1 win over Tunisian rival Nader Azzouzi but lost to Jordan's Abdel Rahman Almastafa 8-1 in the second round.

Three other Iranian practitioners Rozita Alipour in the women's 61kg, Abolfazl Shahrjerdi and Fatemeh Sadeghi in the individual kata will compete for their Olympic spot.

The Karate 2020 Qualification Tournament is being held in Paris, France from June 11 to 13.

Nearly 500 competitors from 98 countries compete in the tournament.

Al Gharafa eye Mehdi Ghaedi: report

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Qatar Stars League Al-Gharafa are reportedly going to sign Esteghlal prodigy Mehdi Ghaedi.

Qatari newspaper Al-Sharq reported that the club will sign the Iranian international midfielder in the summer.

Ghaedi had already been linked with Qatari giants Al Duhail and Al Sadd.

According to the daily, Al Gharafa also want to hire former Esteghlal coach Andrea Stramaccioni.

Payam Niazmand linked with Portimonense

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran and Sepahan goalkeeper Payam Niazmand has been linked with a move to Portuguese top-flight football club Portimonense.

The Portuguese media reports suggest that the Primeira Liga side are going to sign the 26-year-old goalie in the summer.

Portimonense Sporting Clube are headed by former Sanat Naft Abadan coach Paulo Sergio.

Iranian winger Jafar Salmi is a member of the team. Portimonense, based in Portimao, were founded in 1914.

Pompeo: Soleimani assassination, sale of F-35 jets to UAE deeply linked to Abraham Accords

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has claimed the U.S. assassination of Iran's top anti-terror commander, General Qassem Soleimani, and the deal for the sale of U.S. F-35 fighter jets to the United Arab Emirates were deeply connected with the so-called Abraham Accords.

Several Arab countries, including the UAE and Bahrain, normalized relations with Israel under U.S.-brokered agreements last year while Donald Trump was in office.

Almost five months after the Trump administration's tenure came to an end, Pompeo says there was a series of actions that allowed the accords to advance and eventually be signed, including the deal to sell F-35 fighter jets to the UAE.

"Beyond the technology of the jet, beyond

the capabilities it gives the Emiratis, the very sale says that Israelis and Americans believe that the Emirates can share their perception of security. And that is very, very important," the former hawkish U.S. secretary of state told the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth in an interview set to be published in full on Friday.

Back in November, the U.S. State Department notified Congress of the massive arms deal with the UAE, less than two months after the Emiratis signed the normalization deal with Israel.

In early 2020, Trump ordered airstrikes that assassinated General Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy head of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), near Baghdad airport.

In response, the IRGC launched ballistic missiles at the Ain al-Assad base. Over 100 U.S. troops were diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries in the aftermath of the attack.

Iran's retaliation against the terrorist attack was the first attack on the U.S. since the end of the Second World War.

Fearing more retaliation, U.S. officials, including Defense Minister Mark Esper, were visiting West Asia secretly, according to American media outlets.

Pompeo, a former CIA chief, went on to say that the assassination of General Soleimani proved to the world that the United States is determined in its battle against Iran.

Analysts says Pompeo had a personal enmity with General Soleimani, the legendary anti-terror commander. In fact, General Soleimani was a bone in Pompeo's throat.

Exports from South Khorasan rises 37%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value of exports from South Khorasan province, in the northeast of Iran, increased by 37 percent during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Hasan Rahimizadeh, the director-general of the province's customs department, said that 149,667 tons of products worth over \$28 million was exported from the province in the two-month period, which indicates also a 38-percent growth in terms of weight.

The official mentioned Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkmenistan and Pakistan as the export destinations of the products, and cement, ceramic tiles, rebar and dates as some of the exported items.

He also announced that 274 tons of commodities worth \$531,719 were imported to the province during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year.

The value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$6.3 billion in the first two months of this Iranian calendar year, up 48 percent compared to the last year's same period, according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).



Iran exported 16.9 million tons of non-oil commodities including gasoline, polyethylene, methanol, iron and steel ingots and steel products to foreign destinations in the mentioned two months, Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi announced.

Meanwhile, some 5.3 million tons of goods valued at \$6.5 billion were also imported into the country in the said period to register a 26.5-percent rise compared to the last year's same two months.

In total, the Islamic Republic traded 22.2 million tons of such goods worth \$12.8 billion with its trade partners in the period under review, up 6.6 percent and 38 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively, Mir-Ashrafi said.

Iran's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were China with \$2 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$953 million, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$849 million, Turkey with \$388 million, and Afghanistan with \$365 million.

According to the official, the mentioned five countries accounted for 68 percent and 73 percent of Iran's total non-oil exports in terms of weight and value, respectively.

Meanwhile, the country's top five sources of imports during these two months were the UAE with \$1.8 billion, China with \$1.5 billion, Turkey with \$642 million, Germany with \$285 million, and Switzerland with \$283 million worth of imports.

Mobile phones, corn, sunflower oil, meal, wheat, soybeans, rice, barley, sugar and crude soybean oil were the most imported items during this period.

These 10 items accounted for 69.5 percent of the weight and 33 percent of the total value of imports, according to Mir-Ashrafi.

The official also noted that over 1.842 million tons of goods were transited through Iran in the said period, registering a 142-percent rise compared to the same period in the previous year.

The value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

According to Mir-Ashrafi, Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, while that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official added.

TSE's main index gains 3,000 points in a week

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**— TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 3,000 points, or less than one percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.151 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, Isfahan Oil Refining Company, Barekat Pharmaceutical Group (BPG), and Zarmakarun Industrial Company were the most widely followed indices.

Iranian market analyst Hassan Balazadeh has proposed three solutions for improving the trend of the stock market and resolving some of the problems that the market is currently wrestling with.



Revising the regulations regarding the public float stock, determining ceiling and limitation for the Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), and finally establishing a support fund for certain stocks were the solutions that Balazadeh has proposed.

According to Balazadeh, one of the problems that can be quickly addressed in the current situation is the issue of float stock. Based on the capital market law, companies in this market must offer at least 10 percent of their shares to public investors. In recent years, the increase in companies' capital from revaluation has made them bigger and following this growth most companies need more liquidity to back them up.

So, the regulations in this regard must change in a way to oblige such companies to offer more of their shares in the market.

Secondly, the analyst offered that for those companies who are going to offer their shares for the first time, a ceiling must be set for the price of the shares and if they exceed the set criteria and the stock falls in the future the owner company should be obliged to refund the shareholders paid money.

Regarding the support fund, Balazadeh said this fund can be set up with a part of the dividend of the companies in the general assembly and with the agreement of the shareholders. This way, shareholders can agree to allocate a portion of their dividend to the mentioned fund to support the stock when needed.

4,800MW capacity of new power plants under construction in Iran

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** – Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said on Thursday that 12 power plants with a total capacity of 4,800 megawatts (MW) are currently under construction across the country, IRIB reported.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of some energy projects in the 10th week of the ministry's A-B-Iran scheme, Ardakanian said: "During the current government incumbency over 20,000 megawatts have been added to the country's power generation capacity."

The official noted that since the Iranian calendar year 1396 (started in March 2017), the construction of 31 power plants with a total capacity of 15,000 MW has been started across the country, of which so far 3,150 MW has been put into operation.

Also, 20,000 solar PV systems will be provided to the nomadic households across the country in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), and



since the electricity supply to most of the country's rural areas has been completed, the electricity network of 10,000 villages will be improved by the end of the year, Ardakanian said.

According to the official, under the framework of the A-B-Iran program in the current Iranian calendar year, so far 49 projects with a total investment of 134.6 trillion rials (about \$3.2 billion) have been inaugurated across the country.

The nominal capacity of electricity generation at Iranian power plants has exceeded 86,000 megawatts with the inauguration of several new power plants over the past two years.

Currently, combined cycle power plants account for the biggest share in the country's total power generation capacity followed by gas power plants.

President Hassan Rouhani, on Thursday, had ordered the commencement of a project for the construction of a 1,400-MW power plant in Hormozgan province.

Energy projects worth over \$7.5b inaugurated in 3 provinces

→ 1 As reported, over 150 trillion rials (about \$3.5 billion) has been invested for the implementation of the abovementioned irrigation and drainage networks, while 4.05 trillion rials (\$96.4 million) has been invested for the dam project; Sirik power plant is going to be constructed with €1.406 billion (about \$1.7 billion) of investment while €355 million (about \$432.8 million) plus seven trillion rials (about \$166.6 million) has also been spent for the completion of the gas unit of Hengam power plant.

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

The first phase of the A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19, 2020), during which 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99

billion) were put into operation across the country.

In the second phase of the program that was carried out in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) 250 water and energy projects worth 500 trillion rials (about \$11.9 billion) were inaugurated in several provinces.

The third phase of the program was officially started on April 6 and like the previous phases, this year, too, the Energy Ministry is planning to inaugurate numerous water and electricity projects in various provinces every week.

Last week, Ardakanian inaugurated water projects worth over \$185m in three provinces during the ninth week of the A-B-Iran program.

The inaugurated projects included water supply to several rural areas, some wastewater and water treatment plants, some surface water collection facilities, as well as a tunnel for water transfer.



Aluminum ingot output up 33% in 2 months on year

→ 1 Annual production of the aluminum ingot in the country is planned to increase 63 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Last year, during the inauguration ceremony of Iran's biggest aluminum production complex (in the central Fars province), the former industry minister said the country's aluminum production



is expected to be doubled with that unit going operational.

The official put the value of the Iranian mining industry's production at about \$22 billion, saying that the country is relatively self-sufficient in minerals and a great deal is also exported every year.

He went on underlying the country's

capacities in the sector, saying that Iran is ranked 18th among the world's top aluminum producers, and with this new plant going operational the country will climb four places to stand at 14th place."

Iran plans to reach the annual production of 1.5 million tons of aluminum ingot by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

Iran, Azerbaijan ink MOU for constructing bridge over Astrachai

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** – Iran and the neighbor Azerbaijan have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in constructing a bridge over the Astarachai border river, IRNA reported.

The MOU was signed by the Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Shahin Mostafayev in Baku on Wednesday.

Based on the mentioned MOU, the two sides will jointly fund the 4.7-million-euro project which is expected to be completed within 12 months.

Speaking to the press following the signing ceremony, Eslami said: "Increasing the volume of trade, transportation, and transit between the two countries requires expanding the capacity of transportation terminals."

Mustafayev for his part underlined the significance of the mentioned bridge for the trade between the two countries and said: "The construction of this bridge will facilitate the transportation of Iran products to Azerbaijan and also to Russia and other countries and expand transit transportation in the region."

The official noted that Azerbaijan, Iran and Russia attach great importance to the development of the North-South international transport corridor and are taking significant measures to develop this corridor.

He expressed confidence that the implementation of such projects would help reduce the truck traffic



Iranian Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami (L) shakes hand with Azeri Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mostafayev.

at border terminals and will accelerate the exchange of goods between the two countries.

Heading a delegation, Eslami had arrived in Baku on Tuesday for meeting with the officials of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

Eslami held talks with the Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of Nakhchivan Vasif Talibov on Tuesday to explore avenues for expansion of economic and transport ties.

The Iranian minister, along with Shahin Mustafayev,

also visited Jolfa terminal on border with Azerbaijan and several other industrial areas in the mentioned country.

During the visit Eslami stated that Iran and Azerbaijan have numerous opportunities and great potential for playing an effective role in the Black Sea and Persian Gulf corridors, saying: "Both Iran and Azerbaijan are eager for realizing these capacities."

The minister noted that cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan is in the interest of all countries in the region, adding: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate with Nakhchivan and the Republic of Azerbaijan in various fields."

While emphasizing the need to promote Jolfa terminal, Eslami stressed the two countries' efforts and interest for expansion of trade and logistics cooperation especially in north-south corridor.

According to Eslami, considering the developments in the region and the trilateral agreement among Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, the activation of the Tabriz-Nakhchivan railway through Azerbaijan and Russia is on the Iranian Transport Ministry's agenda, which will expand the trade capacities of Iran and Azerbaijan as well as the countries in the region.

He expressed hope that Shahin Mostafayev's recent visit to Tehran and Eslami's visit to Baku could be a turning point in identifying potential areas for cooperation, the challenges in the way of trade and joint investment opportunities of the two countries.

Industrial projects worth \$152m inaugurated in Kerman province

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** – Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini on Thursday inaugurated six major industrial projects with a total investment of 6.4 trillion rials (about \$152.3 million) in southern Kerman province.

The inaugurated projects include a chromite concentrate production plant, a gold concentrate plant, a copper concentrate production unit, a silica concentrate plant and a flour factory, Shata reported.

Heading a delegation, Razm Hosseini arrived in Kerman on Wednesday evening for a two-day visit.

On Thursday, the minister paid a visit to an air conditioning production

unit in southern Kerman, and then he inaugurated the chromite concentrate production plant which has the capacity to produce over 15,000 tons of chromite annually. The plant was established with a total invest of 790 billion rials (about \$18.8 million) and will create job opportunities for over 100 people.

The gold concentrate plan is also going to produce 65 kilograms of gold concentrate every year and will offer direct jobs to 100 people.

As for the copper concentrate unit, the plant is expected to produce 15,000 tons of the products annually. Some 3.5 trillion rials (about \$83.33 million) has been invested in this unit which is going

to create jobs for 300 people.

Put into operation with 500 billion rials of investment (about \$11.9 million), the flour factory has the annual capacity of 60,000 tons and provides jobs for 34 people.

The Silica concentrate plant was also put into operation with 500 billion rials (about \$11.9 million) of investment. The plant has the annual capacity of 18,000 tons and will offer direct jobs to 70 people.

A carton boxes production unit was also among the inaugurated projects. Over 100 billion rials (about \$2.38 million) has been invested in this unit which is going to produce 1,800 tons of carton



Industry Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini (C) visits an industrial unit in Kerman Province on Wednesday.

boxes every year. This unit has created direct job opportunities for seven people.

Demographic change, a big opportunity to U.S. democracy: professor

Adib-Moghaddam says right-wing idea “is based on xenophobia, aggression, an unscientific and irrational worldview and a good dose of stupidity”

→ 1 aggression, an unscientific and irrational worldview and a good dose of stupidity. The new technologies have enabled their intolerant politics on a global scale galvanizing the politics of hatred and aggression in nominal democracies, from South America (e.g., Bolsonaro) to Europe (e.g., Le Pen).

Some scholars say that the American political system needs repair and an alternative version of democracy. What is your analysis?

Like many other countries of the world at the time, the United States may have formally adopted democratic governance structures, but the country wasn't a democracy in the progressive sense of the word. Slave ownership was rampant and women were not part of the equation. The politics of racial segregation continued until the civil rights movement in the 1960s. The yardstick of democracy is that the will of the people is enacted and that the most vulnerable members of society are protected from the arbitrariness of the majority. Even today, the formally democratic structures in the United States have not established a just society, where democracy is not limited to voting, but acknowledged as a



form of good governance that guarantees human security, social emancipation and a relatively egalitarian society that is well informed about the choices that it makes. The mainstream political culture in the United States remains acutely underdeveloped, a rump civil society that is squeezed by unregulated capitalism and a two-party system that has not allowed for real and much-needed reform. The biggest oppor-

tunity for change is rooted in the changing demographic structure of the country. In less than 20 years, one-third of the population in the United States will be Hispanic, moving the country much closer to a “Latin” identity. It is inevitable that the right-wing narrative which tries to hold on to white supremacist ideas will be increasingly shattered. It is this inevitable reality that fuels White Supremacist terrorism.

It's the desperate, last stand of the “White Man”, as I use this term not in racial terms but as a synonym for a colonial mentality that is being overrun by history. My book “What is Iran?” looks at the ways this idea merged into Trumpism and how it feeds into global politics in general and demonizing countries such as Iran in particular.

How do you evaluate Trump's presidency? Could he represent a movement beyond the two-party system?

Trump is the manifestation of a wider phenomenon that is challenging democratic aspirations all over the world. His presidency was the sad apotheosis of a homicidal political movement that is based on vile and, above all uncivilized, human emotions. The real driver for change in the United States will not be Trump. It will be descendants of the BlackLivesMatter movement and the new generation of Black, Latin and cosmopolitan white U.S. Americans who will question the viability of the political and socio-economic system of their country. This new process of democratization, in a real progressive fashion, will be determined from the bottom-up and not by the political elites.

Turkey repeating the story of the French cultural occupation in Syria

By Ahmad Abiyat

Despite the rapid progress in knowledge and dramatic changes in the globe, countries with expansionist ambitions are still following the path of the colonial era.

In the midst of this situation, the countries do not abide by the laws and international norms, carrying their bloody record such as historical crimes.

Syria, which was facing a terrorist war waged by certain regional and Western countries, is being geographically gnawed by the Kurds who formed an autonomous administration motivated under the pretext of the elimination of the terrorist organization ISIS, and by the Turks, who, in the name of establishing safe areas, continue to impose new situation on West Asia.

Conflict of interests: The victims are the Syrian people
The People's Protection Units, the main force in the Syrian Democratic Forces, is the armed section of the Supreme Kurdish Committee that recruits Arabs, Kurds and Assyrians in its ranks, where about 40,000 to 50,000 soldiers served in this organization during the war in Syria. They all were from the neighboring countries where the Kurds are present and control dozens of thousands of square kilometers of the Syrian territory.

It established a self-administered region, which is envisaged to include more than three million citizens of Arabs, Kurds, Assyrians, Armenians, and other ethnicities.

Now, Turkey tries to play the role of a guardianship and exercises patriarchal influence on the Syrian territory, where it has the right to fight in the name of the “People's Protection Units” of the Democratic Union Party in Syria. Turkey considers the militia an extension of the Kurdistan Workers' Party.

It also worked to control, in cooperation with Syrian

armed groups, the areas east of the Euphrates in the military invasion known as “Euphrates Shield”, “Olive Branch”, “Spring of Peace”, to extend its influence and incursion into a “safe area” with a length of about 120 km and a depth of 32 km inside the Syrian territory.

In northern Syria, Turkey's neo-colonial aspirations are to include the lands it captured in the recent invasions, where students learn the Turkish language and Turks run hospitals, and their growing role is obvious in Turkish traffic lights, Turkish-trained police forces, and post offices built by Turks.

The most important aspects of the Turkish occupation

On the one hand, Ankara exercised military control and planned to engineer a political situation that ensures that the Syrian local structures conform to Turkish policies.

Ankara considers the areas it occupies as a part of Turkey. Turkish government departments provide services in these areas with the support and assistance of the Turkish armed forces. The Turkish armed forces continue to be present in these areas and have established military bases.

The Turkish government is providing armed and militia groups in the area with training and logistical support at the highest levels.

On the other hand, Turkey wants to push the economy of the areas under occupation to work in line with Ankara's hegemonic policies which require establishing a new structure.

They include most services such as transportation, communications, trade, education, language, symbols, media, and currency circulation to establish free industrial zones, which creates roads to connect them directly with the Turkish economy.

The most important of these steps is related to the demographic change of Turkification of the Syrian territory,

in addition to the continuous restrictions on the people and the confiscation of their homes and properties in order to push those who remain to emigrate. Insistence on education in Turkish language and changing the curricula according to Turkish mentality.

The insistence came after Turkish authorities took important decisions to refuse any teacher in universities, colleges, institutes, schools and research centers in Turkish-controlled areas if he did not meet the conditions for full knowledge of the Turkish language.

This is considered a real threat and a practice of stripping people of their identities. This process is continuing under the control of the Turkish armed forces to alienate them from their geography, people, history, and culture.

These changes involve many places and institutes, including teaching, curricula, schools, names of cities, villages, suburbs, streets and squares, culture, history, and the Syrian national currency.

Another malicious attempt that threatens the identity of these areas is the fact that the Turkish flag was raised there.

Turkish identity cards were published among the population, salaries were paid in Turkish lira, and everything was linked to Turkey so that these areas became like any region or state inside Turkey.

All these steps in undermining the capabilities of the Syrian people remind us of the French occupation and distortion and malformation of the Algerian history, including the falsification of the geography of the country, encouragement of immigration, obliteration of the Arab and Islamic identity, the Francization of education and administration curricula, the fight against the institute of Arab education, teaching the French language at the primary levels, and making Arabic a foreign language and optional need.

It is high time for Europe to change its approach to Palestine

By Andrea Dessi

The recent escalation in Israel-Palestine has once again turned the world's attention to Israel's 53-year-long occupation and its systemic violations of the most basic human rights of the Palestinian people. It also demonstrated clearly that the strategies the European Union has long been pursuing to try and end the conflict and further its interests in West Asia are not working and may even be making matters worse.

On May 21, a fragile ceasefire brought 11 days of Israeli bombing raids on the besieged Gaza Strip and Hamas rocket fire on Israeli cities to an end, but there is little room for celebration – none of the underlying causes that led to this escalation has yet been addressed. To help prevent another devastating confrontation, European governments must radically change course. They should adopt a new approach grounded in international law and multilateralism and move to demand accountability from both sides.

Repeating old mantras of support for two states while demanding two fundamentally asymmetric sides to enter into direct negotiations will not lead to a breakthrough. Attempting to isolate Hamas, or embarking on yet another reconstruction effort in Gaza would also not provide a sustainable solution. Any effort that does not take into consideration the bigger picture of Israeli occupation and structural violence against millions of Palestinians are doomed to fail. Approaches that try to ease symptoms without curing the disease would provide neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians with more security and stability.

Therefore, any European effort towards Israel and Palestine should first address the occupation and the resultant state-sponsored discrimination that fuel conflict.

Responsibility for the recent crisis rests largely on the shoulders of Israel's outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. During his 12 years in power, Netanyahu consistently pursued divisive policies that achieved little more than stoking nationalist sentiments and flaming ethnic and religious tensions. And last month, struggling

in the polls after four inconclusive elections and under investigation for corruption, he decided to exploit the long-simmering tensions in Occupied East Jerusalem to reshuffle the political deck in a desperate attempt to stay in power. Instead of restraining violent settlers, Israel's longest-serving prime minister deployed security forces to disperse unarmed Palestinians protesting against settlement expansion and other rights abuses in Sheikh Jarrah and the Al Aqsa Mosque – a move that was all but certain to pave the way for more conflict and violence.

And it did, with Hamas quickly entering the fray. Exploiting the meek reaction to this latest episode of Israeli aggression by Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Ramallah based Palestinian Authority (PA), Hamas used the crisis to present itself as the vanguard of Palestinian resistance. It started firing rockets on Israeli cities, drawing condemnation from the international community.

But Hamas rocket fire cannot be addressed in isolation. The group's actions can only be understood and effectively addressed if they are contextualized against the backdrop of the dire humanitarian crisis affecting more than two million Palestinians living in Gaza today. Israel and Egypt's years-old blockade on the Palestinian enclave and the international community's indifference to it have undoubtedly brought us to this recent escalation.

While clearly controversial and ultimately self-defeating for the Palestinian cause, one cannot ignore why support for armed resistance is growing across occupied Palestine. To this day, efforts by the PA to resolve the conflict diplomatically provided meagre results, changing very little in the lives of Palestinians. Thus, more and more Palestinians are now viewing resistance – both armed and not – as their only way out.

Primary responsibility for this again falls on Netanyahu, who time and again thwarted diplomatic efforts, including the Oslo Accords, which he personally worked to dismantle since the mid-1990s.

Yet, one cannot ignore the responsibility of the United States and Europe either.

Decades of unquestioning U.S. support and military aid – now standing at more than \$3.8bn a year – has effectively inflated Israel's sense of impunity rather than increasing its propensity to take risks for peace. Examples include the brazenness with which Israeli settler organizations attack unarmed Palestinian protesters and occupy Palestinian homes on live television and under military escort. Such actions stand as a testament to Israel's apartheid-like system of ethnic discrimination recently highlighted by Human Rights Watch and a number of other Israeli and international organizations. As tensions continue since the ceasefire announcement, there is an urgent need to confront this grim reality.

Netanyahu is now on his way out of office, but those who are geared up to replace him, like much of the Israeli establishment, cannot be credibly described as “partners for peace”. The international community, led by the EU, should acknowledge this fact and stop providing diplomatic cover for Israel's divisive, destructive and illegal policies and actions against the Palestinians.

Decades of employing carrots to assuage Israeli concerns in the hope that a more secure and self-confident Israel would make concessions for peace has dismally failed. Today, there is a growing need to employ sticks with regards to Israeli violations of international law, similar to the pressure that has been used on the Palestinians to engender moderation and force a turn towards diplomacy.

The latest round of fighting should serve as a wake-up call for the EU. As daily violence continues in occupied Palestine, despite decades-long diplomatic efforts, the EU's professed support for human rights and fundamental freedoms as indivisible components of its identity is being tested.

The continuing occupation is indeed a rude reminder of the failure of a 30-year peace process actively backed by the U.S. and Europe. Billions in EU aid have been invested to support the development of state institutions in Palestine. This assistance has not advanced prospects for peace. Neither has it provided Europe with a recognizable diplomatic role in the U.S.-dominated

peace process. Similarly, while the EU collectively represents Israel's first trading partner, Europe has been reluctant to translate this into political leverage, even when Israeli actions are routinely condemned by the EU. Meanwhile, individual member states have actively courted Israel, increasing bilateral trade, arms sales and high-tech cooperation, further undermining EU leverage and consensus on the conflict.

Against this backdrop, it is increasingly common to frame both EU aid to the Palestinians and growing trade with Israel as complicit in bankrolling the occupation. While this support helps to save lives, pay salaries and run basic services in occupied Palestine, it clearly cannot represent a substitute for political action towards ending the occupation. If serious about strategic autonomy, the EU needs to muster the courage to rediscover a political role on Israel-Palestine even if this implies breaking old taboos – i.e., reviewing the no-contact policy with Hamas or considering conditionality and even targeted sanctions vis-à-vis Israel and the settlements.

After decades of following the U.S. lead in West Asia, the time has come for Europe to carve out a degree of independence from Washington, particularly when it comes to Israel-Palestine. Continuing with a business-as-usual approach will not bring sustainable peace. It will instead merely delay the next inevitable conflagration, while further eroding EU and U.S. credibility as well as that of the broader international rules-based system that both actors profess to support.

Only by reasserting the role of the United Nations and by ensuring that violations of international law are accounted for, will the next conflagration be avoided. Only by adopting true equidistance between Israel and the Palestinians and directly tackling the final status issues – settlements, Jerusalem, refugees, borders, and natural resources – will diplomacy finally produce results, as opposed to supporting a fanciful status quo that only serves as cover for Israel's impunity and continued annexation of Palestinian lands.

(Source: Aljazeera)

Houthi official after new sanctions: U.S. prioritizes war in Yemen

→ 1 Washington has a key role in the war of aggression against the people of Yemen which has left hundreds of thousands of Yemeni civilians, including women and children, dead and millions more impoverished.

‘Death awaits foreign forces fighting in Yemen’

Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, a senior member of Ansarullah's political bureau, told Lebanese al-Mayadeen television news network on Thursday evening that Saudi forces and their mercenaries are legitimate targets for Yemen as long as the atrocious military campaign and brutal siege against his country continue.

“We warn the aggressor countries that the presence of their forces in Yemen will subject them to attacks. Death is the destiny of foreign troops deployed to Yemen,” Bukhaiti said.

Turkey's troops should leave Afghanistan under 2020 deal: Taliban

Turkey should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan under the 2020 deal for the pullout of foreign forces, a Taliban spokesman has said, effectively rejecting Ankara's proposal to guard and run Kabul's airport after the United States-led NATO forces depart.

The development raises serious questions for the US, other countries and international organizations with missions in Kabul about how to securely evacuate their personnel from landlocked Afghanistan, should fighting threaten the capital, Reuters news agency reported on Thursday.

According to al Jazeera, it also appeared to dash Ankara's hopes of using the securing of Kabul airport to help improve ties with Washington – strained by Turkey's purchase of Russian defense systems – in talks set for Monday between President Joe Biden and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Asked in a text message whether the Taliban rejected Turkey's proposal to keep forces in Kabul to guard and run the international airport after other foreign troops leave, the Taliban spokesman in Doha responded that they should go as well.

“Turkey was part of NATO forces in the past 20 years, so as such, they should withdraw from Afghanistan on the basis of the agreement we signed with US on 29th Feb 2020,” Suhail Shaheen told Reuters.

“Otherwise, Turkey is a great Islamic country. Afghanistan has had historical relations with it. We hope to have close and good relations with them as a new Islamic government is established in the country in future,” he added.

Assad: Syria has genuine potentials to overcome sanctions, reduce their impact

President Bashar al-Assad says his administration is capable of overcoming the U.S.-led blockade, reducing the impact of Western sanctions and creating more investment opportunities across the country.

The president made the remarks after visiting a number of factories and facilities at Adra industrial city in the Damascus countryside.

“Syria has genuine potentials to overcome the blockade and lessen its impacts and create more investment opportunities,” Syria's official news agency SANA quoted Assad as saying.

During the visit, the Syrian president inspected the complex and discussed the means of boosting production and overcoming obstacles facing a number of industries.

“I am very happy with my visit today to Adra industrial city and meeting with a number of Syrian industrialists... this city which has been on the front line between the army and terrorists since many years...but it has withstood... my visit today aims to stress the priority of economy in the upcoming stage,” Assad added.

The president stressed that the country needed investment, strong will and the patriotic sense for reconstruction.

“These three basic factors give momentum to many investors to establish industries in different areas, investments or productive facilities in other areas in Syria.”

The president also hailed the spirit, innovation and passion of workers and managers at the industrial complex.

“This patriotic spirit that I have already touched at supervisors of the work and workers gives several messages in Syria,” he said.

“What I have seen today can't be described except as excellent, taking into consideration the circumstances to which this region has lived during the years of war and the conditions to which the Syrian economy passes through.”

Resistance News

Top Hamas officials, Egyptian intelligence chief meet in Cairo

INTERNATIONAL d e s k **TEHRAN-** A high-level delegation from the Hamas Movement led by head of its political bureau Ismail Haneyya met in Cairo on Thursday with Abbas Kamel, director of Egypt's general intelligence directorate.

Hamas stated that the delegation discussed with the Egyptian intelligence chief several issues, including the results of the Sword of Jerusalem battle and the efforts underway to reconstruct post-war Gaza.

The delegation also explored avenues to strengthen the relations with Egypt and the role that Egypt can play regarding important issues in the Palestinian arena.

The delegation expressed its sincere thanks and gratitude to Egypt for its positions before and during the Sword of Jerusalem battle and for its supportive efforts during and after the Israeli aggression against Gaza.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed ways of rearranging the Palestinian house and strengthening its unity.

The Hamas delegation arrived in Cairo on Tuesday at the invitation of the Egyptian leadership to hold talks with local officials about important political and field developments.

Lufthansa to resume Vienna-Tehran flights

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — German airline Lufthansa is scheduled to resume flights from the Austrian capital, Vienna, to Tehran following months of suspension over the coronavirus outbreak.

“Lufthansa will resume flights between Tehran and Vienna as of July 17,” Alireza Majzubi, an official at Tehran’s Imam Khomeini International Airport announced on Friday.



The airline will increase its flight schedule from three to five flights a week as well, the official added.

Over the past couple of months, many countries, including the Islamic Republic, imposed travel restrictions to help curb the spread of novel coronavirus. In this line, incoming and outgoing flights have been suspended, and road travels restricted to a great extent.

Solo exhibit of glass and ceramics starts in Tehran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A solo exhibition of glass and ceramics has opened its doors to the public at the Glass and Ceramic Museum of Iran.

Launched on the occasion of the World Day of Handicrafts, the exhibit showcases 50 works by Iranian artisan Fahimeh Heydari, IRNA reported on Friday.



Also known as Abgineh Museum, the museum offers visitors a wide range of glasswork, brickwork, plasterwork, mirror work as well as inlaid artworks that date from the 2nd millennium BC to the present day, all housed within an elegant Qajar-era (1789 to 1925) edifice.

The two-story octagonal structure itself retains a lot of charm as seamlessly blends genuine Iranian architecture with 19th-century European motifs.

It was originally constructed upon the orders of the 20th-century politician Ahmad Qavam better known as Qavam-ol-Saltaneh for his lodging. It is situated a short walk northward of the National Museum of Iran on Si-e Tir St.

Iran, Turkey reopen land border after 14 months closure over virus

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — After more than a year of closure following the outbreak of coronavirus, Iran and Turkey have reopened a land border to passengers, ISNA reported on Friday.

The Kapikoy-Razi border reopened on May 17 and a group of 41 female Iranian entrepreneurs and artists has recently entered the city of Van in Turkey, where the city’s hoteliers welcomed them with flowers, the report said.

Tourists and vehicles are allowed through the border with negative COVID-19 PCR test results issued 72 hours in advance of entry.



However, Razi-Kapikoy border from the Iranian side is still closed to tourists, and only diplomats, businessmen, and people who have a residence permit or are studying and living in Turkey are allowed to cross.

As Turkey is a country through which many trips of Iranians living abroad and foreign nationals to Iran are made, the coronavirus pandemic prevented several businessmen and students from continuing their activities and even left patients who want to go abroad for further treatment helpless.

Some 1.37 million Iranian tourists visited Turkey during the first eight months of 2019, accounting for 4.4% of all international arrivals in the country.

Iranian handicrafts evolved to meet more consumer, market needs: minister

→1 With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qasemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran’s number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

Shiraz was named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”. Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a “world city of filigree”. And Qasemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer garment for women, was, however, the main subject for the WCC assessment for the village.

The value of Iran’s handicrafts exports



stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country’s handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

Iran preparing to partake in Dubai Expo 2020

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Iran’s tourism sector is preparing to participate in Dubai Expo 2020, which will be held from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, the deputy tourism minister has announced.

The Expo ranks third among the most important world events after the World Cup and the Olympics, ISNA quoted Vali Teymouri as saying on Thursday.

Iran’s pavilion at Expo is planned to showcase each province’s strengths and assets in tourism, cultural heritage, handicrafts, as well as its natural sites, traditional ceremonial practices, and historical significance, the official explained.

Considering more than 192 countries participating and more than 25 million visitors anticipated, the expo would be a great opportunity to promote Iranian tourism, the official added.

Since Dubai is close to Iranian southern cities and islands, and as the borders will reopen soon for foreign tourists, countless expo visitors could be attracted to Iran as well, he said.

The official noted that Iran will attend the event with

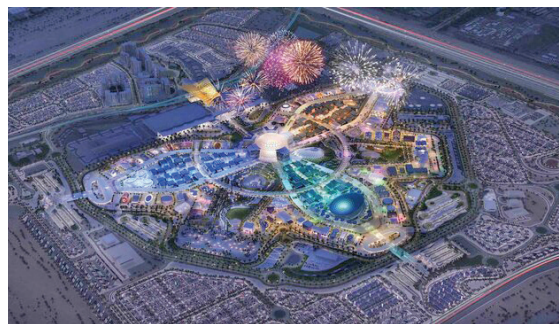
the motto of “Iran, An Ancient and Stable Civilization with a Diversity of Ethnicities” to introduce the Iranian rich culture to the visitors.

Taking part in the Expo is also intended to promote economic, social, and cultural links with the countries attending the event, he mentioned.

Expo 2020 originally was scheduled for October 20, 2020 –April 10, 2021, but due to the outbreaks of the coronavirus, the event has been postponed. However, the organizers keep the name Expo 2020 for marketing and branding purposes.

Throughout the years, World Expos have been global events dedicated to sharing top-notch innovation, showcasing ground-breaking inventions, and discovering resolutions to fundamental challenges by facing humanity. They are organized every five years and last for six months.

Experts expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after coronavirus contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.



The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

More funds needed to complete fossil site’s underway projects in northwest Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Completion of the underway projects of a fossil site in the city of Maragheh, northwestern East Azarbaijan province, needs more monetary contributions, an official with the province’s Department of Environment has announced.

Considering the importance of paleontological excavations in this city and as a favorite destination for fossilologists, the scientific and tourism capacities of the city should be considered, ISNA quoted



Mohammad Medadi as saying on Thursday. However, to pursue excavations and fossil discoveries, it is essential to increase funding, the official added.

The fossil site of Maragheh is one of the richest fossil areas in the world, and in the last study conducted, ancestral fossils of mammoths, giraffes, and deer were found in this area.

It was found that the fossil layers in Maragheh date back to the end of the Cenozoic period, approximately seven

to twelve million years ago, and that scientific exploration can provide accurate information about the lives of these gigantic animals.

As a result of the presence of mastodon and mammoth fossils (prehistory fossils), the fossil area of Maragheh has global fame and is now under the protection of the province’s Department of Environment.

As the first national, natural, and fossil remnant of Iran, Maragheh has the highest rating of environmental protection.

Ancient pigeon tower restored as tourist destination

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A mudbrick pigeon tower in central Iran, where droppings were once collected as fertilizer centuries ago, has been restored to its former state but this time as a tourist destination.

The ‘tower’ stands tall in the village of Azizabad, Tiran-Karvan county of Isfahan province.

“Azizabad village has been home to many pigeon towers, but unfortunately one of these towers was destroyed due to the passage of time. The tower underwent urgent restoration based under the supervision of cultural heritage experts,” CHTN quoted a local tourism official as saying on Tuesday.

Each of such bird homes, where the droppings could be collected and used as fertilizer, can hold as many as 14,000 pigeons.

Each of such bird homes can reportedly hold as many as 14,000 pigeons. It is not clear when such pigeon houses were built first but according to the comments by ancient travelers, at least they have been existed since 800 years ago. For the first time, “Ibn Battuta” the famous Moroccan traveler mentioned pigeon houses.

Moreover, according to historians Tamerlane after knowing their functions, ordered to built such places in his capital, Bukhara. Also the famous French traveler, Sharden who visited Iran during the 16th century, again mentioned different pigeon houses in Iran, especially in



Isfahan and Yazd. During the invasion of Afghans, most of them were ruined, probably as a result of being used as shelters.

Isfahan, in central Iran, is famed for having a rich heritage of pigeon towers; most of them were built in the 17th century. The architecture of these towers is based on the vernacular architecture of Iran.

The environs of Isfahan are dotted with bizarre but very picturesque pigeon towers. In contrast to a European dovecot, which often housed pigeons to be used as meat, in Iran, the pigeons were never eaten. Here pigeon towers

were used as guano factories to produce fertilizers for the melons that have always been the pride of the region. The guano was also used in the manufacture of gunpowder.

Pigeon towers are of considerable size, often 10.5-12 m high, of sturdy construction and fine proportions. The pigeon houses are usually built of mud-brick. Unbelievably varied, often decorated by ornate cupolas and muqarnas friezes, they are so charming that it is well worth going even great distances to see them. It is an efficient use of space inside the towers; the walls were strengthened with interior arches. The ceiling is of a barrel-vaulted kind.

Although there are never two identical pigeon towers, all conform to a single plan. Each tower consists of an outer drum, buttressed internally to prevent collapse and to support the inner drum that rises perhaps a third as high as the main structure. Pigeons can get to their nets through some passages which are such narrow that it is impossible to other birds such as eagles or falcons to enter. At the bottoms, there are some smooth parts of stucco works. These parts can avoid snakes to ascend. In some cases, they put a bowl of milk at the center with limes around it. As snakes like milk, they try to get it but will be stuck in the lime.

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

UNESCO sites in Khuzestan determined for joint project by Iranian, Italian missions

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Three UNESCO World Heritage sites in Khuzestan province have been selected as the pilot area of a joint project to be undertaken by Iranian and Italian missions.

World Heritage sites of Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Hydraulic System have been selected as the pilot zone of a joint project, which will be carried out by Iranian and Italian experts, IRNA quoted a provincial official as saying on Thursday.

The scheme, which touches upon cultural heritage, tourism, and

handicrafts, was initially launched in 2019 and subsequently interrupted due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It restarted its operational phase with a roundtable on cultural heritage promotion and responsible tourism development, held last week at the residence of the Italian Ambassador in Tehran, Giuseppe Perrone.

According to Perrone his embassy is highly responsible for depicting the richness of “so deep and so complete cultural ties”, which have long been developed between the two nations. “I think because our cultural ties are so

deep and so complete in every area, we do have a responsibility to showcase this richness and to tell people the story of this important connection that has always existed between Italy and Iran in different areas, so we look forward to our future projects which are going to be quite amazing as well.”

In November 2019, on the sidelines of the ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the joint cultural heritage, the Italian envoy said: “Italian tourists are fond of Iran because it has a natural diversity that is appealing to them. Italians are also fond of Iran’s unique antiquities.”



Isfahan, Porto to sign sister city agreement

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – The cities of Porto and Isfahan will soon sign a sister city agreement as the two cities have common cultural, architectural and historical features, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

A sister city, or twin town, relationship is a form of legal or social agreement between two geographically and politically distinct localities for the purpose of promoting cultural and commercial ties.

While there are early examples of international links between municipalities akin to what we call today sister cities or twin towns dating back to the 9th Century, the modern concept was first established and adopted worldwide during the Second World War.

Porto is the second most important cultural and historical city in Portugal after the Portuguese capital, and in 2001, it was named the cultural capital of the continent.

The historical feature of the city was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage



age List in 1996. Porto, like Isfahan, is considered as the leading architectural city of its country and continent, so that

the most prestigious scientific centers of architecture in the world are located there. Due to the common features of Porto

and Isfahan, the town twinning agreement will soon be inked, Iman Hojjati, director of Communications and International Affairs of Isfahan Municipality, said.

The initial proposal for twinning was made by the Iranian Embassy in Lisbon (the capital of Portugal), he stated.

He went on to note that Isfahan has sister city agreements with 13 cities and is a member of 9 networks of world cities.

The city has so far signed agreements with Xi'an, Kuala Lumpur, Freiburg, Florence, Havana, Lahore, St. Petersburg, Yash, Barcelona, Yerevan, Dakar, Baalbek, and Kuwait, he said.

In addition to the common features, the sister city agreement has shown the importance of friendship between the people of the two cities and a way to create a positive atmosphere among the nations, he explained.

In addition to Porto, a sister partnership agreement will be signed with the two cities of Samarkand in Uzbekistan, and Hyderabad in India, he noted.

Over 180 forest reserves identified in a year

→ 1 The Forest Organization has reported that from 1993 to 2020, a total of 347 forest reserves with an area of over 409,000 hectares were registered, but last year 182 forest reserves with an area of 410,000 hectares were identified, which has grown by 107 percent.

Iran's biosphere reserves

Iran is a vast country with a wide range of biodiversity and natural resources, with 13 biosphere reserves named Golestan, Miankaleh, Arasbaran, Urmia, Arjan and Parishan, Geno, Hara, Hamoon, Dena, Tange Sayad, Sabzkooh, Turan, Kavir and Kopet Dagh has been registered in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program, he explained.

Biosphere reserves include terrestrial, marine, and coastal ecosystems. Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. There are currently 714 biosphere reserves in 129 countries, including 21 transboundary sites.

The Golestan Biosphere Reserve is located in the north of Iran and forms part of the Caucasus-Iranian highlands,



situated between the sub-humid and semi-arid Caspian regions. A wide variety of habitats and rich biodiversity can be found in the reserve, including 150 bird species, 54 species of reptiles and amphibians, 8 species of huge

carnivores such as the leopard and brown bear, and more than 1,366 plant species.

Dena Biosphere Reserve is located in the Central Zagros Mountains of Iran, with a general slope of more than 60 percent. Dena is also home to a vast range of plant species and several endangered and endemic mammal species. Oak species dominate the highlands, while pistachio and almond are common at lower elevations.

Iran home to over 31,000 animal species

According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fish, about 30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

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. The supervised areas currently reached 18.5 million hectares.

Cabinet approves bill on protection of animals

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – A long-awaited bill on protection of animals which had been proposed over 5 years ago was finally approved by the cabinet of ministers, IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

Since 2016, some animal cruelty cases have been spotted in the country which mounted public criticism and pushed the Majlis to pass a law against cruelty to animals.

The Department of Environment (DOE) proposed a bill on the protection of animals, which was decided to be initially approved by the presidential office for legal affairs and then the Majlis and in case of approval to be sent to the Expediency Council.

Outlawing all forms of cruelty to animals, the law consists of 23 articles and 15 notes; which will be implemented after the approval of the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) and the Guardian Council.

It concerns any kinds of animal abuse such as beatings, torture, deliberate injuries, unnecessary surgeries, mutilating, mass murder, or killing animals whether for food, clothing, or other products, and keeping of animals for entertainment, education, research, and etc.

Destruction of habitats or nesting sites, poisoning the animals or their food, abduction, release of stray animals or non-native species in the margins of towns, villages,

or nature is considered a crime by the law.

Any kind of exploitation or use of animals that is not compatible with nature and their life cycle, including sexual abuse, persecution, animal circuses, training, or using the animals for illegal purposes, including warfare are outlawed.

Not considering ethics or health factors in their captive breeding, keeping, researching, transporting, buying, selling, importing, and exporting animals so as to cause suffering, sickness, and injury to the animal, fall into the animal abuse circle.

Mohammad Reza Tabesh, head of the Majlis environment committee, said in August 2019 that the government and the judiciary



have been slow to submit a bill proposed over 3 years ago (to the Majlis) on the protection of animals, referring to a video that emerged online showing the killings of stray dogs by the municipality in Tehran suburbs.

UN: Don't forget to save species while fixing global warming

To save the planet, the world needs to tackle the crises of climate change and species loss together, taking measures that fix both and not just one, United Nations scientists said.

A joint report Thursday by separate U.N. scientific bodies that look at climate change and biodiversity loss found there are ways to simultaneously attack the two global problems, but some fixes to warming could accelerate extinctions of plants and animals.

For example, measures such as expansion

of bioenergy crops like corn, or efforts to pull carbon dioxide from the air and bury it, could use so much land—twice the size of India—that the impact would be “fairly catastrophic on biodiversity,” said co-author and biologist Almut Arneth at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany. Policy responses to climate change and biodiversity loss have long been siloed, with different government agencies responsible for each, said co-author Pamela McElwee, a human ecologist at Rutgers University.

The problems worsen each other, are intertwined and in the end hurt people, scientists said.

“Climate change and biodiversity loss are threatening human well-being as well as society,” said report co-chair Hans-Otto Portner, a German biologist who helps oversee the impacts group of the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Earth’s naturally changing climate shaped what life developed, including humans, but once people in the industrialized world start-

ed pumping fossil fuels into the air, that triggered cascading problems, Portner said.

“It’s a high time to fix what we got wrong,” he said. “The climate system is off-track and the biodiversity is suffering.”

There are many measures that can address both problems at once, the report said.

“Protecting and restoring high-carbon ecosystems,” such as tropical forests and peatlands, should be high priority, said co-author Pete Smith, a plant and soil scientist at the University of Aberdeen.

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Iran pioneer in cancer innovation, research among Islamic countries

Iran has the most research and innovation in the field of cancer both in the region and among Islamic countries, deputy health minister Reza Malekzadeh has stated.

Referring to the great progress in cancer research, he said that “We have been able to play a role in this area globally.”

He added that one of the hopes for early detection of cancer is the use of urine and blood tests for people who are susceptible to cancer. “We have conducted researches in the field of blood and urine biomarkers, which will help control cancers in the country,” he said. Pointing out that there are about 250,000 cancer patients in the country, Malekzadeh noted that 50,000 people die each year from the disease and 125,000 new patients develop cancer, so that the number of people with the disease increases each year.

ایران بیشترین نوآوری و تحقیقات سرطان را بین کشورهای اسلامی دارد

معاون تحقیقات و فناوری وزیر بهداشت، درمان و آموزش پزشکی گفت: ایران هم در منطقه و هم بین کشورهای اسلامی بیشترین میزان تحقیقات و نوآوری ها در حوزه سرطان را داشته است.

دکتر رضا ملک زاده روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا با اشاره به اینکه ما در زمینه تحقیقات سرطان پیشرفت های خیلی خوبی داشتیم، گفت: ما در سطح جهانی هم توانستیم در این حوزه نقش آفرین باشیم.

وی افزود: یکی از امیدهای خیلی روشن برای تشخیص زودرس سرطان، استفاده از آزمایش ادرار و خون برای افرادی است که استعداد سرطان را دارند.

معاون وزیر بهداشت گفت: در ایران تحقیقات خیلی خوبی در زمینه بیومارکرهای ادراری و خونی در دست اجرا داریم و امیدواریم با این کار، امکان کنترل سرطان ها در کشور میسر شود.

ملک زاده با اشاره به اینکه در حال حاضر تعداد ۲۵۰ هزار مبتلا به سرطان در کشور داریم، گفت: هر سال حدود ۵۰ هزار نفر بر اثر این بیماری می‌میرند و ۱۲۵ هزار بیمار جدید اضافه می‌شوند. در نتیجه هرساله تعداد مبتلایان این بیماری بیشتر می‌شود.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24-hour period started from 2:00 p.m. June 10

New cases	9,966
New deaths	154
Total cases	3,013,078
Total deaths	81,796
New hospitalized patients	1,327
Patients in critical condition	3,494
Total recovered patients	2,624,802
Diagnostic tests conducted	21,313,589
Doses of vaccine injected	5,061,020

Lipar Wetland: pink treasure of southeastern Iran

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** – Lipar Wetland, also known as Pink Wetland, is one of the unique natural attractions of the southeastern city of Chabahar, competing with only four similar wetlands in the world.

The pink wetland of Lipar is located just 200 meters from the northern edge of the Sea of Oman and south of a namesake village in Chabahar, in Sistan-Baluchestan province.



The wetland is one of the alluring natural attractions of the area where those who are fond of the marine environment can catch a glimpse of beautiful scenery. What stands out about the wetland is its water which looks pink.

Lipar Wetland looks pink because of the presence of planktons. The abundance of organic and mineral matters, which flow through the rivers and firths in Lipar Wetland, increase the amount of biological process in some seasons of the year.

This body of water is home to a large number of species, flora, and fauna, which is a suitable destination for birdwatching.

The prominent species of bird of Lipar Wetland are coot, phoenicopter, grebes, great egret, grey heron, sandgrouse, See-see partridge, Grey francolin, Tawny eagle, Eurasian teal, kestrel, and Western swamphen.

Sistan-Baluchestan province especially Chabahar city has a unique variety of tourist attractions. Pristine and beautiful beaches, ports, and mangrove forests are just a little of this beautiful nature.

National Parks of Iran

(Part 1)

The first conservation law, passed in 1956, created the Game Council of Iran (Carp, p. 163). In view of the large size of the country and the limited funds at the disposal of the Game Council, it was recognized that, if a significant percentage of the available resources were to be allocated to areas of special importance from an ecological point of view, the efficacy and success of the conservation effort would be greatly enhanced.

Thus, was born the concept of “protected regions” (later designated protected areas), where hunting would be prohibited unless a special license was obtained from the Game Council; besides, utilization of rangeland and forest incorporated within their confines was subject to restrictions promulgated by the Game Council and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



Proposals for the creation of wildlife parks were advanced in later years, shortly prior to the submittal of a new bill to the parliament (Majles), which, when enacted into law in 1967, established the Game and Fish Department of Iran. That law incorporated and clearly defined the concepts and legal aspects of both wildlife parks and protected regions.

Protected regions were created to provide conditions conducive to the regeneration and amelioration of representative habitats and/or endangered species. Such regions were also envisaged as centers of breeding stocks for the repopulation of wildlife species that were on the wane in adjacent areas. Any part of the country could be declared a protected region; the presence or absence of a human population was legally immaterial, but in practice an effort was made to exclude villages and other habitations.

Restrictions on hunting and fishing were enforced, while grazing, woodcutting, and the like were curtailed in accordance with regulations enacted jointly by the Game and Fish Department and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

(Source: Encyclopædia Iranica)

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.

Imam Ali (AS)

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

■ Paintings by Samira Alikhanzadeh are currently on view in an exhibition at Asar Gallery.

The exhibit will run until July 9 at the gallery located at No. 16 Barforushan St., Iranshahr St.

■ An exhibition of painting by Shiva Yurdkhani is currently underway at Dastan Basement Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until June 23 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.

■ Vista Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Sara Motamednia.

Entitled “Mortal”, the exhibition will run until June 21 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.

■ Roshanak Rezaimehr and Atefeh Jalali are showcasing their latest paintings in a joint exhibition at Ehsan Gallery.

The exhibit named “Awakening Illusion” will run until June 16 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

■ Leila Banki is displaying her latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at Atbin Gallery.

The exhibit will run until June 22 at the gallery that can be found at 42 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave. near the Parkway Intersection.

■ Aran Gallery is currently hanging paintings by Parisa Hejazi and Manijeh Hejazi in a joint exhibition.

The exhibition will run until June 25 at the gallery located at 5 Lolagar St., Neauphle-le-Chateau St.

■ Paintings by Reza Shafhi are on display in an exhibition at Delgosha Gallery.

The exhibit entitled “Recent Paintings” will run until June 22 at the gallery located at 30 Mohajer Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.

■ Paintings on popular Iranian vocalist Mohammadreza Shajarian by a group of artists, including Sana Mirzai, Fatemeh Alavi, Zahra Akbari, Simin Goli, Narges Ahmadi, Hana Arbabi, Mehri Jafari and Sahar Mokhtari, are currently on view in an exhibition at Ayrik Gallery.

The exhibition will run until June 16 at the gallery located at Ayrik Center on East Ferdows Blvd.

■ Negar Gallery is currently playing host to a joint exhibition of paintings by Hanieh Darbandi, Ali Rahimi and Hossein Vahabi.

The exhibition entitled “Someone Has Been Sitting Here!” will be running until June 23 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, East Roshanai St. in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.

Multimedia

■ Artworks in various media by Anita Hashemi, Farbod Farvan, Soheil Rad, Fatemeh Termshir, Atefeh Termshir, Dorsa Basij and Sepehr Anvari are currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

The exhibit entitled “Withered Years” will continue until June 22 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.

Iranian movies competing in Animafest Zagreb

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian movies “The Fourth Wall”, “Haboob” and “Happy Banana” are competing in Animafest Zagreb, an international festival for animated films underway in the Croatian capital of Zagreb.

“The Fourth Wall” by Mahbubeh Kalai is competing in the Grand Competition of the festival, which will come to an end on Saturday.

The film is about home and family, relationships, desires, wishes. Everything is summarized in a kitchen. The stuttering boy is alone there, playing with his imagination.

The short animation will also be screened in the Perspectives section of the Annecy International Animation Film Festival, which will open in the French city next week.

The Iranian ambassador to Zagreb, Parviz Esmaeili, and director Kalai attended a screening of the animation at Animafest Zagreb on Wednesday, the Persian service of IRNA reported on Thursday.

“We feel proud of the Iranian artists who highlight our county in international events, and we will heartily support them,”



Director Mahbubeh Kalai (2nd L), Iranian Ambassador Parviz Esmaeili and his colleagues attend a screening of “The Fourth Wall” at Animafest Zagreb in the Croatian capital of Zagreb on June 9, 2021. (IRNA)

Esmaeili said after watching the animation.

“Haboob” by Mahsa Samani and “Happy Banana” by Reyhaneh Kavosh have been selected to be screened in the Films for Children Competition category.

“Haboob” is about a man and his daughter who are accustomed to living in harmony and at peace with nature, but some disruptions change their lovely little life.

The movie won a special mention from the Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (ITFS) in Germany in May.

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

“Happy Banana” tells the story of Galin, a grumpy gorilla that lives in a forest. He didn’t have any friends until some day a banana smiled at him and changed everything.

Iranian directors have always been frequent visitors to Animafest Zagreb. “Mr. Deer” by Mojtaba Musavi won a special mention from the 28th edition of the festival in 2018.

“The Lake” by Masud Mirzai named photo of the year at Siena Awards

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian photographer Masud Mirzai’s single picture “The Lake” was crowned photo of the year at the Creative Photo Awards – Siena Awards.

The Creative Photo Awards organized in the Siena, Italy, “aims to recognize and reward visionary artists using photographic processes and images.”

“The Lake” depicts a woman walking on the beach of Lake Urmia, the largest lake in West Asia and the sixth-largest saltwater lake on the Earth, located between the Iranian provinces of East Azarbaijan and West Azarbaijan.

It was selected among tens of thousands of images submitted by photographers from 137 countries.

Top photos in 17 categories, including fine art, conceptual, abstract, nature & landscape, architecture,

animals & pets and still life, are honored every year at the Creative Photo Awards.

The winning images for each category will be showcased at an exhibition “I Wonder If You Can” during the Siena Awards Festival, which will be held from October 23 to December 5.

Together with the collective exhibitions “Imagine All the People Sharing All the World”, “Above Us Only Sky”, personal exhibitions of the most important international photographers will be organized.

“The Creative Photo Awards aims to be a perfect instrument, which allows a person to communicate with the world and share their vision,” organizers have said.

“What matters is your unique vision and your skills in translating that vision into exceptional and original work,” they added.



“The Lake” by Iranian photographer Masud Mirzai was selected as photo of the year at the Creative Photo Awards – Siena Awards in Italy.

Yasmina Reza’s “Bella Figura” coming to stage at Tehran theater

A R T **TEHRAN** — An Iranian troupe led by director Shaahin Chegini is scheduled to perform French writer Yasmina Reza’s “Bella Figura” at Tehran’s Jamshid Mashayekhi Hall on Sunday.

The play will go on stage based on a Persian translation by Puya Vakilzadeh. The play has also been translated into Persian by Behruz Sarvalishahi.

The story of “Bella Figura” is about a man and woman in the parking lot of a small town restaurant.

Andrea, a single mother and pharmaceutical technical assistant, is still in the car. Her lover, glazier-entrepreneur Boris, tries to persuade her to get out — despite the slip he just committed: to mention that the restaurant was recommended to him by his wife...

A little later, another couple appears on site: Eric and Françoise, accompanied



by Yvonne, Eric’s mother. It quickly becomes clear that they are unhappily linked to the other two.

Sara Oliai, Zeinab Bigdeli, Ilia Parsian, Kiarash Radmehr, Ruzbeh Soltani, Nima Asgari, Paria Golmohammadi and Shiva Mehrju are members of the troupe.

Iranian troupes have always regarded Reza’s plays. Her Tony Award-winning play “Art” by Iranian director Jalal Ahmadpur went on stage in January at Tehran’s Mehregan Theater.

Set in Paris, the story of the play revolves around three friends named Serge, Marc and Yvan, who find their previously solid 15-year friendship on shaky ground when Serge buys an expensive painting. The canvas is white, with several fine white lines.

It focuses on the meaning of art and friendship, to both the man who bought the painting and the two friends who

come to see it.

In addition, Sheida Sajjadian directed Reza’s “Life x 3” during the 5th Iranian Women’s Theater Festival in July 2006.

“Life X 3” presents three versions of two couples (and an offstage six-year-old) trying to make a success of one evening despite the fact that they neither like nor respect one another.

When Hubert and Ines arrive a day early to dinner at the home of Henri and Sophie, Sophie barely has time to change out of her robe and Ines is in a foul mood about a run in her stocking-from there, the evening can only go downhill.

Over an improvised meal of chocolate fingers and potato chips, the couple’s trade insults on every social and professional level, and loyalties are changed with the same rapidity that glasses of Sancerre are drained.

Persian readers welcome “Secondhand Time”

A R T **TEHRAN** — The fifth edition of a Persian translation of Belarussian Nobel laureate Svetlana Alexievich’s book “Secondhand Time: The Last of the Soviets” has come to Iranian bookstores.

Cheshmeh released the first edition of the book translated from the Russian edition into Persian by Abdolmajid Ahmadi in 2019.

“Secondhand Time” is an oral history of the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the emergence of a new Russia.

Bringing together dozens of voices in her distinctive documentary style, “Secondhand Time” is a monument to the collapse of the USSR, charting the decline of Soviet culture and speculating on what will rise from the ashes of Communism.

As in all her books, Alexievich gives voice to women and men whose stories are lost in the official narratives of nation-states, creating a powerful alternative history from



This combination photo shows Belarussian writer Svetlana Alexievich and the front cover of the Persian translation of her book “Secondhand Time”.

the personal and private stories of individuals.

Alexievich was born in Ukraine in 1948 and grew up in Belarus. As a newspaper journalist, she spent her early career in Minsk compiling firsthand accounts of World War II, the Soviet-Afghan War, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Chernobyl meltdown.

Her unflinching work—“the whole of our history...is a huge common grave and a bloodbath”—earned her persecution from the Lukashenko regime and she was forced to emigrate.

She lived in Paris, Gothenburg and Berlin before returning to Minsk in 2011. She has won a number of prizes, including the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Prix Médicis, and the Oxfam Novib/PEN Award. In 2015, she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Several other books by Alexievich, including “Voices from Chernobyl” and “Zinky Boys”, have previously been published in Persian.

Prophet Joseph (AS) in Persian art

Part 2

Such images as that of Joseph (AS) asking Jacob (AS) for a jeweled staff from heaven, or “Joseph arriving before the king of Egypt”, are unique.

In its most celebrated manuscript, which is one of the septet that comprises Jami’s Haft Owrang, the illustration depicting the final scene of Joseph’s marriage to Zolaykha might also reflect a real event in the life of Ebrahim Mirza (d. 1577), the Safavid prince who commissioned the manuscript.

The possibility that the image of Joseph (AS), the legendary paragon of youthful beauty, is the portrait of a historical person seems doubtful, given the tendency in contemporary Persian painting toward idealized depictions of human features.

So the miniature of Joseph (AS) in the

banquet given for his wedding, though not an actual portrait of Ebrahim Mirza, could be seen as reflecting an actual event in the life of that young Safavid prince.

After the 1630s, the sole commission by Shah Tahmasp (r. 1524-76), perhaps the most influential patron of Persian painting, was an illustrated Falnameh “Book of Divination”, which contains a painting of Joseph (AS) enthroned.

The appeal of Zolaykha’s love for Joseph (AS) as a Sufi allegory underlay the execution of almost countless laconic miniatures of Joseph (AS) that illustrated commercially produced versions of Jami’s romance, including some whose Persian text was transliterated into another script, such as Hebrew.

Shiraz and Kashmir were the two principal

centers of production. A manuscript of Jami’s Yusuf o Zolaykha produced in Kashmir in the 18th century contains more than seventy miniatures.

Miniatures of Joseph (AS) continued to illustrate the Bustan of Sadi, other Persian classics such as the Divan of Hafez, or works with religious and mythical narratives that invoked Joseph’s story, like Mirkhan’s Rawzat al-Safa.

Images of Joseph (AS) from the later Safavid period are also extant in the wall paintings at the Chehel Sotun Palace in Isfahan, as well as in single-sheet drawings and portraits that became especially popular from the beginning of the 17th century.

The illustration “Zolaykh meeting Yusuf in her newly built palace” in the Golshan anthology (a collection of prose and poetry

with 100 miniature illustrating episodes described in poems) from the Zand era (1750-79), paradoxically retains the two-dimensional flatness of earlier schools at the same time as it exhibits devices of European painting such as perspective.

The paintings of “Joseph with a pair of gazelles” in oil on canvas from the 19th century reflects the prominence of life-size painting during the Qajar period.

The definitive development affecting the portrayal of Joseph (AS) in the Qajar period is its inclusion, along with heroes of the Shahnameh and the martyrs of Karbala in what is commonly referred to as the coffee-house paintings. This trend in painting continues, mostly on canvas, into the present time.

(Source: Encyclopedia Iranica) (Concluded)