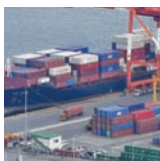




Elections will strengthen Iran's soft power, Army chief says *Page 2*



Persepolis to meet Esteghlal in Hazfi Cup quarters *Page 3*



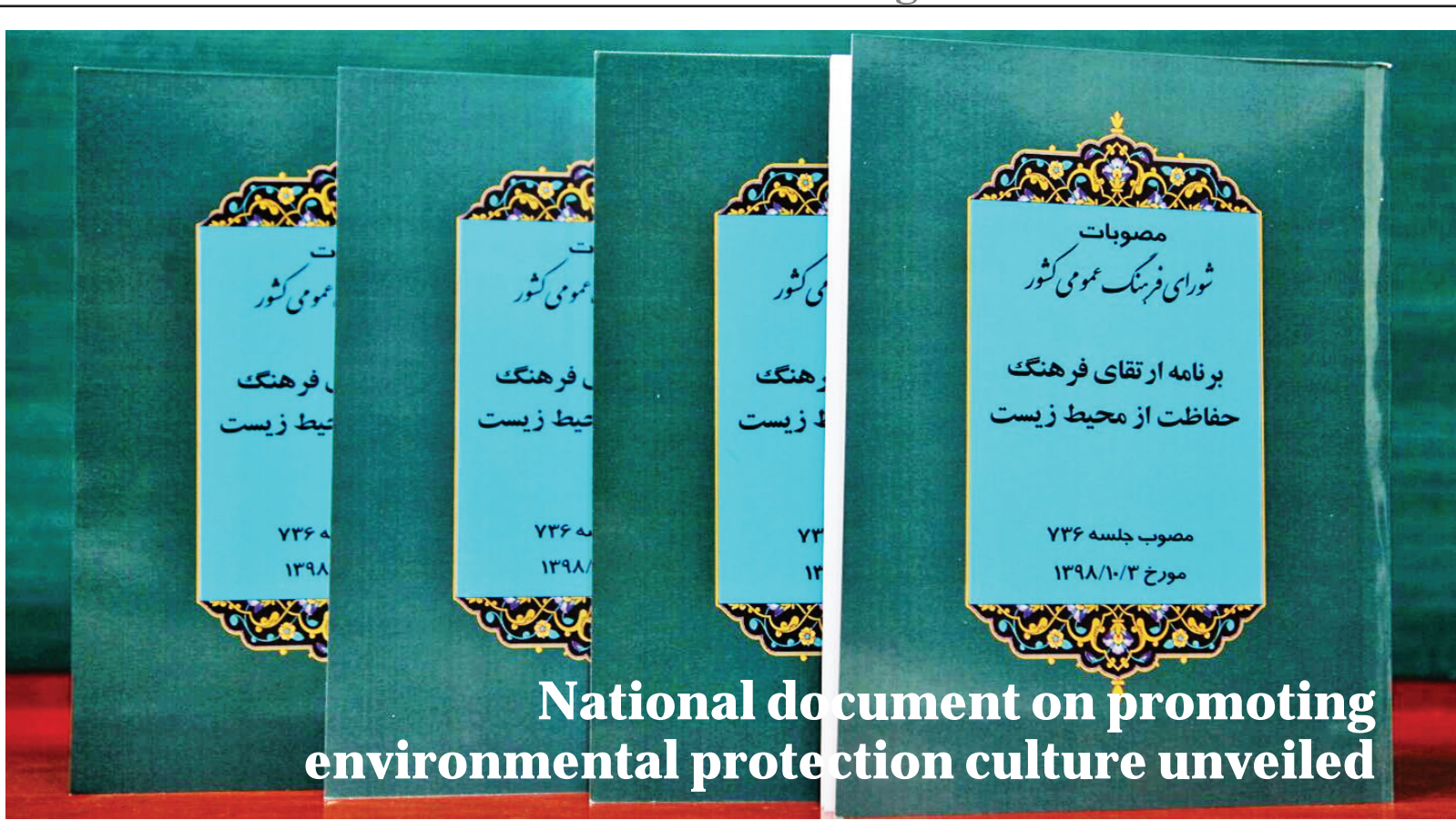
Monthly non-oil exports rise over 27% yr/yr *Page 4*



2,000 Iranian elites abroad back to domestic business environment *Page 7*

Mixed signals

The West's attitude leaves the future of negotiations in the dark **See page 3**



National document on promoting environmental protection culture unveiled

Naval mission to the Atlantic increases Iran's strategic depth: admiral

TEHRAN - Iran's "strategic depth" in the sea has increased, Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari has said in a commentary published on Sunday.

The comments by Sayyari, the deputy Army chief for coordination affairs, comes as an Iranian destroyer and support vessel are now sailing in the Atlantic Ocean on a rare mission far from Iran.

In his commentary Sayyari said the Iranian naval fleet has entered the Atlantic Ocean without requesting access to a foreign port to show "its powerful

presence in open seas in accordance with international maritime rules."

The naval mission is being carried out by the vessel Makran and the destroyer Sahand, which is "completely manufactured" by Iran.

"The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran had succeeded to send its naval fleet to distant waters including the Indian Ocean, the Pacific, and the Mediterranean. And now is able to materialize the promise of presence in the Atlantic Ocean,

Continued on page 3

WB sees Iranian economy expanding 2.1% in 2021

TEHRAN - Iranian economy is projected to grow by 2.1 percent in 2021 as booming domestic production outweighs the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, according to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report released on June 8.

"In the Islamic Republic of Iran, growth is forecast to recover by 2.1 percent in 2021 and 2.2 percent in 2022 with a rebound in industrial production outweighing con-

tinued suppressed demand for services due to a high number of COVID-19 cases," the report stated.

According to the World Bank, Iranian economy also exceeded expectations in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) as the country's industrial and productive sectors grew significantly against all the odds.

Continued on page 4

TEHRAN - The national document on promoting environmental protection culture was unveiled on Sunday by Department of Environment Chief Issa Kalantari, and Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi.

This document defines seven strategies and fifty-four actions aimed at increasing cross-sectoral and inter-institutional partnerships. It addresses issues such as the environment, environmental protection, culture of envi-

ronmental protection, environmental education, and social responsibility, life resources, pollutants, clean energy, green economy, environmental literacy, sustainable development, green jobs, and green management.

The main purpose of the document is to protect the country's environment and preserve its natural resources by promoting the culture of environmental protection in society.

Continued on page 7

Sanctions have proven ineffective: American economist

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI
Noting that the sanction is a failed policy, a professor of applied economics at Johns Hopkins University says that the U.S. is totally addicted to sanctions as an "economic weapon of war".

"The U.S. is totally addicted to sanctions as an economic weapon of war. At present, the U.S. has in place 8,842 sanctions," Steve H. Hanke tells the Tehran Times.

Hanke is one of the American economists that believes sanctions have a long history of not achieving their stated goals.

The professor of Johns Hopkins University is famous for his idea of using gold as anchor currency to contain effects of sanctions, saying, "If Iran adopted a currency board and used gold as its anchor currency, Iran would make the rial as good as gold."

Following is the text of the interview with Steve H. Hanke:

Apparently the U.S. is getting more addicted to sanctions as an economic weapon. It was the case during Trump's presidency when he imposed harsh sanctions on Iran within his "maximum pressure" policy against the Islamic Republic. Also, the U.S. is using sanctions against Russia and Turkey. Do you think the sanction policy has proved successful for Washington?

The U.S. is totally addicted to sanctions as an economic weapon of war. At present, the U.S. has in place 8,842 sanctions. I, for one, oppose sanctions as a matter of principle and as a matter of practice. As a starting point and a matter of principle, free trade is, in my view, the correct principle. States should not be engaged in imposing restrictions on trade, whether it be internal trade within a country or external foreign trade. So, as a matter of principle, sanctions are, in general, "bad." As a practical matter, all the scholarly research points to the fact that sanctions rarely achieve their desired objectives. Indeed, they usually involve, among other things, a rally-around-the-flag effect that simply supports and entrenches those who are targeted. In addition, they have a history of spawning vast webs of international, illegal, mafioso, underworld activities. Sanctions are clearly for losers.

Continued on page 5

Cities, villages of handicrafts strengthen businesses, deputy tourism minister says

TEHRAN - The development of cities and villages of handicrafts [registered by the World Crafts Council] has boosted related businesses through attracting tourists to the regions, the deputy tourism minister has said.

National and global registration allows these cities and villages to be brought to light and their capacities to be promoted, Pouya Mahmoudian announced on Saturday. As soon as a city or village registered on an international scale or at a national level in the field of handicrafts, the development of its infrastructure becomes a public demand by anyone living there, the official explained.

The world cities of handicrafts can become tourist destinations, as well as centers for students, entrepreneurs, and visitors interested in handicraft art, she added.

She also noted that one of the biggest goals of the tourism ministry is to elevate the status of these cities and villages.

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 Qassemabad 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 Qassemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chadour Shab, a kind of homemade outer garment for women, was, however, the main subject for the WCC assessment for the village.

Continued on page 6

China says small groups do not rule the world

The Group of Seven's adoption of a controversial agenda against China has escalated tensions, drawing a stern rebuke from Beijing about outdated assumptions that small groups of countries could still rule and make decisions for the rest of the world.

Leaders of the so-called Group of Seven (G7) largest economies have adopted an openly hostile anti-China stance, including a U.S.-proposed rival plan to counter China's multi-trillion-dollar Belt and Road initiative (BRI) by investing in infrastructure in developing countries.

The adoption of the Build Back Better World (B3W) project came after U.S. President Joe Biden and other G7 leaders held their meeting in southwestern England on Saturday as part of attempts to confront China's surging economic and military rise over the past four decades.

"This is not just about confronting or taking

on China," a senior official in the Biden administration said. "But until now we haven't offered a positive alternative that reflects our values, our standards and our way of doing business."

The White House said the B3W was meant to address "strategic competition with China and commit to concrete actions to help meet the tremendous infrastructure need in low- and middle-income countries."

The White House added that the G7 initiative would be similarly global in scope, estimating that more than \$40 trillion was needed for building infrastructure in developing nations in a "values-driven, high-standard and transparent" partnership.

"B3W will collectively catalyze hundreds of billions of dollars of infrastructure investment for low- and middle-income countries in the coming years," it said.

Continued on page 5

Iraqi anti-terror group says 'fully prepared' to liberate Israeli-occupied Golan Heights

The official spokesman for Iraq's al-Nujaba Movement says his group is fully prepared to liberate the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, emphasizing that all indications attest to the fact that the Tel Aviv is nearing its end.

According to Press TV, Nasr al-Shammari told Lebanon-based al-Ahed news website that his movement formed the Golan Liberation Brigade in 2017, and the force is particularly working with Syrian resistance fighters to take

back the strategic territory.

"Despite the fact that al-Nujaba Movement is actively involved in the fight against Takfiri terrorist groups in Syria, this brigade is dedicated to confronting the usurping Zionist regime and will remain so. This brigade includes elite fighters, who have received excellent training for such wars, and have the necessary weapons for such battles. They can strike targets deep inside the Israeli-occupied lands and not just the

Golan Heights," Shammari said.

"The brigade is ready to liberate the Golan Heights as soon as the zero hour starts. This depends on our brethren in Syria. All indications suggest that the Zionist regime is approaching its end," he pointed out.

Back in 1967, Israel captured large swathes of Syria's Golan Heights during the Six-Day War. The territory has been occupied by the regime since then.



Election hype in Iran

As we get closer to June 18, Iranians are busy supporting their favorite presidential candidates and following their schedules. The candidates have focused on virtual campaigns due to the coronavirus pandemic, but that doesn't stop people from putting up banners and posters.

Washington sees Iran's move in sending tankers to Syria and Venezuela a violation of its hegemony: expert

BY REZA MOSHFEGH

TEHRAN - A Lebanese political expert says that Tehran has antagonized Washington by questioning its hegemony by sending fuel tankers to Syria and Venezuela.

"Washington interprets Iran's move as a violation of American decisions and its hegemony, and it has nothing to do with anything else," Faisal Abd al-Sater tells the Tehran Times.

"With this move, Iran could undermine the American hegemony, and this is the main issue for Iran more than anything else," he adds.

Following is the text of the interview;

What are the implications of sending a big fleet of oil tankers to Syria and Venezuela by Iran?

It is clear that Iran, in its repeated steps to sending tankers carrying oil derivatives to Venezuela and Syria, has proven that the sanctions imposed on it by the American side are illegal in the international sense of the word and that they are unilateral.

She made such a move more than once. But this time, perhaps the Iranian tankers or ships are accompanied by warships crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Perhaps the matter is more important, and it carries multiple signals that may be interpreted on the American side as a challenge to the American will and American security because it is not easy for these tankers to be accompanied by Iranian warships. Of course, on the legal level,

Continued on page 5



Iranian embassy in Baghdad ready for presidential election

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iraj Masjedi, Tehran's ambassador to Baghdad, announced on Saturday that the Iranian embassy in Baghdad is ready to serve as a polling station for Iranian citizens in Iraq as the presidential election in Iran is fast approaching.

The envoy, speaking to IRNA, urged Iranian nationals in Iraq to vote in the election.

In addition to the embassy in Baghdad, polling places have been set up in the Iranian consulates in Karbala, Najaf, Basra, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah, Ambassador Masjedi stated.

Iran's presidential election, as well as city and village council elections, are slated for June 18.

Iran preparing 24 polling places in U.S. for presidential polls

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Interests Section in Washington, D.C., has made preparations for Iranian expatriates in the U.S. to vote in Iran's presidential election.

Mahdi Atefat, director of the Interests Section, has informed IRNA that Iranian citizens living in the United States can vote in the June 18 presidential election at 24 polling places around the country.

He noted that the number of polling places has been increased from two regions in Washington, D.C. and New York to 24 areas in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma, with one or two polling places open in each of those states on Friday.

Atefat also stated that two voting centers will be set up in Oregon and Buffalo, New York State, to allow Iranians living in Canada to vote in those areas.

However, due to the coronavirus limitations, Iranian expats in Canada may have problems crossing the border, he added.

The voting places for the Iranian presidential election will be open on Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time in each state, according to the official.

Six Iranian executive officers, including an observer from the Iranian Constitutional Council (Guardian Council), will be stationed at each polling place, he said.

With the cooperation of the Diplomatic Security Service and local police, arrangements have been taken to secure the security of polling booths, according to Atefat.

Seven candidates are running in Iran's presidential election, which is scheduled for June 18.

This year, more than 59,310,000 Iranians are eligible to vote.

Presidential candidate: Iran will be adamant on JCPOA position if U.S. refuses to abandon previous approaches

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian presidential candidate Mohsen Mehr-Alizadeh says if he is elected president, his administration will continue talks on reviving the 2015 nuclear accord, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

However, Mehr-Alizadeh emphasizes, Iran will maintain its stance on the accord if the U.S. refuses to change its policy.

In an exclusive interview with Press TV and Arabic-language Al-Alam news networks broadcast on Saturday night, Mehr-Alizadeh, a former vice president, presented his views on foreign policy.

Talks in Vienna have been going on since early April between Tehran and the five remaining signatories to the nuclear deal — France, Britain, Germany, Russia, and China — on how to get the U.S. to stop its anti-Iran sanctions and return to compliance with the international agreement.

The deal has been in turmoil since May 2018, when the U.S. under former president Donald Trump abandoned the agreement and slapped oppressive sanctions on Iran, including bans lifted under the agreement and new ones imposed with new labels.

Mehr-Alizadeh, a pro-reform presidential hopeful, stated that Trump made a "clumsy" choice to withdraw the U.S. from the pact, dealing another blow to America's credibility on the global stage.

"With Biden taking office, we expect that they [the Americans] would return to the route of the JCPOA, given the stances they have made thus far and with a shift in their approach," Mehr-Alizadeh stated.

However, he stated that if the U.S. maintains its current attitude and refuses to abandon its previous policies, Iran will "stand solid on its positions."

"We rely on our own economy, people, and the youth, and with the socioeconomic policies that my administration will pursue...we will be able to render the sanctions ineffective," he stated.

The presidential hopeful stated that his administration would follow a "development-based" foreign policy in which it would try to prevent any friction in the international arena and interact with other countries in a "friendly and cooperative climate."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Elections will strengthen Iran's soft power, Army chief says

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Army Commander Adbolrahim Mousavi said on Sunday that the presidential election is an opportunity to reinforce Iran's soft power and promote of the status of the country in the West Asia region.

Major General Mousavi made the remarks in a congress of senior Army officials which was broadcast through videoconference to all Army units across the country.

"An enthusiastic election will act like a strong shield in the face of plots of enemies and provide an opportunity to strengthen the soft power of the system and elevate the status of the country in the region," the Army chief opined.

The top general said voting is a "natural right" that citizens should make use of it and fulfil their responsibilities.

Pointing to the importance of voting, the Army commander said, "The rate of participation in the election shows the level of awareness and people's insight."

People's participation in the elections is "directly related to their destiny," he pointed out.



Elections will make the foes more disappointed and will "carry a clear and important message for them," Mousavi remarked.

"Since long time ago the foes tried to make people disappointed about the future through their media and inspire this idea that participation or non-participation of people in the elections will have no effect

on their destiny."

He predicted that people will participate in the polls enthusiastically and will disappoint the enemies.

The senior commander went on to say that problems will be resolved "only through massive participation and insightful voting."

Noting that the elections will send a positive image of Iran to the world, the commander

Interior minister: Iran to hold presidential election with full security

TEHRAN (FNA) — Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli underlined that the country's upcoming presidential election will be held in a sound and secure atmosphere.

"Iran will not face any security issues at the time of elections. We are ready for prevention in possible cases," the Iranian interior minister said.

Rahmani Fazli predicted a high turnout of voters in the elections on June 18.

In relevant remarks earlier this week, Rahmani Fazli said that the number of polling stations and voting hours will increase for people to participate in the June 18 presidential elections to be serve health protocols and social distancing rules.

Today, a joint meeting was held between Iran's Election Office and the central executive apparatus so as to review reports and comments over the 2021 Iran presidential election, Rahmani Fazli told reporters.

Regarding the security issues of the election process and its necessary measures, a comprehensive report was submitted in this meeting, he said, adding, "Based on continuous observance, we will not face any special security issue during the election in the current situation."

Rahmani Fazli also referred to measures related to observing health protocols, saying that in order to observe health protocols and social distance measures, it was decided that the number of poll stations and the voting hours will be increased.

All agents in poll stations must have a certificate of negative test so as not to spread the virus, the official added.

The Iranian interior ministry on May 25 declared the names of 7 hopefuls qualified by Iran's vetting body, the Guardian Council, to run in the presidential race.

The 7 approved candidates include Iran's Judiciary Chief Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi, Secretary of Iran's Expediency Council and former IRGC commander Mohsen Rezaei, Iranian reformist politician and former Governor of Isfahan Province Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh, former secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran Saeed Jalili, Iranian Member of the Parliament Alireza Zakani, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Abdolnasser Hemmati and Parliament's Vice-Speaker Seyed Amir Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi.

The disapproved candidates had the opportunity to protest at their disqualification vote and the qualified candidates can start their campaign as of May 25 until 24 hours before elections.

Several candidates, including former Defense Minister Hossein Dehqan and former Oil Minister Rostam Qassemi, dropped out of the race in Raeisi's favor before the Guardian Council declared its decision on their qualification.

Raeisi is known to be the favorite pick in this election after he gathered fame in systematic aide to the poor when he headed the Shiite Islam's 8th Imam, Hazrat Ali Ibn-e Moussa's endowment Institution, and then in fighting corruption during his present career as the Judiciary Chief. He was facing mounting calls by his supporters and associated political figures to join the 2021 presidential race, with a top body of Principlists now backing him as their top choice but he has declared himself as an independent candidate.

He served as attorney general from 2014 to 2016, and was deputy Judiciary chief from 2004 to 2014. He was also prosecutor and deputy prosecutor of Tehran in the 1980s and 90s.

Raeisi became a household name in Iran in 2017 when he ran as a Principlist candidate in the presidential election. He lost the vote to Rouhani.

As the Judiciary chief, Raeisi has launched a widespread anti-corruption campaign. He drew up laws to protect women against domestic violence.

The Constitutional Council — also known as the Guardian Council — is a body of Islamic and legal jurists that acts in many ways as a Supreme Court.

Half of the body's 12 members are legal jurists. They are nominated by the head of the Iranian Parliament and put to the vote of the Parliament, while the rest are specialists in Islamic law, and are appointed by the country's highest-ranking authority, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Membership in the Council is for phased six-year terms, which means half the membership changes every three years at random.

The Council affirms or rejects any interpretation of the law made in bills passed by parliament. The members sitting on the Council vet the compatibility of the legislation with the Constitution and its Islamic basis.

Any legislation rejected by the Council will be passed back to the Parliament, which will have to rewrite the proposed bill if it wants it to proceed with it. Disagreements between the two bodies are referred to the Expediency Council for a final decision.

Another one of the Council's tasks is to supervise elections. All candidates standing for election and those for the Assembly of Experts — another supreme body — must secure the Constitutional Council's approval before they can join the race.

Iran will simultaneously hold the 13th presidential election and the 6th City and Village Councils Elections on June 18.

The election in which voters will pick a president for a four-year term will be held as the country is still grappling

with the COVID-19 outbreak.

As stipulated in the Constitution, the President is elected for a four-year term by direct vote, and is allowed only two successive terms, although he can run for a third nonconsecutive term.

To run for president, a candidate must satisfy six key qualifications outlined in the Constitution, namely being an Iranian national and of Iranian origin, having "administrative capacity and resourcefulness" besides a good past record and the qualities of trustworthiness and piety. The President must also have a firm belief in the fundamental principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islam, the official religion of the country.

Hopefuls need the approval of the Constitutional Council — a panel of six theologians and six legal experts — for running in presidential elections.

Presidents are elected with a majority of the vote. If no candidate manages to secure the threshold in the first round, a run-off is held between the two candidates that have received the most votes in the first round.

Under Article 113 of the Iranian Constitution, the President acts as the country's chief executive and is responsible for implementing the law of the land "except in matters directly concerned with the office of the Leadership."

Within the limits of his powers and duties, the President is responsible before "the people, the Leader, and the Islamic Consultative Assembly," as the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) is formally called.

The President appoints ministers, subject to the approval of the Parliament.

The chief executive has the authority to sign agreements with other governments as well as those pertaining to international organizations, after securing parliamentary approval.

Ambassadors to other countries are also appointed upon the recommendation of the Foreign Minister and approval of the President, who also receives the credentials presented by the ambassadors of foreign countries.

The President is tasked with administering national planning, the budget, and state employment affairs.

In addition, he heads the Supreme National Security Council, which protects and supports national interests, the Islamic Revolution, and the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, the President serves as the chairman of Iran's Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, a body set up after the 1979 Revolution to ensure the country's education and culture remain Islamic and will not be influenced by other cultures and ideologies.

Iranians in Pakistan preparing to vote in presidential elections

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran's embassy in Islamabad as well as the consulates-general in four Pakistan's cities are preparing for the June 18 presidential election in Iran.

Iran's ambassador in Islamabad will also preside over the executive board of elections

in Pakistan's capital.

For the presidential election, five polling sites would be set up in different locations in Pakistan, including the Iranian embassy in Islamabad and four consulates in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Quetta.

Iranians living in Pakistan's capital have the

right to vote throughout the election period. The voting age in Iran is 18 years old, and Iranians who do not have a birth certificate or national identity card can vote with a valid passport.

When compared to other cities in Pakistan, Karachi and Lahore have the highest concentrations of Iranians, the most of whom are students

or businessmen.

The presidential and council elections in Iran will take place on June 18. Amirhossein Qazizadeh Hashemi, Alireza Zakani, Mohsen Mehr-Alizadeh, Abdolnaser Hemmati, Mohsen Rezaei, Saeed Jalili, and Seyed Ebrahim Raisi are competing in the elections.

Candidates' views on COVID-19



Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi

On his post-COVID-19 plan, Raeisi said that small businesses have been heavily affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and he will seek to aid them as soon as possible. However, he has not provided details.



Saeed Jalili

Saeed Jalili has reiterated that Iran has great potential, citing production of Iranian vaccine as an example. He said that Iran can be one of the leading countries in production and export of the coronavirus vaccine.



Mohsen Rezaei

Rezaei has said that he will vaccinate the whole country within three months. He has not provided details how he will do it.



Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh

Prasing the healthcare workers, Mehr Alizadeh has harshly criticized government response to the coronavirus pandemic. Yet his critique focused on economic aspects of the pandemic without paying attention to the vaccination program. He said that he will ease insurance costs for healthcare workers.



Alireza Zakani

Zakani has expressed support for the healthcare workers. He has criticized the incumbent administration for limiting the issue of handling the coronavirus pandemic to the Ministry of Health, saying the pandemic has wide-scale dimensions which involves the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Welfare.



Abdolnasser Hemmati

Hemmati has expressed his support for the healthcare workers. He has also said that he will execute general vaccination program by the end of the year.



Amir Hossein Qazizadeh

In his first electoral documentary, Qazizadeh claimed that Iran could have imported 18 million doses of vaccine to prevent the death of thousands of Iranians. He has repeatedly said that Iran has great resources, and the government must help small businesses which have suffered great economic losses during the pandemic crisis.

SPORTS

Persepolis to meet Esteghlal in Hazfi Cup quarters

SPORTS **TEHRAN** – Persepolis football team will play Esteghlal in Iran’s Hazfi Cup quarterfinals.

The Iranian giants will lock horn in Tehran derby clash to see which of the sides will reach the contest’s semifinals. Sepahan also have a difficult match against Foolad in Isfahan. Gol Gohar will face Aluminum in Sirjan.



And First Divisions Malavan and Kheybar Khorramabad will play in Bandar Anzali.

The date of the competition has yet to be announced. The Iran’s Hazfi Cup was founded in 1975 and Esteghlal are the most successful club with seven titles, followed by Persepolis who have won six titles.

Iran basketball to play three friendlies ahead of Olympics

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Iran national basketball team will play three friendly matches prior to the 2020 Olympic Games.

Iran have been drawn in Group A of the Olympics along with the world’s No. 1 the U.S. and France.

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Basketball Federation (IRIBF) Ramin Tabatabaei said Iran will play Japan, Spain and Argentina as part of preparation for the Games.

“After the team return from the Jordan, the team will travel to Tokyo for the training camp. Iran will play Japan three or four times in the camp,” Tabatabaei said.

“We have been invited to Spain as well. After the Tokyo’s camp, our team will meet Spain twice in Valencia and Madrid,” he added.

“We also play Argentina with two days before the Olympic Games begin. We are negotiating with the organizers to play Argentina in Tokyo,” the IRIBF concluded.

Marouf eyes Olympics’ success

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Iran national volleyball team captain Saied Marouf says that the 2021 Volleyball Nations League is a good chance for them to know their strengths and weaknesses ahead of the 2020 Olympic Games.

Marouf’s name is synonymous with the success of the Iranian men’s team over the last decade. His ability to elevate his teammates’ level sets him apart and his outstanding statistical contributions as the primary setter help the 35-year-old transmit inspiration and passion to his teammates, asian-volleyball.net reported.

“There are players in the team whom I have been playing with for 15 years, and there are new and young players who are good and talented,” said Marouf.

“I am trying to create a group that can play together in the same atmosphere and understand each other on the court. I let the players feel free as to how they want to play. If we continue doing this then the young players will be able to contribute their maximum and play without any pressure. We have to support them more and continue to show them the way Iran should play,” the setter added.

Marouf is thrilled to be back after a two-year break for the national team, and he is looking forward to playing at the Olympic Games in Tokyo and to working with Russian coach Vladimir Alekno.

“After two years without volleyball, this is our first tournament with the national team. We are looking forward to the matches here in preparation for Tokyo, which is very important to us because it will be our second Olympics in a row.

“We have a new coach who has been working with us for almost two months, so we are getting to know each other better. We want to get to know our strengths and weaknesses here, and then we have three weeks to work on them before the Olympics.

“Alekno gives us confidence and we are so happy that he is with us. His viewpoint on volleyball is to let the players play freely, and I think that with his confidence in us we will have a good future for the next generation of players,” Marouf concluded.

Ravshan Irmatov chosen to officiate Iran, Iraq match

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Ravshan Irmatov has been chosen to officiate the official match between Iran and Iraq at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

The 43-year-old Uzbek official has been a full international referee for FIFA since 2003.

Iran will meet Iraq in a crucial match on Monday at the Al Muharraq Stadium in Arad, Bahrain.

Iraq sit top of the group with 17 points, two points ahead of Iran.

Shahid Kazeroon lose to Al-Salmiya at Asian Club League Handball C’ship

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Shahid Kazeroon lost to Al-Salmiya SC of Kuwait 30-24 in Group A of the 2020 Asian Men’s Club League Handball Championship on Sunday.

Shahid Kazeroon had lost to Saudi Arabian team Mudhar Club 30-27 in its opening match on Saturday.

Mes Kerman, another Iranian representative, will meet Al-Kuwait SC in Group B later today.

The 2020 Asian Club League Handball Championship is being held from June 12 to 21 at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation.

The competition acts as the qualification tournament for the 2021 IHF Super Globe, with top team from the championship directly qualifying for the event to be held in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.



Mixed signals

The West’s attitude leaves the future of negotiations in the dark

“We need to have a timetable, as we are facing a complex situation,” he added.

Araghchi described verification of U.S. measures as a procedure that has “complexities”.

In a tweet on Sunday, Ulyanov said, “Fully agree that we can’t expect the finalisation of the #ViennaTalks in the days to come. It is almost for sure that we will not be able to clean up the draft final document by the day of the Presidential elections in #Iran (June 18). Nevertheless an agreement is within reach,” Ulyanov tweeted on Sunday.

The Russian diplomat refuted rumors that Rouhani will sign a revised draft before the presidential elections on June 18.

“Playing for time is in no-one’s interest,” German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who is not at the talks, told Reuters, urging all sides to show flexibility and pragmatism.

Iran’s chief negotiator also said that Iran will keep negotiating as long as it is necessary.

Ulyanov said on Saturday that at least two weeks of talks were required.

Enrique Mora, European Union’s deputy secretary general for political affairs, who runs the shuttle diplomacy between Iran and the U.S., has stated that he expects a settlement in this round of negotiations, while other envoys are more skeptical.

According to a Washington Post report published on Saturday, the United States believes the remaining gaps “could be closed in a matter of weeks.”

The Post also said that the Biden administration is pushing for Iran to “explicitly agree that the deal would lead to follow-on negotiations.” Such follow-on negotiations, if Iran agrees, could cover regional security and defense issues as well as a possible ex-

tension to the JCPOA.

Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the JCPOA in May 2018 and imposed harsh sanctions, plunging the Iranian economy into a slump from which it is only just rebounding.

The complexity surrounding the negotiations for reviving the JCPOA comes amid the most recent confession by former Mossad chief Yossi Cohen who in a live TV program on channel 12 implicitly admitted to assassinating Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh and did the sabotage act at Natanz.

Both acts were widely attributed to Israel, but Cohen’s specificity was the closest confirmation yet of Israeli involvement.

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.

Iran has time and again repeated that Washington needs to make a political decision. But Biden and Israel are seemingly too close to depart. Rob Malley knows better than Iran that Tehran will not negotiate on its defensive abilities, and Iranian politicians will not enter JCPOA 2, JCPOA+, and further deals. However, political pundits are pondering the question as to why the U.S. is dragging its feet to reach a conclusion. Some say that Biden is dragging his feet to see what happens in Israel.

If so, then Biden is politically ignorant. Is there a difference between Bibi Netanyahu and Yair Lapid and Naftali Bennet? No. will there be a major policy shift? No. Then, why is Biden waiting for Bennet-Lapid coalition to form cabinet?

He is a following Israel. The Bennet-Lapid coalition has also opposed the JCPOA, so it is highly unlikely that Israel will change its policy towards the JCPOA. Lapid supported Macron’s suggestion to put pressure on Iran to come to the negotiation table 10 years after signing the JCPOA, for a “stronger, longer” deal.

If Biden wants to interact with Iran, he should change his tact. Joe needs to prioritize his goals. While the agreement seems so close, it can slip away from Biden’s hands.

Naval mission to the Atlantic increases Iran’s strategic depth: admiral

→1 a move that is considered a new chapter for presence in open and distant seas,” the deputy Army chief remarked.

Through its powerful presence in open seas thousands of kilometers away from domestic coasts Iran once again “reminded that it is able to meet its need and conduct difficult maritime missions,” the admiral noted.

In addition, Iran showed that it is able to guard security of economy in the sea, he said, adding Iran also proved that through presence in distant waters it helps promote national diplomacy and create an opportunity for exchange of knowledge and information between maritime forces across the world.

The admiral said the naval mission has increased the “strategic depth” of Iran and also brought “dignity for our dear country.”

“However, like always we insist that such measures and moves not only are not a threat to any country but also they can help protect the security of countries, (prove) beneficial, and in line with the campaign against maritime terrorism and maritime rescue operations,” the top commander noted.

The fact the certain countries with colonial history which through their “useless presence” in other regions cause intensification of tensions and arms race express concern about Iran’s presence in open seas, show that the decision by the Iranian army is correct and that Iran’s presence in open seas sends “message of peace and friendship” to the world.

In a commentary on Thursday, Foreign Policy said the United States cannot take action under international



al law against two Iranian ships on voyage toward the North Atlantic Ocean even if the vessels are violating U.S. sanctions.

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.”

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 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.

On Thursday, Politico said the U.S. has been monitoring Iranian Navy ships that are making their way across the Atlantic Ocean, potentially for a weapons delivery to Venezuela. The Biden administration is pressuring the Venezuelan and Cuban governments to turn away the Iranian ships, and a senior administration official warned that the U.S. will take “appropriate measures in coordination with our partners to deter the transit or delivery of such weapons.”

Fox News confuses TV series filming set with other activities in Iran

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Shahrokh Nazemi, the director of media office of Iran’s Permanent Mission to the UN, has dismissed recent allegations raised in a report by Fox News claiming suspicious activities in a region east of Tehran, saying that the satellite images show the set of a TV series filming.

“A few days ago, Fox News published a special report with satellite images of suspicious developments around the Sanjarian site in Jajroud, but actually, the images were related to the vehicles and equipment of the filming location

of the TV series, Nun Kh and its crew,” Nazemi wrote on his twitter page on Saturday.

Fox News claimed earlier this week that it had obtained new satellite images that show unusual activity at Iran’s Sanjarian site, which the U.S. had claimed to be a suspected manufacturing site for “shock wave generators”.

Fox News claimed that the new images obtained from Maxar show 18 vehicles at the site on October 15, 2020, more vehicles and excavation in January along with a new

access road that was later covered up in March of this year. All that is visible by satellite now are excavation swirls and new trenches, according to analysis from Itay Bar Lev of The Intel Lab who worked in conjunction with the Institute for Science and International Security.

Experts believe the report by the U.S. media outlet has damaged the credibility of Washington’s claims about Iran as it displays the unfounded nature of such allegations once again.

Iran might supply India entry to Jask port for strategic oil reserve facility

Iran, at the moment negotiating with world powers for its return to the mainstream world financial scene, might supply India entry to its port of Jask as a base for strategic oil reserves and a standalone fuel pipeline to satisfy New Delhi’s rising vitality calls for.

The proposal was put ahead by Iranian ambassador to India Ali Chegeni at a round-table held this week on the way forward for bilateral ties, amid Tehran’s efforts to barter revival of the nuclear deal that might additionally deliver the Persian Gulf nation into the financial mainstream, according to The Greater India.

The envoy mentioned Iran had opened Bandar-e-Jask — a port on the mouth of the strategically situated Strait of Hormuz — for Indian and Chinese vitality investments. He instructed that India construct its strategic oil reserves at this port and

even assemble a pipeline that originates from Bandar-e-Jask. The strategic crude oil reserve might meet India’s emergency wants in case of disruptions in provide, in response to Chegeni.

This proposed pipeline might bypass Pakistan not like the Iran-India-Pakistan pipeline that by no means took off.

Chegeni anticipated that it was solely a matter of time earlier than sanctions towards Iran had been lifted, following an early revival of an up-to-date Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the Iran nuclear deal, hinting that this may open up alternatives for India within the energy-rich nation.

The Iranian envoy sought Indian investments within the Chabahar port free commerce zone within the backdrop of possible lifting of sanctions within the coming months and he additionally referred to the Iran-India-Afghanistan-Uzbekistan quadrilateral

that’s taking form to attach South Asia and Central Asia through Chabahar Port.

India, Iran and Uzbekistan have arranged a trilateral for joint use of the port. India and Iran have additionally fashioned a trilateral with Afghanistan for a similar port which might play a key position in safeguarding New Delhi’s pursuits in Kabul.

Chegeni mentioned India might revive plans for establishing petrochemical and fertilizer crops both independently or by way of joint ventures with Iranian public-private firms within the Chabahar free commerce zone.

India is planning an enlargement of Iran’s strategically situated Chabahar port by way of the availability of two extra cranes this year. These are along with two comparable cranes New Delhi had provided earlier this year underneath a contract valued at greater than \$25 million. There are additionally



plans to obtain rail-mounted cranes.

Plans are additionally afoot to hyperlink Chabahar port with the International North South Transport Corridor to offer an impetus to commerce with Russia and Eurasia.

The roundtable that was addressed additionally by different senior Iranian diplomats was organized by an upcoming suppose tank, Tillotama Foundation.

Reviving idle industrial units creates 27,000 jobs in a year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**—As announced by the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), reviving idle industrial units in the country created 27,000 new jobs during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

“Despite the two major challenges of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic, which imposed severe restrictions on the country, we tried to activate domestic capacities by turning to localizing the technology of manufacturing parts and equipment”, Ali Rasoulzadeh stated.

Sanctions have caused problems for financial exchanges and the export of goods to other countries, he said, adding, “The negative effects of coronavirus pandemic on various parts of the country, including industry, are not hidden from anyone, and the economic growth of some countries has reached below zero during this period.”

Iran is proud that despite these restrictions and pressure from these two important challenges, its industry has grown by more than seven percent, according to the statistics and reports from various sectors, the official further highlighted.



In April, Rasoulzadeh stated that Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry plans to revive 1,600 idle industrial units throughout the country in the current Iranian calendar year.

He said that these units are generally stagnant or operating below capacity for a variety of reasons.

Referring to reviving 1,557 idle units in the country during the past Iranian calendar year, the official said that 59 percent of those units' problem was due to the financing.

With the aim of reactivating stagnant units or units that are operating below capacity, 900 consultants from the private sector and knowledge-based companies were selected in the form of industry clinics across the country to recognize the weaknesses of these units, the official stated.

He also informed that the new incentive package of ISIPO, which has also been approved by the minister of industry, mining and trade, has been announced.

Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki has said that over 6,500 new industrial units were established across the country during the past year which created jobs for over 121,000 people.

Touching upon the Industry Ministry's plans for the realization of the motto of the current year which is named the year of “Production: support and the elimination of obstacles” by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the official said: “In the year that has been dedicated to the production sector by the Leader of the revolution, the orientation of all government organizations and executive bodies should be towards supporting the country's industrial and mining units.”

Niaraki pointed to a 40-percent increase in the issuance of establishment licenses for industrial units in the previous year, saying: “The number of establishment licenses increased to more than 36,000 last year, which shows that people are encouraged to invest in the productive sectors.”

He also mentioned an 85-percent rise in the allocation of land for establishing industrial units across the country and noted that over 4,500 hectares of land were handed over to applicants in the previous calendar year.

According to the official, there are over 46,000 small and medium-sized industrial units in Iran's industrial parks and zones, of them about 9,200 units are inactive.

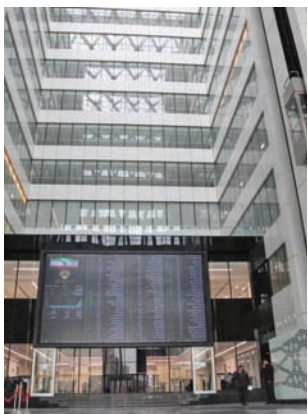
TEDPIX falls 3,600 points on Sunday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 3,663 points to 1.141 million on Sunday.

Over 5.106 billion securities worth 29.737 trillion rials (about \$708 million) were traded in the TSE on Sunday.

The first market's index fell 484 points, and the second market's index dropped 14,936 points.

TEDPIX 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.

Monthly non-oil exports rise over 27% yr/yr

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value of Iran's non-oil exports stood at \$3.352 billion in the second month of the current Iranian calendar year (April 21-May 21) to register a 27.5-percent rise compared to the same month in the previous year, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iran exported 8.579 million tons of non-oil commodities to foreign destinations in the mentioned month, IRNA reported.

The country's non-oil exports in the said month also increased by 3.3 percent and 13 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively, compared to the previous month, the official stated.

Latifi put the value of the country's total non-oil trade in the mentioned month at \$7.83 billion.

Some 11.9 million tons of such goods were traded in the period under review, of which 3.321 million tons were imports, according to the official. The value of the imported goods stood at \$3.731 billion, he stated.



Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was the first, importing \$1.089 billion worth of products from

Iran, Iraq was the second importing \$525 million, the United Arab Emirates the third importing \$432 million, Turkey the fourth

importing \$211 million, and Afghanistan the fifth importing \$190 million, Latifi announced.

He further named Iran's top sources of non-oil imports in the said time, as the UAE with \$1.055 billion worth of exports to Iran, China with \$832 million, Turkey with \$395 million, Switzerland with \$227 million, and Germany with \$171 million, respectively.

The value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$6.3 billion in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), up 48 percent compared to the last year's same period.

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, according to IRICA Head Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi.

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.

WB sees Iranian economy expanding 2.1% in 2021

→ 1 “The Islamic Republic of Iran avoided an expected contraction in fiscal year 2020/21, which ended in March, with both the oil and non-oil sectors rebounding in the second half of the year, benefiting from higher oil prices and currency depreciation, respectively,” the institute said in its report.

According to the mentioned report, Iran's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is going to continue its positive growth in 2023, expanding by 2.3 percent.

In January, the bank had predicted a 1.5 percent GDP growth for Iran in the current year and a 1.7 percent growth for 2022; the current estimation of Iranian economic growth is 0.7 percent better than the entity's previous estimations.

World Bank also sees the global economy rebounding in the current year, although most developing economies

are expected to lag behind due to the negative impacts of the pandemic.

“The global economy is expected to expand 5.6 percent in 2021, the fastest post-recession pace in 80 years, largely on strong rebounds from a few major economies,” the report said.

Based on the report, many emerging markets and developing economies will continue to struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

Despite the recovery, global output will be about two percent below pre-pandemic projections by the end of this year. Per capita income losses will not be unwound by 2022 for about two-thirds of emerging markets and developing economies.

Among low-income economies, where vaccination has lagged, the effects of the pandemic have reversed poverty



reduction gains and aggravated insecurity and other long-standing challenges, the report stated.

Tavanir to install solar PV stations for agricultural wells

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir), in collaboration with the Iranian Fuel Conservation Company (IFCC), is going to implement a program for installing free solar power stations for agricultural wells across the country, IRNA reported.

As reported, following the increase in the electricity consumption by the agricultural sector in the current years due to the water shortage and drought, Tavanir and IFCC have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to collaborate for installing PV stations for the agricultural wells.

Based on the mentioned MOU, which was signed by Tavanir Head Mohammad-Hassan



Motevalizadeh and head of IFCC Ali Mobini Dehkordi, farmers are not going to pay any price for the mentioned stations and all the

costs are covered by the mentioned entities.

Speaking at the signing ceremony of the MOU, Dehkordi noted that under the framework of this memorandum, PV stations will be installed for 60,000 agricultural wells over a three-year period.

“In the first phase of this program, 11,000 wells are scheduled to be provided with renewable energy sources,” the officials said.

“In winter, when agricultural wells are not in use, solar electricity is injected into the national grid and will be supplied to other consumers,” the official stated.

According to the official, based on the said memorandum \$1.6 billion is going to be allocated for providing electricity to agricultural wells with the aim of reducing fossil

fuel consumption in the agricultural sector.

Underlining the environmental impacts of the mentioned program, Dehkordi said: “Implementing this plan will make the environment cleaner and create a value chain. At the same time, it will also lead to more employment and economic prosperity.”

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

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

Banks finance over 27,000 SMEs in a year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian banking system has provided 856.48 trillion rials (about \$20.3 billion) of financial facilities to 27,084 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) over the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced.

As IRNA reported, the bank has it on the agenda to continue the program for financing SMEs in the current Iranian calendar year as well.

This program aims to pave the way for developing domestic production in order to fulfill the slogan of the year which is “production: support and elimination of obstacles” considering the country's special economic conditions and the U.S. sanctions.

Back in April, Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade had announced that 167 trillion rials (nearly \$3.97 billion) was paid to SMEs and semi-finished industrial projects



with an over 60 percent physical progress during the previous Iranian calendar year.

Commodities worth \$327m traded at IME in a week

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday) 634,540 tons of commodities valued at \$327 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's International Affairs and Public Relations Department, the exchange sold on its mineral and industrial trading floor 253,528 tons of commodities worth nearly \$174 million.

On this floor the IME sold 159,438 tons of steel, 4,620 tons of copper, 8,500 tons of aluminum, 160 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 30 tons of precious metals concentrate, 640 tons of zinc ingots, 9,500 tons of zinc dust, 45,930 tons of cement, 1kg of fold bars and 25,000 tons of sponge iron.

Furthermore, within the same week the IME saw trade of 371,224 tons of commodities valued at more than \$156 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 212,900 tons of vacuum bottom, 35,048 tons of bitumen, 50,339 tons of polymeric products, 31,517 tons of chemicals, 29,500

tons of lube cut, 5,200 tons of base oil, 60 tons of argon, 4,370 tons of sulfur, 290 tons of insulation and 2,366 tons of PDA TAR.

It's worth noting that the exchange played host to trade of 432 tons of commodities on its side market.

As previously reported, the value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 16 percent in the past Iranian calendar month (ended on May 21).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, 2.925 million tons of commodities valued at \$1.828 billion were traded at the exchange in the previous month, indicating also a six-percent rise in terms of weight.

The IME witnessed trades of 1.464 million tons of commodities worth more than \$1.044 billion on its mineral and industrial trading floor.

On this floor the exchange traded 1.189 million tons of steel, 12,780 tons of copper, 480 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 48 tons of precious metals concentrate, 11,690

tons of aluminum, 239,000 tons of iron ore, 1,000 tons of zinc, 400 tons of coke, 10,000 tons of sponge iron and 250 tons of lead.

The other trading floor of the exchange was the oil and petrochemical on both domestic and export rings of which customers purchased more than 1.449 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$770 million.

Commodities traded on this floor were 412,630 tons of bitumen, 238,686 tons of polymeric products, 155,372 tons of chemicals, 12,238 tons of oil, 490,300 tons of vacuum bottom, 4,450 tons of sulfur, 350 tons of argon, 150 tons of insulation and 132,500 tons of lube cut.

Moreover, the IME saw trade of 11,505 tons of commodities on its side market within this month.

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

During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commod-



ities were traded at the mentioned market.

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

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

Sanctions have proven ineffective: American economist

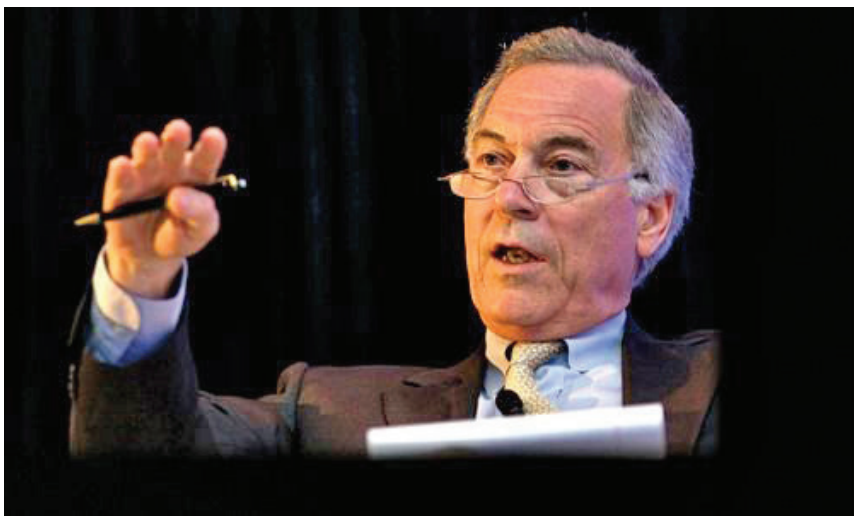
➔ **1** What are the main options or tools of countries that are under sanctions pressure? Do you think that barter trade besides close bilateral ties, instead of dependence on global market, can help counter sanctions?

The main options and tools for those countries that are sanctioned are to embrace sound monetary policies and policies that completely liberalize and deregulate their economies. All research shows that countries with sound money and greater degrees of economic freedom grow at higher rates than countries with unstable currencies and highly regulated economies. The lesson for Iran is clear: it could mitigate the damage imposed by external sanctions if it would liberalize the economy and adopt sound monetary policies. Indeed, at present, economic freedom in Iran is almost nowhere to be found. In Cato Institute's 2020 Human Freedom Index, Iran ranks 158th out of 162 countries in Economic Freedom. This terrible ranking has absolutely nothing to do with economic sanctions. The heaviest damage being done to the Iranian economy is being done by the government, not by misguided U.S. sanctions.

So, how could Iran guarantee that the rial would be sound? The best option for Iranian economic stability is a currency board. A currency board issues notes and coins convertible on demand into a foreign anchor currency at a fixed rate of exchange. It is required to hold anchor-currency reserves equal to 100% of its monetary liabilities.

A currency board has no discretionary monetary powers and cannot issue credit. It has an exchange-rate policy but no monetary policy. Its sole function is to exchange the domestic currency it issues for an anchor currency at a fixed rate. A currency board's currency is a clone of its anchor currency.

A currency board requires no preconditions and can be installed rapidly. Government finances, state-owned enterprises, and trade



need not be reformed before a currency board can issue money. Currency boards have existed in some 70 countries. None have failed. I know, as I've studied all of these systems in detail and was the architect of the newer ones in Estonia (1992), Lithuania (1994), Bulgaria (1997), and Bosnia-Herzegovina (1997).

If Iran adopted a currency board and used gold as its anchor currency, Iran would make the rial as good as gold.

You are critical of using Bitcoin as a legal tender in El Salvador. But it can help countries to avoid American unilateral sanctions. Could you update us about the advantages and disadvantages of using Bitcoin?

Bitcoin's volatility prevents it from being a unit of account, a store of value, a medium of exchange and a standard for deferred payment. Thus, Bitcoin is not a currency, only a highly speculative asset. Bitcoin is a loser's game. I think its fundamental value is zero and I see no advantages. If you want a "currency" that is not issued by a sovereign, the best-proven

alternative is gold. Indeed, gold has held its purchasing power for thousands of years.

Many in the U.S. criticize the 25-year partnership between Iran and China. What alternatives can they suggest while the West, under the U.S. unilateral sanctions, failed to have transactions with Iran? Is it fair to portray China as a malicious economic power, while Western countries, including the U.S. and its European allies, have immense trade and economic ties with China?

First, any sovereign should be free to engage in any mutually agreed upon bilateral relations that they wish. In the case of the Iran-Chinese 25-year partnership, the stupidity of sanctions is revealed. I think one can make the case that unilateral sanctions against Iran have encouraged Iran to establish bilateral relationships that might be frowned upon by the U.S., the country that imposed the sanctions in the first place. As they say in economics, incentives matter. Indeed, economics is all about incentives, and sanctions have incentivized and cemented

the Iran-Chinese 25-year partnership.

Why is "socialism" often perceived as pejorative in American politics? Are there ideological reasons behind such a perception as socialism is not just represented by the Soviet Union? We have successful social democracies in northern Europe. This is also the case to some extent in Canada.

I don't agree with your overarching premise that socialism is perceived in a pejorative sense in today's American politics. Although many in America, including myself, have a negative view of socialism, it's being promoted by the Biden administration. Furthermore, I don't agree with your assertion that there have been successful socialist democracies in Europe, and this is the case to some extent when talking about Canada. Socialism is at the antipode of economic freedom. If one measures economic freedom, you find a wide range from countries that possess a great deal of economic freedom like Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Australia to those with virtually no economic freedom (read: those that are highly socialistic) such as Iran, Angola, Libya, Sudan, and Venezuela. Indeed, as I showed in an article, "Economic Freedom, Prosperity, and Equality: A Survey," published in the Cato Journal several years ago (1997), the relationship between economic freedom and growth is unambiguous: the countries that possess a higher level of economic freedom and less socialism to grow at a much more rapid rate and are more prosperous than those with more socialistic tendencies. That's one reason why the U.S. consistently grows more rapidly than Western Europe. Indeed, Western Europe has entered a period of stagnation, losing its market share in the global economy and registering productivity growth that's dwindled to almost zero. Thanks to socialistic welfare states, Western Europe has ended up in a low-growth trap.

Washington sees Iran's move in sending tankers to Syria and Venezuela a violation of its hegemony: expert

➔ **1** the United States of America cannot prevent any country in the world from being present on high seas (international waters), and this is a case that requires full attention from Iran.

Some ask about the necessity and the reasons that prompted Iran to take such a move at such a sensitive time concurrent with the negotiations in Vienna on the one hand and with the approaching presidential elections in Iran on the other.

This proves once again, regardless of the American interpretation or international interpretation, and here I am talking about the Iranian interpretation of the matter, that Iran does not act to take advantage of events or timing.

I think it is a constant policy for Iran, whether this person or that person or this or that political group comes to power. Whether there are flexible negotiations or harsh negotiations, the Iranians do not accept that the U.S. administration impose its demands.

Why is America dissatisfied with the oil cooperation between Iran and its allies? Is it a violation of international norms?

Of course, Washington interprets Iran's move as a violation of American decisions and its hegemony, and it has nothing to do with anything else. Especially since the export of oil from Iran to these countries achieve three goals at the same time: First, it contributes to alleviating the crisis in some countries besieged by the United States of America, such as Venezuela and Syria, for example.

Second, it also gives Iran a certain income, albeit it is low, but at least it contributes to the Iranian treasury, and this is something that may not be the main goal. But economically it can be considered in this context, even if the currency is local and wages are low compared to the global oil trade.

Third, and most importantly, with this move, Iran could undermine the American hegemony, and this is the main issue for Iran more than anything else.

Do you think that the countries in the region are able to build an economic partnership to strengthen their capabilities? How can such a partnership offset U.S. sanctions on Iran, Syria and Lebanon?

A partnership between Iran and some countries at the regional level should lead to great economic cooperation that would get these countries out of the market that the

United States leads. Of course, this would be a big decision and it would need tremendous economic efforts; there should be studies and delegations that would discuss everything related to this field in economic cooperation between these countries.

What can Iran offer and what can Iran benefit from these countries? When we talk about the countries of the region or the neighboring countries, I mean a complete system and a huge market. It is enough to say if there is a cooperation between Iran and Turkey, or Iran with Iraq, Syria, Jordan and so on, these countries represent a large market for Iran through which it can export many things, share expertise and technologies.

Don't forget that Iran is a technologically advanced country despite all the U.S. sanctions, and this is shown in statistics and figures regardless of the malicious attempts to underscore these achievements.

But there is no doubt that the Iranian capacity and industry are now at a good level and that it is one of the most important developing countries in the region.

We might say that Iran is more than developing countries in the traditional classifications of countries. If the embargoes and sanctions on Iran are lifted, it will reach very important levels because within the framework of these continuous and numerous sanctions, no country in the world can survive.

It is the case when it comes to many countries, except for Iran. The sanctions could strengthen creativity in Iran. This is not what we say here for praise or courtesy. Rather, this talk stems from a follow-up to everything that is going on inside Iran and, according to formal statistics, that classifies Iran as an advanced country on scientific levels, inventions and patents, and this matter is fully understood by the Americans. That is why the U.S. is afraid of this progress.

We saw the American position on the agreement concluded between Iran and China. They were surprised and condemned it, within a hostile position par excellence, as if America considers itself leader of the world, and it decides who to cooperate with whom. Undoubtedly, Iran's agreement with China will have a great impact on the region in the next decade, and it may bring many steps that no one can predict.

Why did America and its allies in Lebanon obstruct an electricity cooperation between Tehran



and Beirut?

As for the continuous obstruction by the Americans regarding any cooperation offered by Iran, especially in Lebanon, especially in the issue of producing electrical energy or the issue of oil exports to Lebanon, we know that Lebanon's main problem is in its complexity and its political system which is subject to the sectarian power-sharing agreement and also the historical establishment of Lebanon.

Thanks to the French occupation, the sectarian system in Lebanon was entrenched to maintain balances within the Lebanese groups. Therefore, when Iran was advancing any projects in Lebanon, these factors (political groups that oppose Iran) always tried to say that Lebanon will not fall under Iranian influence, while Iran had a great contribution in liberating Lebanon from the Israeli occupation and supporting the resistance.

They consider anything that Iran does to be within the framework of consolidating influence and not, in fact, stemming from studies or related to Lebanon's need to develop its economy or to need certain energies or cooperation in certain fields.

So, for example, will the electricity offered by Iran to Lebanon be of a different type than the electricity in the world? Will Iranian oil be anything other than the oil sold in the world market? This kind of obstruction comes within the framework of political hatreds that have no value at all, and this is unfortunate. So far, the offers by Iran to the Lebanese government since the 2006 war are still valid.

Palestinians, particularly against the impoverished Gaza Strip.

"Hamas highly appreciates Omar's stances in support of justice and the rights of the oppressed around the world, foremost among them is the just rights of the Palestinian people," Naim said, confirming that Palestinian people have the right to resist the Israeli occupation "with all means possible, including armed resistance."

The Israeli aggression was launched on May 10, after the enclave rose up in protest against Tel Aviv's escalations in the occupied West Bank.

Gaza's Health Ministry said 260 Palestinians were killed in the Israeli war, including 66 children.

An Egyptian-brokered truce that came into force in the wee hours of May 21 finally ended the apartheid regime's military confrontation.

The ceasefire came after the Gaza-based resistance movements fired more than 4,000

rockets into the occupied territories, some reaching as far as Tel Aviv and even Haifa and Nazareth to the north, in response to the Israeli bloodshed.

"The deliberate and brutal targeting of Palestinian civilians during this aggression was intended to inflict a heavy cost on the Gazan population in a bid to break the Palestinians' will and their support for the Palestinian resistance," the Hamas official added.

Naim also welcomed all the international investigation committees and expressed Hamas's readiness to cooperate with them in a bid to achieve justice and hold the aggressors accountable. This is while the Tel Aviv regime completely refused to cooperate and allow them to access Palestine.

"We expect Omar and all defenders of Palestinian rights to describe things correctly and accurately because this is the most important starting point for establishing the foundations for a just solution to this chronic conflict," The Hamas official said in conclusion.

China says small groups do not rule the world

➔ **1** Leaders of G7, which is comprised of the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States, expressed hope that the plan would provide a transparent infrastructure partnership to help narrow the \$40 trillion required for developing countries by 2035.

The White House underlined that the B3W initiative would also be used to mobilize private-sector capital in areas such as climate, health and health security, digital technology, and gender equity and equality.

It was not immediately clear how exactly the plan would work or how much capital would ultimately be allocated for it.

Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the BRI scheme in 2013, which involves development and investment initiatives that would stretch from Asia to Europe and beyond.

More than 100 countries have signed agreements with China to cooperate in BRI projects like railways, ports, highways and other infrastructure.

Thousands march for Palestinian rights in London amid G7 summit

Thousands of people have attended a pro-Palestine solidarity march in London, calling on the Group of Seven (G7) leaders currently meeting in southwest England to support Palestinian rights.

As part of the "Resist G7: Day of Action for International Justice" rally, demonstrators on Saturday marched towards Prime Minister Boris Johnson's official residence in Downing Street, chanting and holding placards to protest Israel's policies in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The protesters demanded an end to what they said is complicity in Israel's war crimes against the Palestinians by the United Kingdom and other G7 governments.

According to al Jazeera, former Labor party leader Jeremy Corbyn attended the march and addressed the crowd.

"At today's Justice For Palestine demonstration in London, I also called for a halt to arms sales," Corbyn wrote on Twitter.

"UK-made weapons are killing civilians – including children – in conflicts abroad. This must stop," he said.

The rally came as the informal club of seven leading economies – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States – were meeting in Cornwall face-to-face for the first time in two years to tackle the global health crisis and climate change.

EU regulator suggests halt to AstraZeneca jab for all age groups over potential side effects

Europe's drug regulator has suggested that countries stop using AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine for all age groups as more alternatives have become available amid fears of rare blood clots.

Marco Cavaleri, head of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) vaccines strategy, made the remarks in an interview with Italy's daily newspaper La Stampa on Sunday, following reports of serious cases of blood clots lol among people who have had the jab.

"In a pandemic context, our position was and is that the risk-benefit ratio remains favorable for all age groups," he said.

However, he noted, given the fact that young people are less exposed to COVID-19 related risks, it would be better to use on them mRNA vaccines, such as Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, "but the choice is left to individual states."

Cavaleri went on to say that it would also be better to ban AstraZeneca for people over 60 as well.

"It is an option that many countries, such as France and Germany, are considering in the light of the increased availability of mRNA vaccines."

Islamic Jihad urges unity to confront Israeli 'checkpoints of death'

The Islamic Jihad Movement has warned Tel Aviv against fanning the flames of tensions after Israeli troops killed a young Palestinian woman at a checkpoint outside the occupied East Jerusalem al-Quds on Saturday.

"This crime underscores the need for unity among all strata of the Palestinian nation and its forces to confront the Zionist enemy, which shows no mercy to men, women and the elderly," it said in a statement on Saturday evening.

"It obliges all Palestinians to engage with occupiers by any means, especially in the checkpoints of death, which have mushroomed across the West Bank and al-Quds," the statement added.

According to Press TV, the movement said, "The occupying Zionist forces continue to commit the most heinous crimes against our people in the West Bank and the occupied al-Quds, ignore the rights of Palestinian people, and execute young people, women, children and the elderly in cold blood."

Resistance News

Hamas slams UAE foreign minister over incitement remarks

INTERNATIONAL **TEHRAN** — The Hamas Movement has denounced Emirati foreign minister Abdullah Al Nahyan for making incitement remarks against it recently, describing his position as "against the Arab values."

In Twitter remarks, Hamas spokesman Hazem Qasem said that "Al Nahyan's incitement for Western countries to classify Hamas as a terror group goes against the Arab values and contradicts the nationalist concepts."

Spokesman Qasem added that Al Nahyan's remarks were consistent with the futile Zionist propaganda and collided with the Arab masses' support for the Palestinian resistance.

The Emirati official made his anti-Palestine remarks during the opening of an office for the American Jewish Committee in Abu Dhabi last Monday, which is the first in an Arab country.

Flagrantly ignoring the fact that the Palestinian people are under occupation and their resistance is legitimate under international law, the foreign minister claimed that "it is very unfortunate that countries are more reluctant to talk about groups like Hamas, Hezbollah or the Muslim Brotherhood in a clearer way."

"Some governments classify as terrorist only the military wing of the group and not the political wing, while that same entity says that there is no difference," he added.

Hamas denounces U.S. congresswoman's remarks for 'equating victim with executioner'

The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has lambasted a U.S. congresswoman for "equating the victim with the executioner" during her remarks in condemning Israel's recent brutal aggression on the besieged Gaza Strip, which killed hundreds of people.

In a statement on Saturday, Dr Basem Naim, a member of the International Relations Office of Hamas Movement, said a recent statement by Ilhan Omar, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, was strange as she grouped Hamas with the Israeli regime, the U.S. and the Taliban militants' group.

Omar, a Minnesota Democrat, posted a video on her official Twitter account on Tuesday, saying that "unthinkable atrocities" have been "committed by the U.S., Hamas, Israel, Afghanistan, and the Taliban", asking U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken "where people are supposed to go for justice."

Naim, however, slammed Omar, saying that it was "unacceptable to make such an unfair comparison, which contradicts with

basic norms of justice and international law."

"The Palestinian people have been living under the Israeli occupation for more than seven decades, during which they have experienced unbearable suffering and against whom heinous crimes were committed," the Hamas official further said.

The reaction from Hamas came after Omar denied on Thursday that she was equating the Israeli regime and the U.S. with Hamas and the Taliban. The resistance group did not accept her denial, which was a response to criticism from her Jewish colleagues over the equation.

"Fully backed and protected by successive U.S. administrations, unfortunately, the Israeli occupation, however, refuses to abide by all international resolutions and continues its aggression against the Palestinian people in stark breach of international security and stability," Naim further noted.

Hamas, nevertheless, praised Omar for her condemnation of Israel's atrocities against

Cities, villages of handicrafts strengthen businesses, deputy tourism minister says

➔1 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 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.

Old trees in central Iran made National Heritage

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – A total of seven plane trees and a mulberry tree across the central province of Markazi have recently been inscribed on the National Heritage list.

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



Plane trees have always been symbols of fertility and the greenery of nature in Iranian culture. It was believed that the tree could prevent the spread of fever and infectious diseases.

They have been mostly planted in sacred areas such as churches and holy shrines.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 24 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Iranian handicrafts: Khos-duzi of Hormozgan

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – One of the most common products of Hormozgan handicrafts is Khos-duzi, a type of embroidery created for local purposes.

Khos-duzi involves sewing thin strips of Khos or Naqdeh onto fine lace fabrics. The strips are arranged into geometric, cursive, arabesque, 'Danehee' and 'Kheshti Payeh Boland' motifs and patterns.

Besides lace fabrics, Khos-duzi can also be applied to velvet. Velvet stitches are applied using a type of needle known as a Chenille.



The history of this craft is unknown, but it is certain that this craft was very popular in Bandar Abbas and Baluchestan during the Safavid era (1501-1736).

After the Safavid period, efforts were made to improve this embroidery, resulting in its most beautiful appearance.

Khos-duzi is mainly used for decorating drapes, scarves (Jaibil) and chadors (usually black), lace drapes, scarves, covers for Holy Quran, trousers, bedding, cushion covers, women's vests, and headwear.

The most common patterns in Khos-duzi are hexagonal, octagonal, and dodecagonal stars. The others include honeycomb, stars, hearts, leaves, flowers and brick-designed patterns.

It is not necessary to draw the motifs on the fabric, since the motifs in this handicraft are so simple, and the needleworker makes the stitches according to their taste.

The fabric looks exactly the same both on the front and the back and is particularly shiny if the stitching is done carefully and neatly.

The threads used in Khos-duzi are gold or silver and are known as Khos threads. Therefore, this handicraft is known as 'Khos-duzi', which means stitching of the Khos.

Khos-duzi and other crafts such as golabatoon and sequins are often combined by these artists to create unique items.

Known as the province of islands, Hormozgan province is located on the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. It embraces scenic islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most beautiful ones and top tourist destinations in southern Iran.

\$1.1m allocated to restore Ardebil historical bazaar

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – A budget of 46 billion rials (about \$1.1 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to restore the Seljuk-era (1037–1194) bazaar of Ardebil, which is situated in northwest Iran.

The project aims at restoring the vaulted passage of Zanjirlu to the closest original state, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Following the complete restoration of the passage, some 24 stalls and shops will be available for use, Nader Fallahi announced on Sunday.

The project is planned to be completed in a year and a half, the official added.

Earlier in May, Ardebil's tourism chief Mohammadreza Shayeqi announced that a team of archaeologists and cultural heritage experts has conducted a minor excavation at Zanjirlu passage to determine the antiquity and condition of its basements and foundation.

Upon completion of the archaeological project, the bazaar is scheduled to undergo a full restoration, the official added.

The historical bazaar of Ardebil was once an important trade center during the Safavid era (1501-1736). At that time, Ardebil had a special prestige and enjoyed a remarkable



political, social, and cultural status.

Inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1985, the bazaar was extensively restored during Qajar-era (1789–1925).

In the Iranian culture, bazaars have been traditional public spaces in the Iranian cities with great contributions to commercial activ-

ities in urban life meanwhile their extended activates can be traced to social, cultural, political, and religious roles.

People watching and even mingling with them in the bazaars is one of the best ways to take the pulse of the country. Bazaars have traditionally been major economic and social

centers in any Iranian city.

Most mazes and passages offer certain commodities such as carpets, metalwork, toys, clothing, jewelry, and kitchen appliances, traditional spices, herbal remedies, and natural perfumes. One can also bump into colorful grocery stores, bookbinders, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, coppersmiths, tobaccoists, tailors, flag sellers, broadcloth sellers, carpenters, shoemakers, and knife-makers.

Several divided carpet sections across the bazaar enable visitors to watch or buy hand-woven Persian carpets and rugs with different knot densities and other features. From another point of view, bazaars are also synonyms of foods, with their unmissable colorful stalls of vegetables, herbs, and spices. Yet, most of these ingredients might be mysterious to a foreign eye.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, whose altitude averages 3,000 meters above sea level, Ardebil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

Badab-e Surt, a unique tourist attraction in Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – Badab-e Surt is a natural site in the northern province of Mazandaran, 95 kilometers south of the provincial capital of Sari.

Over thousands of years, flowing water from two mineral hot springs cooled and deposited carbonate minerals on the mountainside, producing stepped travertine terrace formations.

Due to its salinity, one of the mineral hot springs does not freeze in winter because of its salinity. It has a 15-meter-diameter pool that is usually used for swimming in the summer months.

The other is tart, red, and orange and delivers the iron oxide from the depths of the rocks to the ground.

Badab-e Surt has been inscribed as the second salt-water spring in the world after Pamukkale spring in



Turkey. It includes a variety of springs with very different flavors, smells, and water volumes.

Water from the springs can treat rheumatism, migraine headaches, skin disorders, and back and leg pains.

The sedimentary and mineral water flow of these springs has created intricate layers over time in various colors and sizes in its mountain downstream slope. With pine forests, shrubbery, bushes, and valleys surrounding the springs, the heights and hills have created a breathtaking scene.

Badab is a Persian compound of Bad which means gas and ab which means water, translating to 'gassed water', referring to the springs' waters being carbonated mineral waters. Surt is an old name for the Orost village located near the site and a Persian word meaning intensity.

Historical mansion in Semnan to turn into children's museum

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – The historical mansion of Memarian in north-central Semnan province is planned to be turned into a children's museum after being fully restored, Semnan's mayor has announced.



Measuring 600 square meters in area, the mansion dates back to the late Qajar era (1789–1925) and the early Pahlavi period (1925-1979).

The museum will be dedicated to children with an emphasis on their social, emotional, personal, and intellectual development, CHTN quoted Mohammad Nazem Razavi as saying on Sunday.

As regards designing and planning for children's museums, architects, industrial designers, educational specialists, and a wide range of experts from various scientific fields are actively involved in the process, the official explained.

The children's museums are based on the ideas of non-formal education, indirect education, and education through play and entertainment, he added.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

Some three million historical objects are currently being kept in Iranian museums which are affiliated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

"There are many historical relics that are owned by private collectors and entities and the government cannot act in order to preserve them in the museums; therefore, we made efforts that this [cultural] heritage to be conserved and showcased in [their] private museums," according to Mohammadreza Kargar who presides over the ministry's museums and historical properties department.

Hamrah-e Aval (MCI) Considers Offering Special Internet Packages, Services on “Decade of Dignity”

- On the occasion of “Decade of Dignity”, Hamrah-e Aval (Mobile Telecommunications Company of Iran, MCI) has considered offering all its subscribers ‘conversation packages and internet services’ with special discounts as of today on Saturday (June 12) concurrent with the birth anniversary of Hazrat Masoumeh (PBUH) up to 1st day of Iranian month of Tir (June 22) coinciding with the birth anniversary of Eighth Infallible Imam of Household of Holy Prophet, Imam Reza (PBUH).
- The combination of special package for permanent and credit subscribers of MCI is in the form of “three gigabyte Internet services and three hours of talk time for a period of three days”, which can be bought for **100,000 rials** by dialing the command code “*100* 67#”.
- The special package for “**Anarestan**” subscribers is “seven gigabyte of Internet for a period of seven days”, which can be purchased at a price of **70,000 rials** by dialing the command code “*100*6671*9#”.

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Religious minorities urge people for high turnout in presidential elections

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – Representatives of religious minorities in the parliament have invited all the Iranian nation to participate massively in the upcoming presidential elections.

In a meeting on Thursday evening, President of the Association of Priests of Iran, Ardeshir Khorshidian; Armenian Caliphate Council of Tehran and Northern Iran, Reverend Gregory Nersesian; Religious Leader of the Kelimians of Iran, Younes Hamami Lalehzar; and Patriarch of Assyrian Church of the East and Head of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Tehran, Reverend Wanya Sarkis emphasized the need for the participation of the Iranian nation in the upcoming presidential elections.

Rev. Nersesian said that the purpose of this meeting is to declare the solidarity of religious minorities with the people of Iran, because according to the Bible, in every country we live in, we must obey the laws and fulfill our civic duty for independence and progress.

Hammami Lalehzar, for his part, stated that the enemies of Iran, seek to harm our country, so we must highly protect it and stand by each other in this way.

Rev. Wania Sarkis pointing to the foreign media attempts discouraging the citizens to cast a vote in presidential elections, said that we are the ones who live in Iran.



God has given us the wisdom and logic to build our country, that is why we should all participate in the elections and cast our ballots in order to have a powerful president.

Khorshidian also noted that “we, representatives of all religious minorities and monotheists gathered here to announce that it is our duty to all of us to participate

in the presidential elections so that the next president can work on the country’s development. It is our national responsibility to invite all Zoroastrians and followers of other religious minorities to participate in the elections alongside the people of Iran.”

At the conclusion of the seminar, the participants issued a statement calling on the followers of religious minorities

and all the Iranian people to participate widely in the presidential elections to elect the worthiest person for the presidency to contribute to building Iran’s prosperity and bright future.

The presidential election will be held on June 18, with seven candidates. It will be the thirteenth presidential election in Iran.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said in May “the scene of elections is a place for competition to serve the people.”

People would participate in the elections in large numbers because competent and highly capable managers have entered the election race to resolve the people’s economic problems, he added.

“Obviously, the enemies are opposed to our elections. Since the first day and for many years now, they have been opposed to them. Up until today, they have always focused on discouraging the people from participating in the elections by saying that the elections may be rigged and that there may be cheating.

They propagandize against the people’s participation in elections. Later, when the people do participate and there is an enthusiastic turnout in the elections, they say that the elections have obviously been ‘engineered’ and that it was clear beforehand who would be the winner.”

National document on promoting environmental protection culture unveiled

→ 1 It is prepared to implement Article 50 of the Constitution, which focuses on issues such as the establishment of an integrated national environmental system, coordinated and systematic management of natural resources, criminalization of environmental degradation, preparation of ecological atlas, strengthening environmental diplomacy, expanding green economy, promoting environmental culture and ethics.

In March, a national document for preserving water resources, managing drought, and soil erosion, and protecting the environment has been drafted by the vice president’s office for science and technology.

Optimization of water consumption, protection of the environment, management of sand and dust storms (SDSs), and reduction of pollutants in water, air, and soil are the four main themes of the document.

18.5m ha protected

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. By now, the protected areas have reached 18.5 million hectares.

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.

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

Dealing with environmental issues

Urban development, expansion of agricultural lands, large scale tree cutting, and destruction of forests under the pretext of road and dam construction, which led to



subsequent drying of wetlands and rivers, extinction of plant and animal species, sand and dust storms, and the occurrence of various sea and land environmental problems.

According to estimates, 16.4 tons of soil erodes in Iran per hectare, which is more than three times the global average. A total of 2 billion tons of soil erosion occurs in Iran annually, and the volume has been on the rise in recent years due to heavy floods.

Each ton of soil is valued at \$28 in terms of metal ores, so the loss of two billion tons of soil annually means the annual loss of \$56 billion, which is more than revenues from the sale of oil and agricultural products, gardens, livestock, poultry, and fisheries.

Meanwhile, according to the Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI), 11 percent of the Iranians are affected by mild drought, 21.5 percent of whom also are under pressure of moderate drought; while severe drought is exerting pressure on 32.5 percent of the people.

The country has been repeatedly exposed to sand and dust storms due to its presence in the arid and semi-arid part of the world, so that in 2006-2007, the dust storms originating in Iraq and Syria affected Iran, haunting a wide area of the country so that it reached the central areas and southern slopes of Alborz and also included Tehran.

Abdolreza Daneshvar Amoli, an official with Iranian Biological Resource Center affiliated to the Academic Center for Education, Culture, and Research (ACECR) said in 2019 that 150 species of animals in Iran are on the verge of extinction.

2,000 Iranian elites abroad back to domestic business environment

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – The progress, made in startups, research, and academia since 2015, has led to the return of 2,000 Iranian specialists and graduates from 400 prestigious and top universities in the world.

During the last decade, compared to a decade earlier, student migration has had a steady trend, Bahram Salavati, head of Iran Migration Observatory said.

“In the meantime, over the past three years, due to the policies of the former U.S. president, the increase in the exchange rate and the prevalence of coronavirus pandemic, student migration to foreign countries has stopped or in many cases has decreased sharply,” he stated.

Accordingly, the student migration rate in this decade has been estimated at 50,000 people, while during the previous decade, reached 50,000 people with a significant slope of 100 percent increase, he noted.

He went on to say that since 2000, 17,000 students migrated abroad per year, in 2008, the rate increased to 33,000 people, which almost doubled, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Emphasizing that from 2008 to 2012, migration of students reached 50,000 a year, he said that from 2012-2018, it stood almost at the same rate of 50,000 students.

According to available statistics, the main destinations of Iranian immigrant students are primarily the United States, followed by Canada, Turkey, Germany, and Italy.

Iran also implemented a plan to return elites from the top 100 universities in the world, through the national model, the facilities are provided for their return, by creating technology parks, innovation centers, and factories.

The plan was able to bring back 2,000 Iranian students from the top 100 universities in the world over a three-year period, amounting to 600 people a year.

“Despite U.S. sanctions, Iran achieved scientific growth, and with the help of the technology ecosystem and domestic scientists, we were able to become one of



the top countries in the field of technology in the region,” Vice President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari said in January.

500 top researchers back home in 4 years

About 500 Iranian researchers have returned home over the past four years to transfer their knowledge and expertise to the country’s universities, according to the vice presidency for science and technology.

With the support of the National Elites Foundation and Science and Technology Vice Presidency, universities, knowledge enterprises, technology parks, and incubators launched a plan titled ‘cooperation with Iranian expatriate entrepreneurs and elite’ in 2015.

The plan aims to attract Iranians abroad to share knowledge in different forms including postdoctoral research, research opportunity, and visiting fellows, in addition to being faculty members.

So far, it has attracted more than 500 prominent Iranian researchers living in other countries as faculty members of the country’s top universities, which has had a significant impact on raising the quality of research, educational and international activities of universities.

Due to the outbreak of coronavirus, the return of elites to the country decreased in the first 5 months of last year, however, more than 300 graduates of the top 200 universities in the world came back to cooperate with domestic science and technology centers, which is almost double compared to a year before.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Clean air days double for Tehraners this year

Tehrani citizens have experienced a 2-fold rise in the number of clean air days since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2018) compared to the same period last year, an official with Department of Environment has said.

Since the aforementioned period, clean air stayed in the capital for 27 days, while last year, during the same period, Tehraners breathed clean air for only 14 days, IRNA quoted Shina Ansari as saying on Sunday.

Also, the air quality of the capital was healthy for 262 days, while being unhealthy for sensitive groups for 59 days, she said, adding that compared to the same period last year, Tehran’s air quality reached healthy levels for 229 days and 97 days of unhealthy for sensitive groups has hit the capital.

تهرانی‌ها امسال دو برابر بیشتر روزهای پاک داشتند

مدیرکل دفتر پایش فراگیر سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: تهرانی‌ها از ابتدای امسال تا امروز (۱۲ اسفند ۹۷) نسبت به مدت مشابه سال گذشته، دو برابر هوای پاک تنفس کردند.

شینا انصاری روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با ایرنا افزود: تهران از ابتدای امسال تا امروز، ۲۷ روز هوای پاک داشته در حالی که سال گذشته در مدت مشابه، تعداد روزهای پاک ۱۴ روز بوده است. وی اظهار داشت: همچنین از ابتدای امسال تاکنون، کیفیت هوای پایتخت برای ۲۶۲ روز قابل قبول و ۵۹ روز ناسالم برای گروه‌های حساس بوده که در مدت مشابه سال گذشته به ترتیب ۲۲۹ و ۹۷ روز بوده که هشت روز نیز ناسالم برای تمام گروه‌ها بوده است.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 12

New cases	5195
New deaths	187
Total cases	3,028,707
Total deaths	82,098
New hospitalized patients	1091
Patients in critical condition	3,483
Total recovered patients	2,652,792
Diagnostic tests conducted	21,563,119
Doses of vaccine injected	5,154,639

\$123m of smuggled goods, currency seized

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – Smuggled goods and currency worth 5.1 trillion rials (nearly \$123 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) have been seized across the country through the second phase of a nationwide plan to fight against smuggling goods.

Under the plan, police detectives controlled the bus fleet carrying smuggled goods for 72 hours in late May throughout the country, Mohammad Reza Moghimi, the police chief, said on Sunday.

A total of 725 cars were identified carrying over 1,669 items of smuggled goods such as basic goods, home appliances, electronic equipment, car accessories, livestock, and poultry, in addition to more than 417,000 liters of fuel and oil.

He went on to say that essential goods worth 5.1 trillion rials (nearly \$123 million) have been discovered and 1,044 criminals were arrested during the implementation of the plan.

Most recently, some 2.9 trillion rials (nearly \$70 million) worth of smuggled goods has been seized across the country in May.

\$20-25 billion of smuggled goods annually

President Hassan Rouhani has urged a systematic fight against smuggling “from the start to the endpoint”, citing the fight as a key factor in improving Iran’s economy in July 2019.

Rouhani said while Iran is under sanctions, extra care should be given to stopping the smuggling of “hard-won” currency.

Every year, \$20-25 billion worth of goods are smuggled in and out of the country, which, if stopped, will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, Hassan Norouzi, a member of the Parliament, said.

In the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), \$12 billion was smuggled into Iran and \$900 million out of the country, according to the Headquarters for Combating the Smuggling of Commodities and Foreign Exchange.

According to some reports, over ten million liters of gasoline are smuggled out of Iran on a daily basis, adding up to 3.65 billion liters every year. Other reports put the number higher. On December 19, 2018, a government spokesman said every day 11.5 million liters of gasoline are smuggled out of Iran. Ali Adyani, a member of the Iranian Parliament’s Energy Committee has quoted various sources as putting the figure at 10, 15, and even 20 million liters a day.

Mohammad Hassan Nejad, another member of the committee, says the smuggled fuel amounts to 22 million liters per day. With a 50 cent per liter profit, the total daily income adds up to 400 trillion rials annually or \$3.3 billion, nearly the same as the country’s annual development budget.

In addition to gasoline smuggling, other fuels such as kerosene and diesel are also smuggled; not in lesser quantities.

In June 2020, the first phase of the national anti-smuggling plan has been implemented with the priority of customs, tobacco, and transit goods nationwide.

National Parks of Iran

(Part 3)

Thus was defined the concept of “Trust Lands,” that is, the lands of strategic value to the nation, which were badly degraded, but could be rehabilitated on an economically extensive basis, primarily through natural processes.

(5) Multiple land-use models. The Department of the Environment had been singularly successful in managing “single use” reserves, that is, nature sanctuaries, but it realized that the success of any Iranian organization in managing areas on a multi use basis had not, up to then, been particularly remarkable. A number of the reserves, however, offered an opportunity to serve as land use models, containing as they did, a wide spectrum of land use practices. It was recognized that this constituted an urgent need in the country at this time, which, with respect to the classification of the reserves, eventually led to the adoption of the following four categories: (a) large areas of outstanding national significance, within which outdoors recreation, education, and research should receive high priority; (b) relatively small areas or remnants, containing outstanding or unique examples of floral, faunal, or geological phenomena; (c) a variety of areas in which wildlife management was of prime consideration; and (d) those significant areas that are in need of substantial amelioration, or within which guidelines for multiple use may be drawn.

Scrupulous care was taken to determine the nomenclature that would, in both Persian and English, convey reasonably accurate ecological connotations for these areas. The following names were chosen to represent the respective categories: Park-e melli (national park); Atar-e tabiti-e melli (National nature monuments); Panah-gah-e hayat-e vahsh (Wildlife refuge); and Mentaqa-ye hefazat soda (Protected area). This classification, included in the comprehensive Environmental Law (Qanun-e hefazat wa behsazi-e mohit-e zist) presented to parliament and approved in 1974, departs somewhat from conventional terminology, including that of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN; see Lausche). An effort was made to solve through education the problem concerning the designation of national park, as most citizens associated the term park with the urban environment. Below is a very brief summary of the definitions and criteria for the respective reserve categories, citing only the cardinal points.

(Source: *Encyclopædia Iranica*)

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There is no greater wealth than wisdom, no greater poverty than ignorance; no greater heritage than culture and no greater support than consultation.
Imam Ali (AS)

English translations of modern Persian literature

Part 2

Whereas translation from classical Persian is faced with the dilemma of representing unfamiliar esthetic systems, translators of contemporary writing have tended to prefer works which are bending nearer to European esthetic norms.

This tendency is justified by the fact that so many writers of substance, notably Hedayat and Chubak, strove to strip away ornament, to make the styles of Persian more universally accessible.

This process indeed has made them more translatable. One casualty, however, was the writing of Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh, who despite his important position as the innovator of Persian fiction, wrote with a verbal exuberance that relies on specific colloquial turns of phrase for its effect, often a considerable challenge to translation.

This is why—although the preface of his ground-breaking Yaki Bud, Yaki Nabud (1922) was translated in 1974 — the collection had to wait until 1985 for an unusually inventive team of translators, Heshmat Moayyad and Paul Sprachman, to devise English equivalents for that idiosyncratic linguistic experiment.

Another casualty is satire. English readers still have very little way to know that Persia is home to an extensive and powerful tradition of satire and humor.

Satire tends to be so specific in its targets, so often colloquial or formally self-conscious, that it demands commentary and footnotes as well as translation.

The short story genre, with its plain style and compression, has developed into the most accessible and translatable of forms and also one of the most widely practiced.

For this reason, a comprehensive anthology of short stories has a particular importance as an introduction to Persian culture as a whole. Of the available anthologies Moayyad's Stories from Iran presents the widest historical and thematic range.

The traditional image of an indigenous translator, English or American, introducing a writer from another (Persian) culture oversimplifies the modern situation, where bicultural writers and scholars abound who write with equal facility in Persian and English.

The poet Tahereh Saffarzadeh's Divan includes poems in English. Scholars in Persia have made considerable contributions, even when their writing is "accented."

The translations of Hedayat by Siavosh Danesh in Sadeq's Omnibus and the anonymous English version of Fasih's Sorayya dar Eghma catch some of the exuberance of the original in a way that may be inaccessible to a native speaker.

Taqi Modarressi, who writes effective fiction in both English and in Persian, may represent a special category in which it is difficult to speak of an original and a translation: The Pilgrim's Rules of Etiquette is not so much a translation of his Persian Adab-e Ziarat as a separate work emerging from the same creative process.

A curious phenomenon has been the tendency for certain works to be translated in multiple English versions. Hedayat's Blind Owl, since Costello, has had two additional translations. M. R. Ghanoonparvar's translation of Simin Daneshvar's Savoshun was followed directly by another version under the title A Persian Requiem by Roxane Zand.

Al-e Ahmad's Gharbzadehi, unmistakably a key text in the self-definition of Persian culture, was legally unavailable in Persia until 1979 and has since been translated three times, as Weststruckness, Occidentosis, and Plagued by the West.

The neologism of the title is famously resistant to translation, so much so that an English-speaking reader may not recognize them as the same book.

The poet whose work has undergone the most extensive retranslation is Forugh Farrokhzad, whose highly personal poetry perhaps of all modern Persian writers most transcends its culture-specific features.

The lyric esthetic system she devised invests visual scenes with intense emotion in ways that are eminently available to transfer. For this reason she is the most frequently anthologized of modern Persian poets, and the American reader has available three book-length translations of her poetry, as well as a selection in Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak's Anthology of Modern Persian Poetry, translated with the collaboration of Janet Rodney.

With the exception of Farrokhzad, modernist Persian poetry is underrepresented in English translation because the issues of modernist poetic style operate so often in an unstated dialogue with the themes and rhythms of Persian classical tradition. The esthetic focus in Persian is rarely the "information" of the poem.

Reza Baraheni during the early 1970s gained a reputation in the United States as a particularly visible opponent of the Pahlavi regime, and during that period a collection of prison poems entitled Zellohlo appeared first in Persian and then in English translations by the author, in consultation with a series of Anglophone collaborators.

The importance of the pair of books, beyond their historical interest, is that they are useful to future translators as a compendium of inventive solutions.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
Concluded

Iran's "Fourth Wall" wins Zlatko Grgic Award at Animafest Zagreb

A R T **TEHRAN** – The Iranian short movie "The Fourth Wall" won the Zlatko Grgic Award at the 31st edition of Animafest Zagreb, a Croatian international festival for animated films, the organizers announced on Saturday in Zagreb.

The award is given to best first production apart from educational institutions. The movie received the award for "the experimental technique of animation that takes us into the mind of the protagonist who interprets the family dynamics and social policies like a bird trapped in a windowless room," said the jury composed of Nadja Andrasev, Michael Frei, Shoko Hara, Drasko Ivezic and Sasha Svirsky.

Directed by Mahbubeh Kalai at the Documentary and Experimental Film Center, "The Fourth Wall" 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 Grand Prix in the short competition category was awarded to the Taiwanese film "Night Bus" by Joe Hsieh.

On a late-night commuter bus, a necklace was stolen. This was followed by a tragic and fatal road accident, and a series of intriguing turns of events that revealed love, hatred and vengeance.

"Maalbeek" by Ismael Joffroy Chaudoutis from France won the Golden Zagreb Award for Creativity and Innovative Artistic Achievement.

The Grand Prix in the feature-film competition went to the Russian movie, "The Nose or the Conspiracy of Mavericks" by Andrej Hrzanovskog.

The Polish film "I'm Here" by Julia Orlik was selected as best student film and received



Iranian director Mahbubeh Kalai accepts the Zlatko Grgic Award for her short movie "The Fourth Wall" at the 31st Animafest Zagreb in Croatia on June 12, 2021.

the Dusan Vukotic Award.

The special jury awards in this section were given to "Ant Hill" by Marek Naprstek from the Czech Republic and "Room with a Sea View" by Leonida Shmelkov from Estonia.

"Reflection" by Spanish director Juan Carlos Mostaza was picked as best children's film.

Iranian orchestra performs at Philippines Independence Day celebration



This file photo shows Istgah Orchestra performing with French pianist Richard Clayderman during a concert at the Grand Hall of the Interior Ministry in Tehran on June 27, 2018.

A R T **TEHRAN** – Istgah Orchestra, an Iranian ensemble under the baton of conductor Mehdi Noruzi, performed during a celebration for the 123rd anniversary of Philippines Independence Day in Tehran on Saturday.

Some compositions from Filipino musicians were performed during the celebration, which was organized at the Embassy of the Philippines, the orchestra announced on its Instagram.

Istgah Orchestra accompanied the world-renowned French pianist Richard Clayderman during his concerts at the Grand Hall of the Interior Ministry in Tehran in June 2018.

The ensemble also collaborated with Iranian director Omidreza Sepehri and his troupe to stage a musical adaptation of American director Tim Burton's 2005 animation "Corpse Bride" at Tehran's Espinas Palace Hotel in May 2019.

It also performed in director Ahmad Soleimani's musical adaptation of Australian-English writer Pamela Lyndon Travers' series "Mary Poppins" at Tehran's Vahdat Hall in November 2019.

This year, the Philippines marked its 123rd year of independence from Spanish rule with the theme "Spirit of Freedom for National Unity and Healing".

In his short speech, Filipino Ambassador Wilfredo C. Santos welcomed Iranian guests and Filipino expatriates attending the performance, and stressed the need to sympathize with each other during the pandemic.

Independence Day, also known as the "Day of Freedom" by Filipinos, is an annual national holiday in the country observed on June 12, commemorating the declaration of Philippine independence from Spain in 1898.

This year's celebration for the day has also coincided with festivals for the 500th anniversary of the Victory of Mactan.

The Battle of Mactan was a fierce clash fought in the Philippines on April 27, 1521. The warriors of Lapulapu, one of the Datus of Mactan, overpowered and defeated a Spanish force fighting for Rajah Humabon of Cebu under the command of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who was killed in the battle. The outcome of the battle resulted in the temporary departure of the Spanish crew from the archipelago.

Iranian TV series "The Frog" picked for Cannes Film Market

A R T **TEHRAN** – The Exchange, a Los Angeles-based film firm, will be launching the world sales of the hit Iranian TV series "The Frog" at the Cannes Film Market, which will run virtually.

"It's rare for TV series to be launched at film markets," Deadline Hollywood said in a report published on Friday.

"But the very concept of a market has been fraying in recent years, especially in the COVID era. Sales increasingly take place across the year and traditional film

companies are increasingly working in TV."

Directed by Hooman Seyyedi, the series follows Ramin, a man dissatisfied with a life of low-paying petty crime in Tehran, who determines with friends to rob an enormously wealthy former classmate. However, the theft goes fatally awry and Ramin finds himself entangled in a dangerous web of deceit involving the police, local gangsters and greedy family members.

"Hooman is an undeniable talent and rising star," The Exchange CEO Brian O'Shea said.

"His award-winning features honed his incredible eye and ability to pace a suspenseful story, and build a complex world that entertains audiences that love all genres. We are incredibly happy to bring this amazing series to the rest of the world," he added.

Seyyedi is best known for his 2018 crime drama "Sheeple", which narrates the tale of two brothers leading a gang of drug dealers operating in south Tehran. Several strange incidents take place after mobile footage from their sister's phone goes viral.



Navid Mohammadzadeh and Saber Abar act in a scene from the Iranian TV series "The Frog" directed by Hooman Seyyedi.

The Cannes Film Festival scheduled to take place from July 6 to 17, while the Cannes Film Market (Marché du Film) will be held online from June 21 to 25.

Parisian Iran Cinema Festival unveils lineup

Rustai and "Suddenly a Tree" by Safi Yazdani, have been selected to be screened in the feature film category.

A highlight of the category is "The Warden" by Nima Javidi. The story of the drama is set in 1966, when a prison in southern Iran is being evacuated because of its proximity to the city's new airport. Major Jahed, the warden, transfers the prisoners to the new prison and then soon receives a report that one prisoner, sentenced to death, is missing!

The section also features "Castle of Dreams" by Reza Mirkarimi. The film is about two young children whose mother has just died, and their father, Jalal, after long years of absence, returns to sort things out, but he does not want to take the children with him.

"A Hairy Tale" by Homayun Ghomizadeh will also be screened in this section. In this movie, Danesh is in love with both cinema and Homa, a well-known actress. Kazem is in love with both the movie "Casablanca" and his barber shop's certificate. Shapur is in love with both canned tuna and politics. The city is full of beggars while an earthquake may happen soon. Every now and then, the

body of a dead woman, with head shaved, is found near the sea. As Inspector Kiani says, "It's a messy situation!"

Four documentary films will be reviewed in a special category for this genre.

Among the films are "None of Your Business" by Kamran Heidari, "No Place for Angels" by Sam Kalantari, and "Exodus" by Bahman Kiarostami.

Director Taqi Amirani's acclaimed documentary "Coup 53" will also be screened. While making a documentary about the Anglo-American coup in Iran in 1953, Amirani and editor Walter Murch find an extraordinary and never-before-seen archive. Documents and 16mm footage recount this story in unprecedented detail, with explosive revelations about secrets hidden for 66 years. From a historical documentary about four days in August 1953, the film becomes a living investigation that exposes the roots of Iran's volatile relationships with the United Kingdom and the USA.

Ten short films, including "Diving Lessons" by Marzieh Riahi and "Tattoo" by Farhad Delaram, will be showcased in two special sections of the festival.

Persian publisher brings "Dialogue on Good, Evil" to bookstores

C U L T U R E **TEHRAN** – American philosopher John Perry's book "Dialogue on Good, Evil, and the Existence of God" has been published in Persian by the Tehran-based publishing house Markaz.

Mohaddesh Vazehifard is the translator of the book, which discusses the problems that arise for perfectionist believers of God while considering the nature of human evil with a reflection on other related factors like the natural evil and the evil done by free agents.

The author's proficiency in breaking down theories, combined with his ability to offer a sound dialogue has been demonstrated in his book, offering academic students a guide to the complexities of philosophical debates.

Earlier in 2020, Khub Publications released another Persian translation of the book by Zohreh Qolipour under the title of "A Three-Person Conversation on Good and Evil and the Existence of God".

Perry is a professor of philosophy at the universities of California and Stanford with significant academic contributions in the fields of metaphysics, mind and language philosophy.

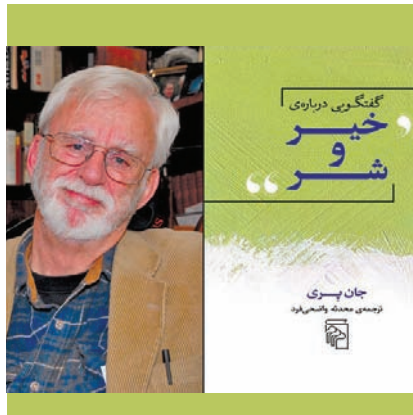
Markaz has also published a Persian translation of Perry's 1978 book "A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality" by Kaveh Lajevardi.

In "A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality", Perry engages in a theoretical discussion about the problems with "personal

identity" where he initiates a dialogue between a mortally wounded university professor, Gretchen Weirop, and her two friends, Sam Miller and Dave Cohen.

In the book, Perry represents the views of other philosophers such as Bernard Williams, John Locke and Derek Parfit on the concept of "Personal Identity", which questions the features and traits that characterize a person at a given time.

The analytic philosophical debate presented by Perry also reflects David Hume's work titled "Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion", which discussed the nature of God's presence while asserting God's actual existence.



This combination photo shows American philosopher John Perry and the front cover of a Persian translation of his book "Dialogue on Good, Evil, and the Existence of God".