

# With a stroke of a pen;

Iranians enchased the epic scenery of the bright future once again

## Zarif holds high-level talks in Antalya Diplomacy Forum

TERHAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is in Turkey to participate in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, met with a number of his foreign counterparts and officials to discuss Iran's foreign relations.

Zarif travelled to the Turkish city of Antalya to attend the Antalya Diplomacy Forum at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu. In addition to delivering a speech at the forum, Zarif had many meetings with foreign officials scheduled on his agenda.

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## Iran, Syria stress facilitating barter trade to boost economic ties

TEHRAN – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister met with Syria's Internal Trade and Consumer Protection Minister Talal al-Barazi to discuss ways for expanding trade ties between the two countries.

The meeting focused on facilitating barter trade between the two countries, supply of goods and products required by the two countries within the framework of the free trade agreement between the two sides,

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## Doc “Qasr-e Qand” features operation that led to death of Ansar al-Furqan’s leader

TEHRAN – Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Eslamzadeh has directed a documentary named “Qasr-e Qand” that features how Jalil Qanbarzahi, the leader of the terrorist militia group Ansar al-Furqan, was killed by Iranian forces in an intelligence-military operation.

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## Alarming decline of Caspian seals worrisome

**BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI**

Marine pollution has plagued the ecosystem for many years, a factor that will soon lead to the extinction of Caspian seals.

The Caspian seal, the sole marine mammal inhabiting the Caspian Sea, has faced a sharp decline in population over the past three decades, pushing the species towards extinction, Asghar Abdoli, a faculty member of Shahid Beheshti University for environmental sciences, said.

“The seal gives birth to its offspring on floating ice in the northern parts and comes to the middle and southern parts for feeding, so it can be said that this species depends on both the north and the southern parts of the Caspian Sea to survive,” he explained.

One of the events that push the species toward extinction is climate change and its impact on the water, which has caused the northern parts of the Caspian Sea not to freeze in recent years so that this creature will face difficulties for the place of birth, he stated.

He went on to note that over recent years, the outbreak of the distemper virus has caused the death of thousands of Caspian seals.

Another problem is the illegal hunting for their skin in the northern parts of the Caspian Sea, but in recent years, due to the endangered status, hunting has been stopped to some extent, he added.

“The important point is the disruption of the food chains of the Caspian Sea.

Overfishing of Black Sea sprat along with the entry of invasive species has reduced the population of the Caspian seals by up to 90 percent.

One of the most influential factors for the survival of this species has been food, so when the food resources decrease, so does the species of animals that feed on it,” he said.

Another important factor is the impact of climate change. Climate change predictions for the Caspian Sea show that the northern parts of the Sea will be largely destroyed, as a few centimeters of the sea level shrink each year, and it is predicted that by the end of this century between 9-18 of the sea levels will decline, he explained.

“We must take a holistic view of ecology and ecosystems, taking into account economic and social issues, so that we can rehabilitate part of the habitats and part of the species population,” he added.

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## Iranian president urges efforts to boost medical tourism

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has urged sustainable efforts towards developing medical tourism across the country.

“Health tourism is of great importance to us, and hospitals located in the border provinces of the country can serve a pivotal role in developing medical tourism by providing medical services to foreign guests and tourists,” Rouhani said on Thursday.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of some health projects, urging the need for reinforcing medical and health services in some provinces, including Khorasan (Razavi), Isfahan, Fars, and East Azarbaijan, is an absolute duty.

“For the time being, many Iranians living in foreign countries prefer to choose homeland for their treatment or certain surgeries,” he said, adding such a trend indicates great efforts made by “dear doctors and nurses and all the dear

ones who work in the health sector”.

Medical tourism is booming worldwide as about 20 to 24 million people are traveling for medical treatments annually. Factors such as increased care needs over longer lifespans, rising healthcare costs, and constant pressures on some insurance industries are reasons behind why some opt to travel abroad.

Regarding price competitiveness, Iran currently ranks first in the world but the country has not been very successful in attracting potential travelers as other competitors like Singapore and Turkey. People from the Persian Gulf littoral states, Iraq and Syria as well as Iranian expatriates residing in Canada and Germany constituted the majority of medical travelers to the Islamic Republic, who received plastic, cosmetics, open-heart, and orthopedic surgeries amongst other treatments over the past couple of years.

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## Yemen’s Ansarullah to be ‘part of equation’ in defense of al-Quds

A senior member of Yemen's popular Ansarullah resistance movement says his group will be an integral part of the equation to defend sacred sites in the occupied city of Jerusalem al-Quds against any Israeli act of aggression.

Abdul-Wahhab al-Mahbashi told Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television on Thursday evening that his movement “will be part of the equation in defense of Jerusalem al-Quds” in the event of a new confrontation with Israel.

On June 3, Ansarullah leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said Yemenis are part of the al-Quds equation and will be effectively present in the battle against the Israeli regime.

The Ansarullah chief then praised Iran as the main supporter of resistance front in the region.

On June 6, the representative of Hamas resistance movement in Yemen expressed gratitude to the Yemeni people and government for supporting the Palestinian cause during the

recent Israeli military offensive on the Gaza Strip, which claimed the lives of at least 260 people in the besieged enclave.

“We feel brotherhood and comfort in Yemen, and this indicates the Yemeni people's love for Palestine and al-Aqsa Mosque,” Moaz Abu Shamala said during a meeting with Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a senior member of Yemen's Supreme Political Council, in Sana'a. According to Press TV, Abu Shamala said all signs confirm that the resistance is the right way to liberate occupied Palestine, Yemen Press Agency reported.

**Yemen Government: Saudi, UAE, Israeli Occupation of Yemeni Islands Violates Intl. Law**

A series of reports have revealed that Israel, in cooperation with the UAE, is to build intelligence-gathering bases on a Yemeni island in a strategic area overlooking the Bab Al-Mandab Strait.

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## FIFA released a special ranking specifically for Asia

TEHRAN — FIFA has released a special FIFA Ranking specifically for Asia on June 18 which will be used to determine the seeding for the draw.

According to the ranking, Japan and Iran are the first two Asian teams and are in Pot 1.

Australia and Korea Republic are in Pot 2 and Pot 3 consists of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. Iraq and China are in Pot 4, while Oman and Syria dropped in Pot 5. Vietnam and Lebanon are also in Pot 6. The path to the FIFA World Cup

Qatar 2022 has reached a pivotal stage in Asia.

Twelve teams have qualified for the third round after a nearly two-year long journey in Round 2. Group winners Syria (A), Australia (B), Iran (C), Saudi Arabia (D), Japan (F), United Arab Emirates (G) and Korea Republic (H) will be joined by the five best runners-up: China PR (A), Oman (E), Iraq (C), Vietnam (G) and Lebanon (H).

Qatar finished as winners of Group E, but as hosts have already qualified for the World

Cup and will not participate in the next round of qualifying, FIFA.com reported.

The 12 teams will be split into two groups of six in a home-and-away, round robin format. The winners and runners-up in each group (four total) will qualify directly for the World Cup finals, while the third-placed teams will advance to the fourth round, where they will play to determine which team will advance to the intercontinental play-off.

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## Yemen war the worst nightmare of Saudi modern history: researcher

**BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI**

TEHRAN – A research assistant professor in Gulf politics at Qatar University says that the Saudi uninformed approach in Yemen has transformed the Yemen war into a nightmare of the Saudi modern history.

“The lack of a uniform approach from the GCC, that prevented the Saudi objective to convert the Yemen war into a kind of ‘holy war’ led by Riyadh, transformed the war into the worst nightmare of the Saudi modern history,” Luciano Zaccara tells the Tehran Times.

“The Yemen war was the first and only military conflict directly started and led by Saudi Arabia, and it was not resolved after six years, inflicting serious economic hardships and internal and external criticism,” Zaccara laments.

Following is the text of the interview:  
**How do you read the recent changes in Saudi foreign policy from normalization of ties with Syria to negotiations with Iran?**

The end of Trump's unconditional support to the Saudi Kingdom and the realization that Saudi Arabia alone could not end in a satisfactory way its involvement in the Yemen war, nor to confront Iran neither to maintain indefinitely the blockade against Qatar, brought Riyadh to have a more pragmatic approach into its foreign policy since the mid of 2020. Therefore, ending the blockade, starting a negotiation with Iran, and resuming ties with Syria seem to be the necessary steps to reduce the stretched foreign policy efforts and engagement to start focusing on the needed internal reforms.

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## All participate

Followers of other faiths including Jews, Christians and Zoroastrians joined Muslim people in Iran on Friday to vote for the presidential elections on Friday.

As the voting began early at 7:00 in the morning, Iranians attended polling stations to vote for their desired candidate. Despite all the negative propaganda by Western media outlets to downplay the people's participation in the elections, Iranians once again proved that they are the sole decision-makers of their fate.





## High voter turnout among Iranian expatriates

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — Iranians living abroad flocked to polling stations set up by the Iranian Foreign Ministry across the globe to take part in elections affecting the daily lives of Iranians both at home and abroad.

Iranian expatriates in 133 countries turned out in large numbers in 234 polling stations to exercise their right to have a say on matters of their homeland.

Voting went ahead mostly in Iranian diplomatic missions, namely embassies and consulates. The polls were opened on Friday morning during local business hours mostly starting at 08:00 am local times.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, paid a short visit to a committee in charge of holding the overseas election and offered details about the ballot boxes located abroad.

Underlining that Iran is holding one of its most regular presidential elections abroad, he said, "We have already held talks with 133 countries to hold elections and 234 polling stations around the world have been set aside for this purpose."

He pointed out that "everything possible has been done by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Islamic Republic of Iran to prepare for their participation."



"After midnight, we started voting in the easternmost country of this world, and a few hours after Tehran's midnight, the voting will continue in the westernmost point of the world. We regularly ensure that no constituencies are closed unless all Iranian nationals who have come to the polls can cast their ballots," Khatibzadeh noted.

On the counting of votes, he stated, "There are approximately two thousand members of the executive boards, and the counting will be done and then sent to Tehran and the announcement will be made by Tehran."

In Qatar, Iranian nationals cast their ballots at the three polling stations for the 13th presidential election from the early hours of Friday morning. According to the Iranian embassy in Doha, the election process in these branches is underway with the enthusiastic participation of Iranian nationals living there, Fars News reported.

In China, the Iranian election in four constituencies in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong began at 8 a.m. local time and lasted until 6 pm.

Iranians living in South Korea also cast their ballots at the Seoul polling station. Saeed Badamchi Shabestari, the Iranian ambassador to South Korea, announced the vivid participation of Iranians living in the country, and said, "Casting vote to determine destiny shows the strength of the country, the emergence of the will of the people and the manifestation of religious democracy in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The 13th presidential election of Iran in Japan ended and the counting of votes began with the end of voting time. Iranians living in the Republic of Azerbaijan also registered high voter turnout.

The Iranian embassy in Paris also announced on its Twitter page that "hours have passed since the beginning of the presidential election in the Paris constituency, and many who still consider participating in the elections as a legal right and a political action influencing the fate of the country and themselves, are present at the polling station with identity documents to empower their homeland."

The presidential election was also held in eleven British-based polling stations. The election began at 9:00 am local time.

With the coordination of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the cooperation of the Romanian Prisons Organization, two Iranian prisoners in Romania participated in the presidential election, in accordance with health and safety procedures.

Iranians living in Spain also cast their ballots in Madrid and Barcelona. Iranians living in Armenia also went to the polls at a polling station located at the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Yerevan.

Iranians living in Uzbekistan also participated in the elections at the polling station at the Iranian embassy in Tashkent. In the United Arab Emirates, Iranian nationals went to the polls set up by the Iranian diplomatic missions to cast their votes.

Kazem Jalali, Iran's ambassador to Russia, said that despite the efforts of some Western powers to have fewer people participating in the elections, the Iranian people make independent decisions and do not allow foreigners to interfere in their own destiny by participating in the elections.

He added, "In Russia, we have four ballot boxes in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan and Astrakhan. Currently, a large number of dear compatriots living in Moscow are in line and waiting to be able to vote."

He pointed out that "the participation of Iranians abroad in the elections means that they support the establishment, the country and independence and freedom inside their country. Iranian students and businessmen living in Russia are currently inside Iran due to problems arising from the coronavirus pandemic, but participation is high compared to the current Iranian population."

# Making history, again!

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — As the voting began early at 7:00 in the morning, Iranians poured onto the street to vote for their desired candidate. Despite all negative propaganda by the foreign mainstream media outlets to downplay the people's participation in the elections, Iranians once again proved that they are the sole decision-makers of their fate.

As per usual, at the very first hours of the voting procedure, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei cast his ballots for the 13th presidential election, 6th city council election, 5th midterm Assembly of Experts election and the 11th midterm parliamentary elections.

The Leader has always stressed the importance of participating early in the elections as a religious duty, therefore, he voted early to set an example.

Talking after casting his vote, the Leader said election day is "the day of the Iranian nation".

It is the people who are determining the country's future for the coming years by voting, Ayatollah Khamenei remarked.

He added anything the Iranian nation does today will build their future and determine their destiny for the years to come.

"We repeatedly invite people to participate in the elections. The result of their presence primarily affects the people themselves. Of course, the people's turnout will also help to gain major advantages for the country in the international arena," the Leader pointed out.

No one should say his "single vote" isn't effective, the Leader said, adding, "Every single vote is definitely important. I believe that you should participate with a pure, divine intention."

He added, "We hope that with the blessings of Imam Reza today will be a day of celebration for the Iranian nation. And this



will happen, by God's grace. The nation will benefit from this election, God willing."

The participation of the people may have surprised foreign media outlets, but it certainly did not come as a shock to those analysts who have always believed in Iranians as "people of action". They proved everyone wrong by attending the polling stations from early morning even before the ballot boxes were opened. Reports said that in the city of Lordegan at Chaharmahal Bakhtiari province, people were present in queues from 6 in the morning.

The peak of the election day came at 11 in the morning, when tens of thousands of people were standing in long lines, despite hot weather, eagerly waiting to vote.

The election hype surprised foreign radio stations and news networks, forcing them to react. South African radio channel

Jacaranda FM broadcast a coverage of the elections in its 6:am program.

The Al Mayadeen news network, an independent Lebanese news network that was covering the elections live from various provinces, stated that the host and the reporters were "stunned" by the level of participation, and they considered it as "shocking." Al Mayadeen reporters said that the level of participation has increased from the previous election in the similar hours.

France 24 covered the election. In a special report, it stated that the participation is truly shocking.

The Ministry of Interior extended the voting hours twice, from 17:00 to 21:00, stating that voting can continue until 00:00 at midnight, and it may continue until 2 am on Saturday.

The ministry announced that it will declare the results on Saturday noon. The Guardian Council spokesman, Abbas Kadhodaei, said that the level of participation is "good" and it will get better as "we go on".

Meanwhile, the Iranian embassy in Kuwait said that due to high voter turnout, it had to extend the voting hours.

Some members of the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), also known MEK, gathered around in Wellington, New Zealand, to harass the voters. They also gathered in Sydney, Australia, and London, Britain, insulting and throwing stuff at voters coming out of the Iranian embassy.

MKO members also attacked voters in Birmingham (Britain), severely injuring voters. Reports say that some had to go to hospitals for treatment.

## Election from point of view of officials

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — Prominent political figures cast vote for the presidential and council elections on Friday. Political figures cast votes as the voting began at 7:00 in Iran. Simultaneously, mid-term parliamentary and Assembly of Experts elections were held in a few constituencies in the country.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, President Hassan Rouhani, First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, senior advisor to the Leader Ali Larijani, and Guardian Council Secretary Ahmad Jannati were among the prominent figures who cast their votes.

President Rouhani visited the election headquarters set up at the Ministry of Interior to get firsthand information about the voting procedure. In the visit, the president was briefed by Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli, the interior minister.

Rouhani also cast his vote at the election headquarters. Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, the parliament speaker, also cast his vote at the Abouzar district in Tehran. He also responded to various questions posed by reporters where he attended to vote.

He called elections are the result of "religious democracy" in Iran, saying that Iranians were able to preserve the republic and the Islamic system through their efforts.

"Elections are a great opportunity for the people to change the face of the country's management in the face of their criticism. Therefore, it is their duty to make a careful and informed choice and study in this regard, because they want to hand over the administration of the country to their representatives at national and local levels for 4 years," he remarked.

Qalibaf stated that hopefully the future administration will be able to work with the other two branches of government (Parliament and Judiciary) in a way that will satisfy Iranians with the priority of solving economic problems.

The top lawmaker urged people to participate in the election if they really seek a resolution of the problems.

"The solution is not to get angry with the ballot boxes, but to be present at the ballot boxes. And with a good choice and follow-up, let's join hands so that we can make a change in the field of management," he stated.

Seyyed Abbas Araqchi, head of the Iranian delegate at the Vienna nuclear deal talks, cast his vote at the Iranian embassy in Austria.

He expressed hope that Iranians will see a widespread participation of the people at the ballot box.

"This will certainly increase the authority, strength and power of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the field of foreign policy, I see firsthand that when people are behind the system and show themselves in various fields and participate in elections, we are present in the international arena with more strength, authority and dignity," he added, hoping that the outcome of the election will bring dignity to the Iranian people and would lead to interaction with the world's countries.

Ali Akbar Velayati, the senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, also cast his vote. The former foreign minister said that in such a situation where Iran "has climbed the ladder of power one after



Iranian president Hassan Rouhani casting ballot.

another, today, not only in 40 years but also in the last 400 years, Iran has been in the most powerful position."

"It is very important that we maintain power. To maintain power, as we relied on the power of the people, the leadership of Imam Khomeini and the Leader, we need the same now," he added.

Velayati said that Iranians votes are not considered as an ordinary one.

"Today, our vote is the most important vote and it is a religious duty," he noted.

Saeed Jalili, who withdrew from the presidential race on Wednesday afternoon, cast his vote at Fatemi Mosque at Khazaneh district in south Tehran. He stated that the first step for the country to "leap" is the "presence of the republic" at the ballot box.

"High participation of the people will be the drivers of progress and leap. Today is a great day for the Iranian nation to rise high for the 'leap of Iran'. The more glorious the vote, the higher the turnout, and consequently, the longer the leap and the more beautiful the outlook."

Jalili stated that every vote of the people is "a precision-guided missile that will target the threats, sanctions and malice of the enemies." He added that each vote will increase the power and lead to further development of the country.

Mohsen Rezaei, the presidential contender who cast his vote in the afternoon, stated that the presence of the people in the elections will strengthen Iran's power and security, and the people vote to build the future of the country.

Admiral Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council who cast his vote in the afternoon, said that whatever step is taken as a symbol of democracy to increase the participation of people in the elections, is a step towards increasing the authority, security and legitimacy of the Islamic system and a necessary condition for progress and increasing the international position of Iran.

Shamkhani said that he believes the true winner of the election is the people.

"Any result in the upcoming elections is respectable because it is the opinion of the majority of participants in the elections, but more importantly, is the principle of the presence and participation of the people," he added.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif,



Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf casting ballot.

who had attended the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, cast his vote at the Iranian Consulate in Turkey. He apologized for all the shortcomings the incumbent administration may have had.

"The right to self-determination is one of the most important rights that our people gained with the Revolution, and the republic is one of the most important achievements of the Islamic Revolution," Zarif stated.

He added that there may be grievances due to problems and shortcomings, but he believes that the people need to participate in determining their own destiny.

He said that according to him the ballot box is the best place to determine the fate and future of children and the path of the country.

"I hope that all our compatriots will take part in this work with interest. Our people have always proved the mistakes of political forecasters, and this time it will again be proven. We have tried to have a polling station wherever possible and to enable Iranians abroad to participate in the elections and determine their own destiny and future with their active participation, because this is the right of the people," he added.

Criticizing the Canadian government for lack of cooperation with Iran to hold the presidential election despite efforts made by the Foreign Ministry, Zarif said that the Canadian government must be responsible for its actions.

Iranian First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri also cast his ballots at the election headquarters. He then responded to various questions from reporters.

He said that according to the reports of the Ministry of Interior, the elections are held in full security and peace and in accordance with the health protocols and that the people are present at the ballot boxes as usual.

Jahangiri also expressed hope that the people would elect a candidate who could resolve domestic problems and handle international challenges.

Presidential candidate Abdolnasser Hemmati, who cast his vote at Hosseiniyeh Ershad in Tehran, said, "If I do not get elected, I will still serve the people and follow my slogans. Whoever becomes president must bring the development and prosperity of the country to a higher place."

Hamid Baeidi Nejad, Iran's ambassador to the United Kingdom, said on his Instagram account, "At a time when we are on the verge of complete defeat of the sanctions policy with the fierce resistance of the whole nation, it is necessary to ensure the country's interaction and development by attending the ballot boxes to determine the fate of the country and ensure the future of the youth. Our dear people have complaints about the rightful and unfulfilled expectations, but the grievances with the ballot boxes will only worsen the situation. Today it is up to us to determine our destiny, but tomorrow is definitely too late."

**Qalibaf says, "Elections are a great opportunity for the people to change the face of the country's management in the face of their criticism. Therefore, it is their duty to make a careful and informed choice and study in this regard, because they want to hand over the administration of the country to their representatives at national and local levels for 4 years,"**



# With a stroke of the pen

Iranians enchased the epic scenery of the bright future once again

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranians d e s k from all walks of life headed to polling stations across the country early on Friday to exercise their right to have a final say on all state matters ranging from how to run a village to deciding who will be the tenant of the Iranian presidential palace for the next four years.

Polling stations in Iran were opened on Friday morning at 07:00 am local time for the 13th presidential election, the 6th city and village and council elections, as well as the Parliament and the Assembly of Experts' midterm elections in some constituencies. The stations continued to be open until midnight with a renewal of voting time for a few hours in the cards.

Four presidential candidates were on the ballots: Judiciary chief Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, Secretary of the Expediency Council Mohsen Rezaei, Amir-Hossein Qazizadeh-Hashemi, and former Governor of Central Bank of Iran Abdolnaser Hemmati. Initially, there were seven candidates in the race, but three of them withdrew in favor of the remaining candidates in the last days of the presidential campaigns.

In addition to the presidential election, voters elected members for some vacant seats at the Parliament and the Expediency Council. Furthermore, there was a fierce competition for the seats of city and village councils across the country. The competition is of real interest to voters and contenders alike as it directly affects the everyday life of millions of citizens all across the country.

More than 59,310,000 voters were eligible to cast their votes. Among them, about 1,392,000 were first-time voters. Nearly 3.5 million Iranians living abroad were also eligible to cast their votes in polling stations set up by the Iranian Foreign Ministry in 133 diplomatic missions. Inside Iran, voters were required to show their national birth certificate and an ID card called National Card to vote for their favorite candidates. The expatriates, however, can vote using their passports as well.

A number of senior Iranian diplomats participated in the elections while being abroad. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif cast his vote in a ballot box in the Turkish resort city of Antalya, where he is holding diplomatic meetings in the framework of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, an event promoted by Turkey as the Turkish version of the World Economic Forum and the Munich Security Conference.

Seyyed Abbas Araqchi, Zarif's political aide who is leading the Iranian negotiating team in the Vienna nuclear talks, also participated in the elections in the Austrian capital.

Spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh said Friday morning that he so far has not received any reports of



election violations abroad, adding, "I assure you that polling stations will be open so that the last person who is interested can vote."

**Determining election**  
The polls kicked off early morning with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution casting his vote and addressing the nation shortly. Speaking after casting his vote, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, said, "It is the people who are controlling what is happening today. It is the people who are determining the country's future for the coming years by voting."

Ayatollah Khamenei participated in "the 13th Presidential election," "the 6th elections for the Islamic city and village councils," "the midterm elections for the 5th Assembly of Experts" and "the midterm elections for the 11th Islamic Consultative Assembly" and cast his vote at the ballot box in the first moments after the casting of ballots commenced, according to the khamenei.ir.

The Leader referred to the importance of participation of the people in determining the fate of the country on this day. Calling the people's participation in the elections a wise action, the Leader went on to say, "We repeatedly invite people to participate in the elections. The result of their presence primarily affects the people themselves. Of course, the people's turnout will also help to gain major advantages for the country in the international arena. However, the ones who mostly benefit from voting are the people."

In saying that every single vote definitely matters, Ayatollah Khamenei advised the people, "You should participate and do this with a pure, divine intention. I advise you to do this important task at the earliest possible [time]. The sooner you do this, the better."

In referring to the anniversary of the birth of Imam Ridha (pbuh), the Leader expressed hope that the election day will be a "day of celebration" for the Iranian people and that the nation will benefit from the election. In

the end, the Leader thanked the election officials and the journalists who were present.

In addition to the Leader, almost all other high-ranking officials, including President Hassan Rouhani and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf cast their votes and called on the people to do the same. They underlined the importance of elections in empowering the country both internally and externally.

After casting his vote, President Rouhani expressed hope that the current election will result in disappointing the enemies.

"This election is important," the president said, adding, "Presidential elections are held every four years in the country and are an important matter given the broad powers and responsibilities set out in the law for the president."

Rouhani acknowledged that the Iranian people are grappling with a host of economic issues but he underlined that "elections are important and that we must go to the polls and cast votes despite problems."

"I wish we did not have any problems from the day of registration in the elections and we saw more people today. But people know how important these elections are for the country, their own destiny and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the president noted, pointing to the importance of the international implications of the election.

He added, "I think there are only a few countries in the world whose elections are of interest to the world, otherwise most of the countries in the world when they hold elections are mainly important to their own people. But there are several countries in the world whose elections are of interest to the whole world and they want to understand the participation of the people and who is elected and how it will be. The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the most important countries and it has been like that for 42 years and it is like that today."

He pointed out that "People should be aware that the whole world today is paying attention to the ballot box, the queues of people to cast their votes. God willing, we will make our friends all over the world happy, all Iranians happy and our enemies disappointed."

This election is of real importance for a number of reasons. First, it is held after four years of American sever economic pressure on Iran under Donald Trump, who unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of a 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). With a stroke of a pen in May 2018, Trump launched the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran, re-imposing sweeping economic sanctions on the country with the aim of bringing it to its knees. The Trump administration pinned too much hope on driving a wedge between the Iranian people and political establishment through exerting economic pressure. The endgame, many observers believed, was to bring down the establishment by fomenting social unrest and bread riots.

To Trump's consternation, the Iranians didn't revolt and continued to support their political system despite economic hardship. This election was the latest indication that the Iranian people still back the Islamic Republic. Ordinary Iranians turned out in large numbers to vote for the candidates they believe are well suited to best serve them. With a stroke of the pen, they are determining their destiny at the ballot box.

Second, the Iranian election is also emblematic of a convivial, healthy political process. In the run-up to the election, Iranian media outlets and social media platforms were abuzz with a heated debate over the electoral process on the whole. The episode began when the Guardian Council, a legal body in charge of vetting the election process, disqualified well-placed figures from running for office. Some commentators accused the vetting body of partisan practices while others underscored the legality of the disqualifications. Some even lauded the body's courageous decision to disqualify the likes of Ali Larijani, indicating the legally strict procedures for the vetting process. Larijani currently serves as the Leader's advisor and disqualifying him, proponents argued, sent a message that no one is above the law, even if it was a person as highly-placed as Larijani.

Moreover, the debate even included fervent calls from some critics to shun the vote. But as the polls opened in the morning, people flocked to cast their votes in complete ignorance of these calls. Unofficial reports suggested that nearly 10 million votes were cast in the boxes until mid-day, with some polling stations reporting high voter turnout and, in some cases, shortage of ballot papers.

## Zarif holds high-level talks in Antalya Diplomacy Forum

**→1** "On the sidelines of this forum, the Iranian foreign minister will hold meetings with a number of high-ranking officials, including the foreign ministers participating in the event, and will also take part in a trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan," spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Thursday.

According to Khatibzadeh, new opportunities for peace and cooperation in the South Caucasus, reinforcement of regional solidarity, regional collaborations in Asia, relations with Africa, the issues of West Asia and the Persian Gulf, transatlantic relations, the issues of refugees and immigrants, economic diplomacy and trade, communications and the spread of fake news in the cyberspace were among the most important issues which were to be discussed at the forum.

In Antalya, Zarif met with the Iraqi foreign minister, Venezuelan foreign minister, Croatian foreign minister, European Union foreign policy chief, former Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, and Abdullah Abdullah, the head of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation.

In meeting with Iraq's Foreign Minister Faud Hussein, Zarif reminded about the importance of cooperation between regional and neighboring states and establishing security.

In a recent meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Qatar, Hussein told his Egyptian counterpart that Iraq is ready to host dialogue to settle disputes between regional and neighboring states.

Zarif also expressed happiness over an agreement to connect the railways between Shalamch in the Iran side to Basra in Iraq.



Zarif tells EU's Borrell (center left) that there is no possibility to renegotiate the JCPOA.

For his part, the chief Iraqi diplomat called economic cooperation between Iraq and Iran constructive.

Zarif and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza also exchanged views about bilateral, regional and international issues in which the two countries share common views.

The two foreign ministers also shared views on the Vienna nuclear deal talks and pointed to the illegal U.S. moves for a revitalization of the 2015 nuclear deal.

The Venezuelan foreign minister said Caracas will not forget the difficult day in which Iran sent oil tankers to Venezuela despite threats and pressure by the United States.

Arreaza also lamented the U.S. sanctions on the Venezuelan government which has caused problems for the country to import the Coronavirus vaccine.

In his talks with Croatian Foreign Minister Gordan Grlic Radman, Zarif said many Iranian companies who were working with Croatia faced problems due to the U.S. sanctions and

it is hoped that they would resume interactions.

The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on the Vienna talks aimed to revived the JCPOA, the official name the Iran nuclear deal.

Foreign Minister Grlic Radman also called for deepening ties with Iran as an ancient nation with a rich culture.

He also congratulated victories by the national Iranian football team and said it is a source of joy that the Croatian head coach is leading the Iranian team.

In his meeting with senior Afghan peace official Afghan Abdullah Abdullah, Zarif also expressed concern over security situation in Afghanistan and insisted on the need for intra-Afghan talks.

Abdullah also thanked Iran for Iran's constructive actions to bring peace to Afghanistan and briefed Zarif about the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Zarif also held talks with European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell in Antalya during which Iran's chief diplomat insisted on the need for removal of U.S.-led sanctions on Iran.

During the talks, Zarif pointed to Iran's "bitter experiences" during Donald Trump's presidency in which his administration violated the nuclear deal, saying there is no possibility for renegotiating the terms of the agreement and expressed hope that the nuclear deal talks in Vienna would bear fruit.

At the meeting, Borrell expressed hope that the Vienna talks would bear result.

Zarif also pointed to the ongoing developments in Afghanistan, saying political infighting within the Afghan government and also between political groups are serious hurdles to counter insecurity in the central Asian country.

## SPORTS

### FIFA released a special ranking specifically for Asia

**→1** The third round draw will be conducted on 1 July in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Games in the third round are scheduled to be played on the following match days: 2 September 2021, 7 September 2021, 7 October 2021, 12 October 2021, 11 November 2021, 16 November 2021, 27 January 2022, 1 February 2022, 24 March 2022 and 29 March 2022.

The first and second ball drawn from each pot will be placed in Groups A and B respectively. The draw will begin with Pot 6, where the first ball drawn will be placed in position A6. The next ball drawn will be placed in position B6, until the sequence is completed all the way through to Pot 1.

### Iran runners-up at CAFA Junior Championship

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran's women's U19 football team finished in second place at the CAFA Junior Championship on Thursday.

Iran defeated Kyrgyzstan 4-0 in the final match in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan.

Uzbekistan defeated Tajikistan 7-1 and won the title due to superior goal difference.

Iran beat Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan in the tournament and shared the spoils with Uzbekistan.

A total of five nations namely, Tajikistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan took 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).

### 2021 VNL: Iran suffer seventh defeat

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran suffered another defeat at the 2021 Volleyball Nations League (VNL), losing to Slovenia on Thursday.

The Persians started the first set with a great performance and defeated Slovenia 25-14 but lost to the European team 20-25, 19-25, 30-32.

Meisam Salehi scored 17 points for Iran while Slovenian Čebulj Klemen earned 21 points.

"We need our best and we tried until the last point of the game, but in the important moments they started to defend better," Marouf said in the post-match news conference.

"Slovenia is one of the best teams in the tournament, they have a great chance to qualify to the Final Four," he stated.

Iran have not registered a win since beating the U.S. on Week 3. Since then, Vladimir Alekno's men have lost to Serbia, Germany, Australia, Brazil, and Slovenia.

Iran have lost seven matches in the competition

### Iran 3rd at Asian Taekwondo Championships

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran finished in third place at the 2021 Asian Taekwondo Championships.

In the competition, which was held from June 16 to 18 in Beirut, Lebanon, the Iranian taekwondo athletes claimed 13 medals, consisting two gold, three silver and eight bronze medals.

South Korea won the title with six gold, five silver and two bronze medals.

Uzbekistan also came second with three gold, one silver and six bronze medals.

Sajad Mardani won a gold in the Men's +87kg and Negar Esmaeili seized a gold in the Women's -46kg.

Hossein Lotfi claimed a silver in the Men's 54kg. Amir Mohammad Bakhshi snatched a silver in the Men's -74 kg. Melika Mirhosseini also won a silver in the Women's -67kg.

Fereshteh Khazaei (Women's -46kg), Ghazal Soltani (Women's -53kg), Nahid Kiani (Women's -57kg), Parisa Javadi (Women's -62 kg), Zeinab Esmaeili (Women's -73kg), Zahra Pouresmaeil (Women's +73kg), Armin Hadipour (Men's -58kg) and Mehdi Jalali (Men's -74kg) won eight bronze medals.

### Ali Safaei chosen as Iran's Super Cup referee

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Ali Safaei has been chosen to officiate the Super Cup match between Persepolis and Tractor football teams.

Safaei will be assisted by Hassan Zahiri and Mohammad Ali Pourmotaghi in the match.

The match will be held in Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Sunday.

The Super Cup is an Iranian association football trophy awarded to the winner of a match between the Persian Gulf Pro League's season champion and the winner of the Hazfi Cup. It is similar to numerous other Super Cup tournaments held in other countries.

Persepolis are the most successful team in Super Cup with three titles.

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Indirect talks between Tehran and Washington on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal have come closer than ever to an agreement, but essential issues remain to be negotiated, the top Iranian negotiator said on Thursday.

Iran and six world powers have been negotiating in Vienna since April to work out steps for both sides to take. The United States withdrew in 2018 from the pact, under which Iran accepted limits on its nuclear program in exchange for a termination of economic and financial sanctions.

"We achieved good, tangible progress on the different issues .... we are closer than ever

to an agreement but there are still essential issues under negotiations," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi was quoted as telling Al Jazeera television.

Araqchi said Iran's presidential election, which is being held on Friday, would have no effect on the negotiations and the Iranian negotiating team will continue the talks regardless of domestic policy.

Iran's new president is expected to name his Cabinet by mid-August. Current President Hassan Rouhani's term ends on Aug. 3.

The sixth round of talks resumed on Saturday with the remaining parties to the deal - Iran, Russia, China, France, Britain, Germany and the European Union - meeting

in the basement of a luxury hotel.

The U.S. delegation to the talks is based in a hotel across the street as Iran refuses face-to-face meetings. Iran has said it will not negotiate directly until the U.S. rejoins the nuclear deal and lift the illegal sanctions against Iran in a verifiable manner.

One year after former U.S. President Donald Trump pulled out of the deal and reimposed sanctions on Iran, Tehran announced that its "strategic patience" is over and embarked on counter measures, including rebuilding stockpiles of enriched uranium. Trump quit the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), despite the fact

that the Iran was fully loyal to the terms of the agreement.

"We want to make sure that what happened when Trump pulled out of the deal will not be repeated by any other American president in the future," Araqchi told the pan-Arab satellite TV network.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has also echoed similar remarks, saying Tehran wants to make sure that a mechanism should be devised that the U.S. would not withdraw from the agreement in the future.

The EU has expressed optimism about the Vienna talks. (To see the full text scan this code)





## Manufacturing of refrigerators, freezers rises 29.6% in 2 months on year

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Manufacturing of refrigerators and freezers in Iran during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21- May 21) has risen 29.6 percent from that of the same period of time in the previous year, IRNA reported citing the data released by the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

The ministry's data show that 279,600 refrigerators and freezers have been manufactured during the two-month period of this year.

As reported, over 15 million sets of home appliances have been manufactured in the country during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), which was 78 percent more than the output in its preceding year.



Rise in home appliances manufacturing and export has been also planned for the current year.

Iran's Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki has stated that the production of home appliances in the country has increased by 36 percent following the exit of foreign brands.

"Following the imposition of U.S. sanctions and the withdrawal of South Korean companies from Iran, the production of Iranian home appliances increased by 36 percent," Niaraki said on the sidelines of a visit to a production unit.

According to Niaraki, the indigenization of the knowledge for the production of such products has also increased by 20 percent since the Iranian calendar year 1396 (ended on March 20, 2018).

"Currently, Iranian producers have indigenized the knowledge for manufacturing about 70 percent of the country's home appliance needs, and the figure has reached 90 percent for some products," he said.

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

Regarding the return of foreign brands like Samsung and LG to the country, Niaraki said: "Currently, the return of foreign companies is not on the agenda; domestic companies have found their place and are fully capable to produce and meet the needs of the country."

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

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past two years so that in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19) this industry's production capacity increased by 10 percent compared to the preceding year.

## Iran, Syria stress facilitating barter trade to boost economic ties

➔ and using the capacities of the two countries' private sectors to develop trade cooperation.

As reported by the portal of the Transport Ministry, Eslami, who is the head of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee, arrived in Damascus on Wednesday for a four-day visit during which he was scheduled to hold talks with senior Syrian officials including Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous.



*Iranian Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami (L) and Syria's Internal Trade and Consumer Protection Minister Talal al-Barazi*

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

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

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.

# Iranian SMEs to expand international cooperation

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) aid that the cooperation of Iranian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be expanded in the international areas.

Making the remarks in a meeting of the deputy ministries of Foreign Affairs, and Industry, Mining and Trade, Ali Rasoulan explained the role of small and medium industries and industrial estates in the national economy, and put emphasis on the need to strengthen relations between ISIPO and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the presence of SMEs in regional and trans-regional markets.

Addressing the same meeting, Rasoul Mohajer Hejazi, the deputy foreign affairs minister for the economic diplomacy, expressed the ministry's readiness for co-operation with ISIPO, and said that the Foreign Affairs Ministry will spare no effort for promoting the status and expanding the presence of Iranian SMEs in the international markets.

Over the past two decades, the Iranian economy has been constantly faced with external deterrents like sanctions and political pressure, thus the country has been



urged to push for a more resilient and independent economy.

Promoting domestic production and cutting reliance on foreign sources became more significant for the government since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions on

Iran in 2018.

Putting more emphasis on the issue, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei named the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) the year of "Surge in Production" and the motto

of the current year is also focusing on domestic production since the year is named "production: Support and Elimination of Obstacles".

In this regard, promoting the country's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and industrial parks has been put atop agenda by the government and especially the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry over the past two years.

Since SMEs account for nearly 50 percent of Iran's total industrial sector and more than 20 percent of the country's non-oil exports are done by such units.

As the main body in dealing with the promotion of SMEs in the country, ISIPO has been implementing several programs for realizing the mentioned goals and to pave the way for the development of the mentioned sector.

ISIPO head, on Monday, announced the details of a comprehensive plan comprising of 100 different programs for developing the country's SMEs and industrial parks in the current Iranian calendar year.

The mentioned plan is mainly focused on developing the infrastructure needed for the promotion of industrial parks and consequently the SMEs in such parks.

## Over 990MW of overhauled power plants to come on stream in summer

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) has announced that overhaul operations of 992-megawatt (MW) capacity of power plants will be finished soon and the mentioned plants will come on stream for the summertime peak consumption period.

The company has announced that the overhauled power plants will be put into operation gradually and before the peak consumption period in summer (starts on June 22 based on the Iranian calendar), IRNA reported.

Hot weather, reduced production of hydropower plants due to water shortage, increased activities of illegal cryptocurrency miners, as well as the coronavirus pandemic, have caused the Energy Ministry to face some challenges in meeting the electricity demands in the summer peak period.

In this regard, the ministry has been implementing several programs for preventing electricity shortages and blackouts in the hot season.

Accelerating the completion of annual overhaul operations of power plants has been one of the mentioned programs that have been considered for boosting power supply.

Signing agreements with industrial and agricultural sectors for reducing the electricity consumption by these sectors has been also another program that the ministry is implementing.

Also, the reduction of electricity exports is considered as another solution to meet the domestic electricity demand during the summertime.

"In some cases, and based on existing contracts, the electricity exports, came close to zero," Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian has said.

According to the official, the government is also negotiating with some neighboring countries including Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia for increasing electricity imports in the summer.

Iran's Deputy Energy Minister for Electricity Affairs Homayoun Haeri announced on May 19, that power consumption in the country rose 7,000-8,000 megawatts (MW) since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21) up to the mentioned date, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.



Although every year nearly 3,000 MW is added to the country's power generation capacity, the reduction in the rainfalls and the decline in the water storage behind the dams has reduced the electricity generation offsetting the added capacity, the official said.

## TSE's main index loses 4,000 points in a week

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 4,000 points, or less than one percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.147 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, Kourosh Food Industry Company, Leasing Iranzamin Company, and Zarmakarun Industrial Company were the most widely

followed indices.

Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) said the stock market has found a special place in the country's economy so that it is impacting other major areas like politics, IRNA reported.

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.

He further noted that comparing the stock market trend with the real economic growth in the country is not a valid comparison.

"When we discuss stock market and asset values, we are talking about nominal variables, so comparing a nominal variable with a real variable is a very incorrect comparison, because the value of assets is affected by many factors," he explained.

## SEO offers new programs to support stock market

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The Advisory Council of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has proposed two new programs for supporting the stock market in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), according to the SEO Head Mohammadali Dehqan Dehnavi.

The details of the mentioned programs dubbed "capital market policy package to support production and eliminate obstacles" and "the plan to improve the position and performance of the capital market" were presented in a meeting between Dehqan Dehnavi and the members of the SEO Advisory Council.

"The capital market has witnessed great changes in the past two years and has grown significantly in terms of size, volume of activity and presence of people. These rapid developments have changed some of the equations [in the market]," Dehnavi said following the mentioned meeting.

He emphasized that the structure and facilities of the stock market should be reviewed and modified based on the



size and volume of today's market and the issues it faces.

"New capacities should be created not only in the structure of the stock exchange organization [SEO] but also in all sectors of the market in order to adequately respond

to the existing needs," the official said.

According to the official, the first of the above-mentioned programs, namely "capital market policy package to support production and eliminate obstacles" has been prepared by the SEO Research Center to tackle the issues that the stock market is facing in supporting domestic production.

"It provides solutions to more than 40 to 50 capital market challenges and issues in this regard," he noted.

In the second program, the necessity and ways of improving the position and performance of the capital market are discussed and the raised issues and problems will be addressed through specialized working groups with the presence of experts, analysts, capital market activists and managers from different sectors.

Unprecedented fluctuations in the Iranian stock market over the past few months have raised concerns among shareholders, experts, and scholars leading them to call for the government to increase support for the market.

## Covid-19 imposed serious challenges on agricultural sector: minister

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Agriculture Minister Kazem Khavazi has said the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences have imposed serious challenges on the country's agricultural sector, IRNA reported.

Speaking at the 42nd Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Conference which was held virtually, Khavazi said: "The consequences of the COVID-19 crisis have challenged the functioning of the food value chain and the flow of agricultural products into the market and, the pandemic has affected all areas from production to processing, pack-

aging, transportation, marketing, and also consumption."

"It [the pandemic] has also affected the access of lower classes of the society to healthy and nutritious food at affordable prices. Small and medium-sized enterprises which are crucial to food security and employment have also been negatively impacted," he added.

He further noted that the coronavirus experience has shown that many areas of the food industry have the potential to react early and swiftly to crisis. Many companies have been forced to use alternative channels instead of the usual business approaches; for instance, focusing on new and more local

markets, relying on innovative management plans, and investing in human resources to deal with future dilemmas.

"In the Islamic Republic of Iran, agricultural planners have always tried to adopt appropriate agricultural and food strategies and policies in various fields such as water and soil protection, education and promotion, increasing sustainable production, increasing the productivity of resources and factors of production, modifying production patterns and improving safety and quality of agricultural products and other items."

The official finally noted that despite all the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic the agriculture sector in Iran is



consciously thriving and the production of this sector has increased by 22 percent for grains and seeds and over 50 percent for horticulture products.



# Yemen war the worst nightmare of Saudi modern history: researcher

➔ 1 The Covid pandemic and the impact that the worldwide restrictions had on the oil market and price was an added element that contributed to convince Saudi Arabia of the need for such a change.

**Do you think that Israel would be able to lure Saudi Arabia into its orbit like the Emirates and Bahrain?**

The Saudi government is trying to avoid being dragged into the list of Arab states that normalized relations with Israel. Its population, as well as others from countries that already did it, are against establishing diplomatic ties with Israel, and due to the nature of the society and political structure of Saudi Arabia, the current king and prince cannot afford to promote a foreign policy that would be totally against its people's will. Moreover, while the Trump administration was adamant in getting as many Arab states as possible to normalize with Israel as a policy strategy aimed at guaranteeing his reelections, Biden does not seem too worried about achieving such a landmark, at least during his first years in office.

**How do you see the future of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council?**

Even before the blockade against Qatar by other GCC member states (2017-2020) the durability and function of the organization has been under discussion due to the unbalanced relation that Saudi Arabia had, mainly, with Qatar, Oman and Kuwait. The blockade just made clear that the main goal of the organization was primarily the security of the ruling elites of the six monarchies, considering in a broad sense internal and external threats. When Saudi Arabia, the



UAE and Bahrain decided to block Qatar, they demonstrated that even considered a member state as a security threat for their own security, leaving aside any possible solution for more than three years. This represented a serious backlash to any future security arrangement or even a deeper economic integration possible in the short or mid-term due to the deterioration of the trust between the member states. If one of the main reasons behind the blockade was precisely the foreign policy of Qatar and its links with Iran and Turkey, it would be difficult to foresee any convergence in that regard.

**Do you think that Saudi Arabia is able to get rid of the war it has started on Yemen? What is the position of Persian Gulf Arab states about the Saudi-led war on Yemen?**

The GCC members had different approaches to the Yemen war since the beginning in 2015, but were dragged into the conflict by Saudi Arabia's pressure, with the exception of Oman. Qatar left the coalition in 2017 and showed then their discrepancies with the Saudi intervention. The only GCC state that got immersed into the conflict, but with a different agenda than the Saudis, were the Emiratis. Their different agendas were visible along with the whole conflict, mainly regarding the internal groups they supported in Yemen to fight against the Houthis and their direct military presence on the ground. The lack of a uniformed approach from the GCC, that prevented the Saudi objective to convert the Yemen war into a kind of "holy war" led by Riyadh, transformed the war into the worst nightmare of Saudi modern

history. The Yemen war was the first and only military conflict directly started and led by Saudi Arabia, and it was not resolved after six years, inflicting serious economic hardships and internal and external criticism. While a military solution seems so far to be difficult to achieve, a political stalemate appears as the only possible way out for the Saudi regime to save face, claiming a relative victory and without risking even the stability of the ruling family.

**Do you think that the Biden administration will put real pressure on Saudi Arabia to be committed more to human rights? What does determine the nature of U.S.-Saudi ties?**

Saudi-U.S. relations have been historically determined by strategic and economic factors. While in certain periods the economic ones were more important, like during the Trump administration, in other periods the strategic or political ones were more determinant, like the Bush (both father and son) administrations. Biden seems to be more inclined to preserve the strategic approach in setting the ground rules for U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia during his presidency, while not in the same way that Obama looked at it. Meaning that while Human Rights would be mentioned, mainly in regards to the Yemen war, for instance, it does not seem that the focus would be the situation of the Human Rights inside the Kingdom. At least during the first year in the White House, Biden would try to avoid raising any internal issue that would damage the bilateral relationship since the beginning of his term.

## India's Covid-19 crisis dents PM Modi's image

By Fatemeh Fazli

The devastating Covid-19 crisis in India has irreparably dented the well-crafted image of the country's premier, Narendra Modi, with questions being raised over his style of governance during the pandemic.

Modi's nationalist government has come under fire for failing to manage the crisis that has shaken the world's second-most populous country, with a record number of deaths and infections reported in the past few months. The song and dance about India's growth story has come to an abrupt halt.

Stories emerging from the country's second Covid-19 wave have dominated headlines in global media in recent weeks and months, causing huge embarrassment to Modi, who had over the past eight years of his rule invested heavily in building his international image.

There have been harrowing accounts of people gasping for breath, waiting endlessly for critical care beds and treatment at government hospitals, especially the most vulnerable who can't afford state-of-the-art health facilities in private hospitals.

Social media has been replete with images and videos of Covid-19 patients and their families scrambling for everything, from hospital beds, oxygen cylinders, doctor's attention, even a space for conducting funeral ceremonies for the dead. The struggle during life has continued even after death.

The catastrophic pandemic wave has exposed the fledgling healthcare infrastructure of the country that prides itself on being a nuclear power and an economic giant. The healthcare system in the country has been under tremendous pressure, especially in major cities, with patients sharing beds and waiting in long queues in cramped hallways to receive treatment. In most cases, the wait has ended in death.

Even the crematoriums have been running full, forcing the people to hold mass funeral pyres in parking lots, on riverfronts, even on the streets. Amidst these tragic events, help has been missing.

In a damning indictment of the country's rulers, popular Indian news magazine Outlook ran a cover story recently stating that the 'government of India' was missing amid the crippling coronavirus crisis. The magazine cover grabbed



eyeballs everywhere, suggesting that the invincibility of the present government has been shattered.

Modi's right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which rose to power in 2014 after defeating its main rival Indian National Congress, has over the years made a concerted effort to project itself as a viable alternative to the Congress party's hereditary politics.

It even succeeded in wresting control of some key states that were previously governed by the Congress party, mainly due to Modi's personal appeal and also due to appeasement of Hindu voters.

But it faltered on many fronts, mainly in the economic sphere. Experts blamed the Modi government for experimenting too much with the previous government's economic policies, announcing some bold but foolhardy measures that eventually backfired.

In the decade between 2000 and 2010, when Congress was ruling the country, India witnessed a sharp surge in economic growth, clocking an impressive annual rate of 8.8%. Some even predicted India to become a fully developed industrialized country by 2020.

Soon after the BJP's rise in 2014, the country took a big hit, with widely criticized initiatives of the government like demonetization and new goods and services tax proving counter-productive.

In 2019-2020, the country's growth rate plummeted to just 4 percent, but the worst was yet to come.

The first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns dealt a heavy blow to the economy, with India

becoming the worst-performing global economy. However, the worst was still away.

Then came the second wave of Covid-19 and suddenly, all hell broke loose. The second wave hit the country in March this year, bringing the big country to a grinding halt.

While the official death toll stands at 370,000, observes believe the actual toll could be much higher, with thousands of fatalities unaccounted for, mainly in small towns with ramshackle health facilities.

The government's response has been so shoddy that a prominent Indian commentator in a newspaper article said, "India has transitioned to a failed state."

"The 'fiction' of India's health system is now exposed," wrote Yamini Aiyar, head of the Delhi-based think tank Centre for Policy Research in Hindustan Times. "And as hapless citizens struggle to find oxygen, basic medicines, hospital beds, the once sound and functional 'head', or more specifically the national government, is no longer visible. Indeed, it has abdicated from all responsibility, from leadership and governance."

UK-based news magazine Economist said the "state has melted away in India," while an Indian news magazine India Today, referred to India as "the failed state."

Modi is not the only world power to have bungled in his response to the crisis. His long-time friend and former US President Donald Trump also paved the way for the catastrophe in his country, so did Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.

But Modi failed to take lessons from countries like the US and Brazil, where the first wave hit before India. He even allowed a popular Hindu festival where millions of Hindu devotees assembled on the banks of the River Ganges for a dip considered holy.

He also went ahead with the month-long election in India's eastern state of West Bengal, appearing without a mask during campaign rallies. His party eventually lost the electoral battle.

While his controversial policy decisions over the years may have been ignored by voters for different reasons, but his debacle in the battle against the cataclysmic virus will not be ignored or forgotten.

With his ratings at an all-time low, bouncing back from here will take a lot of doing for Modi.

## Netanyahu is Israel's most failed prime minister

By Mohsen Pakaein

**TEHRAN**— Netanyahu is arguably the most failed cabinet leader in the Israeli regime's history.

Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been Israel's prime minister since April 1, 2009, said goodbye last week to his long-held dream of creating land from the Nile to the Euphrates and accepted defeat at the height of his failure. Looking at Netanyahu's record, he is arguably the most failed cabinet leader in Israeli history.

Netanyahu, who came to power after Hezbollah's victory in the 33-day war and Israel's defeat in the 22-day war in Gaza, began his duty with the promise of the complete destruction of Hamas. The Israeli invasion of Gaza began in 2014 with the aim of destroying Hamas, but the Palestinians and the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades of Hamas annulled the ability of the Iron Dome with rain rockets. In this battle, the ground attack of the Israeli military forces on Gaza was not effective and Hamas in response to this action fired 100 missiles from Gaza into the territory of occupied Palestine. Israel lost the war not only militarily but also politically, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement condemning the actions of the

occupying regime after the repeated bombing of UN-supervised schools.

Following the international failures of Israel during the Netanyahu era, the regime was expelled from UNESCO at the end of 2018, and this development caused the Trump administration to leave the organization by accusing UNESCO of "anti-Israel approaches". In recent weeks, international organizations, including Human Rights Watch, have officially declared Israel an apartheid regime.

With the help of the United States and terrorist groups such as ISIS, Netanyahu began invading Syria in January 2011 to ousted President Bashar al-Assad, but not only did he not achieve this goal, but his farewell to the presidency coincided with Bashar al-Assad's re-election. In addition, the U.S. and Netanyahu aggression in Syria strengthened the resistance front and the undeniable isolation of Israel in West Asia.

Netanyahu invaded Gaza again in recent weeks, mistakenly exposing Tel Aviv, Haifa, and most cities in the occupied territories to Hamas' high-profile missiles and the Axis of Resistance. He not only conceded defeat in this war but was also declared a war criminal by international organizations and even France. Today, Netanyahu is bidding

farewell to a prime minister as the powerful Hamas has always stood up to Zionism.

Netanyahu was a staunch opponent of Iran's pursuit of nuclear energy and with extensive U.S.-backed activities, sought to thwart Iran's efforts to achieve uranium enrichment. To achieve this goal, Israeli terrorists have repeatedly assassinated Iranian nuclear scientists. Netanyahu also failed in this direction, and today the Islamic Republic of Iran has begun to enrich uranium 60% and has made great progress in the field of nuclear energy.

The failure of a great deal of the century and the unwillingness of the world to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and finally the withdrawal of the main Zionist supporter of Trump and Bolton from the U.S. political scene, are all signs of the failure of the former prime minister of the regime. Netanyahu also upset Biden with a miscalculation and support for Trump during the election campaign and lost his European allies by insisting on continuing the settlement, leaving the office of a prime minister with a cold U.S.-EU relationship.

In 2017, Netanyahu, along with a number of Israeli ministers, businessmen, and journalists, was accused of corruption and added another stigma to his record. He is

also accused of receiving about \$ 100,000 as a gift from Arnon Milshan, one of the big names in the Hollywood film industry, since 2009. After receiving these gifts, which were in the form of expensive items such as wine or cigarettes, Netanyahu enacted the law of their choice. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's wife is also accused of using the state coffers for private purposes.

A few days ago, thousands gathered in Tel Aviv to celebrate Netanyahu's ouster. Mostly Jews, they considered Netanyahu to be the main enemy of the Jews and demanded that he be tried for corruption. It will not be long before Netanyahu is tried in international courts for war crimes against the Palestinian people, and the most failed prime minister of Israel will experience difficult days.

Of course, it is not expected that Netanyahu's successor and his fragmented and unstable cabinet will be able to meet the legitimate demands of the Palestinians, and the resilient and militant Palestinian people will continue to force the intifada for holding a referendum to determine the favorite regime which replaces Zionism regime in the futures. A system in the shadow of which Zionism will disappear and Muslims, Jews, and Christians will live together peacefully.

## Yemen's Ansarullah to be 'part of equation' in defense of al-Quds

➔ 1 The reports also said that a delegation of Israeli and Emirati intelligence officers had already arrived on the island very recently and examined various locations for establishing the planned intelligence bases.

The purpose of the bases, according to the reports, is to electronically monitor forces at the service of a Saudi-led military coalition involved in the war against Yemen as well as the Daesh (also known as ISIL or ISIS) Takfiri terrorist group in the region.

Yemen's government once again strongly denounced the occupation of its islands by Saudi Arabia-led coalition as reports claimed that Israel, with the help of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), plans to set up joint spy bases on the Yemeni island of Socotra.

## Kim says N. Korea ready for 'dialogue and confrontation' with U.S.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has said his country needs to prepare for "both dialogue and confrontation" with the United States under President Joe Biden, state media reported on Friday.



At a plenary meeting of the central committee of the governing Workers' Party of Korea on Thursday, Kim outlined his strategy for relations with Washington, and the "policy tendency of the newly emerged U.S. administration", the Korean Central News Agency said.

The comments mark the first time Kim has made a reference to the country's policy towards the U.S. since the inauguration of U.S. President Joe Biden.

Kim "stressed the need to get prepared for both dialogue and confrontation, especially to get fully prepared for confrontation in order to protect the dignity of our state" and reliably guarantee a "peaceful environment", KCNA reported.

The North Korean leader "called for sharply and promptly reacting to and coping with the fast-changing situation and concentrating efforts on taking stable control of the situation on the Korean peninsula", the agency said.

Pyeongyang had already accused Biden of pursuing a "hostile policy" and saying it was a "big blunder" for the veteran Democrat to say he would deal with the threat posed by the North's nuclear programme "through diplomacy as well as stern deterrence".

According to al Jazeera, in 2019, the North said Biden should be "beaten to death with a stick".

## Israeli regime breaks Gaza ceasefire again

The Israeli regime attacks the Gaza Strip for a second time in as many days in outright violation of a fragile ceasefire that it had desperately demanded during its latest war on the Palestinian enclave.

On Thursday night, the regime's warplanes hit at least five locations across the coastal territory, alleging them to be targets belonging to the Palestinian resistance movement of Hamas, Palestinian media outlets said.

The Israeli military, meanwhile, alleged, "The attack was carried out in response to the continued launching of incendiary balloons at" the occupied territories.

The regime regularly claims being targeted by balloons mounted with incendiary devices from the direction of Gaza. Its television channels also routinely broadcast footage of blazes billowing out across the occupied lands that border Gaza.

In an apparent bid at an uncalled-for hype, the military said rocket sirens had also been set off in the "Kfar Aza community" near Gaza's border.

Israeli Ynet news site, however, acknowledged that there were no immediate reports of rockets or missiles landing near the community. It was possible the alarm had been triggered by machinegun fire from the strip aimed at Israeli aircraft, it added.

The military also said the regime's chief of staff had "held a situational assessment in which he ordered a higher level of preparedness and for the IDF (the Israeli military) to make preparations for a variety of scenarios including a resumption of fighting."

Israeli airstrikes had stricken alleged Hamas sites in two locations on Wednesday too.

## Resistance News

## Malki receives Haneyya, affirms his country's support for Palestinians

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Habib El-Malki, Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives, stated on Thursday that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian people.

During his meeting with Ismail Haneyya, Hamas' leader, and the Movement's leadership delegation, he stressed the historical relationship between Morocco and Palestine and Morocco's support on all official and popular levels.

For his part, Haneyya briefed Malki on the recent political and field developments and the overall Palestinian issue which is going through a very sensitive stage and touched on the results of the Saif Al-Quds battle and its repercussions.

Both parties discussed the prospects for cooperation with the Moroccan House of Representatives in supporting the rights and struggle of the Palestinians and means of backing Palestinian rights in Occupied Jerusalem.

The delegation of Hamas arrived on Wednesday evening in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, on an official trip that will last several days.



## Iranian president urges efforts to boost medical tourism

➔1 Some experts beleive medical tourism in Iran produces win-win outcomes as the country yields considerable benefits to international health-care seekers, offering affordable yet quality treatment services.



In recent years, Iran's tourism sector has flourished because new branches of traveling, such as eco-tourism, health tourism, mining tourism, and agritourism, have all been gaining popularity, Iranian minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said earlier this month.

The Islamic Republic has set goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around two million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025-March 2026). Amongst Iran's trump cards are the presence of credible surgeons and physicians, cutting-edge medical technologies, high-tech medicine and diverse specializations, super affordable procedures, and finally its hospitable people.

## Long-neglected cave to be equipped for tourism

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Long neglected Mazdavad Cave in Khorasan Razavi province, which can grow even more prosperous than the renowned Ali Sadr Cave, will be equipped for tourism to serve sustainable development in terms of local economy and employment, a provincial official has said.



“Unique attractions of Mazdavad Cave have been neglected to help develop the local employment and economy while it has more capacity than Ali Sadr Cave in Hamedan to attract tourists and develop its surroundings,” IRNA quoted Seyyed Kamalodin Mirjafarian as saying on Thursday.

Ali Sadr Cave is a gigantic water-filled cavern wieldy believed to date from the Jurassic era. Entrance to the lengthy cave is situated some 70km north of Hamadan in west-central Iran, itself a hotspot for avid history buffs, day-trippers, and holidaymakers.

## New properties in Ilam made national heritage

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – A total of five historical sites and aging structures scattered across Ilam province, have been inscribed on Iran's national list for cultural heritage.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism declared the inscriptions on Wednesday in a letter to the governor-general of the western province, CHTN reported.

Historical sites of Kal Karim, Pa-Qaleh, and Gomme-mai, as well as Litqala defensive wall and the remaining of the historical village of Zeid were added to the prestigious list.



Home to almost half of Iran's UNESCO sites, western Iran is a land of hospitable people, wild extremes, and wilder history, and it may be an independent traveler's adventure playground. The region also witnessed the rise and fall of many great empires once bordering Mesopotamia, Ottoman Turkey, and Czarist Russia.

From the fecund Caspian coast to the stark, mountainous northern borders, and the crumbling desert ruins of the southern plains, the region hosts everything from paddy fields to blizzards to Persian gardens.

# Qom province to reinforce rural tourism

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The tourism directorate of Qom is set to reinforce rural tourism and associated infrastructure across the central Iranian province.

“Rural tourism is to be developed in Qom province by improving the tourism infrastructure,” the provincial tourism chief said on Thursday.

It is important to identify obstacles and potentials for rural tourism in order to formulate plans to improve Qom's tourism infrastructure, Alireza Arjmandi said.

Qom's desert region has pristine natural surroundings, which is one of the significant factors that attract tourists, the official added.

Aside from ecotourism attractions, rural areas in the province have a wide variety of historical buildings that have not been properly capitalized so far, he explained.

When it comes to rural tourism Iran, which has many pristine yet diverse natural settings, has many to offer to nature lovers. Rural tourism as well as agritourism and farm-stays can be regarded as a win-win both for local communities, and post-modern travelers who are tracing unique experiences. Sightseers may stay with a rural or



nomadic family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Rural tourism, most of all, sets the ground for economic development in rural areas by creating additional income and employment. It can also improve the social wellbeing in rural areas, for instance by stimulating improvements

in infrastructure, sanitation, and electricity networks.

The World Tourism Organization sees rural tourism as a type of activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sightseeing. Such tourism also possesses characteristics such as low population density, a landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry, as well as traditional social structure and lifestyle.

The second-holiest city of the country after Mashhad, Qom is home to both the magnificent shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and the major religious madrasas (schools).

Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage at the holy shrine, the city is also a top destination for Shiite scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

The antiquity of Qom goes back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) and several historical mosques, mansions, and natural sceneries have been scattered across the city as well as towns and villages nearby.

## Seljuk-era mosque in southeast Iran undergoes tilework restoration

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – A team of cultural heritage experts and restorers has commenced work on arrays of tilework on the façade and interior of the Malek Mosque, which stands tall in the city of Kerman, southeast Iran.

“Currently, tilework of the eastern and northern sides of the mosque has undergone restoration,” the deputy tourism chief of Kerman province, Mojtaba Shafiei, said on Wednesday, CHTN reported.

“Malek Mosque is one of the most important places of worship in the city of Kerman and its antiquity dates back to the Seljuk era (1037–1194),” the official stated.

Stuccowork and flooring are amongst other tasks being carried out by the local restorers, he added.

Malek mosque, now known as the Imam Mosque, is one of the architectural gems of the ancient city. The courtyard in the middle of the building is very large. There is a small pool in the center of it. Each iwan

was planned differently from the others. Although the iwans in the side wings appear similar to each other, there are some differences. The iwan in the west wing is less deep, while the other one is wider.

The entire facade of one iwan is covered with terracotta and brick in different shapes. The entrance to the section, where the dome in front of the mihrab is situated, is through an opening with a single ogee arch inside the iwan. The dome in front of the mihrab is small in diameter. The dome sits on the mihrab wall in the front, the mihrab wall in the rear, and three arches are placed between two rows of rectangular pillars created by two square pillars. These are connected by two small arches on the sides.

The faces of the arches of the arcades and portals are decorated with glazed bricks. These decorations were added at a later period. They comprise curved branches and compositions consisting of Kufic inscription bands on these panels.



## Old hospital in Semnan to turn into museum

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Tadayyon Hospital, the first hospital built in the north-central city of Semnan, will be turned into a health museum, a local tourism official has said.

The museum is expected to open its doors to the public by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2022) after an extensive restoration, Saeid Parsa announced on Friday.

Covering an area of 15 hectares, the hospital was constructed by the well-known merchant Haj Fazlollah Tadayyon in 1926 in the early Pahlavi period.



The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road

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

Some three million historical objects

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

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

## Historical sabat restored to former state



**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – A historical sabat in the southwestern city of Dezful, Khuzestan province, was restored to its former state, an official with Dezful Municipality announced on Friday.

The restoration project aimed at eliminating threats of full destruction of the time-honored structure as well as strengthening its walls and rooftop using cob material, Iman Hassani said, CHTN reported.

A budget of one billion rials (\$23,800 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) was allocated to the project, the official added.

Sabat is an arched structure built between the opposite buildings on both sides of a narrow street in tropical and desert areas and it creates shade and a cool place for passers-by. Due to its semi-covered nature, this structure creates air blinds in summer, which cools the

air inside sabat and in winter makes the air warmer.

Khuzestan is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites of Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System yet it is a region of raw beauty where its visitors could spend weeks exploring. The province is also a cradle for handicrafts and arts whose crafters inherited from their preceding generations.

Lying at the head of the Persian Gulf and bordering Iraq on the west, Khuzestan was settled about 6000 BC by a people with affinities to the Sumerians, who came from the Zagros Mountains region. Urban centers appeared there nearly contemporaneously with the first cities in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium. Khuzestan, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, came to constitute the heart of the Elamite kingdom, with Susa as its capital.

## Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari tourism loses \$90m from COVID-19

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The tourism industry of the southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province has taken over 3.7 trillion rials (\$90 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) hit from the coronavirus outbreak so far.

Hotels, apartment hotels, eco-lodges, guesthouses, traditional restaurants, and travel agencies have been highly affected by the COVID-19 impacts, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A total of 412 people employed in the tourism sector have lost their jobs as well,

Mehrdad Javadi announced on Wednesday.

Back in January, the tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan announced that Iran's tourism industry has suffered a loss of over 140 trillion rials (about \$3.33 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Although the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 has brought the whole world to a standstill, the tourism industry has been the worst affected of all economic sectors, he noted.

However, efforts are being made by the government to help the tourism sector

flourish again with continuous support and injecting supportive packages, he added.

Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari has various unique traditions and rituals relative to the 'tribal' lifestyles. Special forms of music, dance, and clothing are noteworthy. It has considerable potential to become a vibrant tourist attraction because of its changing natural landscape.

The province is also a hub for making wool felt products, majority of which exported abroad. It is home to some 500 crafters, in over 250 workshops, making handmade felt products.





# Cov Pars to monthly produce 1m doses of vaccine

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — One million doses of “Razi Cov Pars” vaccine will be produced each month as of September, deputy head of the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute has announced.

Razi Cov Pars is the second Iranian-made vaccine that started the clinical trial on February 27.

Developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, the vaccine is protein-based, which employs recombinant versions of the spike protein and tutors the immune system against the virus by producing antibodies.

The vaccine is developed in 3 doses, the first two doses are injectable and the third dose is intranasal. The second dose of the vaccine will be injected into the volunteers 21 days later and the third dose will be inhaled 51 days later.

The first phase of the vaccine was performed on 133 people, the second phase also started on May 28 by being administrated to 500 people, which has so far been performed on 190 volunteers.

The third phase of the clinical study will begin in early or mid-August, with at least 20,000 people.

The mass production will start with a capacity of 1 million doses per month, which will be launched at the same time as the immunogenicity and effectiveness of the vaccine are confirmed.

**One million doses of vaccine imported**

Iran received 1 million doses of coronavirus vaccine on Thursday, IRNA reported.



**Developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, the vaccine is protein-based, which employs recombinant versions of the spike protein and tutors the immune system against the virus by producing antibodies.**

Imported through consultation conducted by the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), the vaccines were handed over to the Ministry of Health.

However, the report did not mention the brand of vaccines and their manufacturer. Since mid-February, 6,847,800 doses of the corona vaccine have been imported

into the country.

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

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

**Homegrown vaccines**

COVIRAN BAREKAT, the first coronavirus vaccine made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, which has received the license for public use on June 14.

The vaccine was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and started to be mass-produced on March 29.

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

The second phase of Fakhra vaccine's human trial started on June 9 by being injected into 500 volunteers.

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

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

## Alarming decline of Caspian seals worrisome

→ **1** In the southern part of the Sea, one of the safe areas for species breeding is the Ashuradeh region, which is under construction for tourism development. In addition to seals, this region is also a habitat for birds and plants, Amir Shirazi, a representative of the Caspian seal medical and research center in Iran, told YJC.

In 2006, studies on seals for the first time showed that the population was declining sharply, by more than 90 percent. It was also announced in 2007 that the results of the census show 100,000 seals so that the species was listed at the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) red list, he said.

“In 2000, during six months, 10,000 Caspian seal carcasses were found on the shores of five littoral states due to distemper viral disease.

In 2010, the first Caspian seal treatment and research center in Iran was set up on Ashuradeh Island, which was based on three pillars of training, rescue, and research, and in 2017 with the help of Iran, the second center was established in Kazakhstan,” he stated.

Sea pollution and diseases are among the factors contributing to the decline in the Caspian seals, he concluded. The oil spill, industrial waste as well as heavy metals,

agricultural pesticides, radioactive waste, wastewater, and household waste entering the sea, and noise pollution caused by oil and gas refineries, and excessive boat traffic have pushed the species toward extinction through poisoning them.

**National plan to protect Caspian seals**

The National Action Plan to protect the endangered Caspian seals was prepared on March 21, carried out under the supervision of the DOE with the cooperation of non-governmental organizations and all responsible bodies.

**Caspian seals included on CMS**

Caspian seals are included in Appendices I and II of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

As per Appendix I of the Convention, poaching and illegal fishing activities are banned to save the animals from extinction, while Iran has not had a share in illegal fishing of the species since the very beginning, she concluded.

Over the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CMS COP12) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), administered by UN Environment on October 28, 2017, Caspian seals



were included on Appendices I and II of the Convention.

According to the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Website, Appendix I comprises migratory species that have been assessed as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

Appendix II covers migratory species that have unfavorable conservation status and that require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as those that have a conservation status that would significantly benefit from the international cooperation that could be achieved by an international agreement.

## PCR tests for over 27,000 passengers at borders

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — PCR tests have been performed on 27,530 passengers at the country's official borders based on a plan launched on March 10 to rapidly identify suspected cases of coronavirus.

Meanwhile, 376,241 passengers were screened for COVID-19 by IRCS forces, over 52,000 of whom underwent rapid tests, Mehdi Valipour, head of the Relief and Rescue Or-



ganization of the Red Crescent Society, said. He went on to lament that some 67 individuals, who tested positive, have so far been temporarily quarantined.

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

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.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → €

## \$7b to be allocated to retrofit, rebuild flood-devastated houses

A budget of 290 trillion rials (nearly \$7 billion) will be allotted to reconstruct and repair housing units destroyed by flood in 18 provinces across the country, Mehdi Jamalinejad, deputy interior minister for urban and rural development has announced. Flood has devastated some 169,377 housing units, 68,333 of which are beyond repair and must be reconstructed, he stated. Moreover, household appliances of 109,832 families also have suffered damages, he further regretted.

He went on to say that 20,000 housing units, undergone devastation by recent flooding in Aq-Oala county in northern Golestan province, are under construction.

Non-repayable loans amounting to 25 trillion rials (nearly \$600 million) will be provided for retrofitting of houses, 7.4 trillion rials (around \$177 million) will also be earmarked to compensate for the infrastructure damages, he explained.

## اختصاص بیش از ۲۹ هزار میلیارد تومان برای بازسازی خانه های سیل زده

معاون عمران و توسعه امور شهری و روستایی وزیر کشور گفت: براساس مصوبه اخیر هیات وزیران مبلغ ۲۹ هزار و ۱۳۰ میلیارد ریال برای بازسازی و جبران خسارات ناشی از سیل در بخشهای مختلف ۱۸ استان پرداخت می شود.

بر اساس ارزیابی های انجام شده در ۲۱ استان کشور، بیش از ۱۶۹ هزار و ۳۷۷ واحد مسکونی شهری و روستایی در سیل های اخیر در کشور آسیب دیده اند که باید دوباره احداث شوند.

جمالی نژاد بیان داشت: در اثر سیل به ۱۰۹ هزار و ۸۳۲ واحد مسکونی نیز خسارت معیشتی وارد شده است.

وی اضافه کرد: امروز ساخت ۲۰ هزار دستگاه واحد مسکونی که در سیل آسیب دیده بودند نیز در آق قلا شروع شد.

دبیر کمیته نوسازی و بازسازی قرارگاه بازسازی مناطق سیل زده در ادامه گفت: ۲۵ هزار میلیارد ریال تسهیلات قرض الحسنه و همچنین مبلغ ۷ هزار و ۴۶۰ میلیارد ریال برای مرمت زیرساخت های آسیب دیده از سیل پرداخت خواهد شد.

## COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 17

New cases	10,100
New deaths	127
Total cases	3,080,526
Total deaths	82,746
New hospitalized patients	1,357
Patients in critical condition	3,316
Total recovered patients	2,722,612
Diagnostic tests conducted	22,194,745
Doses of vaccine injected	5,264,191

## National Parks of Iran

(Part 7)

Most of Iran's wetlands will fall under the wildlife refuge category, although Arzan marsh and Parišan Lake in Fars, surrounded as they were by terrestrial sites of spectacular and ecologic appeal, obviously merited inclusion in the National Park category. The Dašt-e Naz reserve in Mazandaran, under intensive management for the rare Persian fallow deer (*Dama mesopotamica*; gavazn-e zard), and the Dez and Karkheh reserves, which contained the last remnants of the wild populations of this species and its riparian habitat, were also designated wildlife refuges. One reserve, Mianqaleh, uniquely enough, fits all the criteria for this category! This reserve encompasses Gorgan Bay and its brackish and fresh-water marshes, seasonal mud flats and the Mianqaleh Peninsula with its extensive sand dunes and psammophilic vegetation. It contained large populations of waterfowls, game birds, large mammals, and numerous other species.

Protected areas. Protected area defines the land that, because of its strategic value to the conservation of the nation's natural resources, is to be managed in a manner that will prevent degradation, or, if already degraded, can be rehabilitated primarily through natural processes. Protection, management and restoration of plant and animal life and the maintenance of the natural state will be afforded the highest priority in providing conditions conducive to the regeneration and amelioration of habitats and species. Protected Areas may be established to serve a multitude of environmental conservation and protection needs.



Protected areas have an important function in the role they can play in meeting scientific, economic, educational, cultural, and recreational needs. Such areas are irreplaceable for studies of various ecosystems and are of fundamental importance to the protection of natural biotic units representing major bio-geographical regions and characterized by distinct flora, fauna, and vegetation types or combinations of these. Criteria for the protected area category are too numerous to enumerate here, but it must be stressed that the scope and intent of this classification in Iran was wide-ranging (for details, see Firuz and Harrington).

Five marine reserves existed under the Game and Fish Department's system of protection and five others had been proposed. Tied as they were to adjacent terrestrial areas, they were also to be treated in accordance with the above classification system.

Biotic community reserves, managed by other organizations, warrant a brief mention here. These include the Imperial Hunting Reserve on the eastern border of the city of Tehran. Established sometime between 1792 and 1830 in the reign of Fath-Ali Shah Qajar (1212-50/1797-834), this large reserve (about 140,000 hectares) was managed by a special office of the imperial court for the royal family and their distinguished guests. Neglected at times in the past, the reserve was well guarded and managed in the last decade prior to the Revolution of 1978-79. The reserve contained substantial populations of such species as wild sheep, Persian ibex, gazelle, and partridges. Vegetation recovery showed much promise in many areas.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources maintained a number of forest parks, designed primarily for picnicking. While heavy use had eliminated the understory of these reserves, they constituted important remnants of the Caspian lower forest belt genera, such as *Quercus*, *Acer* (see AFRA), *Zelkova* (see AZAD), and *Parrotia* (anjili).

**Resource Management and Strategy**

The Department of the Environment placed overwhelming emphasis on natural processes. It may be said that major stress in the reserves was placed on the protection of the vegetation, for this served both to stabilize soil and watersheds and to enhance the terrestrial and aquatic faunal populations while also serving to protect remnants of the national flora.

It has been often suggested that multiple use is the only viable approach to nature conservation in developing countries. For a variety of socio-economic reasons, however, such an approach would have been unsuccessful in the formative stages of the Iranian reserve program.

(Source: *Encyclopædia Iranica*)



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Be generous but not extravagant, be frugal but not miserly.

Imam Ali (AS)

## WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

### Painting



■ Saleh Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Akram Sartakhti. The exhibit will be running until July 6 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.



■ Zeinab Abbaszadeh is showcasing her latest painting collection named "Aigen" in an exhibition at Golhaye Davudi Gallery. The exhibition will be running until June 24 at the gallery located at 263 near Nejatollahi St., Taleqani Ave.



■ A collection of paintings by Ali Sadeqi is on view in an exhibition at O Gallery 1. The exhibitions will run until June 29 at the gallery located at 18 Shahin St., Sanai St.



■ An exhibition of paintings by Arsia Moqaddam is currently underway at Homa Gallery. The exhibit entitled "Less Controversial" will continue until July 6 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



■ Anusheh Daneshvar is displaying his latest paintings in an exhibition at Shalman Gallery. The exhibit named "Pattern of Love" will run until June 30 at the gallery located at 27 Kavusi Alley, West Rudbar St., off Mirdamad Blvd.



■ An exhibition of paintings by Katayun Karami is underway at Tarrahan Azad Gallery. The exhibit entitled "Deadline" will run until June 22 at the gallery located at 5 Salmas Square, off Fatemi St.



■ A collection of paintings by Sorahi Rafati is on display in an exhibition at Soo Gallery 1. The exhibit named "Big, Big Party" will continue until July 16 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St. Soo Gallery 2, located at the same address, is hanging paintings by Ofoq Hosseini and Negin Sadaf in an exhibition titled "Nature, Abstraction", which will run until July 9.

### Photo/installation



■ Photos and sets of installation by Aidin Baqeri are on display in an exhibition at O Gallery 2. The exhibitions will run until June 29 at the gallery located at 18 Shahin St., Sanai St.

### Multimedia



■ Artworks in various media by a group of artists, including Yasaman Alipur, Nazgol Vakili, Maryam Homayuni, Arefeh Ahmadi, Sajjad Rabiei and Ramak Khayyam, are on view in an exhibition at Zarna Gallery. The exhibit will continue until June 23 at 10 Esko Alley near Daneshgah St. and Enqelab Ave.



■ A group of artists, including Shaqyeq Taqubi, Melika Hedayati, Fereshteh Sadeqi, Zahra Bayati, Leila Rastegari and Feridun Daliri, are showcasing their latest artworks in various media in an exhibition at Ehsan Gallery. The exhibit named "The Beginning" will run until June 22 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

# Kronos Festival premieres vocalist Shahram Nazeri's "Kavuki"

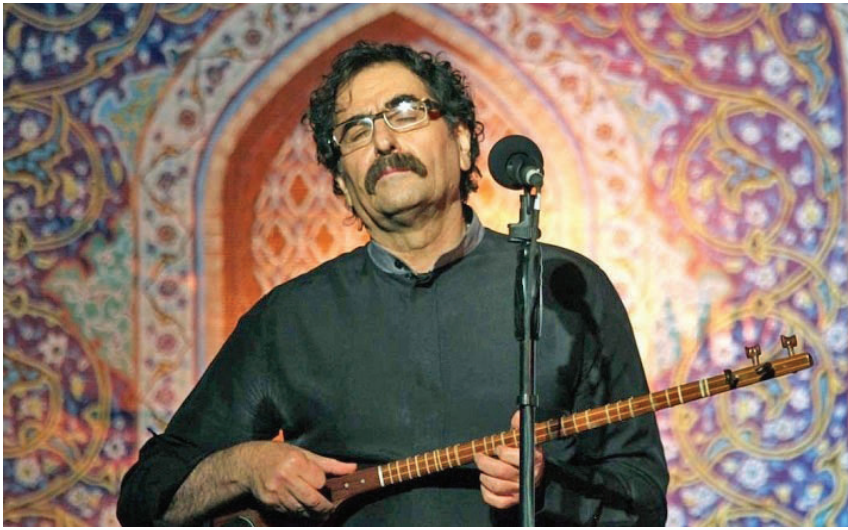
**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Celebrated Iranian vocalist Shahram Nazeri's passionate Kurdish love song "Kavuki" premiered on Wednesday online at the Kronos Festival in the United States.

He has recorded the song with Kronos Quartet, the U.S. group which has previously performed with several other Iranian musicians.

"Kavuki" featuring Iranian composer Sahba Aminikia's arrangement is the first part of Nazeri's collaboration with Kronos, which has been ongoing since 2020.

Kronos Quartet features the violinist David Harrington and John Sherba, and viola virtuoso Hank Dutt and cellist Sunny Yang, who have pursued a singular artistic vision for over 45 years, combining a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to continually reimagine the string quartet experience.

This song has previously been performed and recorded by many Iranian groups,



This file photo shows Iranian vocalist Shahram Nazeri performing in a concert.

including the Kamkars whose performance is one of the best.

Nazeri was awarded France's Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur in 2007.

The San Francisco-based Kronos Festival is organized annually by the Kronos Performing Arts Association.

The association, which opened the festival on June 11 after a year's hiatus, has expanded the event into the virtual sphere with eight exciting online presentations, including fourteen world premieres.

All streams will be available free of charge on the festival's website and Facebook, and YouTube, and will remain online through August 31.

The festival features works by more than 20 guest performers, and highlights the work of Kronos' artistic collaborators and community partners. Art, activism and the fight for civil rights are key themes in Kronos' works.

## Doc "Qasr-e Qand" features operation that led to death of Ansar al-Furqan's leader

regions with Sunni populations to provoke clashes between the Shia and Sunni.

The documentary was broadcast on Thursday by Ofoq, the IRIB worldwide channel broadcasting documentary films.

"The documentary was produced in 2017 when I was informed by Ofoq that an infamous terrorist who has been a wanted man in Iran for over 25 years had arrived in Iran and an operation had been planned to arrest or kill him," Eslamzadeh told the Persian service of MNA on Thursday.

"I welcomed a proposal from Ofoq to record the operation in a documentary, and the crew was quickly called upon to get ready for the project," he added.

In a four-day chase, squads of commandos and helicopters pursued Qanbarzehi and his men in an abandoned palm garden in the Qasr-e Qand region in Sistan and Baluchestan, Eslamzadeh said.

Eslamzadeh, who has portrayed 15 days of his stay among

the Taliban in his acclaimed documentary "Alone among the Taliban", said that he had traveled to Sistan and Baluchestan many times before, but he had never experienced such hot weather anytime or anywhere that the cameras were ruined by the heat, which forced them to take some scenes by phone cameras.

He is the director of the documentary series "Maze of Progress", which scrutinizes the resistance economy in Russia, China and Turkey. The documentary was broadcast from IRIB's Channel 3 in March.

His "Alone among the Taliban" received an honorable mention at the 19th edition of DetectiveFEST, a Russian international festival of detective films and television programs on law-enforcement themes.

Eslamzadeh is the director of "Life among War Flags", in which he conducts interviews with some ISIS members in the Taliban's secret prisons.

## Popular Iranian TV series "The Father" dubbed for Indian viewers

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — "The Father", a popular Iranian TV series directed by Behrang Tofiqi, has been dubbed into Hindi for viewers in India.

The series is scheduled to be broadcast from the Iranian international TV network, Sahar, the channel announced last week.

"The Father" is about a young Iranian man who has been raised in a religious family. He falls in love with a girl who has been raised in a family with lax religious beliefs. He is now faced with the dilemma of choosing between his father, who is his role model, and his love.

The series has been dubbed into Hindi by a group of voice actors, including Hassan Zeidi, Fatemeh Zeidi, Samaneh Davudani, Akhtar Abbas, Alamdar Abbas, Qeisat Abbas, Hassan-Reza Naqavi, Ali Komeil, Arham Sharafat, Fahmi Razavi and Nahid Anvari.

Earlier in September 2020, the Urdu Channel of the Iranian international TV network, Sahar, said that the Iranian TV series "Kimia" is being dubbed into the Urdu language that is spoken in Pakistan and India.

The series written by Masud Behbahaninia tells the life story of an

Iranian woman named Kimia Parsa in three phases from the 1970s until the present times.

The series recounts Kimia's activities during the 1979 Islamic Revolution, 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, and other events during the present time.

Pragya Jha, an Indian voice actor with a good command of several languages including Urdu, has lent her voice to Kimia in this series, which was aired by Iranian TV from September 2015 to February 2016.

"Kimia" produced by Mohammadreza Shafiei was crowned best series in 2018 during the Jame Jam Television Festival,

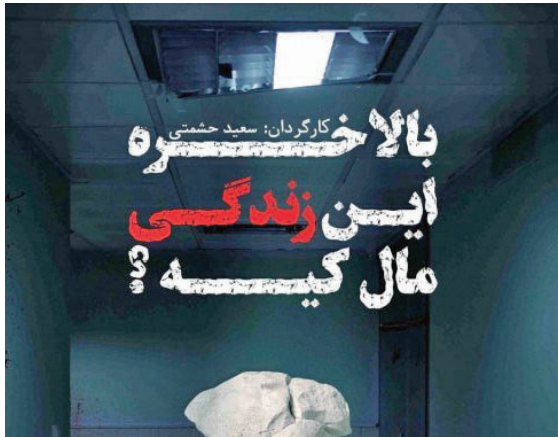


Mehdi Soltani and Laya Zanganeh act in a scene from "The Father".

which is organized annually by Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting to honor its top TV programs and films.

In addition, Afshar was nominated for the title of the Islamic Revolution Artist of the Year for the series in 2016.

## Iranian troupe performs "Whose Life Is It Anyway?"



A poster for Brian Clark's play "Whose Life Is It Anyway?"

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian troupe led by director Saeid Heshmati is performing British writer Brian Clark's play "Whose Life Is It Anyway?" at the Gelayol Hall of Tehran's Shahzad Theater Complex.

Ahmad Kasaiipur is the translator of the play and Paria Yaqubi, Iman Emadi, Nilufar Parsa, Atefeh Ghazanfari, Elham Salari and Nima Hashemisersht are the main members of the cast.

The story of the play is set in a hospital room and the action revolves around Ken Harrison, a sculptor by profession, who was paralyzed from the neck down in a car accident and is determined to be allowed to die.

Clark presents arguments both in favor of and opposing euthanasia and to what extent government should be allowed to interfere in the life of a private citizen. In portraying Ken as an intelligent man with a useless body, he leaves the audience with conflicting feelings about his desire to end his life.

"Whose Life Is It Anyway?" was adapted from Clark's 1972 television play of the same title, which starred Ian

McShane.

The stage version premiered in 1978 at the Mermaid Theatre in London, and subsequently opened on Broadway in 1979.

A film adapted by Reginald Rose and directed by John Badham was released in 1981, starring Richard Dreyfuss, John Cassavetes and Christine Lahti.

Author David Benedictus adapted the play into a novel, which was also released in 1981.

Clark, best known for "Whose Life Is It Anyway?", was born in Bristol, United Kingdom, the son of a blacksmith.

He was educated at the University of Nottingham. He married Maggie Clark, his first wife, and raised two sons. Clark has taught in schools, colleges and universities and was a member of the Drama Department at the University of Hull from 1968 to 1972.

His credits also include other television plays including "Easy Go", "Operation Magic Carpet", "The Saturday Party" and "The Country Party".

## "Lectures on Technique by Melanie Klein" comes to Persian bookstores

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — "Lectures on Technique by Melanie Klein" edited with a critical review by British psychologist John Steiner has been published in Persian.

Arjomand is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Bita Ajilchi and Mina Oliai.

"Lectures on Technique by Melanie Klein" is based on a series of six lectures given by Melanie Klein, an Austrian-British author and psychoanalyst known for her work in child analysis, to students at the British Psychoanalytical Society in 1936 and repeated several times in subsequent years.

They were discovered in the Melanie Klein Archives housed in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library and have been previously described by Elizabeth Spillius but never before published.

In this book, John Steiner explores what characterizes Kleinian Technique, how her technique changed over the years, what she saw as the correct psychoanalytical attitude and how psychoanalytic technique has changed since Klein's death.

Klein, who moved to England from Berlin in 1927, became one of the leading psychoanalysts, following Freud and making an important contribution in the theory and practice of psychoanalysis. A pioneer in child analysis, her work remains widely influential throughout the world.

This book consists of the full text of the original six lectures, accompanied by a critical analysis from Steiner who is known internationally as a leading Kleinian analyst and writer.

Steiner demonstrates the importance of the lectures in understanding Klein's work and

their continued relevance for contemporary psychoanalysis.

In addition, also published for the first time, this book includes annotated transcripts of a preserved recording of a seminar Klein held in 1958 with young analysts of the British Psychoanalytical Society.

In this seminar, close to the end of her life, many of the points made in the earlier lectures were elaborated upon and brought further up to date in light of developments in Klein's thinking during the intervening years.

Featuring rare, previously unpublished material, "Lectures on Technique by Melanie Klein" provides a new and significant contribution to the understanding of the Kleinian paradigm. It is essential reading for all psychoanalysts and psychoanalytic psychotherapists interested in and influenced by Klein's work and legacy.



Front cover of the Persian translation of "Lectures on Technique by Melanie Klein".