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# To the high seas and beyond

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**Iranian “steel mountain”  
and the multilayered  
strategy of maintaining  
peace in the region**

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## Sirik power plant highlighting Iran-Russia energy cooperation

**BY MAHNAZ ABDI**

In August 2016, Iran had signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Russia for implementing a 1,400-megawatt power plant project in Iran's southern Hormozgan Province.

Based on the signed agreement, the Russian Company Technopromexport pledged to invest up to €1.2 billion in the project of Sirik power plant.

The construction of the mentioned thermal power plant started in February 2017; however, it came to a halt due to some administrative and funding problems from the Russian side.

After years of postponing, eventually, the Russian side came to the conclusion that the contractor [for the project] should be replaced. On this basis, a new contractor was selected, which was also approved by Iran.

Once fully operational, the Sirik project would add some 12 terawatt-hours (TWh) of power to Iran's current generation capacity.

In last September, Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian had announced that Russia has changed the contractor that was supposed to work on the Sirik power plant and the new contractor was going to start working on the project in the coming weeks.

The construction operation of the power plant then was started on June 10 with the order of President Hasan Rouhani and in a ceremony attended by the energy minister.

The project is to be completed in 55 months using a Russian government loan and by Russian and Iranian contractors and then will be handed over to the Iranian employer.

As stated by the managing director of Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH), Iran and Russia, as two neighboring countries, along with the expansion of strategic relations, are always trying to remove obstacles to improving economic and trade cooperation, one of which is the development of bilateral cooperation in the field of energy, especially the construction of a joint power plant.

In a situation where the electricity industry is facing a serious shortage of financial resources for the development of electricity generation projects due to the inadequate increase in electricity sales tariffs and oppressive sanctions,

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## Let's keep the world beating by donating blood

**BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI**

TEHRAN – As developing countries expand treatment facilities and developed ones invent new medical measures, the need for blood and blood products increases daily, so that, with blood donation, we can save millions of lives and keep the hearts of many beatings.

June 14 was chosen as World Blood Donor Day because it is the birthday of the Austrian immunologist and pathologist Karl Landsteiner. His discovery of blood types and how safe blood transfusions are, brought great advances in science.

The aim is to raise global awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion and of the critical contribution voluntary, unpaid blood donors make to national health systems.

For 2021, the World Blood Donor Day slogan

will be “Give blood and keep the world beating”. The message highlights the essential contribution blood donors make to keeping the world pulsating by saving lives and improving others' health. It reinforces the global call for more people all over the world to donate blood regularly and contribute to better health.

**Over 2.1m Iranians donate blood per year**

Blood donation in Iran has long been done voluntarily; over 2.1 million Iranians donate blood annually, Bashir Haji-Beigi, the Blood Transfusion Organization spokesman said on Monday.

There are currently 178 blood donation centers in the country, with Fars, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Tehran, and Mazandaran provinces having the largest number of blood donation centers, he stated.

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## Paper details U.S., Israel, Saudi role in coup plot against Jordan king

Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United States joined forces to pressure Jordan's King Abdullah II to partake in the U.S.-sponsored “normalization deals” with Tel Aviv, according to the Washington Post.

The Jordanian monarch resisted the attempts, leading to a plot to “destabilize” the country, that ensnared the king's half-brother Prince Hamza and former senior officials Bassem Awadallah and Sharif Hassan bin Zaid.

According to the report, Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, former Israeli regime premier Benjamin Netanyahu and former US president Donald Trump were at the center of the intrigue.

“It became a belief of Trump that the king was a hindrance” to his plan, a former senior CIA official was quoted as saying.

The report pointed to the close relations that Trump and his son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner had forged with bin Salman,

Saudi Arabia's de-facto ruler.

Abdullah was said to be concerned that those expanded ties came at Jordan's expense, because of his reservations over the U.S. proposal for the Middle East.

Abdullah is recognized as the custodian of the Haram esh-Sharif and the al-Aqsa Compound, and other Muslim sites in the Old City, which Israel occupied in the 1967 Six Day War.

Citing an American who knows the king, the newspaper wrote that Abdullah felt the U.S., Israel and Saudi Arabia were trying to push him out as the custodian.

As Kushner's campaign to advance Trump's plan picked up last year, he also hoped to help facilitate a normalization pact between Israel and Saudi Arabia, according to the report. However, Abdullah was seen as an obstacle to such a rapprochement.

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## Centuries-old mosque in southwestern Iran restored to former glory

TEHRAN – A team of cultural heritage experts and restorers has given new life to a ruined mosque, which is located in the ancient city of Belad Shapur in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, southwestern Iran.

“The Safavid-era (1501-1736) mosque, which was abandoned, was restored to its former glory after years of neglect and poor maintenance and is now in use,” the provincial tourism chief said on Monday.

A budget of five billion rials (\$119,000 at the

official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) was allocated to the restoration project of Abuzar Ghafari Mosque, the official added.

Despite all the destruction that took place in this historical city in different eras, with an area of more than 45 hectares, it is currently considered as one of the largest historical structures in the country in terms of size and number of historical buildings.

Inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1985, Belad Shapur is one of the top tourist sites in

the province.

The city was built at the time of Shapur I, also known as Shapur the Great, (reigned 241 CE–272), the second king of the Sassanid Dynasty. Under his leadership, the empire stretched from Sogdiana and Iberia (Georgia) in the north to the Mazun region of Arabia in the south; in the east, it extended to the Indus River and in the west to the upper Tigris and Euphrates river valleys.

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## Netanyahu era ends

The margin for error was rather narrow, but the new coalition obtained the required votes. Sixty of the 120 Knesset members voted in favour of the new government (one abstained), led by Bennett from the Yamina party and Yair Lapid from Yesh Atid.

According to the coalition agreement, which includes rotation of the prime minister post, Bennett will remain in office until August 2023 before Lapid succeeds.

The new government consists of eight

parties, which range from the left to the far right. In addition, for the first time a Palestinian party, the United Arab List (Hebrew acronym Ra'am), is also a member of a government coalition.

The ideological differences are accordingly enormous in the new government, which primarily came together for one reason, Yaniv Voller, senior lecturer in Politics of the Middle East at the University of Kent, told Al Jazeera.

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## Vienna talks: A multi-part American series

**BY ABIR BASSAM**

Every time the Iranian government takes the decision to raise the enrichment level in its nuclear reactors, the Americans and the Europeans raise their voices. Their objections are repeated like a cracked disc. They are worried about whether Iran is close to building a nuclear bomb or not, although Iran has declared several times that it has no intentions of doing so, and its nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes. It is clear that America's exit from the nuclear agreement with Iran has to do with more vital hidden reasons.

Ironically, the Iranian nuclear program was first initiated in 1957 by the Americans. The shah of Iran signed a nuclear program agreement with the United States. It was a “Proposed Agreement for Cooperation in the Field of Research and in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy” under the auspices of Eisenhower Program “Atoms for Peace”. In 1967, the shah founded the Tehran Nuclear Research Center. Then, Iran signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968, which made it subject to inspection and investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

As a result of the outbreak of the Iranian Islamic Revolution in 1979, the shah was overthrown; hence, the nuclear program and Western support for it were halted. However, in 1981 the late Imam Khomeini authorized the coming back of research in nuclear energy. Once the decision was taken, the Iranian nuclear program was set in motion. Consequently, it became a problem for the Americans and Israelis to cope with it because the Islamic Revolution in Iran has clearly stated its support for the rights of the Palestinians.

*Continued on page 5*

### TENDER INVITATION NO. 1400-1005

**IRAN ALUMINIUM COMPANY (IRALCO)** would like to invite eligible suppliers for the supply of 200 MT Magnesium pure on tender basis.

Interested companies are allowed to send their competitive offer till 30-June -2021

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Attention: Mr. Omid - Mr. Nabuini Tel: +98 86 32162014 +98 86 32162181

NO.49, Mollasadra Ave., Vanak Square, Tehran- Iran, Postal code: 1991614581

Name of office: Managing Director Office, Iranian Aluminum Company. Fax: +98 21 88049028 Tel: +98 21 88049024

For obtaining tender's documents and more information, please check: [www.iralco.ir](http://www.iralco.ir)

**Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company**







## It will be ‘very hard to reverse’ Iran’s nuclear progress if JCPOA not restored, Blinken says

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has acknowledged “that’s right” that Iran has made a lot progress in nuclear industry both in terms of “material” and “knowledge” since the Trump administration quit the nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, in May 2018.

Talking to CBS News on “Face the Nation” program on Sunday, Blinken said after the U.S. pulled out of the nuclear deal Iran began to “ignore the constraints that the deal had imposed on” its nuclear program.

Iran began to gradually remove bans on its nuclear work exactly one year after Trump withdrew the U.S. from the JCPOA and introduced the harshest sanctions on Iran. Even at the time Iran announced if the European parties to the pact compensate Iran for the sanctions, the Islamic Republic will reverse its decision.

Blinken said Iran “has been galloping forward and it’s enriching more material. It’s enriching at- at higher levels- degrees than were allowed under the agreement... it is gaining knowledge. And if this goes on a lot longer, if they continue to gallop ahead... they’re going to have knowledge that’s going to be very hard to reverse, which I think puts some urgency in seeing if we can put the nuclear problem back in the box that the agreement had put it in and, unfortunately, Iran is now out of as a result of us pulling out of the agreement.”

Late last year the Iranian parliament approved a legislation that obligated the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) to limit the International Atomic Energy Agency’s access to the Iranian nuclear sites, install advanced centrifuges and enrich uranium to 20 percent if the U.S. doesn’t lift illegal sanctions against Iran.

The JCPOA has limited Iran’s nuclear enrichment to 3.67 percent. However, Iran has announced that it will reverse its nuclear decision if the U.S. fully lifts the sanctions in a verifiable way.

## Foreign Ministry: Iran will stand tall

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Speaking at his weekly press briefing on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said that Iran’s foes come and go, but at the end, it is the Islamic Republic that stands tall and proud.

Khatibzadeh was openly referring to Benjamin Netanyahu who lost power to rivals. Netanyahu was maddeningly against the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA).

However, the spokesman said, “Making vain and worthless claims has been the common heritage of all the leaders of the occupying regime.”

He also dismissed rumors that the nuclear deal talks in Vienna have reached a deadlock. “The talks in Vienna have not reached a dead end and nothing is impossible. Negotiations are still underway on some technical, legal, executive and political issues.”

He also stated that the U.S. must make its decision and be aware of the fact that it is not in an equal position with Iran and the P4+1 countries.

“The United States is the wrongdoer and violator of the JCPOA. It must provide the necessary guarantees not to repeat what happened under the Trump administration,” he clarified.

Khatibzadeh reiterated that the Vienna talks have nothing to do with the June 18 presidential elections and internal developments in Iran.

“A political decision must be made on these issues in the capitals, and if it is taken, returning to the JCPOA will be possible,” the diplomat remarked.

With regard to Iran’s interaction with the International Atomic Energy Agency, he said that Iran has a technical agreement with the IAEA and “we have not given any access beyond safeguard agreements.”

Based on an approval by the Iranian parliament, Iran will not allow IAEA inspections beyond the safeguards. Intensive monitoring is being linked to the lifting of illegal sanctions on Iran.

## High voter turnout will disappoint ‘economic terrorists,’ Zarif says

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — In a video message on his Instagram page on Monday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called on people to participate massively in the June 18 presidential elections, saying it will help cancel economic sanctions speedily and prevent sanctions in the future.

“People’s participation not only will accelerate cancellation of sanctions and crush the core of economic war, it will also neutralize future sanctions,” Zarif stated.

The chief diplomat said high turnout will disappoint Zionists, “economic terrorists” which through “Iranophobia” have a “covetous eye” on undermining Iran’s interaction with the outside world and increase sanctions on the country.

He added the Iranian nation have always acted heroically in the course of history, calling on people to turn June 18 into “national festival of hope for all Iranians.”

Zarif also said elections will serve as a guardian of national interests at the global level and act as the main backbone for “constructive international interaction”.

## Qazizadeh vows to heal rift created by West among neighbors

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Presidential candidate Amir-Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi has said the rift created by certain Western states among neighboring countries in the West Asia constitutes Iran’s main foreign policy challenge, vowing to promote collective dialogue among neighbors and clear up misunderstandings and bolster relations based on common interests.

Qazizadeh made the remarks in an interview with English language Press TV and Arabic-language Al-Alam news networks aired on Monday when asked about his foreign policy priorities and how he would tackle the challenges facing Iran if he wins the June 18 presidential elections.

He said the biggest foreign policy challenge facing Iran is the rift and the misunderstandings that the Western states have created among the countries in the West Asia region.

“This would consume a lot of our energy to clear up those misunderstandings and normalize relations between regional governments,” the presidential hopeful remarked.

Many Analysts, diplomats and politicians are unanimous in their views that certain Western countries with colonial past intentionally create conflicts among the countries in the West Asia region in order to sell their weapons to gain money and create jobs at home.

On Iran’s troubled ties with some Persian Gulf kingdoms, he suggested

the Persian Gulf littoral states should “reach a mutual understanding for having peaceful co-existence, something that necessitates for us to contribute to the interests of one another and not to let each other be threatened.”

“This means that we should not pose threats to neighbors and, in turn, they would not threaten us,” explained Qazizadeh, adding that third countries should also be prevented from putting a neighbor’s interests at risk.

“This requires us to hold more negotiations with each other...we need to put common needs and the nations’ demands on the table and work together to clear up misunderstandings,” he added.

The presidential candidate also “eventually the confrontations in Yemen should have an ending.”

He said, “Iran is willing to help” bring an end to the Saudi-led war on Yemen.”

The Saudi-led coalition launched a war against Yemen in March 2015. However, the Saudi Kingdom seems to be willing to the end the protracted war on its southern neighbor.

“Given that Saudi Arabia has stepped forward itself and wants us to help them, our administration would definitely assist them in order for the Yemen issue to be resolved soon.”

**“Language of power”**

On the nuclear deal talks underway in Vienne with the hope of reviving the 2015 nuclear, the presidential aspirant said the U.S. uses lengthy, fruitless negotiations as a “strategy” to make

the demands of the other side “worn-out” and get it to gradually retreat from its position.

Qazizadeh said the Americans would set the tactic aside only when they find the passage of time to their detriment, adding, “I’m certain the Americans will achieve a result with my administration; they will have to.”

Nuclear deal talks to possibly revitalize the nuclear pact – JCPOA – started in early April. The newest round of talks (the sixth round) started on Saturday. The talks are taking place between the remaining parties to the JCPOA (Iran, Germany, Britain, France, Russia and China) within the deal’s Joint Commission. Russia is participating in the talks indirectly as it is not still party to the agreement.

The presidential candidate added the Americans have been after regime change in Iran over the past 40 years, but to no avail. “Even if they continue such behavior for another 40 years, they will achieve nothing.”

To neutralize pressure by the U.S., the candidate said Iran should speak to the U.S. “with the language of power,” which means “we are so powerful that you cannot do anything.”

He went on to say that Iran should grow stronger in the area of economy, help strengthen the resistance front, isolate Israel, and work to establish an “anti-U.S. club” in the world.

“The club of sanctions-hit countries should join hands and turn into a power,” among other things, suggested the presidential candidate.

## An estimate of possible votes of the candidates, based on data collected from three major social media platforms. 10 million data have been analyzed.



**Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi**  
%67/8



**Abdolnasser Hemmati**  
%7/5



**Mohsen Rezaei**  
%6/0



**Saeed Jalili**  
%5/1



**Alireza Zakani**  
%4/6



**Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh**  
%0/5



**Amir Hossein Qazizadeh**  
%0/2

Source: Dataak

## Rezaei publishes booklets on 31 provinces

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The presidential candidate Mohsen Rezaei has published 31 booklets, according to the number of provinces in Iran, revealing his plans which he claims are intended to revive the economy.

He promised in the final debate held on Saturday that he will publish his economic revival plan soon to let people know he is determined to “perform great surgeries” on the Iranian economy.

He soon acted on his promise publishing the first volumes of his plans, which is focused on economic reform.

Rezaei has paid a great deal of attention to economy in all his remarks and broadcasts, with particular attention on the youth, housing and cash subsidy.

In the final presidential debate, he said economy needs “two surgeries”: reform within the system and reengineer the economy.

He reiterated that if corruption is rooted out, he can pay

cash subsidy to 40 million Iranians which is 450,000 toman.

Rezaei added that he has drafted a plan to take “Iran forward,” repeating that he will keep his promises.

Rezaei who had run unsuccessfully for the presidential post two times in the past also vowed to connect the youth to the banks to get long-term loans with low-interest rates.

He stated that his administration will base education system on schools and. The presidential aspirant has also said that women will benefit from cheap internet to sell goods and promote their business.

He has also promised to provide cheap housing for teachers to take a burden off of their shoulders.

He has promised that the share of the women in economy must be increased, stating that he has a modern plan.

Calling his government “pragmatic and strategic with plans based on scientific research,” it was expected from him to publish his plans.

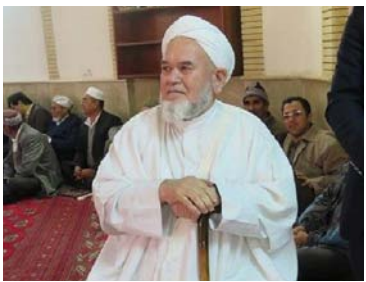
## Four leading Sunni scholars call on people to vote in presidential elections

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Four leading Sunni clerics from three Iranian provinces have urged people to participate in the elections in large numbers.

Mamousta Mullah Ghader Ghaderi, the Friday prayer leader of Paveh, says the expediency of the country lies in massive participation in the elections. He said that through participation in the elections, the people can seek their “rightful demands” from officials to resolve problems.

Paveh is a city in western Kurdistan province.

Akhond Abdol-Razaq, the Friday prayer leader of Aq Qala, says, “We will give a crushing response to the opponents of the revolution



Akhond Abdol-Razaq

through enthusiastic participation in the elections.”

Aq Qala is a city in northeastern Golestan province.

The Friday prayer leader of Sanandaj, the capital of Kurdistan province,

also said the Iranian people, especially the Kurds, will participate in the elections to show their loyalty to the Islamic Republic system and renew their allegiance with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

“We will emerge proudful in this great test,” Mamousta Rostami remarked.

Also, a group of religious scholars, Friday prayer leaders and seminary teachers from North Khorassan province wrote a letter to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution saying the Sunni community in North Korassan will vote in large numbers in the June 18 presidential election to neutralize conspiracies by the U.S., the occupying Israeli regime and their lackey.

## Candidates’ views on housing plan



Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi

Raeisi has repeatedly stated that he is concerned about the decline of marriage rate in Iran, blaming expensive houses as the main reason for the youth refusing to marry. He has devised a plan, which is essentially a reformed version of the “Mehr Housing Plan” introduced and implemented by former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He says he has planned to house 1 million people a year.



Saeed Jalili

Jalili says he has devised a carefully detailed plan about housing. He says that his administration will give cheap lands to cooperatives, and the monthly installments will be determined according to the monthly income of families. He says that his plan has advantages over other candidates’ plans, as it guarantees the design and the quality. He has said there is no need for applicants to bring in any money.



Mohsen Rezaei

Rezaei has devised a “cheap housing plan,” which consists of long-term loans with low-rate interests and free land provided by the government. In the third and final presidential debate on the topic of people’s concerns, he said that the people can pay these loans back in 50 years. He added that he is planning to provide cheap houses for teachers and thereby taking a burden off of their shoulders.



Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh

Mehr Alizadeh has made a very general statement about the sky-rocketing price of apartments and houses and not presenting a solution.



Alireza Zakani

Zakani has said he will provide cheap housing; however, he has not provided details. He says he will release his plan. Yet, he has not done so.



Abdolnasser Hemmati

As a reformist candidate, he is opposed to the Mehr Housing Plan in its essence. He has said that he will provide cheap housing but not stating how he will do it. His plan is mostly focused on shaping economic dialogue with foreign countries, with particular attention to signing the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). He has said that he will fix the economy through joining international conventions, fighting unemployment and lowering inflation rate.



Amir Hossein Qazizadeh

On the very first day of campaigning, Qazizadeh made a big claim that under his administration no Iranian will remain without a house. Analysts are still waiting for details of his plans.



SPORTS

Our job is not yet finished: Dragan Skocic

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Iran national football team head coach Dragan Skocic says that they need to beat Iraq to get job done in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

The 'Persian Leopards' are scheduled to play Iraq on Tuesday at the Sheikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium.

The race for top spot promises to see a thrilling end with Iraq - on 17 points - two ahead of Iran while Bahrain will need to defeat Hong Kong by a huge margin and hope for Iran to lose to secure second place as Group C goes down to the wire.

"We knew that we need four wins out of four matches in the competition. Iran have defeated Hong Kong, Bahrain and Cambodia but our job is not yet finished. We must defeat Iraq to book our place in the next stage," Skocic said in the pre-match news conference.

"The match against Iraq will be a tougher challenge than the previous matches because Iraq are a stronger team. We have a lot of respect for Iraq since they benefit from good coaching staff and players. They are a respectable team," he added.

"We are well aware that they will play us with their best lineup. We are in good situation and there is a good atmosphere in our team. But we know that our job has not done yet. My players have to forget the previous matches since we are one step away from qualification," Skocic concluded.

Salahshouri wins silver at Asian Poomsae Taekwondo C'ships

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Marjan Salahshouri from Iran claimed a silver medal at the 6th Asian Taekwondo Poomsae Championships on Monday.

She finished in second place with 7.83 points.

Bi Han Shin from Korea Republic claimed the gold medal earning 8.20 points.

Bronze medal went to Jocel Iyn Ninobla from the Philippines who scored 7.61 points.

The four-day competition is being held at the Nouhad Naufal Indoor Stadium in Beirut, Lebanon.

Iran learn fate at Boys' U19 World Championship

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Iran discovered their opponents at the FIVB Volleyball Boys' Under 19 World Championship.

The Iranian team have been drawn in Pool A along with Nigeria, Poland, Guatemala and Team 3.

The competition takes place in Tehran, Iran from Aug. 24 to Sept. 2.

The 2021 tournament participants were split into four pools of five teams each (with three teams to be confirmed) at a drawing of lots ceremony held online on Monday.

Drawing of Lots result:  
Pool A: Iran, Nigeria, Poland, Guatemala, Team 3  
Pool B: Italy, Czech Republic, Brazil, Colombia, Team 2  
Pool C: Russia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Belgium, Thailand  
Pool D: Argentina, Egypt, Germany, Cuba, Team 1

The 2021 Boys' U19 World Championship will take place two years after the most recent edition of the competition which was held in Tunisia with Italy, Russia and Argentina claiming gold, silver and bronze respectively.

Iran beat Saudi Arabia at FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Iran ended Group E of the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers with a win over Saudi Arabia.

In the match held at the Prince Hamza Hall in Amman, Jordan, Iran won the match 70-64.

Iran's Arsalan Kazemi stuffed the stat sheet for a second straight game with 7 points, 13 rebounds, 2 assists, and three steals in the win.

Abdel Gabar finished the game with 24 points, 8 rebounds, and 6 assists to once again star for his team. The team also got an energizing performance from Musab Tariq Kadi who impressed with 12 points and 6 offensive rebounds.

Iran had defeated Qatar 84-46 on Saturday, becoming the fourth team confirmed to qualify for FIBA Asia Cup 2021.

Iran's Saravi wins gold at Poland Open

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammad Hadi Saravi won a gold medal at the United World Wrestling's Poland Open in Warsaw.

In an all-Iranian 97kg final, Saravi defeat Mehdi Bali 3-0. Islam Abbasov of Azerbaijan and Finland's Arvi Savolainen earned bronzes.

The Poland Open was the final ranking event of the year.

Iran's Amin Mohammadzaman Mirzazadeh had claimed a gold medal at the Poland Open on Saturday.

Mirzazadeh defeated his countryman Ali Akbar Yousefi 3-1 in the final match of the 130kg.

Iran victorious over Afghanistan at CAFA Junior Championship

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** – Iran defeated Afghanistan 3-0 on Monday in the CAFA Junior Championship.

Roghayeh Jalalinasab opened the scoring for Iran in the 15th minute. Mohadesse Zolfi and Hasti Forouzandeh were also on target in the 24th and 26th minutes.

Iran, who had defeated Tajikistan in their first match, will meet Uzbekistan on Tuesday.

The CAFA tournament is being held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from June 9 to 18. A total of five nations namely, Tajikistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan take part in a round-robin tournament.

The CAFA Junior Championship is an international football competition in Central Asia for the member nations of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).

To the high seas and beyond

Iranian "steel mountain" and the multilayered strategy of maintaining peace in the region

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN**— Iranian Navy unveiled a destroyer and a minesweeper through a virtual videoconference led by President Hassan Rouhani on Monday.

Dena is the fourth Jamaran-class destroyer built by the Naval Industries of the Defense Ministry.

The Iranian destroyer – which is named after one of the most famous mountaintops of the country – is equipped with various defense and offense systems, is designed to make long journeys in the oceans, and is capable of detecting, tracking, and hitting various aerial, surface, and submarine targets.

Dena is reported to weigh more than 1300 tons, and is equipped with 4 cruise missiles ready to open fire at any threats. It is also capable of carrying helicopters on its deck.

Shahin, the other new addition to the Iranian naval fleet, is a minesweeper with a length of 33 meters that was developed and built by local Defense Ministry engineers.

The military ship is outfitted with cutting-edge technology that allows it to detect and detonate several types of naval mines.

Iranian military specialists and technicians have made significant progress

in recent years in manufacturing a wide spectrum of indigenous weaponry, allowing the armed forces to be self-sufficient in the armaments sphere.

In the inauguration ceremony attended by top military commanders, President Rouhani ordered the Navy to unveil the latest accomplishments.

"The power of Iran and our armed forces is high only for deterrence and defense. We do not intend for war and tension, but will not yield to the invading powers," he remarked.

He also said that today, the Islamic Republic of Iran is a power that guarantees the security of the region for itself and its neighbors.

"We explicitly declare to our dear neighbors that the power of our armed forces is not against you but also your supporter and protector, as well as for the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, and the Iranian army is the defender of its own and regional countries' independence," the president added.

Iran has long been the icon of the peace in the region, offering peace initiatives and inviting neighbors and regional countries to sit at the same table to negotiate. Iranian

politicians have always believed that tensions in the region can be reduced through dialogue.

Iran's multilayered strategy shows the complexity of diplomacy in the region. On the one hand, the approach of peace initiatives put forward by the Islamic Republic has earned the country a reputation as a key player in maintaining peace and security in the region. And on the other hand, Iran, a country surrounded by 40 U.S. military bases in the West Asia, needs to boost its defensive abilities to protect itself from the unwanted guests in the region. These unwanted guests have time and again shown that they do not understand diplomacy, and they act barbarically. Iraq and Afghanistan are true examples of the American barbarism.

With Iran enhancing its defensive capabilities, the neighboring countries can also benefit from the advanced defensive equipment the Islamic Republic has.

The West Asia has long suffered from instability and tension, too weak to reform itself. That is when the neighbors come to the rescue. For example, in case of ISIS, Iran helped its neighbor Iraq to retain stability. Iran also helped Syria overthrow ISIS.



May 219 that its "strategic patience" is over and started to gradually remove bans on its nuclear activities.

"Now it is the time for the other sides. If they want to return to the JCPOA, [and] if they want the Islamic Republic of Iran to return to full implementation of its commitments in the JCPOA, they have to make their difficult decisions and they have to make sure, this is very important, they have to assure the Islamic Republic of Iran that what happened in the past is not going to be repeated in the future."

The top diplomat had earlier said that it is unlikely that the Vienna nuclear deal talks would be concluded this week.

In a tweet on Saturday, the Russian ambassador to in-

**"They (Americans) have to assure the Islamic Republic of Iran that what happened in the past is not going to be repeated in the future," Abbas Araghchi insists.**

Iran enriching uranium to 63%, says Rouhani

**→1** He added, "Our nuclear power is not for developing nuclear weapons. The United States and Europe should know this and understand that Iran's nuclear activity is completely peaceful and our enrichment is for the needs of the country in medical and energy sectors."

The International Atomic Energy Agency

announced on May 13 that based on the samples taken from the Natanz nuclear site, Iran has enriched uranium up to 63%.

Iran decided to enrich uranium to 60 percent purity after Mossad operated an act of sabotage at the Natanz nuclear site.

Abbas Araghchi, the Iranian deputy foreign minister who is leading the Iranian

negotiating team in Vienna, announced on April 13 that Iran has sent a letter to the IAEA declaring that the Islamic Republic intends to start enriching uranium up to 60% purity.

On April 14, President Rouhani stated that the 60% enrichment is a response to mischiefs against Iran. "The fact that

ternational organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, said senior diplomats from Iran and the remaining parties "re-iterated their determination to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion" as soon as possible.

Ulyanov, who is the head of the Russian delegation to the Vienna talks, emphasized that "all of us want to do it ASAP, but the quality of an outcome document comes first."

Since April, representatives from Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA have been holding talks in Vienna with the aim of restoring the nuclear deal and bringing the U.S. back to compliance with the accord.

The talks are taking place within the JCPOA Joint Commission. The talks to revitalize the pact started after new U.S. President Joe Biden announced that his country is willing to rejoin the agreement that was struck during the Obama presidency. At the time Biden was vice president.

The meetings are chaired by Enrique Mora, European Union's deputy secretary general for political affairs.

The U.S. has sent a delegation to Vienna but it is not attending the JCPOA Joint Commission talks directly as Washington is no longer a party to the deal. It has, however, held separate talks with the other parties except Iran.

Iran has expressed its strong dismay over the Biden administration's failure to lift illegal sanctions against Iran despite the fact that 144 days have passed since Biden took over as president.

In a Twitter message on Sunday, Araghchi said, "The US has for the past 3 years targeted every single Iranian living anywhere with its brutal & unlawful sanctions."

The top negotiator added that the sitting Biden administration is an accomplice in crippling sanctions against Iran. Araghchi once again called illegal sanctions "crimes against humanity".

"The current US admin has partaken in these crimes against humanity for 144 days," Araghchi lamented.

He said, "Iranians should not have spent a single day under sanctions."

we have stated that we will operate IR-6 centrifuges in Natanz or we will increase enrichment to 60 percent, this is the answer to your malice. You cannot conspire against the Iranian nation and commit crimes in Natanz. When you commit a crime, we cut your hand."

efforts to immiserate 82 million Iranians are ongoing," Araghchi tweeted.

Aragchi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs, said that sanctions during the Coronavirus pandemic is "crime against humanity".

"Economic terrorism amid a PANDEMIC, is a crime against humanity," Araghchi opined.

Iran is one of the hardest hit countries by the pandemic. So far, more than 80,000 Iranians have lost their lives due to the Coronavirus.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has already said that the U.S. "economic terrorism" against Iran is being supplanted by "medical terrorism".

Tehran says Biden admin. is accomplice in brutal sanctions on Iranians

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran has expressed its strong dismay over the Joe Biden administration's failure to lift illegal sanctions against Iran despite the fact that 144 days have passed since Biden took over as president at the White House.

In a Twitter message on Sunday, Iran's top nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi said, "The US has for the past 3 years targeted every single Iranian living anywhere with its brutal & unlawful sanctions."

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"The current US admin has partaken in these crimes against humanity for 144 days," Araghchi lamented.

In a separate tweet on June Saturday, Araghchi said although Donald Trump is no longer president in the U.S. his "unlawful and murderous sanctions" against Iran are still in place.

Trump who illegally left the 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018 and introduced the harshest sanctions in history against Iran through his "maximum pressure" campaign, was not eve ready to relax financial transactions against Iran for importation of drugs and medical equipment during the Coronavirus pandemic.

"Trump is gone, but his unlawful & murderous sanctions are still there. No need for crocodile tears when US

Grossi: Lack of Iran deal leaves IAEA 'flying blind'

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Rafael Mariano Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said in an interview aired on Sunday that his agency was "flying blind" due to not having a deal in place with Iran.

Speaking with Axios, Grossi said it is "essential to have a deal" with Iran "because Iran has a very big, ambitious, sophisticated, developed nuclear program."

Iran has recently made moves to limit the IAEA's monitoring capabilities, briefly threatening to end its access to surveillance cameras, though Iran later agreed to a one-month extension.

The decision by Tehran to limit IAEA

access to nuclear activities is a response to crippling sanctions against Iran in violation of the 2015 nuclear deal – JCPOA – which has been endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Prior to the decision by the Iranian parliament to limit the IAEA monitoring activities, the UN nuclear watchdog acknowledged that Iran's nuclear program was subject to the most intensive inspections in the history of the international body.

The IAEA said in May that it has not been able to access data necessary to monitor the Iranian nuclear program since February.

"As I say, we are flying blind," Grossi commented.

Axios also said Israel is known to have a nuclear program, though it has never publicly disclosed information regarding its arsenal.

"I wouldn't go into the analysis of individual political stances of countries but it is obvious and this has been said publicly," Grossi said, though he acknowledged there was an "opaqueness" when it came to Israel's nuclear program. "But some leaders in this region [have said] that the presence of a new nuclear arsenal would trigger a nuclear arms race in the region."

"We do have a relationship with Israel and we do inspect the facilities that are outside the program," Grossi said, adding that the IAEA

believes Israel should join the Non-Proliferation Weapons (NPT).

Israel is widely believed to have more than 200 nuclear arms.

Though Israel is refusing to sign the NPT, it is the strongest opponent to the JCPOA and is pressuring the Biden administration not reenter the pact. Israel has even threatened to use force against Iran for its civilian nuclear program.

Negotiations for Iran to reenter the nuclear deal are still ongoing in Vienna, with the U.S. engaging indirectly through allies.

Iran has said though Donald Trump is no longer president the "murderous and brutal sanctions" against Iranians are still in place.



## TEDPIX gains nearly 9,000 points on Monday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — After several days of decline, TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), finally grew on Monday.

The index climbed 8,990 points to 1.15 million, as over 6.464 billion securities worth 47.492 trillion rials (about \$1.13 billion) were traded in the TSE on Monday.

The first market's index rose 9,081 points, and the second market's index increased 9,604 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 Zarmakuran 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.

## Sirik power plant highlighting Iran-Russia energy cooperation

**ECONOMY** the use of different methods of providing resources to advance the projects envisaged in this sector is of particular importance, Mohsen Tarzatab noted.

Implementing the plan to build Sirik power plant using foreign financial resources has been the most economical way of financing this plan due to the prevailing economic conditions in the country, lack of available resources for government to spend on construction projects and lack of direct access to foreign exchange resources, the official further explained.

Based on the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), every year 25,000 MW should be added to the country's power generation capacity, of which 3,700 MW should be generated by the thermal power plants, he said, adding, "In this regard, one of the ways provided in the development plan law to generate such capacity is to use and attract domestic and foreign financial resources."

To build nearly 4,000 MW of new power plant capacity each year, €3.5 billion in resources are needed in the power generation sector alone. This is important while all the revenue sources of the thermal power generation company are less than one-sixth of the required resources in the budget each year.

For this purpose, after four years of negotiations and consultations, it was decided to provide about 85 percent of the 1.4 billion-euros needed for the construction of the Sirik power plant, ie 1.2 billion euros will be financed by the Russian side and the rest from the government's internal resources, Tarzatab stated.



Explaining the benefits of using foreign financial resources, he said: "Using foreign financial resources has several benefits, including the entry of new financial resources, maintaining the sovereign role of the government, not considering investment risk, full knowledge of how to implement the project, complete and centralized technical and financial control, adherence to the technical and implementation system of the country, timely payment of project costs, completion of the project with minimal deviation from the schedule compared to similar projects, compliance with international standards from the conclusion of the contract to the implementation, in addition to job creation.

Benefiting from the foreign funds through various methods can contribute to the economic development of the country, the official underlined, and said, "For example, in the field of "capital", the foreign financier brings financial resources to the host country, and given that a large part of these resources is spent domestically, it increases productivity, employment and income in the society."

Sirik power plant will be built in one of the deprived areas located on the shores of Makran in a situation where this project, as a supplier of one of the most important infrastructures needed for the economic growth of Makran beaches, will surely flourish the economic capacities of this region.

This project is one of the most effective and key steps in the direction of comprehensive development of this important and strategic region.

Sirik project has been described as a symbol of Russia's growing inclination to invest in Iran at a time the United States is piling massive economic pressure on the country.

Russia has committed itself to other infrastructure projects in Iran worth nearly \$5 billion, including a key railway in southeast of the country.

# Iran implements project for injecting gas condensate into oilfield for 1st time

**ECONOMY** Soroush oil field, in Persian Gulf, is located about 120 Kilometers (km) Southwest of Bahregan area and 80 Km from Kharg Island.

The field is positioned near Abouzar, Esfandiar, and Norouz fields. The field production was stopped during the Iran-Iraq war.

Soroush was redeveloped by Royal Dutch Shell in 2000 under a Buy-back contract.

Iran is currently producing over 550,000 barrels of gas condensate on a daily basis, part of which is directly exported to foreign destinations, and a part is used as the feedstock for domestic refineries.

Gas condensate, also called condensate, is a low-density mixture of hydrocarbon liquids that are present as gaseous components in the raw natural gas produced from many natural gas fields. Some gas



species within the raw natural gas will condense to a liquid state if the temperature is reduced to below the hydrocarbon dew point temperature at a set pressure.

Most of Iran's gas condensate is produced from the country's giant South Pars gas field which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf waters.

## ‘Free trade with EAEU a good opportunity for Iran’

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri described the free trade

agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) as a good opportunity for the country's economy and called on the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade and other relevant organizations to set a timetable for the finalization of the agreement and follow it seriously.

In a meeting to review the latest status of Iran's relations with Eurasia, which was chaired by him, the official named free trade with neighboring countries as a way to develop Iran's economy, industry and agriculture and said that the free trade between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union not only is not a threat to domestic production, but provides a large market for the country's manufactured goods.

In the meeting, which was also attended by the ministers of energy as well as industry, mining and trade, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Russia, and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Central Bank of Iran, Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum released a report on the latest status of Iran-EAEU trade and negotiations.

Iran and Eurasian Economic Union reached a free trade agreement in October 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items were subjected to preferential tariffs.

The interim agreement enabling the formation of a free trade area between Iran and the EAEU was signed



on May 17, 2018, and officially came into force on October 27, 2019.

Iran is a very important market in the region and the development of ties with this country is of high significance for the EAEU members (Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan).

The free trade agreement between Iran and this union has laid the ground for the expansion of trade ties between the two sides.

The agreement with the bloc has increased Iran's exports to the EAEU member states significantly, which is a

## Annual polymer exports from Imam Khomeini port up 14%

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Some 109,000 tons of polymer products were exported from Imam Khomeini Port in southwestern Khuzestan province during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), up 14 percent compared to the preceding year.

As Shana reported, Bandar Imam Petrochemical Company (BIPC)'s output hit new records in the previous year in line with the year's motto which was "surge in production".

The PVC unit of the mentioned company also produced 166,000 tons of PVC products in the mentioned year, up 2,000 tons from the figure for the preceding year.

Iran exported over \$1.31 billion worth of polymer products in the previous year, according to the chairman of the Export Committee of Iran National Plastic and Polymer Industries Association.



Speaking at an international conference on promoting polymer exports in Tehran on June 1, Masoud Jamali said: "We are top exporter of polymer products to Armenia and the second biggest exporter of such products to the Republic of Azerbaijan."

The mentioned conference was held with the aim of exploring issues and challenges

in the country's polymer industries and to discuss ways of increasing exports.

"In this conference, we have focused on empowering and informing the businessmen and traders active in this sector," Jamali said in the opening ceremony.

Introducing Iran's polymer export capacities and opportunities, identifying new target markets, and getting acquainted with the laws and regulations of the mentioned countries were among the topics explored in this conference.

According to Reza Tofiqi, the secretary of the conference, one of the best ways for boosting non-oil exports and especially polymer exports is to sign trade agreements with other countries.

"In recent years, a preferential trade agreement has been signed with the Eurasian Economic Union, which covers a significant number of the items," Tofiqi said.

He said that 60 percent of the items in the agreement are related to the polymer and plastics industries, adding that if traders have enough knowledge in this regard, they can supply part of the union's \$4.5 billion imports of such products, while currently, Iran exports only \$600 million of the mentioned commodities to the union.

Tofiqi further noted that Pakistan imports \$2.2 billion of polymer products a year and said: "Iran ranks sixth among the top polymer exporters to this country with only \$103 million of exports; the country accounts for five percent of Pakistan's total imports, while Iran has a 20-year agreement with this country."

According to the official, government bodies should reconsider the trade of polymer products with other countries like Pakistan in order to include these products in the list of items with tariff reductions.

## Oil industry accounts for 80% of Iran's newly indigenized products

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Vice-President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari has said that 80 percent of the products that are being produced for the first time in the country are related to the oil industry.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Oil Industry Innovation and Technology Park on Monday, Sattari stressed the significant role of knowledge-based companies and startups in indigenizing the knowledge for the production of new equipment and products, saying: "The government will support research on new equipment and the private sector invests on the mass production of the final products."

"The Petroleum Industry Research Institute can be a great platform [for working on the indigenization of equipment and products], but one cannot expect a researcher at this institute to produce a final product," he said.

"The condition must be prepared for startups to thrive," the official said, adding: "Technology companies provide



this opportunity."

According to Sattari, most of the investment needed for the expansion of work on new technologies must be provided by the private sector and not the government.

## Imports through Bazargan border crossing exceed \$79m

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Some 68,700 tons of commodities worth \$79.878 million have been imported into Iran through Bazargan border crossing since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), according to the Bazargan customs director-general.

The value of imports has increased by \$62.398 million, compared to the figure for the same period in the previous year in which the imports stood at only \$17.48 million due to the coronavirus pandemic, Mojtaba Bazgir told IRNA on Sunday.

The volume of imports has also increased significantly compared to the same period in the previous year, as the weight of im-

ports was reported to be 2,736 tons in the previous year's same time span.

According to Bazgir, industrial machinery, iron or steel products, aluminum, automobiles, paint, and composite extracts, steel structures, adhesives, welding metals, ash, rubber, and rubber products, as well as textile and fabric were among the top commodity items entering the country through the mentioned crossing.

Located in West Azarbaijan Province, Bazargan is one of the three border crossings between Iran and Turkey; this border, which is Iran's gateway to European countries, is located at Bazargan District in Maku County.

It is the most important Iranian ground border for importing and exporting.

In late February 2020, the border crossing was closed due to the outbreak of the coronavirus; it resumed operation after a three-month hiatus.

Iran sees trade with Turkey as key in efforts to confront the U.S. sanctions that have sought to undermine Tehran's oil exports. Petrochemical products account for a major share of Iran's exports to Turkey although the U.S. bans have made it difficult to settle payments between businesses in the two countries.

Turkey also relies on Iran as a major market for its manufacturing goods, in-



cluding industrial machinery and garment, while it also sends to Iran some sizable shipments of crops and fruits that are not cultivated in the country.



# Trump dealt a great blow to U.S. soft power: Lebanese researcher

By Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** — A Lebanese political researcher is of the opinion that former U.S. President Donald Trump lifted the veil on U.S. democracy and gave a powerful slap in the face to the American soft power.

“Though Trump was the worst example of a politician, but he has to be given credit for showing the world the true ugly face of the so-called U.S. democracy,” Ali Mourad tells the Tehran Times.

“His behavior inside and outside the U.S. gave a powerful slap in the face to the so-called ‘U.S. soft power,’ he notes.

After Biden’s victory in the November 2020 presidential elections, Trump spent months claiming allegations of election fraud that have been amplified by loyalists and conservative media outlets.

Before the election, Trump’s foreign policy discredited the U.S., especially Washington’s withdrawal from international agreements, such as the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and the Paris climate agreement.

“The way he treated U.S. allies worldwide, and the way he dealt with minorities and people of color inside the U.S. actually expressed the real mentality of the U.S.,” the Lebanese political expert points out.

Following is the text of the interview:

**American leaders always address the challenges facing democracy around the world, yet neglecting the immediate threat to U.S. democracy. Is the U.S. a yardstick to assess democracy in other countries?**

When American leaders preach about democracy, they try to express the sense of exclusivity, that they are the first nation that experienced this democracy after the so-called U.S. Revolution. They present their experience as the reference that all other nations of the world should follow or adopt. But as a matter of fact, their democracy has many defects and anomalies. Regarding elections, for instance, they got “Voter Suppression” that they called “Gerrymandering”, that’s being practiced since 1789, and it’s still practiced by both Republican and Democratic parties, but at the same time they preach about the legality and authenticity of other nations’ elections. Also, they got the political money that plays a decisive role in delivering who wins a seat in Congress, and after the election, lobbying money spent by U.S. corporations shapes legislations and bills in both chambers of Congress. Interest groups manipulate the U.S. democratic process in a way that declassifies the American democratic model as a universal standard for other nations.



Thus, American leaders should be faced with such anomalies in the democratic practice inside the U.S. every time they try to preach and judge elections or democratic practice in nations like Iran or Venezuela or Russia or Syria or any other country.

**Do you think the American founders were seeking to establish a real democracy? If this is so, why did they endorse displacement of indigenous peoples in the Americas?**

The so-called “Founding Fathers” created a bourgeois democracy that suits capitalists and slave owners in the late 18th century, and it remained so after the civil war of 1860. It was a democracy that refused to answer the rights of black people to be treated as citizens, and before that, it made sure to continue the process of extermination of the original owners of the land, who they named “Red Indians”. Most of the “Founding Fathers” had tens and sometimes hundreds of slaves, and by the time the “Bill of Rights” was being written by Thomas Jefferson, he was raping one of his 600 slaves whom he had children from her and refused to recognize as his own children. And what’s ironic is that today’s U.S. leaders still quote those founders as beacons for democracy and the rule of law that respects human rights and equality.

**Why does the U.S. which makes claims of democracy supports tyrannical Arab states? Are you hopeful that the U.S. disapprove of undemocratic states in the future?**

The U.S. has always made exceptions when dealing with countries worldwide based on what they call “U.S. National Interests”. They supported and still tyrannical regimes in the Persian Gulf Arab states due to their interests in oil and regional hegemony. That’s a clear example that they hypocritically claim caring for democratic practices in their foreign policy while what really matters for them is to maintain their own interests. The Biden administration declared that human rights and democracy would be at the core of its foreign policy, but that will not be the case with autocratic regimes like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, for example, or even in countries that discriminate against religions and ethnicity like India for example. So, it has always been about interests for capitalist America, and it will always be so.

**How do you evaluate what U.S. leaders call democratization in West Asia? Were they successful in exporting democracy to Iraq, for instance?**

When the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, it made sure to demolish the institutions necessary for the rule of law, which was important to build upon for a successful democratic practice. The Iraqi experience tells us that the U.S. came to Iraq to spread

chaos and prevent any try to have a successful transition from a tyrannical Saddam regime to an enduring democratic system that would meet the needs of the Iraqis. And this American practice explains the true intentions of the U.S.: a loose and divided Middle East (West Asia) for the sake of the Zionist regime. America wants to keep the region in chaos and wars so that the divided Arab states would be more divided into other sectarian and ethnic groups so that Israel would prevail and rule the region. So, all the claims Washington made about exporting democracy and freedom to Iraq were all lies and deceptions made to justify their hegemonic policies in the region.

**What can we learn from the Trump era and the problems he created for U.S. democracy?**

Though Trump was the worst example of a politician, but he has to be given credit for showing the world the true ugly face of the so-called U.S. democracy. His behavior inside and outside the U.S. gave a powerful slap in the face to the so-called “U.S. Soft Power”. The way he treated U.S. allies worldwide and the way he dealt with minorities and people of color inside the U.S. actually expressed the real mentality of the U.S. White Anglo-Saxon bloc, that considers citizens of color as second-class citizens that shouldn’t have any equal rights with White citizens, and that’s a contradictory thing while preaching about democratic practice.

**Do you make a distinction between Democrats and Republicans when it comes to protection of U.S. democracy?**

Both mainstream Republicans and Democrats know the importance of guarding the image of their democracy worldwide, as they both know its importance in gaining influence. Democrats know exactly the deficiencies in their democracy, but they keep on whitewashing it so that they keep fooling nations worldwide, as a means of soft power, while Republicans lately, after the emergence of Trump and the current he resembles tend to act in a popular isolationist way due to economic and social fears, thus creating an exception to rule that the mainstream current in both parties is fighting to keep. In the end, billions of people worldwide, especially those who were taken by the magic of the U.S. propaganda of the so-called “American Dream”, now know that America has changed and it has shown its real face when it comes to protecting democracy and human rights, and it’s going to be hard for U.S. diplomacy to restore the pre-Trump era when they used to fool nations with their hypocrisy about democracy.

## Netanyahu era ends

➔ 1 “The coalition was born for one main purpose – to bring Netanyahu’s rule to an end. Members of the coalition share one thing in common: the belief that Netanyahu has corrupted Israel’s political system,” said Voller.



However, with only one purpose in common, future disagreements appear inevitable. “Otherwise, this is a very loose coalition of different ideologies that at one point are bound to clash with each other,” he added.

This raises the obvious question of how the coalition aims to overcome its ideological differences, particularly considering that Bennett leans further to the right on various issues than his predecessor.

Voller said he believes that on specific issues, progress could nonetheless be made.

## Paper details U.S., Israel, Saudi role in coup plot against Jordan king

➔ 1 A key figure in the report was Awadallah, one of the former senior officials implicated in the alleged recent plot. Awadallah, a cabinet minister and onetime head of the royal court, moved to Saudi Arabia in 2018 and became close with the Saudi crown prince.

“A sticking point for us is al-Aqsa. The king [Abdullah] uses that to browbeat us and keep his role in the Middle East,” Awadallah was reported to say regarding the U.S. plan.

An unnamed former U.S. official, according to the report, said he was told by Awadallah that “MBS (bin Salman) is upset because he can’t get a deal because he can’t handle the reactions of Palestinians if the king holds his position” on Jerusalem al-Quds.

The Post also quoted from a Jordanian investigative report on the coup plot.

“Awadallah was working to promote the ‘deal of the century’ and weaken Jordan’s position and the King’s position on Palestine and the Hashemite Custodianship of Islamic and Christian holy sites in al-Quds,” the Jordanian report said.

## Russia mocks G7 leaders for criticizing Moscow while calling for ‘stable’ ties

Russia has mocked the US-led Group of Seven’s criticism of Moscow’s “destabilizing behavior” in their concluding joint statement while also making an ironic call for “stable and predictable” ties with the country.

“The G7 countries approved the joint statement where, in addition to the traditional call on Russia to stop the destabilizing behavior, there is one interesting aspect,” wrote Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova in a Sunday post on her Telegram channel, noting, “The [Group of] Seven expressed interest in ‘stable and predictable relations with Russia.’”

Emphasizing that Russia’s predictability has been proven over the years, the senior diplomat further challenged the G7 to demonstrate how predictable they can be considering their poor record in the field.

“Earlier, they stated that Russia should be more stable and predictable,” Zakharova underlined. “Now this task is considered to be the sphere of joint relations, that is, depending on all sides. Taking into account that our predictability has been confirmed by years and actions, now it’s the [Group of] Seven’s turn who are not as strong in this sphere.”

**G7 urges stable, predictable Russia ties**  
Zakharova’s statement came after the heads of the world’s wealthiest states accused Russia in the final communique of their summit of being engaged in that they referred to as “malign activities,” meddling in “democratic systems,” and violating human rights, among other allegations.

“We reaffirm our call on Russia to stop its destabilizing behavior and malign activities, including its interference in other countries’ democratic systems, and to fulfill its international human rights obligations and commitments,” read the G7 statement while insisting on the “interest in stable and predictable relations” with Moscow in “areas of mutual interest.”

## Resistance News

### Hamas calls for massive rallies at Aqsa and J’lem streets

**INTERNATIONAL** **TEHRAN**— The Hamas Movement has urged the Jerusalemite citizens to intensively rally on Tuesday in the Aqsa Mosque’s courtyards and the Old City streets to prevent extremist Jewish groups from staging their provocative flag march and achieving their malicious goals.

“Let’s make next Tuesday a day of rallying and marching towards the Aqsa Mosque and a day of anger and defiance against the Israeli occupation,” Hamas spokesman Mohamed Hamada said in a press release on Sunday.

Organizers of the right-wing flag march reached an agreement with the Israel police on Friday to allow for their rally to take place on Tuesday.

The march that was planned for last Thursday was canceled after organizers and police failed to agree on a route following police fears that the march would reignite tensions and lead to riots in the holy city.

## Vienna talks: A multi-part American series

➔ 1 Since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution, a series of sanctions were imposed on Iran. In 1979, the U.S. froze nearly \$12 billion of Iranian assets, including bank deposits, gold, and several other properties, and the U.S. imposed an economic embargo. If we were about to recite the history of on-and-off sanctions on Iran, it would require a full research paper. However, to make the long story short, the sanctions were imposed because the Iranian political system was no longer a friendly one to “Israel”. This fact has become a devastating fact to both the Americans as well as “Israel”.

The escalation against Iran started in 1987 under several pretenses. Washington called it actions against the U.S. in the (Persian) Gulf and started supporting radical groups in different countries. And here is the crux of the matter! The Iranian revolution has declared itself as an advocate to the so-called radical Lebanese and Palestinian resistance forces against the Israeli occupation in South Lebanon and Palestine.

The Americans still accuse Iran of executing the martyrdom operation against the U.S. Marines and the French troops in 1983 in Lebanon, killing huge numbers of them and driving the rest out of the country. However, the story does not lie there! It is an extended list of accusations and demands. The Americans are pushing towards closure by laying new demands on the negotiation table. However, the Iranians rejected it and refused to be pressured into discussing different agendas on the negotiation table.

It is very clear that the negotiations that resulted in signing the Joint Comprehension Plan of Action [JCPOA] were not enough for both the Americans and the Israelis. The JCPOA did not stop their worries concerning the Iranian role in the region and the progress it reached in its missile industry.

In 2015, Iran’s missile program was not yet raised. When Donald Trump, the previous American president, withdrew from the agreement and imposed new sanctions, it was because the Americans believed that, whether it

was Trump’s government or any other government, they would be able to force Iran on a more conclusive package of demands.

In May 2018, when the U.S. quit the JCPOA, major achievements were made in the Middle East (West Asia) and the Arab region:

1- The Axes of Resistance has fully developed in the region and declared their commitment to the Palestinian cause and their support of those who are fighting Israel and American occupation. The Axes is a coalition of different countries and resistance groups that includes Iran, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen.

2- Iran has made unprecedented development in missile technology, particularly ballistic missiles.

3- Tehran has improved its local military achievements against terrorism and the world war on Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. Once the sanctions were re-imposed on Iran, the Iranian took a brave step by going back into raising the level of uranium enrichment, which brought back the Americans to non-preconditioned negotiations.

So far, the Americans have been trying to deceive Iranians by releasing a billion-dollar here or there. However, the Iranians understand this game perfectly. Iran is a proud, self-sufficient state. It cannot be manipulated in the American way. On the other hand, the Americans are not willing to be part of the JCPOA again unless Iran fulfils the following requirements:

1- Stopping its missile program  
2- Going back in the process of uranium enrichment to the stage before 2015.  
3- The return of inspectors and monitoring of the program through re-installing cameras in the nuclear facilities.  
4- Ceasing support to what the Americans call proxy forces, mainly in Yemen, Iraq, and Lebanon.

The fourth article, in particular, is considered to be the

most complex item in the talks. The demand and the obligation that the Americans are asking for are clear. They want to establish full recognition and the security of “Israel”. This was clearly stated in Joe Biden’s press conference held on the 21st of April with the South Korean president after the great Palestinian accomplishment in operation Saif Al-Quds. Biden’s message was sent to everyone in the region. On the other hand, Iran refuses to offer grantees at the expense of its allies.

However, the American’s vanity has so far failed to recognize that the Islamic Republic is an independent state and doesn’t accept to follow dictated policies.

Most probably, these are the critical issues that Abbas Araqchi, the Iranian deputy foreign minister and chief nuclear negotiator in Vienna, openly referred to on the 9th of the current month. He confirmed that there are still outstanding issues related to the return of the two parties to the nuclear agreement that need to be discussed. Noting that a new round of talks is underway in Vienna in the current week, but it cannot be decided if it is going to be the last round. This confirmation leads to the belief that it is going to be a long-term talk that was re-confirmed by the Iranian delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Kazem Gharibabadi. He said: “We do not see an American tendency to lift sanctions, and Iran should not be expected to fulfill its obligations under the weight of sanctions.”

So far, unless some miracle happens, the nuclear agreement is unlikely to be revived within the foreseen period. Each side is pulling the rope, hoping to win the second round. The Iranians so far have proven to be tough negotiators and excelled in the game of biting fingers. They did not lead direct talks with the Americans; they literally dragged the Americans into non-preconditioned negotiations. However, the negotiations are still to be continued.

## Barham Salih: Iraq defeated Daesh thanks to army, Hashd al-Sha’abi

Iraq’s President Barham Salih says unity between the army, the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), also known as Hashd al-Sha’abi, and Kurdish Peshmerga forces have enabled the country to defeat the Daesh (ISIL) terrorist group.

“The liberation of the homeland from the defilement of terrorism was achieved by the unity between Iraqis from the army, Hashd al-Sha’abi, and Peshmerga,” Salih said in a tweet on Sunday.

He stressed that “the victory won’t be completed without the consolidation of

capable state and the rule of law and good governance”.

According to Press TV, Salih’s remarks came on the anniversary of the fatwa (religious decree) issued by prominent Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani after a number of Iraqi cities fell to Daesh, which led to the establishment of the Popular Mobilization Units.

Daesh began a terror campaign in Iraq in 2014, overrunning vast swathes in lightning attacks.

On June 12, 2014, Daesh terrorists killed



around 1,700 Iraqi air force recruits after kidnapping them from Camp Speicher, a former U.S. base in northern Iraq. There were reportedly around 4,000 unarmed cadets in the camp when it came under attack by Daesh.

Following the abductions, the attackers took the victims to Tikrit’s complex of presidential palaces and executed them. The terrorists also threw some of the bodies into a river.

The massacre was filmed by Daesh and broadcast on social media.



## Centuries-old mosque in southwestern Iran restored to former glory

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



The terms “Jameh Mosque” or “Masjed-e Jameh” or “Friday Mosque” are used in Iran for a grand communal mosque where mandatory Friday prayers are/were performed: the phrase is used in other Muslim countries but only in Iran does it designate this purpose.

## Tourism minister cuts ribbon on traditional boutique hotel

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan on Sunday inaugurated a traditional boutique hotel during his visit to Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbaijan province.

Over 600 billion rials (some \$14.2 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) have been invested in the construction of the tiny hotel, which has a capacity for only ten guests, CHTN reported.



Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turks made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

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

## Illegal excavators arrested in northern Iran

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Iranian police have recently arrested five illegal excavators and antique smugglers in Gorgan, northern Golestan province, CHTN reported on Monday.



The lawbreakers were traced and finally arrested while digging for historical objects in a village after the authorities received reports from cultural heritage aficionados about their lawbreaking, said Faramarz Mir, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage.

Some excavation tools and equipment have been seized from the culprits who were surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, the official added.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

# Ancient architectural vestiges accidentally unearthed near Toghrol tower

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Some ancient architectural vestiges have accidentally been unearthed near the 12th-century Tughrul Tower in southern Tehran.

The remnants, estimated to date from the Seljuk era (1037–1194), were primarily found during a site preparation westward of the brick tower, Mehr reported.

Later, a team of archaeologists carved five trenches each with about 4 meters depth... and the ruined structures were

found beneath a residential house and a school that span some 2,000 square meters in area, the report said.

Standing tall in the city of Rey, the tower is the tomb of Seljuk ruler Toghrol Beg, who died in Rey in 1063. Originally, like other monuments of its time, it was capped by a conical dome that would have added to its height.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE). According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the city was briefly a capital



## Old photos of Imam Reza (AS) shrine on show at Tehran exhibit

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – A collection of Qajar-era (1789-1925) photos of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) is currently on show at the Tehran’s Malek National Library and Museum, IRNA reported on Monday.

The exhibit also displays photos of coins related to the caliphate period of Imam Reza (AS). After Imam Reza (AS) was forced to accept the caliphate in Ramadan 201 AH, these coins were minted by order of Ma’mun in 202 AH in Samargand and 203 AH in Isfahan. The coins are being kept in the museum of Astan-e Quds Razavi.

Constructed in the 11th century, the shrine complex of



under the rule of the Seljuqs, but in the 12th century.

In 1220 the city was almost destroyed by the Mongols, and its inhabitants were massacred. Most of the survivors of the massacre moved to nearby Tehran, and the deserted remnants of Rey soon fell into complete ruin.

Seljuk, also spelled, Seljuq, was a ruling military family of the Oguz (Ghuzz) Turkic tribes that invaded southwestern Asia in the 11th century and eventually founded an empire that included Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and most of Iran. Their advance marked the beginning of Turkish power in the Middle East.

## Trees, spring, salt lake added to national heritage list

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A total of eight natural properties including trees, a spring, and a salt lake in Isfahan province have been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism declared the inscriptions on Monday in a letter to the governor-general of the central province.

Old plane, juniper, walnut, elm, and mulberry trees as well as a salt lake and a water spring across the province were added to the prestigious list, IRNA re-

ported.

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of the top tourist destinations of the country for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It’s a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.



The city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan which is translated into “half the world”; meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

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.

## Tourism minister appreciates efforts to revive 700-year-old complex

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – Iranian tourism minister on Monday praised efforts made to restore the Hassan Padeshah complex, which is located in the historical city of Tabriz.

“Restoration of this collection is a great and valuable work,” Ali-Asghar Mounesan said during a personal visit to the 700-year-old collection.

Located in East Azarbaijan province, the complex comprises a mosque, a madrasa, a bathhouse, arrays of shops, and a massive forum covering some twofold

that of UNESCO-registered Imam Square in Isfahan.

“This complex, which is located in the old texture of Tabriz, is very important in terms of cultural heritage and historical identity of this city and should be well introduced by the media,” Mounesan added.

Iran hosts some of the world’s oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, as well as rich natural and rural landscapes, some of which are registered in the UNESCO World Heritage list.



## Qazvin: an ancient city with appealing churches, Armenian neighborhoods

**TOURISM** Besides serving as places of worship and religious services, churches are visited for their splendor and architectural beauty, their majesty, and magnificence.

A Muslim-majority country, Iran is home to many gorgeous churches and chapels that showcase amazing architecture and exquisite ornate work that are a simply must-visit.

Like other Iranian cities, Qazvin is standing in the way of peaceful coexistence between Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and Zoroastrian communities, a social phenomenon that can be traced in various documents narrated by many travelers to the country.

Earlier this month, the pilgrimage to the St. Thaddeus apostle monastery was recognized by UNESCO for its cultural



significance. The United Nations’ heritage body accepted the pilgrimage as a joint tradition worthy of protection for Iran and Armenia, which many deem as a seal of approval for the peaceful coexistence in the Islamic Republic.

Armenian neighborhoods of Qazvin can be traced even in books and travelogues authored by Western globetrotters such as Jean Chardin (1643 – 1713), Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (1605–1689), and Pietro della Valle (1586 – 1652), according to a recent note written by Ali-Asghar Mounesan, the minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Chardin was a French jeweler and traveler whose ten-volume book The Travels of Sir John Chardin is regarded as one of the finest works of early Western scholarship on Persia and the Near East in general. Tavernier was a 17th-century French gem merchant and traveler, who at the behest of his patron Louis XIV, published Les Six Voyages de Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (Six

Voyages, 1676). And Valle was an Italian composer, musicologist, and author who traveled throughout Asia during the Renaissance period. His travels took him to the Holy Land, the Middle East, Northern Africa, and as far as India.

Armenian neighborhoods of the west-central city mainly date from the time of Shah Abbas I, who transported crowds of Christians from the town of Jolfa (now on Iran’s northern border) to Iran. Shah Abbas sought their skills as merchants, entrepreneurs, and artists and he ensured that their religious freedom was respected.

Of the most famed churches in Qazvin is Cantor (or Kantur) Church, which was built in 1905 for Russian engineers hired for road constructions.

## Iranian handicrafts: Dah-Yek-Douzi

**HERITAGE** One of the most good-looking traditional embroidery of Iran, which goes back to the Sassanid era, is “Dah-Yek-Douzi”.

“Dah-Yek” literally means one-tenth of something and is a kind of embroidery where the needle and thread penetrate one point ten times or ten plies of thread are attached to the fabric by a special kind of fastener.

This method of embroidery creates a special sight and creates an embossed vision. Dah-Yek is used to ornate margins of clothing, “Sofreh Ghand” (a piece of linen on which sugar is arranged for ceremonies like weddings), mirror frames, exquisite curtains, bundles, head wears, decorative tableaux, the cover of holy Quran, money bags, pencil holders and many other objects.

Patterns such as “Bazoubandi”, “Band-e Rumi”, “Ghabghabi”, “Shah Abbasi” or “Anari” (pomegranate), “Afshani”, “Goldani”, “Mehrabi”, geometric, figurative and animal motifs are used, according to Visit Iran.

As for the history of Dah-Yek, since its principal material



is the Golabatoon thread, its history has intertwined with the history of Golabatoon.

The importance of decorating military and official clothing enhanced the art of Dah-Yek, and along with products in which golden threads were used, Dah-Yek was considered as one of

the export goods of the time.

During the Islamic era, after Iranian artists in the city of Susa and Shushtar were commissioned to prepare twelve pieces of the curtain for Kaaba, they began using the art of Dah-Yek to ornate curtains.

In addition, this embroidery decorated covers of holy shrines. Safavid dynasty witnessed the flourishing of Dah-Yek, and it was around that time that artists began signings and sewing their names on their creations.

In addition to highly detailed curtains and bundles, interesting tableaux have remained from the Safavid era that showcases unique skills and abilities of the Safavid artists now kept in museums.

Dah-Yek can be used solely or incorporate sequins, pearls, glass beads, stones, “Naqadeh”, “Sharafeh Douzi”, “Pateh Douzi”, Silk work, Sormeh embroidery, and filigree. This kind of embroidery is very common in cities like Qazvin, Isfahan, Tehran, Yazd, Kashan, and Bandar Abbas.



# Iran, China earmark ¥2m for joint research projects

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran and China will allocate up to ¥2 million to support joint research projects, ISNA reported on Monday.

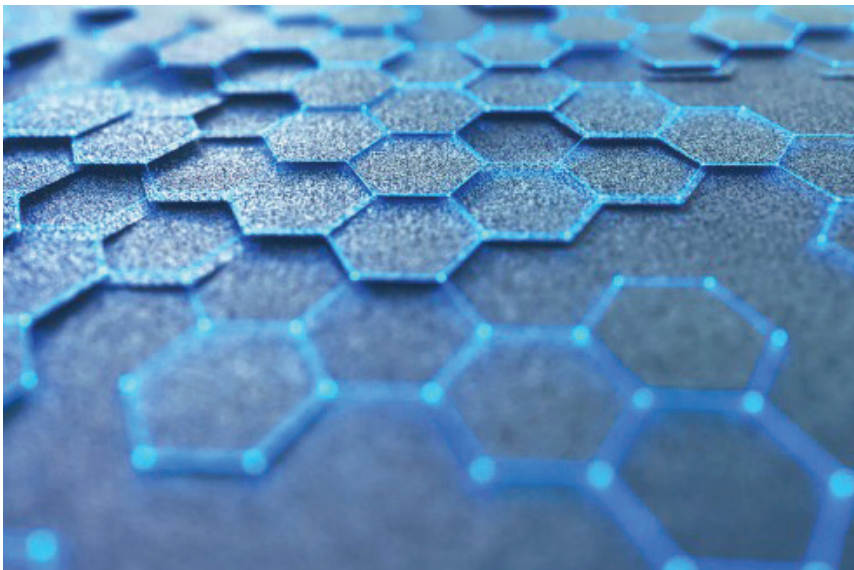
Under a cooperation agreement signed by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Iran's Natural Science Foundation (INSF), the two sides will jointly fund research projects in 2021 to help scientists and knowledge exchange between the two countries.

About 15 joint research projects are planned to be supported by 2021, with maximum funding of China's 2 million yuan per project. Exchange costs are also part of the research budget and international cooperation that the INSF provides to Iranian scientists.

According to the information published on the website of the University of Tehran, this budget will be allocated to research projects in the fields of mathematics, life sciences, and materials sciences.

**Iran's significant contribution to world's scientific growth**

The share of Iranian articles with international participation has had significant



growth of 209 percent during an eight-year period (2013-2020), becoming the Islamic world's leading country in science diploma-

cy, according to the Scopus International Citation Database.

The number of articles indexed by the

Iranian researchers on the Web of Science website in 2020 increased by 122 percent compared to that of 2013, which made Iran 16th in the world with 69,779 articles, and first among the Islamic countries for several consecutive years, Gholam Hossein Rahimi, deputy minister of science has said.

In November 2020, scientific studies and analyses extracted from the Scopus International Citation Database showed that the rate of scientific contributions of Iranian researchers to the world increased from 17 percent in 2011 to 31 percent in 2020, becoming the world's leading country in science diplomacy with 14 percent growth.

The development of international scientific partnerships and diplomacy is one of the main policies of Iran, which is also emphasized by the country's higher education system, Mohammad Javad Dehghani, head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC), said.

The share of the latest joint international scientific findings in the total scientific publications of the country is one of the most important indicators of scientific participation, he added.

## Let's keep the world beating by donating blood

→ **1** Safe blood saves lives, and one in three people in the world need a blood transfusion or blood products during their lifetime, he highlighted.

The most obvious example of an urgent need for blood is the time of various incidents such as car accidents, burns, and surgeries, he added.

Pregnant women also need blood during childbirth, premature infants with jaundice and cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy or radiation therapy also need blood and blood products, Haji-Beigi said, adding, many other patients, such as those with thalassemia and hemophilia, also have to receive blood or blood products to enjoy a relatively normal life.

**A unit of blood saves the lives of three**

As developing countries expand their diagnostic and treatment facilities for the treatment of various diseases, such as cancers, more and more blood transfusions are needed, and this need is constantly increasing.

Haji Beigi emphasized that also, technological advances in industrialized and developed countries cause new medical measures to be invented and, consequently, the need for blood and blood products will increase.

A unit of blood can save the lives of three people; compressed blood cells are derived from one blood unit, which is used in surgeries, then platelets are taken, which is used by cancer patients, and blood plasma is used in patients with liver failure and burns, he explained.

**COVID-19 recovered patients donate plasma**

From the beginning of April 2020 until April 2021, some 15,039 plasma units have been donated by patients who have been recovered from COVID-19 throughout the country, Haji Beigi, announced.

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



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

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

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

**The highest blood donation rate in Eastern Mediterranean**

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

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

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

question, according to WHO.

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

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

**Blood transfusion saves millions of lives**

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

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

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

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

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

## COVIRAN vaccine receives public use license

→ **1** Produced vaccines are prepared for public use as soon as being licensed by the Ministry of Health, he added.

So far, 10,500 volunteers from Tehran and Karaj received the first dose, it is expected that in the next week, 9,500 volunteers in the four cities of Bushehr, Mashhad, Shiraz, and Isfahan will be vaccinated; Therefore, the vaccine is administrated to 20,000 target population, he explained.

South America, African countries, several neighboring and two European countries have asked to purchase COVIRAN vaccine, Hassan Jalili, director of the vaccine research team, said on June 8.

Although, we are capable of exporting the vaccine, however, through the policies

adopted by the Ministry of Health, no vaccine will be exported until the domestic need is fully met, he stated.

Mass vaccination against COVID-19 started on Iranian citizens with the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine on February 9.

While Iran continues efforts to mass-produce local candidates, several foreign vaccines have already been imported and others are expected soon.

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

**Homegrown vaccines**

The second Iranian-made vaccine developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research

Institute (Razi Cov Pars) to be administered among the population in early August; which started the clinical trial on February 27, entered the second phase of the human trial on Friday.

Iran has also successfully completed the first phase of the human trial for Fakhra vaccine, the third domestically developed COVID-19 vaccine, named after nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh (he was assassinated in November 2020 near Tehran), that was unveiled and started the clinical trial on March 16.

"Osvid-19", the fourth domestic vaccine produced by Osvah Pharmaceutical Company is also undergoing human trials, which will also be available in early September.



On May 24, the first coronavirus vaccine made by the private sector in Iran succeeded in receiving the code of ethics and entered the phase of clinical studies.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## FDA to penalize manufacturers producing unlabeled GM foods

Iran's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will penalize food manufacturers who have not labeled genetically modified (GM) food products, Vahid Mofid, the caretaker of the FDA department of food and beverages has announced. All food products containing ingredients derived from GMOs must be labeled, including soybean and corn oil, rapeseed and cottonseed, he also noted. He went on to say that eight laboratories in addition to the Energy & Power Industries Laboratories Company can test the products in terms of containing GM organism.

Labeling the products is merely done out of respect for the customer and providing the consumer with different choices and has nothing to do with the product's safety and health, he concluded.

## سازمان غذا و دارو با محصولات تراریخته فاقد برچسب برخورد می کند

مدیرکل فرآورده های غذایی و آشامیدنی سازمان غذا و دارو، وحید مفید در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اعلام کرد: تمام محصولات تراریخته در سطح عرضه کنترل می شوند و در صورتی که تراریخته باشند اما برچسب نداشته باشند، حتماً برخورد می کنیم. وی اضافه کرد: برخی محصولات در کشور مانند ذرت، سویا و کلزا از نوع تراریخته وجود دارد و فرآورده های غذایی در صورت استفاده از این محصولات تراریخته باید آن را روی برچسب خود اعلام کنند.

مفید افزود: هشت آزمایشگاه علاوه بر آزمایشگاه مرجع در کشور می توانند تراریختگی را تعیین کنند.

مدیرکل فرآورده های غذایی و آشامیدنی سازمان غذا و دارو گفت: درج تراریختگی در برچسب جلوی ترکیبات، صرفاً احترام به مشتری و فراهم کردن قدرت انتخاب برای مصرف کننده است و هیچ ارتباطی با ایمنی و سلامت آن فرآورده ندارد.

## COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 13

New cases	10715
New deaths	119
Total cases	3,039,432
Total deaths	82,217
New hospitalized patients	1246
Patients in critical condition	3,416
Total recovered patients	2,666,601
Diagnostic tests conducted	21,619,536
Doses of vaccine injected	5,205,652

## The rate of women's participation in the Iranian labor market

By Sheida Mahnam

The women participation rate is obtained by dividing the number of job-seeking women (both employed and unemployed) by the total number of women over the age of 15. Out of 180 countries in the world, only in 10 countries, women's participation in work is lower than in Iran, and our country has one of the lowest rates of women's participation in the world.

Nepal has the highest rate with about 80% and Yemen has the lowest rate with 6% participation. Developed countries in North America and Europe also have the highest rates of women's participation above 50%, well above Iran's 17.5%, and the West Asia average of 18%.

Cultural issues, legal and illegal discrimination, cultural and value issues, ethnicity, lack of awareness, and lack of appropriate opportunities are among the barriers to greater participation of women in work and employment in Iran and most Middle Eastern countries that increase women's participation in Iran. 5% and much lower than the male participation of 65%.

It seems that today the need to raise awareness of women's capabilities, both in domestic work and in social and managerial responsibilities for both officials and researchers. Actually, the women's community should be paid more attention.

Codified programs with motivational technical expertise can lead to self-confidence also self-esteem of Iranian women alongside the people that empowerment, especially the empowerment of women heads of households is a priority.

Considering favorable loans for home-based businesses, creating equal opportunities with gender justice is the next step in completing this motivational and educational process that the role of radio and television and of course trusted cyberspace can play a worthy role in this regard.

Establishing a correct and reliable statistical network based on statistical information data of prominent and skilled women in the field of management as well as women with artistic and cultural skills is also a very important thing that has no specific government trustee and governments by shrinking and delegating this Trusting the prudent and resilient private sector can identify the missing links in the chain and achieve good planning in this regard.

Women consist half of the population of the Islamic Republic of Iran and ignoring their scientific, cultural, and managerial capacities and resources will eliminate half of the population's operational executive potential.

*The author is a professor of international relations, an advisor for international affairs for Iranology foundation and an advisor for social sciences studies for Iranian National Commission for UNESCO*

## National Parks of Iran

(Part 4)

National park. National parks are large areas of national significance representing outstanding examples of Iran's natural heritage, which are set aside in perpetuity for the preservation and conservation of outstanding natural animal and plant species, habitats, geological features, landscapes, and spectacular scenic beauty, for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of the people of Iran. They provide opportunities for visitors to develop an understanding and appreciation of the values of natural history in a manner consistent with the perpetuation of the inherent values of the park. They are controlled and managed by the Department of the Environment; their boundaries may not be altered, and no portion of them may be subject to alienation.

Criteria expressing the national significance and integrity of a park and reasons for its establishment as a national park are ascribed to those areas that have, inter alia, (a) a natural character sufficiently superior in quality and beauty to make its preservation imperative; (b) are of unique scenic, geomorphologic and landscape features; (c) possess diverse and/or unique examples of biotic communities and ecosystems; and/or (d) present a sufficiently comprehensive unit and size to permit public use, management, research, etc.

Eight national parks were established prior to the Revolution of 1978-79, two of which are briefly described below:

The first area to be designated a national reserve was Mohammad-Reza Shah Park (now called Golestan National Park), an area of approximately 93,000 hectares located about mid-way between Gonbad-e Qabus and Bojnurd in Golestan Province in northeast Iran. The mountains in the western portion of the park are covered with a climax forest of Tertiary origin to which the Caspian climate, still prevailing here, has imparted a special luxuriance. As one moves east, the forest gives way to scrub and then to lush steppe vegetation with attractive stands of juniper and scrub maple. The abundance and diversity of wildlife, in both the forested area and the montane steppe, is quite remarkable and includes the red deer (maral), roe deer (shuka), and wild boar (goraz) in the former, and large herds of the urial sheep (quc) and ibex (pazan) in the latter, while among the larger predators, leopard (palang) and brown bear (khers), can be seen in both. The birdlife too is astonishingly rich; some 160 species have been recorded in the late 1970s.

(Source: Encyclopædia Iranica)



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING



Wealth converts a strange land into homeland and poverty turns a native place into a strange land.

Imam Ali (AS)

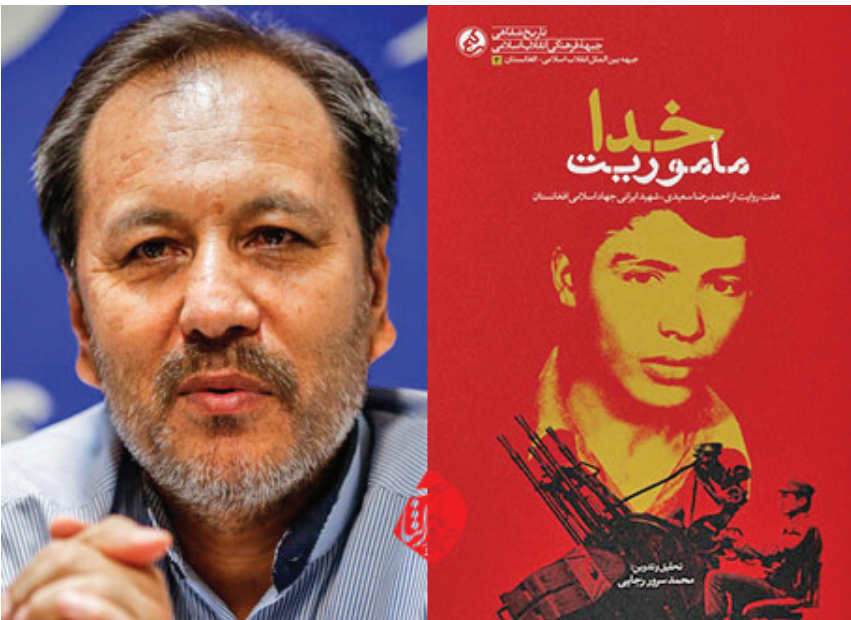
Translation of English literature into Persian

**Part 1**  
**In the period of French domination**  
The first texts translated from English into Persian were diplomatic exchanges and bilateral treaties.  
During the early decades of the 19th century very few Persians were capable of undertaking such translations, and most of those few had lived in India and worked for the East India Company.  
An example is Jafar-Ali Khan Navvab (d. 1819), who returned to Persia after an army career in India and settled in Shiraz, where he fathered a family that came to be known as Navvab-e Hendi. Male members of this family served the British as translators, embassy clerks, and consular agents for several generations.  
Other early translators were Armenians and Assyrians who had traveled in the Levant and served as dragomans. One such dragoman was a certain Monsieur Jebrail, who accompanied Hossein Khan Ajudanbashi on his diplomatic mission to Europe in 1839.  
Jebrail's counterpart in England was Mirza Ebrahim Shirazi (d. 1857), professor of Persian and Arabic in the East India Company's training college at Haileybury; he had first gone to England at the urging of the Anglican missionary Reverend Joseph Wolff, who had visited Persia in 1825.  
Mirza Ebrahim was the trusted translator of the British Foreign Office in its contacts with the Persian diplomatic mission.  
Of the second group of Persian students sent to England to study, in 1815, two engaged in translation work on their return. One was Mirza Saleh Shirazi, whose diary of his stay in England is well known; he established one of the first printing presses in Persia, in Tabriz, shortly after 1819 and in 1837 began publishing in Tehran a newspaper entitled Kaghaz-e Akhbar (A Calque of News).  
The other was Mirza Reza Mohandes (later Mohandesbashi), who became an army engineer and translated a few works from English into Persian, including Walter Scott's Life of Napoleon Bonaparte and a portion of Edward Gibbon's The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.  
Books on history and geography were understandably in greater demand in 19th-century Persia than were works of literature. The establishment of Dar al-Fonun in 1851 also generated a demand for European textbooks and scientific manuals, but most were translated from French or German.  
It was during the long reign of Nasser ad-Din Shah (1848-96) that the first steps toward modernization were taken in Persia.  
The number of printing presses in the major cities increased, and a modest number of books were published, especially by the government printing and translation house.  
Mohammad-Hassan Khan Etemad us-Saltaneh, a learned courtier who had served in the Persian legation in Paris for three years, directed its operations for a quarter-century (1871-96), but most of the translations undertaken at his behest were nonfiction titles from French.  
The shah was interested in learning about the history of neighboring lands and the lives of famous historical figures and also in travelogues, of which he commissioned translations.  
Although most were originally in French, a few were in English; once completed, the translations were copied by calligraphers and bound in leather before being presented to the shah.  
Most of these manuscripts have survived and are kept in the Golestan library in Tehran. One important translator, who worked for the government translation house for a decade before joining the Persian foreign ministry, was Avanes (Hovhannes) Khan Maseian (1864-1931), a French educated Armenian who translated a number of works from English and French into Persian, notably Henry Morton Stanley's African Journal Through the Dark Continent; Sir Anthony Sherley; His Relation of His Travels into Persia; Persia and the Persians by the first American envoy, S. G. W. Benjamin; and J. W. Kaye's A History of the Sepoy War in India 1857-58.  
He is also said to have translated a number of William Shakespeare's plays into Armenian. Several of his translations were published, and some have been reprinted in recent years.  
Another translator of merit in the Qajar period was Oxford educated Abulqasem Khan Qaragozlu Nasser al-Molk (1865-1927), a courtier who rose to high office, serving twice as a cabinet minister and briefly as prime minister, in September 1907.  
He undertook the challenge of rendering Shakespeare's Othello into Persian; although generally considered one of the pinnacles of literary translation in the Qajar period, this work remained unpublished until it was issued by his son Hossein-Ali Khan Qaragozlu in a limited edition in Paris in 1961. Nasser al-Molk is reported also to have translated The Merchant of Venice, but the manuscript remains in the possession of the Qaragozlu family and is still unpublished.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

Book on Iranian volunteer in Afghan war against Soviets published

**CULTURE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A book recounting the story of Ahmadreza Saeidi, an 18-year-old Iranian volunteer who joined the Afghan forces in their war against the Soviets during the 1980s, has been published in Tehran.  
Rah-e Yar is the publisher of the book "Mission of God" written by the Tehran-based Afghan author Mohammad-Sarvar Rajai based on some notes Saeidi left after his martyrdom in Behsud, Afghanistan.  
The title of the book has been inspired by a phrase from Saeidi's last will and testament as he called his mission to the war "a mission of God".  
Rajai and a number of literati attended a meeting organized on Sunday by the Iran Public Libraries Foundation to introduce the book.  
"If we study the historical accounts of Iranian martyrs in Afghanistan during the Islamic jihad in conjunction with the accounts of Afghan martyrs during the 1980s Iran-Iraq war, we will be able to grasp the delightful and heartwarming tales that originate from the wholehearted beliefs shared by the two countries," Rajai said.  
He noted that Saeidi detached himself from worldly attachments, leaving behind his family to join the mujahedin forces and to defend the people of Afghanistan.  
Saeidi and his comrades were among the first units of soldiers to receive military training under the supervision of professional military training officers in Iran.  
He traveled to Afghanistan following a meeting with the renowned Iranian commander, Mostafa Chamran, in order



This combination photo shows the Tehran-based Afghan author Mohammad-Sarvar Rajai and his latest book "Mission of God".

to support the Afghan people in their fight against the Soviets.  
While in Afghanistan, Saeidi's talents for military affairs led Afghan commanders to appoint him as a training officer for their forces.  
The Afghans consider Saeidi as one of their national heroes and his grave in the country is frequently visited by the people every day.  
Ehsan Parsi, Abolfazl Karbalai Puryzadi and Fazel Hosseini were among the numerous young Iranian volunteers that joined the Afghans in the war against the Soviets.

Doc to portray Constitutional Revolution figure Ali Monsieur



This photo shows a room in the Ali Monsieur Museum in Tabriz.

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) is producing e a documentary, which will chronicle the political life of Ali Monsieur, a key figure in the Constitutional Revolution.  
Masud Mir is the director of the documentary named "Ali Monsieur" and Mohammad Fartusi is collaborating in this project as a producer, the DEFC announced in a

press release published last week.  
"It will be a biopic about a person in the Constitutional Revolution, which never would have proceeded without his support and intelligence," the center said.  
According to Ahmad Kasravi's book "History of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution", a year before the Constitutional Revolution broke out in Iran, the Iranian expatriates in the Caucasus established a social-democrat group named the Ejtemaeiun-Amiun Party based on the Russian social democrat constitution, and Azerbaijani Bolshevik revolutionary Nariman Narimanov was the leader of the party.  
Following the Constitutional Revolution, Ali Monsieur, Hajji Ali Davaforush, Hajji Rasul Sedqani and several other revolutionaries translated the Russian social democrat constitution in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz and set up a secret group of mujahedin named Markaze Gheibi (Secret Center).  
Markaze Gheibi played a key role in the victory of the Constitutional Revolution and breaking the siege of Tabriz by the central government.  
The revolution began in 1905 and the Constitutional Decree was signed by Qajar king Mozaffar ad-Din Shah

in the Saheb Qaranieh Palace on August 6, 1906.  
Forces affiliated with Qajar king Mohammad Ali Shah, besieged Tabriz for 11 months to suppress the constitutionalists and preventing food and medicine from reaching the city.  
Ali Monsieur died during the siege of Tabriz and his sons, Hassan and Qadir, were executed by Russian forces in the city.  
His house in Tabriz was later converted into a museum displaying some of his personal effects and belongings.  
The DEFC has begun a project over the past year to produce documentaries on several key figures during the Qajar period.  
A documentary of the project is on the Qajar-era businessman Hajji Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavi (1872-1932) known as Amin al-Zarb.  
He was the first businessman who became the first Iranian industrial investor, promoting entrepreneurship.  
During the Constitutional Revolution, he led a group of merchants to mediate between the court and the people taking sanctuary in the British Legation. Later he was elected to the first, seventh and eighth sessions of Majles.

Iran donates 23,000 books to Afghanistan Science Academy

**CULTURE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) has donated 23,000 books to the Afghanistan Science Academy.  
The books are in various subjects, including the Persian language, literature, society, politics, sociology and education, the NLAI announced in a press release on Monday.  
In his recent visit to the NLAI, Gol-Ahmad Anvari, first secretary at the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran, expressed his thanks for the donation.  
"In order to appreciate the value of the NLAI's positive action, the Afghanistan Science Academy intends to donate about 1,000 books written by Afghan authors in

Persian to the library," he said.  
NLAI deputy director Farnaz Mohammadi also said, "The donation has been made due to the close cultural relations between Iran and Afghanistan."  
"The NLAI has previously made book donations to libraries in Afghanistan; for example: based on an agreement signed between the two countries in 2003, the NLAI sent 37,000 books to libraries in Afghanistan," she added.  
In addition, groups of Afghan librarians also received educations based on the agreement.  
Dozens of countries have received book donations and cultural products from Iranian



A view of the National Library and Archives of Iran, Tehran.

books from Iranian writers.  
The collection contained 100 books on Persian contemporary poetry, 40 storybooks and novels, 25 children's and young adult's books and 87 newly published books on Iranian culture and literature.

Iranian troupe to play Eugene Ionesco "Killing Game" next week



A poster for Eugene Ionesco's 1970 play "Killing Game", which will go on stage at Tehran's Sanubar Hall on June 22.

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian troupe will perform Romanian-French playwright Eugene Ionesco's 1970 play "Killing Game" in Tehran next week.  
Behruz Sarvalishahi is the director of the play translated into Persian by veteran stage director and actor Davud Rashidi.  
French writer Yasmina Reza's "Bella Figura" translated by Sarvalishahi is currently on stage at Tehran's Jamshid Mashayekhi Hall.  
"Killing Game" will go on stage on June 22 at the Sanubar Hall of the Shahrzad Theater Complex.  
The story of the play is set in a town, where all is ordinary and uneventful. It hums with life, full of happy carefree people whose daily lives are disturbed by nothing of significance, until a strange theater company decides to entertain its audience in an abandoned drive-in with the performance of a cruel farce.  
Death, as the company's master of ceremonies, offers the spectacle of a series of agonizing and at the same time

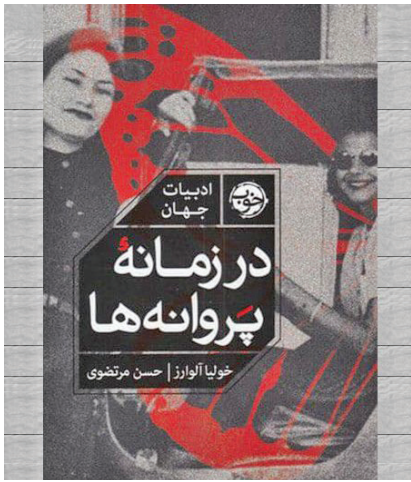
savagely comic deaths, picking off the characters one by one. As the social fabric falls apart and masks begin to slip, the powerless people are whipped up into a crescendo of horror and suspense. Danger is everywhere and little by little, everything changes, so that no one is safe anymore.  
Mehdi Bazdar, Ayat Bigham, Ahmad Hamed, Melika Shahab, Sareh Gandomi, Nastaran Safari, Shaahin Malekzadeh and Saeid Nabavi are the main members of the cast.  
Ionesco's debut play "The Bald Soprano" translated by veteran Iranian filmmaker Dariush Mehrjui has been performed by numerous Iranian troupes.  
Hamidreza Moradi directed the play at Tehran's Sepand Theater in December 2019.  
In addition, Farzad Dehnavi's troupe Leilaj performed the play at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center in 2012.  
Ionesco, born Eugen Ionescu, was one of the foremost playwrights of the Theatre of the Absurd. Beyond ridiculing the most banal situations, Ionesco's plays depict in a tangible way the solitude and insignificance of human existence.

Julia Alvarez's "In the Time of the Butterflies" published in Persian

**CULTURE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Dominican-American author Julia Alvarez's historical fiction novel "In the Time of the Butterflies" has been published by the Nashre Khub publishing house in Tehran.  
Translated into Persian by Hassan Mortazavi, the novel described as "a magnificent treasure for all cultures and all time" by the St. Petersburg Times is a story of resistance, endurance, self-sacrifice, love and struggle against oppression.  
On November 25, 1960, a local official newspaper reported the death of three sisters found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic.

The deaths were reported as accidental with no mention of the victims' fourth sister despite the fact that the sisters were among the leading opponents of the dictatorship of General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo.  
The novel speaks in the voices of the deceased sisters Minerva, Patria and Maria Teresa of the Mirabal family, and also their surviving sister Dede, narrating their secrets and their personal lives as well as their everyday horrors under Trujillo's rule.  
Alvarez brands them as the martyred butterflies in an artistic and magical narration of courage and love while lamenting the human casualties left behind by political oppression.  
From the perspective of the family's only

survivor, Alvarez uses a variety of narrative methods to tell the shocking story of a family that suffered greatly under the tyranny of Trujillo, depicting the glorious work of the "butterflies".  
To honor the three Mirabal sisters, the United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.  
Alvarez's novel, with a sad yet epic narrative, describes an unequal struggle; a description of the sisters' sacrifice and miserable life; an account of love that is thousands of times more powerful than a bullet; and most significantly, the resistance of ordinary people who will sacrifice anything for their freedom and dignity.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Julia Alvarez's historical fiction novel "In the Time of the Butterflies".