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## Steel exports rise 146% in 2 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - Iran's major steel producers exported 1.14 million tons of steel during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), which was 146 percent more than the figure of the same period of time in the past year.

Meanwhile, these producers exported over 632,000 tons of steel in the second month of this year, which was 187 percent higher than the figure of the second month of the previous year. As reported, in the first two months of this year, the highest amount of steel

exports was made by Khuzestan Steel Company with 341,187 tons, followed by Esfahan Steel Company with 213,873 tons and Mobarakeh Steel Company with 106,032 tons in the second and third ranks.

Iran's export of steel during the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20) declined 13.1 percent compared to the figure for the preceding year, data released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) showed.

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TEHRAN — In a live speech late on Wednesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei talked about the Friday presidential election and recent accomplishments made by Iranian experts in producing vaccine to fight the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Leader began his speech by saying that in a recent meeting he had said that the participation in elections is "not just a political issue, rather there is a philosophy behind it."

He said all through these years since

the Islamic Revolution, the foes have tried to interfere and disrupt the thoughts of the people, and even undermine the elections. However, he said, all the elections have taken place on time.

No election in any country has faced as much disruptions by the enemies as Iran, said the Leader.

He also said that the American and British media outlets are trying hard to level accusations against the Islamic Republic with all kinds of words and reports.

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# Iran intensifies diplomatic efforts to achieve peace in the region

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## Iran registers 1 Aban on national calendar as historian Abulfazl Bayhaqi day

TEHRAN — Iran has honored Persian historian and litterateur Abulfazl Bayhaqi by registering 1 Aban on the national calendar after his name as the father of Persian prose. Accordingly, 1 Aban, which falls on October 23 this year, will be celebrated as

the Day of Abulfazl Bayhaqi, the Father of Persian Prose, Reza Shojamoqaddam of the Sabzevar Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance announced in a press release on Wednesday.

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## When the soil asks for help

BY MEHDI GARSHASBI

June 17 is the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought with a focus on turning degraded land into healthy land. Restoring degraded land brings economic resilience, creates jobs, raises incomes and increases food security.

It helps biodiversity to recover. It locks away the atmospheric carbon warming the Earth, slowing climate change. It can also lessen the impacts of climate change and underpin a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the United Nations, nearly three-quarters of the Earth's ice-free land has been altered by humans to meet an ever-growing demand for food, raw materials, highways, and homes. Avoiding, slowing, and reversing the loss of productive land and natural ecosystems now is both urgent and important for a swift recovery from the pandemic and for guaranteeing the long-term survival of people and the planet.

Current commitments from over 100 countries specify the restoration of almost 1 billion hectares of land over the next decade — an area almost the size of China.

Desertification is the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas. It is caused primarily by human activities and climatic variations. Desertification does not refer to the expansion of existing deserts. It occurs because dryland ecosystems, which cover over one-third of the world's land area, are extremely vulnerable to overexploitation and inappropriate land use. Poverty, political instability, deforestation, overgrazing, and bad irrigation practices can all undermine the productivity of the land.

### Desert rehabilitation in Iran

At least 50,000 hectares of the country's desert areas will be protected and rehabilitated through implementing sustainable exploitation projects with the participation of local communities, Vahid Jafarian, an official with the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization said in May.

Using windbreaks, planting, care, and irrigation, reforested forest management, runoff management, protection, and seeding were among the plans implemented since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), he said.

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## The Iranian women achieve the impossible

BY KATAYOUN KHOSROWYAR

TEHRAN - After two years, the Iranian women's national football team have finally recommenced. Unfortunately, due to several unknown factors within the federation as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, women's football was put on a standstill. This two-year gap came at a time where the national teams had a proper schedule for camps, friendlies, tournaments and Asian qualifications.

The entire world was witnessing the extreme talent and tenacity of the Iranian female players because and were gaining recognition.

Now that camp has restarted, the senior, Under 19, and Under 16 national teams all had approximately three weeks of camps before being sent off to international tournaments. The senior national team went to Belarus to play two friendlies with both Belarus and Uzbekistan, which both teams have had several months of training, preparation, and friendlies while Iran's women football were

up in the air. These games were extremely important for the new coach, Maryam Irandoost, to take note of what needs to be done prior to the Asian qualifications in September 2021.

Conditioning and fitness are going to play a huge role in shaping the success of a team as well as figuring out how to tactically outplay opponents who have been in camp even during the pandemic.

As for the youth national team coaches, they have an amazing opportunity to take advantage of the immense talent that they have. Players like Negin Zandi, Roghayeh Jalalnasab, and Fatemeh Shaban are top quality players and are extremely dangerous in the attacking zones. These players were the youngest players when I was the head coach of the Under 19 national team, and after our game with South Korea back in 2019, their head coach applauded them and mentioned they caused his team absolute hell.

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## Many changes due to pandemic irreversible

BY SALMAN PARVIZ

Previously plagues such as the Black Death and the Spanish flu pandemic had huge ramifications for the world afterward. Black Death is the most fatal pandemic recorded in human history from 1346 to 1353. Some 75-200 million people in Euroasia and North Africa and Europe perished.

The Spanish flu or the 1918 influenza pandemic lasted two years, infected 500 million people — about a third of the world's population at the time — with the death toll of 20-50 million.

With over 10,000 new cases recorded daily, Iran's confirmed Covid-19 cases surpassed the three million. Global cases count down stands at 176 million with 3.8 million deaths.

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, we will witness countless changes — adopted to control the outbreak — will be here to stay.

The lockdowns have made many people feel lonely and anxious. Family members had to

survive living constantly under each other's heels on one roof at the same time. For the period of lockdowns, family members had to redefine their schedules and relations.

The same thing happened with the neighborhoods, with people getting to know their neighbors for the first time under the new normal. Reminds me of the neighborhoods in Tehran during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war when during the blackouts people would get out of their buildings and meet neighbors.

During the lockdowns, many people residing in the same city have been using videoconferencing tools to keep in touch. The pandemic broke the ice on these applications, which will continue to improve. Conferences and meetings went virtual as the attendance skyrocketed. This eliminated travel, dining, and lodging costs making conferences more affordable and expanding the audience.

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## Israel launches fresh airstrikes on the Gaza strip

Israeli warplanes have pounded the besieged Gaza Strip, the first such attacks since an 11-day war on the enclave ended last month with a fragile ceasefire. The Israeli regime says it targeted sites in Gaza City and the southern city of Khan Younis. The Israeli military claims the airstrikes were in response to incendiary balloons that had been launched from the territory and landed on Israeli settlements south of the Gaza Strip.

A spokesman for the Hamas move-

ment says Palestinians will continue their brave sacrifice and defend their rights and holy sites in occupied Jerusalem al-Quds. There have been no reports of casualties on either side. The strikes on Gaza are also the first since the coalition of new Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennet came to power on office, ending Benjamin Netanyahu's 12-year tenure in office. Netanyahu's term in office ended with indiscriminate airstrikes on the Gaza Strip

that killed more than 260, including 66 children.

The Palestinian resistance had vowed to respond after thousands of Israeli settlers participated in the so-called fly the flag parade. The march normally goes to sites holy to Muslims and Christians, including the holy al-Aqsa mosque compound. At the last minute, Israeli authorities diverted the route to avoid these areas.

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## Political system in U.S. hardly accepts major changes: professor

BY M.A SAKI

TEHRAN - Nader Entessar, a professor emeritus of political science from the University of South Alabama, says that U.S. political system does not lend itself to major changes.

"The U.S. has a status-quo political system that does not lend itself to major or abrupt changes," Entessar tells the Tehran Times.

"One can go back to the formative years of the American republic to find the roots of this. The U.S. also has a very complicated and multi-layered constitutional and legal system that tends to favor the preservation of the status quo to sudden and revolutionary change," Entessar argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

**What are the main mechanisms of decision-making in U.S. foreign policy? Democratic institutions or lobbies? For example, when it comes to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the U.S. democracy doesn't work.**

In the final analysis, American foreign policy decisions are made by the country's political institutions as determined by constitutional provisions and America's legal framework. However, there are many forces, including lobbies, think tanks, and other entities, that exert influence in their own way in shaping the contours of U.S. foreign and domestic policies. This process also works in determining Washington's policies towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In fact, America's foreign policy in this area works within the machinery of the American political system. U.S. democracy works precisely the way it is designed to work when it comes to Palestine or other similar issues.

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## Andy Warhol exhibit in Tehran

TEHRAN - An exhibition of artworks by American artist Andy Warhol opened on Tuesday at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA).

The exhibit entitled "Persona" put a collection of Warhol's artworks of the museum on view.

The exhibition's idea is to show Warhol's multiple characters in order to reveal his true image, so that a more accurate understanding of his character can be established by ignoring other levels of his personality that are already known.





# Leader: Voting is solution to problems

→ 1 “They aim to distance people from the Islamic Republic. But people have never listened to them. They have done the opposite of what enemies say,” the Leader remarked. He also said that there are facts and events that need to be looked at from a broad perspective.

“Elections is more than just political taste of people, and all people must participate, as their presence is effective,” Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also said that the foes are strongly opposed to elections, therefore, participating in the elections is “a good deed.”

The election shows people’s participation at the scene, the Leader said. “The Iranian people are the backbone of establishment.”

Ayatollah Khamenei added that the people’s turnout in the elections is an authoritative tool for the Islamic Republic system.

“The foes inside and outside (of Iran) want to weaken Iran, and bring insecurity to Iran and make it vulnerable to terrorists. They want elections to be held without the presence of the people to weaken Iran,” the Leader underlined.

He said that if people do not participate in the elections, the enemies will maximize pressure on the country.

The Leader said if the president wins the elections with a large number of votes, he will enjoy great support and can conduct great things.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said that Iran’s elections have always been held in a secure environment.

“In these years, presidents with different tastes have come to power. Elections have always been secure,” he remarked.

The Leader called the election competitive



according to the presidential debates, adding this is an undeniable fact.

“The foes have always questioned all the elections. We cannot expect enemies to complement our elections. Some countries are run in a tribal way and have no idea about elections,” he remarked.

The Leader also said that some poor classes of society have great concerns such as unemployment, and the next government should pay attention to them.

He also said it is true that some people have legitimate grievances and are doubtful to vote but this not the right approach.

“They are right to be doubtful about not participating, yet their approach is wrong.

They should not miff with ballot boxes. Voting is the solution to the problems,” he remarked.

“We all must vote for someone who can allay people’s concerns. The future administration must pay attention to the poor,” he emphasized.

The Leader also said that the youth must always lead the way, particularly in the elections. “First voters must guide people and advise others to vote,” he noted.

Despair shall not be allowed in the country, Ayatollah Khamenei suggested.

“Our country has great morale. I explained in various speeches. We are a powerful and great country, and enemies know that. The establishment of Revolution is part of this

power.”

**‘Youth did not wait for envious countries and produced COVID-19 vaccine’**

He cited Iran’s success in producing vaccine, COVIran Braekat, to control the Covid-19 pandemic as an example of Iran’s scientific power, saying, “Our youth did not wait for the envious, greedy hands of other countries and produced coronavirus vaccine. We are one of the few countries that have the great infrastructure to mass produce vaccines. Other vaccines are being produced too.”

He went on to say that Iran needed radiopharmaceuticals, and to provide that it needed 20% enriched uranium. “They didn’t give it to us, (and) we produced it.”

The West also refused to sell some defensive equipment to Iran but Iranian experts themselves made that equipment even better than their foreign brands, the Leader explained.

“They did not give us (defensive equipment), and we built them. Iran cannot be disappointed.”

The Leader also said that the election officials must protect people’s safety amid the Coronavirus pandemic, emphasizing that the people’s participation shall not hurt safety of the society.

He also indirectly referred to the Canadian government which is not allowing Iranians living there to vote, saying, “On the issue of elections abroad, I received reports that some countries refused to cooperate. I ask the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide conditions so that enthusiastic Iranians could vote.”

He also asked election officials to confront possible election violations with seriousness.

The Leader concluded his remarks by praying for the health and safety of the Iranian nation.

## Prominent figures invite people to participate in elections

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — Several prominent political figures have called on people to fully participate in Friday’s presidential election. Let’s take a look at those prominent figures and what they have said.



**Hassan Rouhani:** People must go to ballot boxes to solve problems.



**Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf:** Inviting people to participate is an epic endeavor.



**Es’haq Jahangiri:** We should put complaints aside and be present at ballot boxes.



**Mahmoud Vaezi:** High voter turnout solves international problems.



**Mohammad Javad Zarif:** People’s participation accelerates sanction removal.



**Seyyed Abbas Salehi:** Participation in the election is vital.



**Ali Akbar Salehi:** It is not the time to complain, let’s go and vote.



**Ali Larijani:** Victory is near.



**Ali Akbar Nategh Nouri:** Election can pave the way.



**Seyyed Hassan Khomeini:** Correct vote helps maintain republic.



**Masoud Pezeshkian:** Without people’s participation, Iran cannot get out of problems.

## Jalili, Zakani, Mehr Alizadeh withdraw from election race

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — In separate statements issued on Wednesday, Saeed Jalili, Alireza Zakani, and Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh withdrew from the presidential race.

Mehr Alizadeh wrote a letter to the Ministry of Interior on Wednesday morning announcing his withdrawal from the election race. He did not express any reasons, nor did he favor a candidate.

In a message sent on Wednesday afternoon, reformist presidential contender Abdolnasser Hemmati thanked Mehr Alizadeh for his decision, saying that, with his freedom and frankness, he has played a major role and tried to be the voice of the silent majority in the competition.

“Now that you have announced your withdrawal, you have made my responsibility heavier,” Hemmati said.

Alireza Zakani was the next presidential candidate who announced his withdrawal from the election race. Zakani announced his decision at a holy shrine in Chizar district, north of Tehran.

He announced that he will quit the race in favor of “his

dear brother, Mr. Raeisi.”

It had been rumored on Sunday night that Zakani has announced his withdrawal from the election campaign in a rally in Kashan, but the rumor was denied by his campaign spokesman.

In a tweet posted on Wednesday, Zakani said that he entered the race with a different ideology and plan to defend Imam Khomeini’s values.

“The goal was the victory of Revolution Front, and now, with the good appreciation of the people, this goal can be met by my dear brother Mr. Raeisi,” he said in his tweet posted on Wednesday.

Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi also issued a message thanking Zakani over his decision to withdraw from the election race, calling it “a responsible decision.”

With the withdrawal of these two candidates, the number of the remaining contenders in the presidential race has reached to 5. In the remaining hours to the Friday elections some other principlist candidates might withdrew candidacy. The presidential election will be held on June 18.

According to Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli, the interior minister, the elections will be held from 7 am to 12 pm and can be extended until 2 am.

Over 59 million people are eligible to vote, of whom over 1 million are the first voters.

“The possibility of fraudulent voting is ruled out due to the existence of offline authentication devices in the elections,” the interior minister added.

Jalili announced his withdrawal from the race late on Wednesday in favor of Raeisi.

He issued a statement in which he said now that a great percentage of the people in the society have been showing interest toward the candidacy of “dear brother Hojtoleslam Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi”, now it is advisable that all those who feel the need for a “second step” by the Islamic Revolution start supporting him through their votes in the face of this “great responsibility”.

The report of Jalili’s withdrawal surfaced after a televised speech by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in which he urged people to participate in the elections.

## Hemmati: I will use Zarif in my cabinet

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — In a tweet posted on Wednesday, presidential contender Abdolnasser Hemmati said that he will use the experience of Mohammad Javad Zarif as either vice pres-

ident or foreign minister in his cabinet if he is elected president.

“Iran’s economic expansion is not possible without strong foreign interaction and strong economic diplomacy. My government seeks

to lift sanctions and pursue foreign policy to achieve economic development, so I will invite Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif to my cabinet as vice president or foreign minister,” Hemmati tweeted on Wednesday.

Backed by a certain reformist groups, Hemmati is seeking to use some of Rouhani’s ministers in his cabinet. He has admired the work of Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, the minister of communication, in his campaigns.

## 600 Sunni clerics and Friday prayer leaders write to Leader; urge people to participate

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — A group of Friday prayer leaders, scholars and Sunni clerics in Iran have published a letter addressed to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei announcing their readiness to participate enthusiastically in the Friday elections.

They have also invited the great nation of Iran to participate in the presidential elections.

The text of the letter is as follows:

“In the Name of God

To the Leader of the holy establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

As you are aware, the great nation of Iran is once again on the threshold of a fateful test in the eyes of its friends and enemies.

Elections are a manifestation of power and a clear sign of Islamism and the republic of the system, and the intelligent people of Islamic Iran will add another golden page to their list of honors on 18 June. God willing, and with maximum presence in the upcoming election scene, the people will renew allegiance with Imam Khomeini and martyrs.

Undoubtedly, attention to the precious testaments of the late founder of the Islamic system and the enlightening wills of you as a shining torch to lead the society, can pave the way for maximum presence and defeat of the enemy and the right choice for this noble nation and a brighter future for the appreciative people of Islamic Iran.

Explaining the conspiracies of the enemies, the wise and prudent Leader has repeatedly emphasized the maximum presence of the people at the ballot box and expressed valuable indicators and criteria for the presidential candidates and invited them to convince the people and be honest in expressing their capabilities and election slogans. You have tried to inform the people about their legal rights and religious and national duty, and it is hoped that by relying on God’s grace and benefiting from these thoughtful and effective and memorable instructions from you and the presence of the grateful people, you will cause the despair for the sworn enemies. Islam and the holy system of the Islamic Republic of Iran can inspire happiness in the hearts of the lovers of the Islamic Revolution around the world.

In this regard, we, a group of Friday prayer leaders and Sunni scholars of the country as flag bearers of honor and pride and preachers of unity and integrity in Islamic Iran, while renewing allegiance with the lofty ideals of the late Imam and martyrs and responding to the orders of the wise Leader, inform you that the people of Iran, regardless of their ethnicity or religion, with a correct understanding of the sensitive situation in the world, especially the ongoing seditions of global imperialism and international Zionism in the region, believe voting is the inalienable right and duty of every Iranian to participate in determining the destiny and protection of their homeland and national values. They will never let the malevolent ones to disappoint the people by sowing differences and divisions, and the enemies cannot plunder the valuable treasures of the nation, which is the result of the blood of thousands of martyrs.

May the problems of the appreciative and loyal people be solved by electing a valuable popular and serving government, and with the increasing authority of our Islamic country, the ground for the formation of a new Islamic civilization be provided, God willing.”

## Takht Ravanchi: 27 polling stations in U.S. for Iranian presidential polls

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — Iran’s envoy to the United Nations, Majid Takht Ravanchi, said on Wednesday morning that Iranians living in the United States can cast ballots for the presidential elections in

Iran at 27 polling places in 18 U.S. states.

He went on to say that though some U.S. states have multiple polling places, all of them would open on Friday at 8:00 a.m. local time.

He stated that “the Canadian government

did not consent to host elections” in relation to hosting Iranian presidential elections in Canada.

“Many Iranians live in Canada and are interested in voting,” he said. “A polling sta-

tion has been established in Buffalo, near the Canadian border with Southern Ontario, to collect the votes of Iranians living in Canada.”

The presidential election will be held on Friday.



**Ali Rabiei:** We should invite people to participate.



**Martyr Soleimani’s family:** Iran is facing another test for upholding religious democracy.



**IRGC:** Every vote is a precision-guided missile.



# Iran intensifies diplomatic efforts to achieve peace in the region

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** – In the latest sign that Iran is serious about achieving peace in the region, a senior Iranian diplomat journeyed to Oman shortly after the top Saudi diplomat visited the sultanate.

Ali Asghar Khaji, who serves as the Iranian foreign minister's senior advisor in special political affairs, visited Muscat on Tuesday and met with Omani Foreign Minister Badr Al Busaidi in what appeared to be part of a renewed diplomacy between Iran and Saudi Arabia because a few days earlier Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan had paid a short visit to Oman, a move that has been widely linked to the current thaw in Tehran-Riyadh relations.

In the Tuesday meeting, Khaji and Al-Busaidi discussed the latest developments in bilateral relations, the Yemen developments, and regional issues, according to a statement put out by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

"The Iranian official elaborated on Tehran's latest efforts to resolve humanitarian issues and stop the war in the country, and welcomed Oman's move to dispatch a delegation to Sana'a and its efforts to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the crisis in co-operation with the UN. The Omani foreign minister, in turn, described his country's efforts on the Yemen crisis as a step to stop the current humanitarian disaster in Yemen and contribute to the region's stability. He also stressed Iran's effective role in regional developments," the statement said.

During his trip to Muscat, Khaji also met Sheikh Khalifa Al-Harthy, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Oman for Political Affairs. During this meeting, the two sides discussed "in detail" the latest developments in Yemen, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry statement.

Oman's state media reported that Saud bin Ahmed al Barwani, head of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Department at the Omani Foreign Ministry, also attended the meeting between Khaji and Al-Busaidi, indicating that the issues discussed in the meeting might have something to do with Saudi Arabia.

Before the meeting, some regional media outlets close to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia were abuzz with speculations over a renewed Omani role in brokering de-escalation between Tehran and Riyadh.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have held several rounds of talks in Baghdad over the past few weeks. The talks were held behind closed doors and attended by security officials. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia directly or indirectly confirmed that these talks have taken place. Yemen was one of the most important issues that were discussed during the Baghdad talks, with Saudi Arabia, according to multiple press reports, demanding that Iran encourage its allies in the Sanaa-based government into



putting an end to their retaliatory strikes against Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia has been entangled in one of its worst wars against Yemen since 2015 when it started an air raid campaign against its fellow Arab country with the alleged aim of eradicating the Iranian influence there. After years of bombardment, Saudi Arabia not only failed to oust the Ansarallah-led government, but it also was unable to prevent the Yemenis from mounting retaliatory attacks inside its territory. Facing a well-organized popular resistance in Yemen, the Saudis blamed their failure on Iran, accusing it of providing weaponry to its Yemeni allies.

Iran has long denied any military involvement in the Yemen war and expressed its readiness to facilitate a political solution to the crisis. The Saudis began listening to the Iranian calls only most recently, giving the green light to their security officials to meet their Iranian counterparts in the Iraqi capital.

In parallel with the Baghdad talks, Iran intensified its efforts to bring peace to Yemen. Before heading to Oman, Khaji met with the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths to discuss the latest developments in Yemen.

In the meeting, the two sides conferred on the latest political and on-the-ground situation of Yemen, especially the recent visit of Griffiths to Sana'a, the developments in Ma'rib province, the need for the removal of economic siege against the Yemeni people, and the ways to establish peace and stability in the country.

Griffiths and Khaji also conferred on the elimination of the possible risk of oil spill from the FSO Safer oil tanker.

Khaji presented Iran's initiative to eliminate the oil spill and environmental pollution risk, and said Tehran is still ready to help establish peace in Yemen.

The UN envoy, in turn, presented a report on his visits to the region, and elaborated on the UN's efforts to settle the Yemen crisis.

Earlier, Griffiths also met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

during a visit to Tehran. He held talks with Zarif on various aspects of the Yemen crisis and the ways to achieve peace and stability in the country.

During his meeting with the UN envoy, Zarif elaborated on Iran's viewpoint on ending the Yemen crisis, the developments following the beginning of crisis in the country, and underlined the need to remove the blockade against the country and facilitating delivery of humanitarian aid to the Yemeni people, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Zarif expounded on Iran's principled policy that war is not a solution to the Yemen crisis, and said the current disastrous situation in Yemen - which has put the Yemeni people on the verge of a humanitarian disaster after six years - can only be wound up through political talks and peaceful ways.

Griffiths paid a visit to Iran after failing to make headway on the Yemen peace talks. He said in late May that he was frustrated over the lack of progress in the Yemen peace talks.

"Nobody can be more frustrated than I am," Griffiths said. "We have spent a year and a half on things which are relatively simple to describe, the cease-fire, the opening of Sanaa airport, the opening of Hodeida ports, the much-delayed start of the political negotiations."

Griffiths has recently complained that the two sides of the Yemen conflict have failed to reach an agreement on ending the war.

Nearly a week later, the U.S. special envoy for Yemen also echoed similar frustration while blaming his failure on the Ansarallah movement. Tim Lenderking accused Ansarallah of refusing to engage meaningfully in the diplomatic efforts to "resolve a nearly seven-year conflict that has brought unimaginable suffering to the Yemeni people." Lenderking added that the movement bears the major responsibility for not engaging in bringing about a cease-fire.

While the U.S. and UN Yemen envoys expressed dismay at lack of progress in their efforts, Oman quietly stepped in to calm the

situation, and it even made remarkable progress in this regard.

In early June, a high-ranking Omani delegation from the Royal Office paid a rare visit to Sanaa and effectively broke the siege on the Sanaa airport. Mohammad Abdul Salam, the spokesman for Yemen's Ansarallah movement, who accompanied the Omani delegation and has been barred from returning to Yemen, said it would discuss ways to push forward the Yemen peace process.

Abdul Salam, along with other Ansarallah figures, has been living outside Yemen since 2016 and was unable to return home due to a Saudi siege over the Sanaa airport. But Abdul Salam and his Yemeni comrades accompanied the Omani delegation, effectively breaking a Saudi travel ban on Yemen. The return of Abdul Salam, which would have required a Saudi green light, indicated tangible progress in the Yemen peace talks led by Oman.

The Saudi foreign minister's recent visit to Oman and the following visit by Khaji to the sultanate were the latest indications that Oman has returned to its previous status of mediating between the region's major stakeholders.

In addition to the Yemen crisis, Oman seems to the mediating between Iran and Saudi Arabia to mend their ties. On Tuesday, the London-based Al Arab, a newspaper believed to be owned by the United Arab Emirates, reported that the venue for the Saudi-Iranian dialogue has been moved from Baghdad to Muscat.

Citing Omani political sources, the newspaper said that Muscat will host the second phase of the dialogue between the two countries after Iraq hosted the first phase, which consisted of introductory sessions in which each side presented its demands and also exchanged words of courtesy while working at building mutual trust.

If true, replacing Muscat with Baghdad as the venue for Iranian-Saudi talks would suggest the seriousness of the talks as Oman enjoys good relations with Tehran, Riyadh, and Sanaa. This enables Oman to draw on its contacts with all the stakeholders to push forward the Yemen peace process. The movement of the talks' venue also suggests that the Saudis came to the conclusion that Iran is really serious about the de-escalation of tensions in the region. Of course, Iran has repeatedly said that it is ready to open a new chapter with Saudi Arabia but the Saudis chose to ignore Iranian calls on multiple occasions. In fact, Iran even voiced readiness to meet with the Saudis to assuage their concerns and dispel their misconceptions about the Iranian influence in the region.

Now with Oman taking a center stage in the momentum of peace in the region, the Saudis seem to be acknowledging Iran's seriousness in pursuit of peace and prosperity in the region.

## No final agreement in Vienna until demands fully met, Iran says

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Mahmoud Vaezi, the Iranian president's chief of staff, has expressed hope that the nuclear talks underway in Vienna would result in a piece of good news but underlined that there would be no agreement until all Iranian demands are met.

Speaking at the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Vaezi addressed the issue of the Vienna talks aimed to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). He also addressed the impact of the Friday presidential election on the Vienna talks, underlining that the election should not cause any "harassment" for the talks.

"In most countries, foreign policy is separate from domestic and factional issues. Therefore, given the importance of the Vienna talks, the principles we adhere to are the framework outlined by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution," Vaezi said, according to Iran's state news agency IRNA.

"We are conducting these negotiations within the framework drawn by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and approved by the establishment. So the negotiating team is moving in that direction."

The president's chief of staff pointed out that the Friday presidential election should not cause any harassment for the nuclear talks.

Vaezi added, "What has been agreed so far is most important economic issues that remain as an understanding, but the negotiating team has said that whatever we have agreed on will be 'final' when we meet all our demands. For this reason, the rest of the cases are being discussed. We hope to have good news on this in the coming weeks."

He also pointed to a February agreement between Iran

and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) allowing the latter to conduct the necessary inspections in Iran.

Iran and the IAEA reached in February a temporary deal allowing the Agency to continue its monitoring of Iran's nuclear facilities for a period of three months, which expired a while ago. The deal was reached during a two-day visit by IAEA chief Rafael Grossi to Iran.

At that time, the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) issued a joint statement announcing the deal.

"The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency recalled and reaffirmed the spirit of cooperation and enhanced mutual trust that led to the Joint Statement in Tehran on 26 August 2020, and the importance of continuing that cooperation and trust," the February statement said. "The AEOI informed the IAEA that in order to comply with the act passed by the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran called 'Strategic Action to Cease Actions and Protect the Interest of Iranian Nation' Iran will stop the implementation of the voluntary measures as envisaged in the JCPOA, as of 23 February 2021."

The statement added, "In view of the above and in order for the Agency to continue its verification and monitoring activities, the AEOI and the IAEA agreed: 1. That Iran continues to implement fully and without limitation its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA as before. 2. To a temporary bilateral technical understanding, compatible with the Law, whereby the IAEA will continue with its necessary verification and monitoring activities for up to 3 months (as per technical annex). 3. To keep the technical understanding under regular review to ensure it continues to achieve its purposes."

## Lifting sanctions constitutes 'essential part' of JCPOA: EU and U.S.

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — The European Union and the United States have said that lifting sanctions on Iran constitutes an "essential part" of the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), whose possible revival is the subject of the ongoing talks in Vienna since early April, according to Press TV.

"The European Union and the United States recognize that, alongside the return to full and effective implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments, the lifting of sanctions constitutes an essential part of the JCPOA," the EU and the U.S. said in a joint statement after a summit on Tuesday.

Former U.S. president Donald Trump unilaterally abrogated the JCPOA on May 8, 2018 and imposed the toughest sanctions in history against Iran in line with his "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran. However, Iran remained completely committed to the multilateral agreement for a full year, waiting for the European signatories to the JCPOA to compensate Iran for the sanctions. However, seeing no actions by Europe, Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) issued a statement on May 8, 2019 declaring that Iran's "strategic patience" is over and started to remove bans on its nuclear program at bi-monthly intervals in accordance

to paragraph 36 of the JCPOA.

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

At the time Iran announced if Europeans act to their JCPOA commitments, Tehran will reverse its decisions. However, Europeans failed to do so.

Trump's successor, Joe Biden, has promised to rejoin the JCPOA while strongly criticizing the former hawkish U.S. administration's Iran policy, including its failed maximum pressure campaign.

The Vienna talks began based on that promise, although the U.S. — as a non-party to the

JCPOA — is not directly partaking in the talks between Iran and the other remaining parties to the JCPOA, namely Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany. The talks are taking place within the JCPOA Joint Commission. The talks are led by Enrique Mora, deputy secretary-general and political director of the European External Action Service (EEAS).

In their Tuesday statement, the EU and the U.S. stressed their support for the Vienna initiative to facilitate the return of the United States to the JCPOA, followed by Iran's reversal of what it calls "remedial measures" against the U.S. withdrawal and sanctions.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## SPORTS

### The Iranian women achieve the impossible

**→1** It's important that we do not diminish the efforts of the senior national team who have a difficult road ahead of them prior to Asian qualifications. Losing to teams like Belarus and Uzbekistan after just a few weeks of training is actually a great opportunity to figure out strengths and weaknesses of the team. Foreign born Iranian players like super star sisters, Kimia and Vida Raeiatparvar, will also be an added input that can help tremendously given the circumstances like time to prepare for the tournament.

I am hopeful that the senior and youth national teams will prevail if they have the right training program and up most support not just from the federation but from all 80 plus million football lovers of our country.

### Iran coach Dragan Skocic out of contract

**SPORTS DESK** **TEHRAN** — National football team coach Dragan Skocic's contract expired with Iran after the end of the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 2.

The 52-year-old Croatian coach was named as Iran coach in February 2020.

Skocic became the second Iran coach who began his tenure with seven consecutive wins.



Irish coach Frank O'Farrell was the first coach who registered seven wins in a row in 1974.

Under leadership of Skocic, Iran defeated Uzbekistan, Syria and Bosnia and Herzegovina in three friendly matches.

The 'Persian Leopards' also defeated Hong Kong, Bahrain, Cambodia and Iraq in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers in Bahrain.

Head of Iran football federation Aziziz Khadem has said that the Board of Directors will make decision on Skocic's future in the national team.

The third round of AFC matches for the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification will be played from Sept. 2, 2021 to Mar. 29, 2022.

A total of 12 teams will be divided into two groups of six with the draw taking place on 1 July.

### Iran beat Iraq at 2022 World Cup qualification

**SPORTS DESK** **TEHRAN** — Sardar Azmoun's goal against Iraq was enough for Iran Tuesday night to book a place at the 2022 World Cup qualification third round.

In the match held at the Sheikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium, the 'Persian Leopards' registered their fourth successive in Group C.

Azmoun scored the only goal of the match in the 35th minute from a pass from captain Ehsan Haji Safi in the left flank.

Iran advanced to the third round with 18 points, one point above Iraq.

Bahrain defeated Hong Kong 4-0 to sit third in the group with 15 points.

### Iran share spoils with Uzbekistan at CAFA Junior Championship

**SPORTS DESK** **TEHRAN** — Iran shared the spoils with Uzbekistan in a 2-2 draw at the CAFA Junior Championship Tuesday night.

Zohreh Erfani and Negin Zandi scored for Iranian team.

Iran will play Kyrgyzstan on Thursday, while Uzbekistan face Tajikistan.

Iran started the competition with a 3-0 win over Tajikistan and defeated Afghanistan 8-0 in their second match.

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).

### Dragan Skocic proud of Iran football team

**SPORTS DESK** **TEHRAN** — Iran national football team coach Dragan Skocic says that he is proud of his team after booking a place at the third round of 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

The 'Persian Leopards' defeated Iraq 1-0 courtesy of Sardar Azmoun's first-half goal. Iran finished Group C as winners, followed by Iraq.

"We ended a tough tournament because we were under pressure to win our four matches. I want to congratulate my players for their effort," Skocic said in the post-match news conference.

"Before the match kicks off, I asked my men to play without any stress but playing against such a team without showing any nerves is very difficult.

"We played organized in the first half but I am not satisfied with the way we played in the second half despite we had several goalscoring chances.

"After we scored the goal, the team lost the control of the match and it made me angry. But we have to remember that every match was like a knockout match for us and it made our job difficult.

"Iran deserved to win a book in the third stage. I am very happy and proud to lead the Iranian players. Hopefully we can continue our good run in the next stage, Skocic concluded.



## Trade between Iran, UAE expected to hit \$20b by Mar. 2022

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The value of trade between Iran and the United Arab Emirate (UAE) is expected to reach \$20 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 2022), according to the head of the Iran-UAE Joint Chamber of Commerce.

“Based on the reached agreements between the two countries and economic forecasts, the two sides’ trade will reach \$20 billion by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year,” the portal of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) quoted Farshid Farzanegan as saying.



Speaking at the unveiling ceremony of a UAE Business Guide booklet in Tehran, Farzanegan put the Iran-UAE’s current trade at about \$15 billion, saying: “both sides are seeking to increase trade to \$30 billion by 2025.”

“Gold, diamonds, and metals such as aluminum, copper, and steel are among the UAE’s largest trading items,” he said, adding that Iran has always been one of the UAE’s main suppliers of metallic raw materials, although the trade of such products between the two sides has declined due to the sanctions.

He further noted that the export of agricultural products and foodstuff to the UAE suffered the least damage from the sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic.

“In our relation with this country, the issue of investment has always been raised, but in recent years due to rising investment risks in Iran we could not define many joint activities with the UAE,” he added.

The UAE is Iran’s top trading partner in terms of imports and the country’s third-largest export partner, indicating that many Iranian companies have put trade with the UAE on the agenda.

Farzanegan said that the UAE imports \$260 billion of various products a year and is known as a trade hub in the region.

“If we can expand our trade with UAE, Russia, and Turkey, Iran’s export capacity will grow significantly,” the official added.

## 500 idle small mines revived in 2 years

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced that 500 idle small-scale mines have been revived throughout the country during two-year period from June 2019 until June 2021.

Vajihollah Jafari said that this number was the initial target for the proposed plan for reviving the small-scale mines.

The official also stated that 101 small mines have been revived in the country since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

Repeating that 500 small-scale mines have been revived since the start of the mentioned plan (June 2019), the IMIDRO head noted that implementation of this plan is still continuing, while proper clinical practice will create a more favorable environment for reviving of these types of mines, which will ultimately lead to increased employment and production in the mines.

As Jafari has previously announced, 253 idle small-scale mines were revived throughout the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).



According to him, the plan for reviving idle mines in the previous year was realized by 126 percent.

Saying that the mentioned mines have been reactivated as part of a comprehensive program for reviving idle small mines across the country, Jafari also announced that under the framework of the mentioned program 200 mines are planned to be put back into operation in the current year.

The official noted that the successful implementation of the said program in the previous year was achieved despite the problems created by the outbreak of coronavirus.

Emphasizing that the above goals have been achieved as a result of productive cooperation among the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry, provincial industry organizations, Iran Mines houses, and private sector companies, Jafari noted that since the beginning of the program in March 2019 up to the end of the previous year, 303 mines have been revived.

As reported, under the framework of the mentioned program, 672 idle mines were identified and prioritized in the previous year, and diagnostic procedures were performed on 194 mines to determine the reasons for the halt in their production.

The program, which has been at the forefront of IMIDRO’s missions over the past two years, is being pursued in several provinces.

Khodadad Gharibpour, IMIDRO’s former head had mentioned this plan as one of the most significant plans of “Resistance Economy”, saying that IMIDRO is strongly determined to carry out it.

Reviving the small mines not only is a major step for supporting and boosting domestic production, it also plays a significant role in job creation throughout the country, Gharibpour said back in June 2020.

Following this program, so far various small-scale mines including chromite, manganese, hematite, and dolomite, iron ore, copper, and construction stone mines have been surveyed by monitoring and diagnosing the problems of the mines and providing solutions for resolving their issues.

# Steel exports rise 146% in 2 months yr/yr

→ 1 Based on the mentioned data, the country exported nine million tons of steel in the previous year while the exports in the Iranian calendar year 1398 stood at 10.362 million tons.

According to ISPA, over 2.839 million tons of steel products were also exported in the mentioned year, registering an 18-percent decline year on year.

As ISPA data indicated, the exports of steel products, intermediate steel and sponge iron all declined last year, and despite significant output growth and the demand decline in domestic construction sector, the exports of the mentioned products did not increase due to the pandemic.

Iran is planning to produce 32 million tons of steel in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 2022) to register a 27.7 percent rise compared to the figure for the previous year.

Based on the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry data, Iranian steel companies managed to produce 28.374 million tons of steel in the previous Iranian calendar year.

According to the ministry’s programs



for the current year, the production of 23 million tons of steel products has been also

put on the agenda, while last year 25 million tons of such products were manufactured.

## Tehran, Damascus put expansion of co-op in construction, transport on agenda

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami has traveled to Syria on top of a delegation to meet with Syria’s senior officials for discussing the expansion of ties, especially in civil construction and transportation.

“Iran and Syria have put the development of bilateral cooperation on their agenda, especially in the field of construction and development projects,” Eslami said upon arrival in Damascus.

Considering the fact that security and stability has been established in Syria, the two countries have put the development of bilateral cooperation on their agenda and are seriously pursuing this goal, he said.

He underlined the significant role of the two countries’ private sectors in the development of mutual economic cooperation, saying: “Given the developments in the fields of finance and transportation, now we must benefit from the capacities of the private sector in other fields like industry and civil development to be able to advance joint projects in these areas.”

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Eslami has traveled to Syria for a four-day visit, during which he is scheduled to hold talks with senior Syrian officials including Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous.

Upon arrival, Eslami was welcomed by the Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Samer al-Khalil.

Iran and Syria have been taking major steps for the expansion of their mutual trade ties. The two sides have exchanged numerous trade delegations in the past two years and Iranian private companies are investing in various fields of the Syrian economy like providing construction materials especially cement and working on several reconstruction projects.

Syria has repeatedly stressed that Iranian companies are the country’s top priority for implementing reconstruction projects.

Back in May, the chairman of Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce said that trade is rising between the two countries.



Keyvan Kashefi said that currently, Syria is moving towards reconstruction, and items in the fields of construction, bridge and dam building, electricity supply, and technical and engineering services are at the top of Iran’s list of exports to this country.

## Research indicates huge new gas reserves in northeastern Iran

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Managing Director of Iran’s Khazar Exploration and Production Company (KEPCO) has said new research shows that huge gas reserves could be laid beneath Iran’s northeastern Gorgan plain, Shana reported.

“Obtained information from 16 exploration wells drilled in this area, along with other studies, indicate huge potential reserves in this area and the need to change the technical approach to the potential hydrocarbon resources in the South Caspian Basin,” Emad Hosseini said.

The results from the two new wells, namely Hirkan 1 and Ghezeltapeh 3, are also expected to confirm the above-men-



tioned studies, Hosseini noted.

According to the official, KEPCO has proposed four new projects to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC),

two of which have been approved to be implemented in the region.

“Among the four strategic projects proposed to the NIOC board of directors, two projects namely the two-dimensional seismicity of the Caspian Sea shore area and the management and maintenance of Iran-Amirkabir drilling platform and its supporting vessels have been approved,” the official explained.

Referring to Turkmenistan’s plans for exploring gas reserves in the Caspian Sea, he continued: “Khazar Exploration and Production Company has put the two-dimensional seismicity of the Caspian Sea shore area on the agenda in order to determine the best deep drilling location.”

This project will be the first step in

creating a seismic database on the challenging shore areas of the Caspian Sea, which is very important considering the existing capacities in these coasts,” the official added.

Back in June 2020, Head of KEPCO’s Department of Geology Farid Taati had said that his company was cooperating with domestic knowledge-based companies for the Caspian Sea oil exploration operations.

KEPCO, which handles exploration operations in the Caspian Sea region in northern Iran, had signed research-based deals with domestic companies in the Iranian calendar year of 1398 (ended in March 2019) to carry out exploration operations in the area.

## Iran, Kenya explore avenues of mutual economic co-op

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted a meeting with a Kenyan trade delegation on Wednesday to explore ways for expanding economic cooperation between the two countries, especially in the agricultural sector.

The meeting was attended by ICCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Mohammadreza Karbasian, and Caroline Gichuki, the founder and CEO of a renowned Kenyan agricultural company called Techfarm Travel Ltd.

Speaking in the meeting the two sides pointed to barter trade, using the capacities of the local banks, overseas agriculture, and participation in joint exhibitions as ways for expanding the level of trade between the two countries.

Expressing satisfaction with the holding of such meetings as a way of paving the way for enhancing the level of cooperation between the two sides, Karbasian said: “Kenya is one of the most important economies in East Africa, and plays an important role in the



ICCIMA Deputy Head Mohammadreza Karbasian (C), and Caroline Gichuki, the founder and CEO of Techfarm Travel Ltd (L)

region’s agriculture, fishing and fishery industries.”

“The economies of Iran and Kenya are complementary. Agriculture is Kenya’s most important economic sector, and its major tea and coffee products are known

## TEDPIX loses 2,400 points on Wednesday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 2,460 points to 1.147 million on Wednesday.

Over 6.213 billion securities worth 35.468 trillion rials (about \$844.4 million) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday.

The first market’s index dropped 802 points, and the second market’s index lost 8,394 points.

Head of Iran’s Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) said that the stock market has found a special place in the country’s

economy so that it is impacting other major areas like politics.

Speaking at the 24th board meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce Industries Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on Tuesday, Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi said: “The presence of people in the capital market has provided us with a new tool, and this new tool must be used to eliminate the shortcomings and financial problems of the industries active in this market.”

Stating that people have welcomed the stock exchange and invested major capital

in this market, the official added: “The capital market has developed by the people’s presence, and along with it the role of this market in the country’s economy has also expanded.”

Dehqan Dehnavi emphasized the fact that the decline in the stock market’s main index has not been an extraordinary incident and the trend of this market has been in line with other parallel markets in the country.

“The stock index has moved in line with other markets and the concept of “bubble” cannot be used for this market,” he said.





# Political system in U.S. hardly accepts major changes: professor

**→1** Some critics believe a deep state in the U.S. determines main strategies regardless of who takes power in the White House. Do you agree with such a view?

No, I don't agree. Of course, there are extra-legal or dark forces in many states that seek to undermine and/or control the decision-making process. The U.S. has had a fairly consistent foreign policy for many decades, and this has very little to do with the role played by the so-called "deep state." American foreign policy strategies, especially those developed in the post-World War II era, are based on maintaining U.S. primacy in global affairs and combating the emergence or strengthening of opposing forces. In other words, the congruity of Democratic and Republican policies on this issue has led to a set of consistent American foreign policy principles over the years.

**American politicians claim that the U.S. is a democracy and a republic. So why did this "Republican" support the 1953 coup d'état, in Iran known as the 28 Mordad coup d'état? Why does this "democracy" support Arab monarchies? How can we understand this contradiction?**

Again, America's decision to orchestrate the 28 of Mordad coup d'état had nothing to do with the dichotomy between the U.S. being a democracy or a republic.



The same principle applies to Washington's support for authoritarian Arab monarchies today. The driving force in these cases has little to do with democracy or republicanism and it has everything to do with maintaining and maximizing Washington's supremacy in global affairs.

**Some observers designate U.S. democracy as a wild/aggressive democracy based on liberal ideology that promotes selfishness and egoism inside**

**and outside. Don't you think the U.S. can adopt other versions of democracy to be more ethical and fairer when it deals with its folk and other states?**

Ideally, yes, but practically no. The U.S. is a major superpower that does not view itself as just another country.

American leaders have always viewed the U.S. as akin to a "shining city upon the hill" that is destined to guide other people. This messianic zeal has eventually morphed

into adopting full-spectrum dominance and global hegemony as a recurrent theme of American foreign policy.

**Why did democratic institutions fail to prevent endless wars?**

There is an international relations theory (the democratic peace theory) that argues that there is an inverse relationship between democracy and war. That is, democracies don't go to war against each other, and they are less prone to start a war than other forms of government. However, there is a relatively significant body of quantitative research that shows that regime type and war involvement are not significantly related to each other. In other words, democracy and war involvement are not consistently and significantly correlated with each other. That is why one cannot expect democracies not to engage in endless wars if their overriding foreign policy objective is international hegemony.

**Do you agree with this claim that the U.S. is a conservative political system that hardly accepts changes?**

The U.S. has a status-quo political system that does not lend itself to major or abrupt changes. One can go back to the formative years of the American republic to find the roots of this. The U.S. also has a very complicated and multi-layered constitutional and legal system that tends to favor the preservation of the status quo to sudden and revolutionary change.

## Voting laws proposed by Republicans is to guarantee just lawful votes are counted, American writer says

By Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** — An American writer says that Republicans' voting law is to make sure that only lawful votes are counted. "The American system is meant to count each lawful vote," Charles Ortel tells the Tehran Times.

"In fact, since 2001, many actions as simple as visiting an office building or workplace require presenting valid identification," Ortel adds.

According to Republicans, in some cases, "corrupt voters" might cast votes in numerous states on Election Day, and individual state regulators might be "none the wiser".

"Making sure that only lawful votes are counted just once in each election contest should be broadly accepted and not controversial," the American investor and writer interested in lasting peace argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you evaluate Founding Fathers' educations for America today? What are the main features of the Republic that they were talking about?**

America's founders were keen students of history and well understood the dangers of mob rule, whether in service to an authoritarian monarch or "elected" dictator.

In the eighteenth century, books were expensive and libraries scarce. Still, the founders expected that participants in elections and in governance would continually educate themselves in a thirst for knowledge.

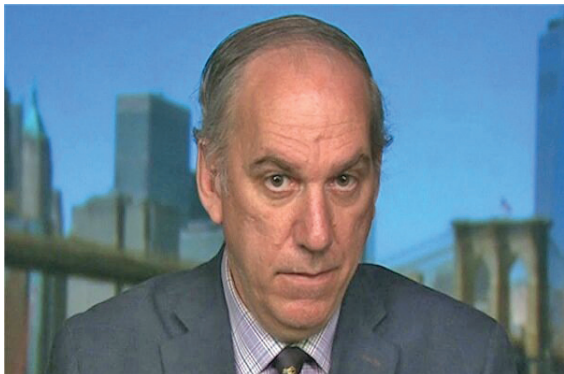
To get a flavor for thinking then, an excellent window into past times is the book written by Thomas Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia, published around 1782.

I believe the founders would be horrified at the intolerant, blinkered class of "educators" who cancel or shun views at odds with tenets of woke globalism.

**America today is known as a liberal democracy. Do you think that liberalism should remain America's unchangeable, everlasting ideology, as Fukuyama says in his book "The End of History?"**

One of man's great failings is classification. Instead, whether liberal, progressive, communist, or conservative, I would hope thinking Americans and others worldwide would collect objective facts and use these to test and develop working theories to answer questions large and small as these arise.

In what I know of history, some of the most impor-



tant breakthroughs arise when quiet yet persistent voices challenge accepted thinking, pointing to flaws and/or offering better interpretations.

Individuals in America should pursue opportunities, ideally, to use their best skills to be most productive. If we have learned anything from March 2020, we must understand that no expert has every answer and that society flourishes when we take risks, making informed choices.

**Many observers criticize American democracy over the impact of money and media on the election process. They mean more you have money more possible you can take power. It is not in favor of independent candidates and ordinary people. The power is circulating in the hands of Democrats and Republicans. What is your comment?**

The size of the government sector is gargantuan in America, and no regulator exists that is motivated to punish corrupt interests in both parties who pay off politicians to forestall prosecution, win government contracts/grants, or both.

In contrast to the private sector, where advances in technology dismantle bureaucracies once thought impregnable, the public sector in America grows more corpulent every day.

How long before Americans realize we are drowning ourselves and future generations in debts to fund amorphous schemes that hardly work to our common benefit?

**Apparently American political system is conservative when it comes to election mechanisms. Some political pundits say the U.S. election system**

**is outdated. For instance, gerrymandering which is practiced since 1789, or electoral colleges that roots in the slavery era. What are the reasons for this kind of conservatism?**

The American system is meant to count each lawful vote. In fact, since 2001, many actions as simple as visiting an office building or workplace require presenting valid identification. Moreover, "liberal", woke nations across Europe enforce tougher voting standards than are prevalent in America.

Though approximately 80% of our population resides in cities, we have a large population scattered across a vast set of the territory. Here, it is important to understand that our founders feared the concentration of power and wanted candidates for the highest office to court multiple states rather than vested interests in just the most populated ones.

**Why are the Republicans in some states are trying to put restrictions on voting? Are they afraid of losing more seats? Could you tell us how it may help U.S. democracy?**

In the Northeast, for example, corrupt voters might cast votes in numerous states on Election Day, and individual state regulators might be none the wiser.

Making sure that only lawful votes are counted just once in each election, contest should be broadly accepted and not controversial.

**Don't you predict that a third party or movement come to power in the U.S. to push America beyond Republicans and Democrats? Some mention Trump as an option, but he is an influential figure in the Republican Party and hardly can he violate the party's principles. However, we have Bernie Sanders that can go beyond Democrats' principles. What is your comment?**

In the data age, with distributed networks, parties seem much less relevant, even a diversion. In 2021, Americans should cherish time and the freedom to embrace opportunities for themselves and for their families, not expensive, ineffective bureaucracies and tired slogans.

At home and abroad, Americans appreciate that experts in both parties fail most of us while enriching themselves.

I hope that voters will empower elected officials to reduce the footprint of government and punish those who feast off their careers as "public servants."

## W. Bank youths clash with IOF in protest at settler rally in J'lem

**INTERNATIONAL d e s k** **TEHRAN**— Scores of Palestinian young people took to the streets in different West Bank areas and clashed with the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) in protest at the holding of the hardline Jewish flag march in the Old City of Jerusalem.

During the clashes, young men blocked roads with burning tires and hurled stones and empty bottles at Israeli soldiers, who responded by firing rubber bullets and tear gas and stun grenades.

No one was reportedly injured by IOF gunfire, but several protesters suffered

from their exposure to tear gas.

The clashes took place in different areas of the West Bank, including Bethlehem City, al-Arroub refugee camp in northern al-Khalil and at the northern entrance to Ramallah City.

In Jerusalem, the Red Crescent said that more than 33 people, mostly Jerusalemites, were injured when Israeli police forces attacked them during the settler flag rally that took place in the Old City.

According to local sources and media reports, the Israeli police violently attacked citizens and activists in different

areas of Jerusalem as they were peacefully protesting the holding of the provocative settler march.

Most of the wounded citizens received on-site medical assistance, while a few others were rushed to hospitals.

At least 17 Palestinians were arrested by police forces during the events.

Later in the evening, thousands of extremist settlers, including Knesset member Itamar Ben-Gvir, flocked to the Bab al-Amud (Damascus Gate) plaza that leads to the Old City, where they embarked on chanting racist slogans

against the Arabs under police protection.

During the march, some settlers also hurled stones, water bottles and juice cans at journalists and media crews and carried a banner calling for demolishing the Aqsa Mosque's Dome of the Rock and building their alleged temple on its ruins.

Upon leaving Bab al-Amud and marching to al-Buraq Wall Square (western wall), the settlers verbally attacked Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) while spitting on the ground.



## Biden and Putin meet in Geneva

U.S. President Joe Biden and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin met for their first, highly-anticipated summit.

The talks in Geneva, Switzerland, come at a time when both sides describe relations as being at rock bottom.

Discussions are set to include arms control and U.S. allegations of Russian cyber-attacks.

No major breakthroughs are expected but there are hopes of finding small areas of agreement.

The arrangements for the meeting were carefully choreographed. The Russian president flew into Geneva on Wednesday before being taken by motorcade to the grand villa

overlooking Lake Geneva where the summit is taking place.

Biden, who arrived in the city on Tuesday, then headed to the villa where the two leaders shook hands.

The meeting comes on the tail end of Mr Biden's first foreign trip as U.S. president, in which he has also attended meetings with G7 and Nato leaders. Going into the summit, Mr Biden has stressed that he has the backing of his Western partners.

The choice of Geneva as the setting harks back to the Cold War summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985.

## Outcry over execution of Saudi minor

The execution by Saudi Arabian authorities of a Shia dissident has drawn widespread condemnation from rights groups. They say Mustafa Hashim al-Darwish was a minor when he was arrested and charged for taking part in protests against the ruling monarchy. According to a statement by the Saudi interior ministry, Mustafa was executed in the city of Dammam in the Eastern province on Tuesday for what it described as "riotous" gatherings, among other offenses. Mustafa was 26 at the time of his execution, but rights groups say he was charged for alleged crimes committed when he was 17. One rights group, Amnesty International, says his trial was "deeply flawed" and that he had been detained for six years and placed in solitary confinement, tortured and denied access to a lawyer for large parts of his incarceration. In a statement, Human Rights Group REPRIEVE said, "The execution of Mustafa al-Darwish once again shows that the Kingdom's claim to have eliminated capital punishment for childhood crimes is not true." At the height of the Islamic Awakening uprisings, also known as the Arab Spring in the early 2010s, the Saudi Kingdom was one of many in the region to experience large-scale demonstrations. Many from the minority Shia sect demonstrated in the Eastern Province's poverty-stricken streets of the Qatif region. They demanded higher employment rates, better human rights and an end to discrimination by the ruling Saudi family. Since then, scores of Shia dissidents have been executed, including the high-profile case of a prominent cleric, Nimr al-Nimr, that sent shockwaves across the Islamic world.

## U.S. coronavirus death toll passes another grim milestone

Deaths from COVID-19 in the United States have surpassed 600,000. The country has the highest fatality rate from the virus in the world and the latest figure is a stark reminder that despite a vaccine rollout, the disease is far from over in America. The U.S. also has the highest infection rate in the world. The high figures are largely blamed on a lack of leadership by the previous U.S. administration. Under President Donald Trump's term in office, he was accused of widely underplayed the virus, ignoring experts' advice and health protocols. His supporters are believed to have done the same, which led to a massive health and economic crisis.

## Israel launches fresh airstrikes on the Gaza strip

**→1** The turnout is reported to have been less than expected. Palestinian officials have viewed this as a victory and a new deterrent following their operation dubbed sword of al-Quds, launched in response to provocative Israeli actions at the al-Aqsa mosque and the forcible removal of Palestinians from the Shiekh Jarrah neighborhood in occupied Jerusalem al-Quds. The operation took Tel Aviv by surprise with barrages of missiles fired at the city and other settlements in Israel. But the march itself proved to be still disturbing. Chants by the settlers of "death to Arabs" echoed in the alleyways of the old city where Palestinian merchants shut down their shops. The provocative march triggered protests across many flashpoints of the occupied West Bank that were met with Israeli tear gas. According to the Palestinian Red Crescent, Israeli forces attacked Palestinian protesters in occupied Jerusalem al-Quds with rubber-coated bullets, stun grenades and physically assaulting them. The Palestinian Red Crescent says at least 33 protesters had been injured in areas around the city's Damascus Gate. Israeli forces say they arrested at least 17 Palestinians. The annual march in occupied Jerusalem al-Quds marks Israel's military operations in 1967 that resulted in the occupation of the holy city's eastern part. Palestinians view it as highly provocative and part of Israeli measures to remove the Palestinian identity to occupied Jerusalem al-Quds, which they regard as the capital of their country. The Israeli occupation and annexation of eastern Jerusalem al-Quds is viewed as illegal by the international community.

## Resistance News

### Iraqi resistance group: Military option to remain on table until U.S. forces leave country

**INTERNATIONAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The leader of a prominent Iraqi resistance group says the military option against the occupying U.S. forces stationed in Iraq will remain on the table as long as they stay in the Arab country.

Qais Khazali, secretary-general of the Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq movement, made the remarks on Monday, said Iraq's resistance groups had asserted repeatedly that, in line with the law ratified by the Iraqi parliament, the American forces had to leave the country, the al-Sumaria television reported.

The legislative body overwhelmingly passed the law early last year after a US drone strike assassinated senior Iranian and Iraqi counter-terrorism commanders, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, near the Baghdad International Airport.

The law, which has mandated a full withdrawal of all U.S.-led troops, cleared the parliament as the assassinations had given rise to an unprecedented level of anti-American sentiment throughout the country and the region.

According to Press TV, ever since, attacks targeting the Iraqi bases housing the American troops as well as the logistical convoys intended for the U.S.-led forces have risen considerably in frequency and proximity.

"As long as this demand (the withdrawal) is not fulfilled, the U.S. forces are subject to military strikes by Iraqi resistance groups throughout the country's various areas," Khazali said.

Only the expulsion of the U.S. troops would stop the resistance from resorting to the military option, he added.

"All of us have prepared ourselves for all challenges and likelihoods. Do not imagine that we are afraid of [your] threats," the official said.



## Swiss traveler writes book to highlight ‘superb scene’ of boutique hotels in Iran

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Thomas Wegmann, who is a **d e s k** Swiss insurance professional, was so wowed by the hotel scene on his first visit to Iran in 2019 that, despite having no publishing experience, he decided to write a book.

“In Iran, there’s a superb scene of boutique hotels combining contemporary design with characteristic Persian heritage -- and it’s on the rise,” CNN quoted Wegmann as saying on June 7.

Some people travel to Iran for its history -- the 24 UNESCO World Heritage sites in the country, for starters. Others go for the living culture -- the great food and legendary day-to-day hospitality that regular travelers rave about.

Thomas Wegmann is a little different. For him, the most striking thing about Iran is its hotels. Not grand seven-star hotels, either, but small, boutique properties run by families -- while being absolutely cutting edge, the CNN wrote in an article.

“On the flight back from Tehran to Zurich, I was Googling whether there’s a book about hotels in Iran, and realized there isn’t a single one... I was so surprised by the country, and especially by the hotels.”

Below are excerpts from the CNN article written by Julia Buckley:

Now the result is out. “Persian Nights” showcases 16 of the best boutique hotels in the country, from cities such as Tehran and Shiraz to a village on Qeshm island, in the south of the country.

It is reportedly the first English-language book to be dedicated to the country’s hotel scene, giving those who don’t know the country a glimpse of the thriving design scene beyond the historical sites.

“I think for every country you travel to you realize you have some ideas which are quite different from reality, and if the country is a bit more closed, and fewer people are traveling there, sharing their photos and experiences, the more different it’s likely to get. And I think Iran is quite a closed country so there’s probably a bit more misconception than in other countries,” Wegmann says.

His book -- on which he worked with an Iranian team, from photographer Hamed Farhangi to designers Paulette Ghahremanian and Mehrdad MZadeh -- profiles 16 of the best hotels in the country.

“There’s such a strong heritage of old buildings -- why should they build new ones?” says Wegmann.

“This is a way of keeping them. I know owners who own others and are just waiting to renovate them.”

As well as hotels, the book has a section on guesthouses. Howzak House is Isfahan’s first ecolodge, near the UNESCO-listed Masjed-e Jame mosque. It’s run by young couple Babak and Nassim and, Wegmann says, “it’s like being part of their home.”

They even run textile-printing workshops and have bikes for guests. “You can just ride around, it’s very relaxed,” he says.

The hotels aren’t the only reason to go to Iran, though -- Wegmann says the country should be on everyone’s must-visit lists.

“It was one of a few countries that I’d been really interested in for a long time,” he says.

“Iran, Japan, Peru -- I love countries with a very strong and ancient culture that has relevance in history. And I’d met a few Iranians in Europe, and they were always very friendly.”

He made his first visit after separating from his wife. “It was my first trip afterwards, and I wanted to do something on my own,” he says.

“I expected a more traditional country but I was in espresso bars and concept stores in these hotels and it was like Europe or the States -- that came as a surprise to me,” he says. “I didn’t expect to see an Italian Marzocco coffee machine or a German Probat coffee roaster. And there’s a strong creative industry.”

“I discovered there are lots of realities, and I wanted to show what I experienced. It’s what I saw and enjoyed.”

As a tourist, Wegmann says he felt “very free -- I felt like I could go everywhere, and was welcome everywhere at any time. I was going home late at night using Google Maps, and always felt safe.”

He was welcomed into mosques to admire the architecture, and enjoyed Iranian cuisine -- “they have fantastic slow-cooked stews, and a lot of vegetarian dishes -- it’s a very very rich culture in terms of eating,” he says.

And then there were the people.

“I lived a year in Brazil so I’m very used to friendly and open cultures, but I think Iranians are especially friendly,” he says, adding that there was never any pressure on him as a tourist, either.

Most of the other guests in the hotels when he stayed were Europeans and Japanese, as well as locals.

With its history dating back 7,000 years, Iran is home to a large number of remarkable mansions and buildings. For better maintenance of such structures and extension of their contribution to the economy, tourism authorities have initiated a plan to cede the buildings to private owners so long as they are repurposed into traditional hotels, restaurants, and lodges.

Traditional houses mostly have their own spectacular architecture, many bedrooms, and an intimate atmosphere. This indeed is attracting an increasing number of investors who are putting their money into repurposing the time-honored buildings into boutique hotels.

## Iran to spotlight its tourist attractions at FITUR

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — A select of Iranian travel-associated **d e s k** businesses and tour operators will promote handicrafts, traditions, and tourism potentials of the country at the 42nd FITUR tourism trade fair, which will be held in Madrid, Spain, from January 19 to 23, 2022.

The Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI) as the representative of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts will be organizing Iran paravian at the tourism trade show, Mehr reported.

A variety of exhibits, live performances, meetings, and workshops are amongst lineups of the Iranian exhibitors at FITUR 2022, which connects the industry with the inbound and outbound international markets.

After hosting a post-pandemic recovery edition in the Spring of 2021, FITUR Madrid 2022 will resume its regular appointments at the beginning of the year, taking place at IFEMA – Feria de Madrid.

Over the five days of the international tourism fair, professional participants will have access to unmissable commercial and business activities. In addition to being able to present their offers directly to the end customer, exhibitors can meet with over 150,000 trade visitors with significant purchasing power, according to organizers.

# Chehel Sotoun of Qazvin undergoes partial restoration

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The **d e s k** decorations of Chehel Sotoun, a Safavid-era (1501-1736) palace in Qazvin, have undergone some rehabilitation works, the deputy provincial tourism chief announced on Wednesday.

The project is being carried out carefully by cultural heritage experts and experienced restorers because the palace is of utmost importance to the citizens of the city, Ehsan Nurani said.

Besides the decoration, the sash windows of the historical monument are also being restored, the official added.

Chehel Sotoun is the only remaining palace from the royal palace of Shah Tahmasp (1524-1576) in Qazvin, with special historical importance, type of architecture, and decoration, which makes it a major tourist destination, he explained.

The monument was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1948.

The interior of the building was radically altered in the Qajar period (1789-1925), but in the 1970s it was largely restored to its original appearance.

Restoration work in the 1970s revealed the remains of wall paintings on both levels. Upstairs, on the south wall of



the western arm of the cruciform hall, there is a very lively representation of an individual wearing a European dress in the style of the 16-17th centuries.

Its Safavid and Qajar decorations are distinguishable: tiles, mostly of the Qajar period, on the exterior and both tiles and wall paintings from the original Safavid structure on the interior. The high quality of the surviving wall paintings suggests

a date in the period when Qazvin was the capital.

The building consists of two stories. On the ground floor, a quadrangular central room communicates with the surrounding gardens through four iwans (porches), one on each side. Each iwan was originally connected to the central room by three short passages. The four corners between the iwans contain four

rooms, each on a different plan.

On the exterior instead of corners, there are oblique walls, so that the plan is that of an unequal octagon. Around the exterior of the structure, eight massive columns and eight corner piers with engaged columns support a gallery encircling the upper story, which is reached via a bent staircase leading from the southeastern corner room.

Upstairs thirty-two slender wooden supports carry the roof of the gallery. The main portion of the upper story consists of a large cruciform hall, with four corner rooms, each with a small adjacent chamber.

Whereas the rooms on the ground floor and the iwans are vaulted, all the rooms on the upper story have flat wooden ceilings.

Qazvin was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

## 19th, early 20th century carpets on show at Karaj exhibit



**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A collection of **d e s k** handwoven Persian carpets and rugs, which date to the 19th and early 20th century, has been put on show in Karaj, the capital of Alborz province.

The deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Pouya Mahmoudian, and the provincial tourism chief, Freydoun Mohammadi, were amongst attendees at the opening ceremony of the exhibit, which kicked off on Tuesday.

“The exhibit features 22 pieces of rugs and carpets related to the Qajar and early Pahlavi eras, which have been gathered from different regions of Iran, Europe, and the United States by a private collector,”

Mohammadi said, IRNA reported.

Persian carpets are sought after internationally for their delicate designs and their good quality. Among Persian carpets, particularly those of the classic period, the medallion may represent an open lotus blossom with 16 petals as seen from above, a complex star form, or a quatrefoil with pointed lobes.

Medallion carpet is any floor covering on which the decoration is dominated by a single symmetrical centerpiece, such as a star-shaped, circular, quatrefoil, or octagonal figure. The name, however, is sometimes also given to a carpet on which the decoration consists of several forms of this kind or even of rows of medallion figures.

## Sarayan caravanserai joins shortlist for collective world heritage

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — A Safavid era (1501-**d e s k** 1736) caravanserai in the city of Sarayan has recently received cultural heritage experts’ preliminary approval to join the shortlist of Iranian historical caravanserais being prepared for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Restoration work is underway on the caravanserai, its surroundings, and on a cistern nearby, in preparation for being assessed by UNESCO experts, Sarayan’s tourism chief has said.

Global registration of such historical monuments could contribute to their preservation and protection while it would lead to increased economic prosperity for the region by attracting more tourists, IRNA quoted Mohammad Arab as saying on Wednesday.

Located in the eastern province of South Khorasan, Sarayan caravanserai is one of the oldest tourist attractions of the city, which is still in use.

Within the caravanserai, which was listed on the National Heritage list in 2003, is the Sarayan Museum of Anthropology.

Last year, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanseries for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture, historical and cultural values.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining “caravan” with “Sara”. The former stands for a group of travelers and Sara means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran’s earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a wide experience as they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age.

South Khorasan is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert. It is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER No: 1400/103-29/03  
Renewal

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

**-Subject of Tender :**  
Broadcasting the TV networks of English iFilm , Press TV and Hispan TV on Galaxy 19 for three years in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

**Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:**  
From **Thursday 17 June 2021 (1400/03/27)** until **Sunday 20 June 2021 (1400/03/30)** by **02:00 p.m** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

**Place of receiving the tender document:**  
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4<sup>th</sup> Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

**The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:**  
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

**Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:**  
The amount of deposit for participating in tender is USD 62640 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 15660000000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

**Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:**  
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:00 a.m. on Tuesday 20 of July 2021 (1400/04/29)** at the address mentioned in 4<sup>th</sup> clause.

**Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:**  
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on **Tuesday 20 of July 2021 (1400/04/29) at 10:00 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

**Time and place of opening Envelopes:**  
The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on **Sunday 25 July 2021 at 03:00 p.m (1400/05/03)** in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.  
The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.  
Fore more information please see :  
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB



# Iran has highest blood donation rate in Eastern Mediterranean region

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran currently has the highest blood donation rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region, so that some 2.5 million Iranians refer to blood donation centers across the country annually, Government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on Wednesday.

"It is an obligation for all of us to consider blood donation a social, ethical, and religious duty," he said, adding that the blood donation rate in Iran is one and a half times the rate in countries with above-average income, IRNA quoted Rabiei as saying.

Last year, Iran Blood Transfusion Organization had predicted an eight-percent decline in blood reserves, while the World Health Organization had forecasted the rate to be 20-30 percent on average for the world, he explained.

Despite the prevalence of COVID-19, blood donation has increased by 40 percent since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21), compared to the same period last year, Peyman Eshghi, head of Blood Transfusion Organization, said in May.



**100% voluntary blood donation in Iran**  
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).

Out of 9.9 million blood donation units in the Eastern Mediterranean 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.

According to the World Health Organization, 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.

## 72 passengers infected with COVID-19 quarantined

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — A total of 72 passengers who have tested positive for coronavirus have been quarantined at border facilities, Mehdi Valipour, head of Relief and Rescue Organization affiliated with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), said on Wednesday.

Moreover, 371,756 passengers have so far been screened for coronavirus by thermal tests at the country's official borders since March 10, he added, IRNA reported.

During the aforesaid period, IRCS forces have conducted 27,043 PCR tests and 52,709 rapid tests, he noted.

Some 471 members of the IRCS cooperate for carrying out the plan in 16 provinces across the country, Valipour concluded.

With the cooperation of ministries of health and transport, a plan is being implemented with the goal of rapidly identifying and testing incoming passengers and keeping them in quarantine facilities, if necessary.

Thirty border checkpoints have been selected, including

18 land borders, nine air borders, and three sea borders, all incoming passengers will be tested and referred to the quarantine facilities in case of necessity.

Around 8,000 individuals enter the country via borders on a daily basis.

### Ban on flights

Iran has extended travel restrictions on flights to and from 15 countries due to a surge in the coronavirus disease, according to Iran Civil Aviation Organization.

The Islamic Republic has banned flights to India, Pakistan, France, Botswana, Brazil, Czech Republic, Iraq, Estonia, Ireland, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Slovakia, South Africa, and Zambia aimed to curb the disease.

Iranian citizens without a negative coronavirus PCR test result are subject to medical screening and quarantine for 14 days at their own expense, while non-Iranian nationalities without the certificate are not allowed to enter the country.

All passengers are subject to the medical screening on



arrival, and if they are suspected of having the disease, non-Iranian nationalities will be quarantined at a place specified by the Health Ministry at their own expense and Iranian citizens will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

## When the soil asks for help



*In Faux-Cap, Madagascar, the dunes and their strong winds pose a threat to their crops. With the greenest weapons, its inhabitants worked for 120 days to secure 75 hectares of dunes. Once settled, the risk is over. (Photo: UNDP)*

**→ 1** Annually, about 25,000 hectares of land undergo reforestation in Iran, which is more than twice the annual deforestation. However, the reforested land may not have the same biodiversity and vegetation as the original forests.

Reforestation is the natural or intentional restocking of existing forests and woodlands (forestation) that have been depleted, usually through deforestation. Reforestation can be used to rectify or improve the quality of human life by soaking up pollution and dust from the air, rebuild natural habitats and ecosystems, mitigate global warming since forests facilitate biosequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide, and harvest for resources, particularly timber, but also non-timber forest products.

Nonetheless, the reestablishment of forests

is not just simple tree planting. Forests are made up of a community of species and they build dead organic matter into soils over time.

Last year, Reza Bayani an official with Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, said between 2015 and 2020, approximately 12,000 hectares of forests across the country wiped out annually.

He went on to say that the country's forests are estimated at 14.3 million hectares, lamenting, deforestation occurs for a variety of reasons, including dam construction, road construction, fire, and wood smuggling.

Iran, like many other countries in West Asia, is primarily made up of arid deserts, while compared to nearby Saudi Arabia (95% desert), Turkmenistan (80% desert), and Iraq (40% desert), only about 23 percent of its land area is covered with desert areas.

## National Parks of Iran

management of native wildlife and the protection and management of its habitat that include an area or areas for the feeding, breeding, spawning, resting, wintering, staging, shelter and other needs of wildlife, and the enhancement or restoration of these land or water areas; (b) within which hunting, fishing trapping, killing, poisoning or capturing of wildlife or collection of flora or other objects is prohibited, except where such activities are consonant with scientific or management purposes; (c) where settlement and human activity shall be restricted, eliminated, or prohibited as regulated by the Department of the Environment; (d) in which recreational use by the public shall be secondary to the primary purpose of management for wildlife and vegetation enhancement or restoration.

An area suitable for designation as a wildlife refuge is a land unit of any size, typified by one or more of the following criteria: (a) wetlands of national or international significance displaying the highest biological productivity of faunistic, floristic, limnological, hydrological, and ecological importance; (b) seasonal refuges for concentrations of native species, migration routes, breeding, feeding, or wintering areas; (c) areas containing vanishing rare or endangered species, or assemblages of species; (d) habitats suitable as managed game ranges, game breeding areas or fenced enclosures, for the recovery and amelioration of species whose survival and recruitment may be in jeopardy or require special management.

(Source: Encyclopædia Iranica)

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## Water ambulances to join medical emergency fleet

Five water ambulances will be added to the current medical emergency fleet in provinces neighboring the Persian Gulf, southern coast of the country, head of Iran's Emergency Medical Services Organization Pir Hossein Koulivand, said on Wednesday.

Since air emergency fleet have been developed, the Organization is looking forward to develop the marine medical fleet, he said, adding that in recent years, there were only five helicopters in service of the Organization, which have already added to 40.

## شناورهای دریایی به اورژانس کشور می پیوندند

رییس سازمان اورژانس کشور با بیان اینکه در حال توسعه اورژانس دریایی هستیم، گفت: در حال حاضر اضافه کردن پنج فروند شناور دریایی اورژانس به استان های همسایه خلیج فارس در دستور کارمان قرار دارد.

دکتر پیرحسین کولیوند در گفت و گو با ایسنا، گفت: همانطور که ناوگان هوایی اورژانس را توسعه دادیم، در حال حاضر هم به دنبال تکمیل و توسعه ناوگان دریایی اورژانس هستیم. باید توجه کرد که در گذشته فقط پنج بالگرد اورژانس داشتیم، اما در حال حاضر با اقداماتی که انجام شده ۴۰ بالگرد و پایگاه اورژانس هوایی تأمین و ایجاد شده که واقعا افتخاری برای کشور است.

## COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 15

New cases	10487
New deaths	129
Total cases	3,060,135
Total deaths	82,480
New hospitalized patients	1315
Patients in critical condition	3,346
Total recovered patients	2,696,434
Diagnostic tests conducted	21,941,648
Doses of vaccine injected	5,242,922

## Many changes due to pandemic irreversible

Will the "new normal" bring new opportunities?

### → 1 Workplace

Much of the world wrestles to imagine what the workplace will look like as the pandemic begins to recede. One emerging pattern is the number of companies switching to working from home. This pattern may continue as lockdowns gradually fade, but we will still need to maintain social distancing in the short to medium term to control the spread of the outbreak.



Some companies and employees might make this permanent simply because it is economically feasible and the right thing to do in this climate of global warming much of which is caused by people commuting back and forth from work. Almost all major cities have witnessed a reduction in air pollution due to the pandemic lockdowns and protocols.

Since restrictive measures were applied and protocols adopted due to the outbreak, Tehran and some other cities in Iran enjoyed cleaner air than under normal circumstances.

The health benefits of low air pollution, traffic jams in rush hours, and unnecessary premature deaths and diseases caused by air pollution are a few of the benefits in major cities worldwide. Bustling offices with multiple employees using the same desk space can indeed be a thing of the past.

An added benefit of working from home is the flexible hours that can lead to the disappearance of the so-called "9-5" work-hour schedules altogether.

With this pattern, the demand for downtown office space will drop as more businesses and employees demand the opportunity for remote work. With that in mind, the prices of commercial downtown real estate will plunge while residential and rural housing prices will surge.

### Virtual education

Another cause of the low air pollution globally has been the shutdown of schools replaced by online education. The absence of commuting back and forth from schools of millions of children in Tehran has reduced pollution in the capital.

Can schools be a thing of the past and the Coronavirus pandemic generation might end up growing at home? Online education has a negative aspect to it as well because schools provide a human side to learning. One's school friends are the life friends. Behavioral learning from a teacher cannot be replaced by a monitor. Lessons learned from schoolmates and teachers are invaluable.

This is one of the psychological drawbacks if schools become extinct and a thing of the past. Of course, schools cannot be totally eliminated but in the future, they could be an exclusive privilege for the rich.

Coronavirus may be indiscriminate in who it infects — rich or poor — but the effects it wrecks are anything but equitable between disadvantaged or privileged members of the society.

The pandemic has widened the disparity on micro and macro levels. On a global scale, it has made the poor nations sink further into poverty, to such an extent that their recovery from the pandemic is not possible without external help.

On a micro level, it has made the richest people get richer. Companies like Amazon, whose founder and CEO Jeff Bezos is considered to be the richest man in the world, prospered during the lockdowns as people started to resort to online shopping. Since the depths of the Covid-induced market crash in March 2020, Bezos has gotten \$80.5 billion richer, reports Forbes magazine. Tech companies like Facebook, Netflix, Microsoft, ..., have also gained out of people's need to isolate themselves.

Nobody can predict the end of the pandemic as this crisis can prolong into next year as many countries struggle with the new variants and questions about their vaccines. The two most populous nations in the world, India, and China are examples.

How we come out of the pandemic and its aftermath remains a matter of speculation. But you might as well get used to a few aspects as some changes will be here to stay.



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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

Imam Ali (AS)

## Translation of English literature into Persian

### Part 3

The combined efforts of these two agencies and independent publishers resulted in a significant increase in translation of Western classics and the better-known works by established British, Irish, and American writers over the next two decades.

Hemingway became the most popular American writer among Persians; almost all his novels and short stories were translated.

In fact, the short story “The Killers” has been translated by at least ten individuals; the earliest rendition was by Majid Tehranian.

Some plays by Eugene O'Neill (Long Day's Journey into Night), Tennessee Williams (Cat on a Hot Tin Roof), and Arthur Miller (The Crucible) were translated and performed in Tehran.



The poetry of T. S. Eliot, Robert Frost, Walt Whitman, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was also translated.

Unlike the ever-popular Mansuri, translators in this period tried to remain close to the original texts while rendering them into fluent Persian.

The translations commissioned by Franklin and the Royal Institute were checked and edited before publication, and most are thus at least reliable.

In the 1960s and 1970s, a new group of translators, most of them academics or upper-echelon civil servants, emerged.

This group included the highly praised Hamid Enayat, Najaf Daryabandari, and Ezzatollah Fuladvand. They translated works of both fiction or nonfiction.

During these two decades, translations from English gained such dominance that many works in other languages (Greek, Latin, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, the Scandinavian languages, German, Italian, and Spanish) were translated into Persian through the intermediary of English.

The best Persian translations of Plato and Aristotle, for instance, have been rendered from English translations, sometimes with consultation of French versions.

Even today the stories of Latin American novelists like Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Carlos Fuentes are rendered into Persian from English or French.

This trend is equally noticeable in all fields of the humanities, including history, psychology, philosophy, and theology, where Persian translators draw on a variety of sources via English.

Among the most noteworthy translations in this category are Niccolo Machiavelli's The Prince, translated by M. Mahmud and D. Shuri, Friedrich Nietzsche's Thus Spake Zarathustra and Beyond Good and Evil, translated by D. Ashuri; Plato's Five Dialogues and Four Dialogues, translated by M. Sana'i; Plato's The Republic, translated by F. Ruhani and August Strindberg's The Father, translated by M. Foroughi.

Although British and American literary forms and genres have definitely influenced the works of Persian novelists, short-story writers, and playwrights in the 20th century, they have usually done so directly, rather than through translations: pioneers of modern Persian fiction like Sadeq Hedayat (1901-51), Sadeq Chubak, Ebrahim Golestan, and Jalal Al-e Ahmad (1923-69) have themselves been familiar with one or more European languages and well able to read the works of Hemingway or William Faulkner in the original text.

Nevertheless, the translations of these two writers have exerted some degree of influence on the style of younger Persian writers. The novels of Esmail Fasih, Shahrnush Parsipur, Jafar Modarres Sadeqi, and Abbas Marufi all reveal familiarity with the works of these two American writers.

Following the revolution of 1979, the tempo of translation from English accelerated, as some translators were dismissed from their posts and had more time to devote to it; overnight they became full-time translators.

In the earliest years, there was an upsurge in the sale of books, generating much optimism in the publishing community.

Both British and American works have been translated in this period. Interest in Virginia Wolfe, Graham Greene, and George Orwell has undergone a revival.

A number of female writers have been translated for the first time, including George Eliot and Jean Rhys. Among the Americans Faulkner, Sinclair Lewis, and Norman Mailer have been translated afresh, and even James Joyce has found translators.

Photo: This file photo shows People visiting the 31st Tehran International Book Fair at Imam Khomeini Mosalla on May 8, 2018. (IRNA/Fatemeh Behbudi)

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
Concluded

# Iran registers 1 Aban on national calendar as historian Abulfazl Bayhaqi day

→1 The proposal to name a day after Bayhaqi was put forward by the department and was approved by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, he said.

The decision has been communicated to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to prepare the necessary arrangements for celebrating the day, he added.

He noted that Bayhaqi is considered as the father of Persian prose, therefore he should be celebrated more extensively than what is organized every year in his hometown of Sabzevar in the northeastern Iranian province of Khorasan Razavi.

The Sabzevar Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance planned to select a day in the month of Shahrivar (August-September), which marks his death anniversary. But the plan was not implemented as 1 Aban was chosen, while the department gave no reason for its choice.

Abulfazl Mohammad ibn Hosayn Bayhaqi, a secretary at the Ghaznavid court and renowned Persian historian, was born in 995 in Haresabad in Bayhaq, modern Sabzavar

the in the Khorasan region.

In his youth, Bayhaqi studied in Neyshabur, which at that time was an important cultural center. He later joined the secretariat of Mahmud of Ghazna, where for nineteen years he worked under Abu Nasr Moshkan, becoming his assistant and protégé.

His masterpiece Tarikh-i Bayhaqi, (Bayhaqi's History) is seen as the most reliable source of valid information about the Ghaznavid era. It was written in exquisite and vivid Persian prose that would become an ideal model for several eras.

Bayhaqi was one of the most gifted and graceful writers of Persian prose. In the age in which Bayhaqi worked, the position of court scribe was highly regarded. Such a scribe had to be highly proficient in both Arabic and Persian, and adept at the composition of various types of letters.

From his history, it is clear that Bayhaqi had total command of Persian and Arabic, an elegant writing style, and great erudition. He died in 1077.

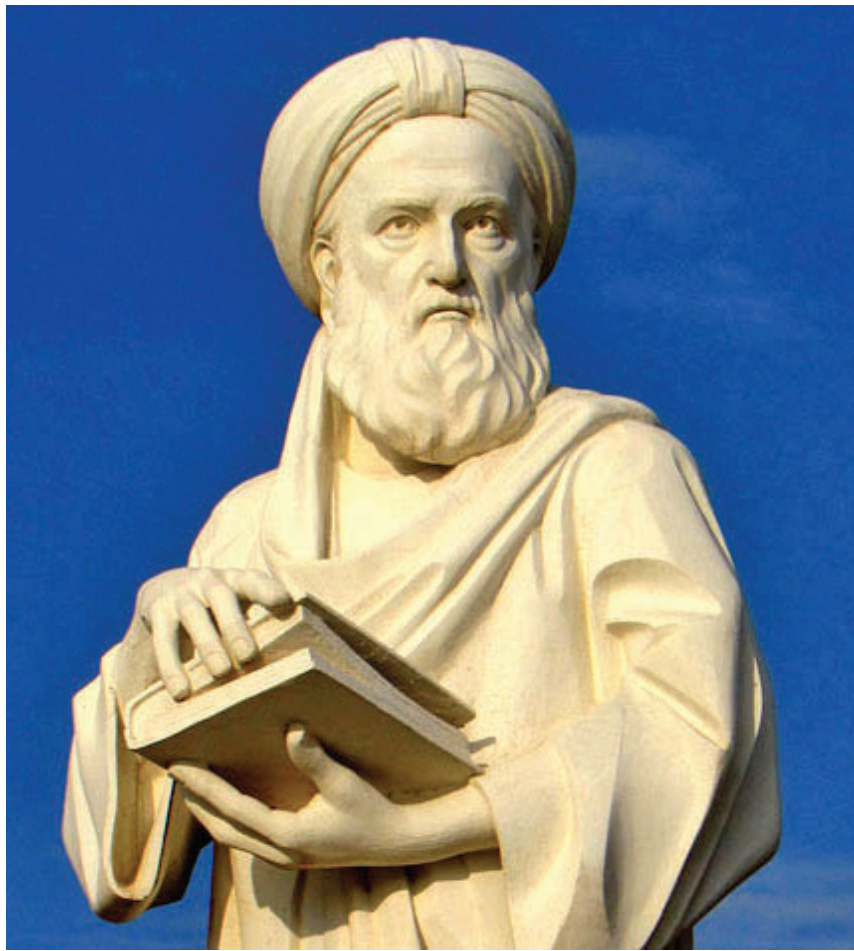


Image of a statue of Iranian historian Abulfazl Bayhaqi in Sabzevar.

## Tuti Books wins Bologna prize for best Asian children's publisher of the year

Tuti Books is the children's branch of the Fatemi Publishing Co. solely dedicated to publishing high-quality content for the age group across the world.

In a statement published on Monday, Tuti Books wrote, “We are greatly honored to be among the winners of this year's best children's publishers at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.”

“After 5 years of activity, Tuti Books is determined more than ever to keep creating and publishing high-quality content for children and young adults.

“We would like to give our warmest regards to all the writers and illustrators whose works make the backbone of Tuti's titles, and the BCBF for arranging this event.

“We hope that hand in hand, we are able to provide great books to the children of the world.”

“Tuti” is the Persian word for “Parrot”, a bird that is rooted deeply in Iranian literature and is known for telling fascinating stories.

Anhui Children's Publishing House from China, Bronze Publishing from Japan, and Mirae Media & Books and

Picturebook Gongjackso, both from South Korea, were among the other Asian companies nominated for the prize.

Publishers from Africa, Central and South America, North America, Europe and Oceania had also been nominated for the prize.

Mkuki na Nyota from Tanzania won the prize in Africa, while Éditions La Joie de Lire from Switzerland was selected in Europe.

Levine Querido from the U.S. received the award in North America, and Tragaluz Editores from Colombia garnered the honor in Central and South America.

Oratia Media from New Zealand was the winner of the prize in Oceania.

The BOP – Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publishers of the Year is an extraordinary occasion to highlight publishers at the forefront of innovation in their activity for the creative nature of the editorial choices they have made during the previous year.

The online edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair will be running until June 17.

## Biuk Mirzai portrays Fidel Castro in “A Guest from the Caribbean”

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – Actor Biuk Mirzai takes on the role of Cuban political leader Fidel Castro in “A Guest from the Caribbean”, a romance drama under production by actor-cum-director Behzad Farahani.

Farahani has written the screenplay for the film, which is his directorial debut, based on his novel titled “A Guest from the Caribbean - A Night with Castro”

“A Guest from the Caribbean” is the story of an experienced tailor who falls in love with a widow whose husband has been executed.

Because of his lifelong friendship with her

husband, the tailor cannot face the thought of betraying his old friend, and the widow's loyalty to her late husband also becomes another obstacle in triggering the love between the surviving couple.

In a summary of the novel, Farahani writes: “This hidden love is the unfinished story of many Eastern men and women. One must explore the Eastern philosophy to find the consequences of such love affairs.”

His daughter, Shaqayeq, and son, Azarkhsh, Reza Babak also star in the movie, which is being produced by Shahrnam Gilabadi.

76-year-old Farahani, most famous for his

performances as a stage actor and director, published his latest book “55 Short Stories” last November.

He began his acting career in theater and joined cinema with the screenplay “Journey of Stone” in 1978.

In 2006, he staged his play “Crazy Crazy World” about the gap between the rich and the poor in the country at the Main Hall of Tehran's City Theater Complex.

“About 70 percent of our society is not leading a peaceful life. Our young generation has been mostly overwhelmed with disappointment and anguish,” he lamented.



Actor Biuk Mirzai portrays Cuban leader Fidel Castro in “A Guest from the Caribbean”.

He had said that the story of the play is similar to those of Anton Chekhov in atmosphere, adding fatigue and distress stalk the story and the characters are trying to get rid of this situation.

## “Cocoon”, “Sheep Will Devour Us” win awards at Fine Arts Film Festival



“Sheep Will Devour Us” by Mostafa Rostampur and Atefeh Rezayan.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – Iranian movies “Cocoon” and “Sheep Will Devour Us” have won

awards in various sections of the 8th Fine Arts Film Festival in the United States.

The winners of the festival, which was held online in Venice, California, were announced on Monday. Established by the Venice Institute of Contemporary Art, the festival is dedicated to showing the finest movies in the world about art.

“Cocoon” directed by Yavar Darehzami was selected as best short narrative, while “Sheep Will Devour Us” by Mostafa Rostampur and Atefeh Rezayan received the Women's Voices Award.

“Cocoon” is about a short man who makes artificial limbs for himself and grows tall. Coming out of his house, we see that everyone is short.

This film shared the award with “The Speech” directed by Haohao Yan from China.

“Sheep Will Devour Us” tells the story of Tahereh, a woman who is the victim of premature marriage. Now she wants to prevent her sister from repeating those bitter memories.

The short narrative also shared the prize with “I Lived Once” directed by Marwah AlMugait from Saudi Arabia.

## Persian bookstores host “Pierre and Jean”

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** – A Persian translation of French writer Guy de Maupassant's novel “Pierre and Jean” has been published in Tehran.

Ofoq is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Mahmud Gudarzi.

“Pierre and Jean” is a naturalist or psycho-realist work Maupassant wrote in Etretat in his native Normandy between June and September 1887.

This was his shortest novel. The book appeared in three instalments in the Nouvelle Revue and then in volume form in 1888

together with the essay, “Le Roman”.

It is a realist work, notably so by the subjects on which it treats, including knowledge of one's heredity – whether one is a legitimate son or a bastard – the bourgeoisie, and the problems stemming from money.

Pierre and Jean are the sons of Gerome Roland, a jeweler who has retired to Le Havre, and his wife Louise.

Pierre works as a doctor, and Jean is a lawyer. It recounts the story of a middle-class French family whose lives are changed when

Leon Marechal, a deceased family friend, leaves his inheritance to Jean.

This provokes Pierre to doubt the fidelity of his mother and the legitimacy of his brother.

Pierre discovers that his theories about his brother's illegitimacy are correct when he discovers his mother has hidden and lied about an incriminating portrait of Marechal and his love letters to her, some of which she burns when she realizes Pierre is learning of her past infidelity. This investigation sparks violent reactions in Pierre.



Front cover of the Persian translation of French writer Guy de Maupassant's novel “Pierre and Jean”.