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## JCPOA parties conclude sixth round of Vienna talks

TEHRAN – Diplomats from Iran and other parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal held a meeting on Sunday noon to conclude the sixth round of talks that have been underway since April to revive the nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi, who leads the Iranian negotiating team in Vienna, issued a statement about the holding of the meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission.

He said at the end of the sixth round of Vienna talks, a meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission chaired by Enrique Mora, EU Deputy High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, was held.

During the meeting, the heads of delegations, while expressing satisfaction with the continuous and intensive efforts of the expert teams, jointly evaluated the results of the current round of talks.

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## Over \$2.3b of facilities paid to SMEs, semi-finished projects in 2 months

TEHRAN - Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade's data show that 99.161 trillion rials (about \$2.36 billion) has been paid to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and semi-finished industrial projects with an over 60 percent physical progress during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21).

The mentioned facilities, which are provided for renewing machinery, equip-

ping production units, or completing semi-finished projects, have been paid in the form of bank loans to 1,512 projects and production units, IRNA reported.

The program for offering bank facilities to the SMEs and semi-finished projects was kicked off in February 2019 by the Industry Ministry in collaboration with the Central Bank of Iran,

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## Arabic translation of "A Glimpse of Iran's Literary Past" introduced at Baghdad book fair

TEHRAN – An Arabic translation of prominent Iranian historian Abdolhossein Zarrinkub's "A Glimpse of Iran's Literary Past" has been introduced during a special meeting by its Iranian publisher at the 22nd Iraq International Book Fair in Baghdad.

The book has been translated at the Alhoda International Cultural, Artistic and Publishing Institute in Tehran. The

publisher released the original Persian version of the book in 1996.

Alhoda managing director Hojjatollah Mohammad Asadi-Movahed, Sureh-Mehr Publications Ali-Akbar Shirvani and a group of cultural figures attended the meeting, the Persian service of ILNA reported on Sunday.

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## Volleyball expert defends Vladimir Alekno

**BY FARROKH HESABI**  
Head coach of the Saipa volleyball team, Naser Shahnazi, opined about Iran national team's below-par performance in the 2021 FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League (VNL).

Shahnazi insisted that Russian head coach, Vladimir Alekno, has considered the 2021 VNL as a preparation phase for the 2020 Olympic Games.

"The national team's results at this tournament could arouse a lot of criticism against Alekno's side. However, the Russian coach had already emphasized that he wanted to know his players and give young players a chance to gain experience," the Iranian expert said.

Iran have lost seven matches in the Nations League so far and now sit in 11th place of the 16-team standings. The Persians 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.

"In a normal situation, we should not lose many of these games, such as the matches against Germany, Japan, Australia, etc. But the point is that Alekno has recently started his work in Iran and the ultimate goal is to prepare for the Olympic Games. So, the results are not considered important, and he should not come under criticism.

"However, there are some concerning issues regarding the team. After five or six games, it seems that Alekno found the main lineup of his side, and after that, he gave little opportunity to other players to play. A paradox lies in the heart of what the head coach had said about giving a chance to all players and what he is doing about relying on only a few specific players," Shahnazi added.

Milad Ebadipour, the experienced spiker of the Iran national team, has been the target of much of the blame in the tournament due to his sub-par display.

"It is not right to criticize one player. Milad has always worked hard for our national team and has been one of the best players in recent years. His level of performance is not just his fault, but it's also related to the coach and the team's tactics. We need a ready and fresh Milad Ebadipour in the Olympics, and the head coach must help him," Shahnazi concluded.

The Iranian men's squad will play a 15-match preliminary round until June 23. The top four countries advance to the semifinals and finals.

## IRCS to open hospital in Afghanistan

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) will inaugurate a hospital in the city of Zaranj in Afghanistan, Farid Moradian, deputy head of IRCS for health, treatment and rehabilitation, has announced.

Located in Nimroz province in southwestern Afghanistan, the 32-bed hospital is ready for operation, he said, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Referring to the services that will be provided in this hospital, he explained that the medical center has a general operating room, gynecology, pediatrics, dental departments, dermatology, maternity and midwifery services, ultrasound, laboratory, nursing services, vaccinations, pharmacy, general practitioner and specialist.

A hospital has also been set up in Kabul city that is being equipped and prepared, he concluded.

### IRCS services worldwide

At present, the Iranian Red Crescent Society

provides medical services to people in 13 Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

Currently, some 14 medical facilities are offering humanitarian, relief, and health services to the deprived people in 13 countries, including Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Congo, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, and Ecuador.

The IRCS polyclinic center includes various departments such as laboratory, pharmacy, radiology and physiotherapy, and general practitioners along with obstetricians, gynecologists, internal medicine, pediatrics, ophthalmologists, and dentists

The important point in establishing medical centers abroad is that all of these centers are self-governing and earn their income by providing services to patients in the mentioned countries," Karim Hemmati, IRCS head, noted on January 13.

## Deadly clashes in Yemen as Saudi Arabia targeted with 17 drones

Fresh battles have erupted between Yemeni forces and militants loyal to Saudi Arabia in Yemen's strategic northern city of Marib. The clashes are reported to have left 16 pro-Saudi militants killed. Yemeni forces are seeking to liberate the city, the last stronghold for Saudi Arabia in the country, and the city's surrounding oil fields. Sources close to the Saudi-backed militants told AFP that Yemeni forces "launched attacks on various fronts".

According to Yemen's al-Masirah news channel, Saudi warplanes launched some 17 airstrikes on different sites in the wider Marib province. Saudi airstrikes have been heavily condemned for killing civilians. The United Nations Human Rights Office says "it is seriously concerned at the continued impact of fighting on civilians and targeting of civilian objects in Marib province.

We urge all parties to the conflict to go back to the negotiating table and agree on a nationwide ceasefire".

The renewed clashes in Marib come after a diplomatic push by the United Nations and regional countries to secure a ceasefire in the country hit a brick wall. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia confirmed that the Kingdom has been targeted by at least 17 armed drones launched by Yemeni forces. A spokesman for Yemen's popular Ansarullah forces had said that the movement targeted a military base in Saudi Arabia's southwestern city of Khamis Mushait with an armed drone. Saudi Arabian says Khamis Mushait was targeted again with another two drones, while eight drones had been fired towards the south of the Kingdom, one of which was aimed at the city of Najran.

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## Magnificent ancient places on Earth: The Gate of Xerxes

TEHRAN - The bronze trumpets that once signaled the arrival of important foreign delegations to Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the mighty Achaemenid Empire, may now be silent, but it is still possible to capture the sense of awe while visiting the colossal Gate of Xerxes.

Built during the reign of Achaemenid king Xerxes I (r. 486 – 465 BC), who called this his Gate of All Nations, the pillared entrance is guarded by bearded and hooved mythical figures in the

style of Assyrian gate-guards.

On arrival at Persepolis one is confronted by an imposing wall, completely smooth and plain, about 15 meters tall: this is the artificial terrace on which the palaces were built. This vast terrace of Persepolis, some 450 meters long and 300 meters wide, was originally fortified on three sides by a tall wall. The only access was from the monumental staircase, which leads to the Gate of All Nations.

The gateway bears a cuneiform inscription in Old Persian, Neo-Babylonian, and Elamite languages declaring, among other things, that Xerxes is responsible for the construction of this and many beautiful wonders in Persia. Centuries of graffitiists have also left their mark, including explorer Henry Morton Stanley.

A pair of colossal bulls guarded the western entrance; two man-bulls stood at the eastern doorway.

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## Iran's new government will play prominent role in the region: analyst

### BY REZA MOSHFEGH

TEHRAN – An Iraqi analyst believes that due to new regional arrangements Iran will play a prominent role in West Asia under the leadership of Ebrahim Raisi who was elected Iranian president in the June 18 elections.

Raisi, the Judiciary chief, won the presidential election in Iran with a huge margin. From a total of about 29 million votes, Raisi succeeded to win about 18 million. The president-elect will take the power in mid-August.

"Americans have decided to begin a remarkable withdrawal of their forces from the region, which draws a map of new balances in which Iran's Raisi will have a prominent role," Ali Fahim tells the Tehran Times.

Many political observers predict that Ebrahim Raisi's victory in the election will result in more Iranian support for resistance groups.

"The arrival of Mr. Ibrahim Raeisi to the helm of power gives a great moral impetus to the resistance axis because of his personal characteristics, personal biography, honorable history, and seriousness in dealing with pivotal issues, especially since he is attributed to the revolutionary axis," Fahim argues.

**How do you see the results of the Iranian presidential election and its implications for the region and the wider world?**

The entire world witnessed the process of the recent Iranian elections, which was held amid special circumstances that the world in general and the region in particular are going through.

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## Locals enjoying coolness of Masal in the midst of summer

The nature of northern Iran, like a beautiful paradise on earth, is charming. In the midst of this superb paradise, there are villages with untouched nature that take you to a different world. Masal is the second highest city of Gilan after Rudbar. This city is located next to the Talesh Mountains and the Khalkaei River, which originates from the high peak of Shah Moallem. Villagers enjoy the greenness of leaves and trees nowadays.



## Rouhani directs economic committee to give economic reports to President-elect Raisi

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani has directed his cabinet's economic coordination committee to provide a report on the country's economic status to President-elect Ebrahim Raisi.

Rouhani on Sunday asked the board of directors to report on the state of the country's economy and the actions taken by his administration to Raisi.



At the meeting, Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh presented a report on Iran's oil sales, stating that after the United States pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal and imposed sanctions, and due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Iran's oil sales revenue decreased by 100 billion dollars over the last three years.

The report noted that the dependence of Iran's budget on oil sales has been reduced to a minimum of 10%. This is the first time in the country's history that it has drafted a

budget without oil revenues.

Rouhani told the meeting that providing basic supplies and medicines has always been the government's top priority during this period, and suggested that the same approach be taken for the rest of the year.

Ebrahim Raisi, the chief of the Judiciary, was elected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Iranian presidential elections on June 18.

## Iranian human rights body says U.S. relaxes sanctions after Iran produced own COVID-19 vaccine

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Republic of Iran High Council for Human Rights said on Sunday that the United States is issuing sanctions waivers for the coronavirus-related items after Iran produced its own COVID-19 vaccine.

"16 months after the virus began to spread, Iran has made its own vaccine. 82,000 Iranians have died from the coronavirus, and the United States is now issuing sanctions exemptions," the human rights body said on its official Twitter account.

Even during a war banning trade of essential goods, including medicine and medical equipment, is considered a violation of international law, it added.

"The demand of the Iranian nation is to lift illegal sanctions and punish those who impose sanctions," the organization wrote.

The U.S. Treasury Department recently issued a guide to pave the way for the delivery of masks, respirators, and vaccines to countries subject to severe sanctions such as Iran, Venezuela, and Syria to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

The guide contrasts with previous comments by U.S. officials that humanitarian goods are not sanctioned.

## Report: U.S. prevents lifting of sanctions on Iran

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — A detailed report by the Iranian Parliamentary Research Center (IPRC) has stated that the United States is putting up obstacles in lifting sanctions against Iran, Press TV reported on Sunday.

The IPRC stated that Washington has designed a network of "legal" barriers to make Iran's problems long-lasting by making nuclear and non-nuclear sanctions inseparable.

The United States will use various tools to prevent the Iranian economy from benefiting from the lifting of sanctions, even if it intends to lift the sanctions on paper, it added.



So far, The IPRC stated, the United States has not made efforts to increase the risk index of interaction and cooperation with Iran, and maintains the current level of cooperation risk for countries that wish to trade with Tehran.

It said that the United States has disrupted Iran's economic cooperation through formal rhetoric, media attacks, and informal pressure, exaggerated the shortcomings of cooperation with Iran, and increased the political and economic risks of cooperation with Iran.

The IPRC report has a major impact on the decisions of Iranian lawmakers.

In April, the research center stated in an in-depth report that it would take at least three months to verify whether the United States might lift sanctions on Tehran, and emphasized that the process cannot be completed in a few hours or days.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has stated that verification means that Iran should be able to sell its oil and obtain its funds under normal conditions.

The Biden administration admits that its predecessor's so-called "maximum pressure" campaign has failed, but so far it has not taken any practical measures to correct the mistakes.

Under the leadership of former President Donald Trump, the United States abandoned the 2015 multilateral nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Action Plan (JCPOA). The agreement imposed new non-nuclear sanctions.

Tehran has adopted a series of nuclear remedial measures in accordance with paragraph 36 of the JCPOA in response to violations.

The Islamic Republic insists that once the United States lifts all sanctions in one step and Iran verifies them, it will return to its original deal.

# Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan insist on close cooperation in terror fight, violent extremism

Chief Iranian, Turkish, and Afghan diplomats emphasize commitment to support a sovereign, independent, democratic and unified Afghanistan

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan held a trilateral meeting in Antalya on Sunday to discuss peace in Afghanistan.

At the meeting held during the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, Iran's Mohammad Javad Zarif, Turkey's Mevlut Cavusoglu, and Afghanistan's Mohammad Hanif Atmar emphasized the need for active cooperation between countries to contribute to the peace process, the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan and the region.

They also agreed on a plan to use the corridor crossing Iran to carry out transportation with Afghanistan and expand economic cooperation.

The three ministers issued a joint statement at the end of the meeting.

"On the occasion of the trilateral meeting, the three foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance solidarity and cooperation among the peoples of the three countries based on deep-rooted historical, religious and cultural commonalities and shared values that will serve to strengthen peace, stability, prosperity and cooperation in the region, underlined their commitment to further expand cooperation particularly in the areas that would contribute to economic progress and sustainable development," the statement said.

They also expressed their willingness to enhance their cooperation on regional connectivity in the fields of transport, trade, energy and infrastructure, in this regard agreed to conclude a memorandum of understanding, underlined the importance of further strengthening cooperation in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism in



all their forms and manifestations, transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and their precursors, and arms, human trafficking, crimes against cultural and historical heritage, cybercrimes and illegal migration, acknowledged the role of the regional and neighboring countries, in particular the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, in hosting Afghan refugees

and called for creating conducive conditions in Afghanistan for their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation.

The foreign ministers recognized the importance of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) as a substantial platform that contributes to regional stability in fields ranging from political and security cooperation to economic integration,

## Congratulations pour in on Raisi victory

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – A number of other foreign leaders and political figures have sent messages offering congratulating Iran's President-elect Ebrahim Raisi.

Among those who have recently congratulated Raisi are the Belarussian, Venezuelan, Cuban, Nicaraguan, Palestinian Authority President, Lebanese Hezbollah secretary general, former Iraqi prime minister, and president of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Raisi won the June 18 presidential election with a landslide victory, defeating his three other rivals with a wide margin.

Raeisi, Mohsen Rezaei, Abdolnasser Hemmati, and Amir Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi were competing in the elections.

From a total of 28,933,004 ballots, Raeisi succeeded to win 17,926,345 votes. However, Rezaei, Hemmati, and Qazizadeh won 3,412,712 votes, 2,427,201 votes, and 999,718 votes, respectively.

**Erdogan hopes poll results will lead to more prosperous Iran**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday congratulated Raisi on his success in Iran's presidential election.

According to the statement by Turkey's Communications Directorate, Erdogan wished that the poll results will lead to a more prosperous Iran.

Erdogan hoped that Turkey-Iran ties will strengthen during Raisi's presidency, saying he is ready for cooperation, the Hurriyet Daily News reported.

He added that he will be pleased to visit Iran for the forthcoming term meeting of the High-Level Cooperation Council once the COVID-19 pandemic ends.

**Qatar wishes development of ties during Raisi presidency**

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani sent a message to Raisi "wishing him success as well as further development and growth of the relations between the two countries," state news agency QNA said.

**Kuwait emir wishes Raisi success**

Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwait's emir, messaged Raisi, "wishing him further success and wellness, as well as the friendly Islamic Republic to further progress and prosper," according to KUNA state news agency.

**Kazakh president congratulates Raisi**

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has sent congratulatory telegram to the newly elected president of Iran.

In his telegram, President Tokayev on behalf of the people of Kazakhstan and on his own behalf congratulated Raisi, the Akorda press service said on Sunday.

"Your convincing victory in the elections is a clear demonstration of the support of your political course and programs aimed at the development and strengthening of your Motherland, as well as the fact that the Iranian people associate their future with you. In this regard, I would like to wish the Islamic Republic of Iran and its people well-being and further success in implementing your noble goals and initiatives," the telegram says.

President Tokayev also noted that he regards Iran as a friendly neighbor in the Caspian Sea region and one of Kazakhstan's reliable partners in the Islamic world. In addition, the president expressed confidence that the two countries will not only maintain the existing cooperation in the spirit of traditional friendship and mutual support, but will also be able to give it a new impetus and sense. He also expressed readiness to make joint efforts with the Iranian president to further strengthening close cooperation in bilateral and multilateral formats.

Tokayev wished Raisi every success in his responsible mission and marital bliss, as well as well-being and prosperity to the friendly people of Iran.

**Indian PM: I look forward to working with Raisi**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sun-

day that he is looking "forward to working with" Iranian president-elect to strengthen Delhi-Tehran ties.

"Congratulations to His Excellency Ebrahim Raisi on his election as President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I look forward to working with him to further strengthen the warm ties between India and Iran," Modi tweeted.

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind also congratulated Raisi, according to ANI. "I am confident our close and warm bilateral relations will continue to grow under your leadership," Kovind tweeted.

**Lukashenko: I hope you will overcome hurdles**

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko on Sunday congratulated the victory of Raisi in the Iranian presidential election, saying he is also felicitating this victory on behalf of the Belarussian people.

According to the Iranian embassy in Mins, in his message Lukashenko told Raisi, "I am sure that your rich managerial experiences will be a great support to you in this post."

The Belarussian president added, "I hope with your guidance Iran can overcome all foreign hurdles and achieve considerable progress in economic and social development and the friendly relations with Belarus will be strengthened in all areas as before."

Raisi will officially begin his work as president in mid-summer.

Lukashenko also wished success for Raisi and also peace and prosperity for the Iranian nation.

**Three Latin American presidents congratulate Raisi victory**

In separate message the president of Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua congratulated Raisi and the Iranian nation over the presidential election in Iran.

In a post on his Twitter page Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said, "I congratulate my brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran for their impeccable implementation of democratic process in the June 18 elections in which Mr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi was elected as the new president of Iran. Through unity we will continue our efforts for peace and consolidation of cooperation and brotherly relations between the two countries."

The Venezuelan presidential office also as President Maduro announced Caracas expresses full support for the Iranian president-elect and the revolutionary Iranian people for deepening unity between the two countries in their campaign for justice.

Through his official Twitter account, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel also sent warming greeting to the Iranian-president elect and wished success for him in conducting his duties.

Senior Nicaraguan officials also congratulated Raisi. In a message signed by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his deputy Rosario Maria Murillo Zambrana it has been stated that Nicaragua is sending its deepest congratulations on behalf of people and the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity to the Iranians for the presidential election.

**"Salam to Ebrahim"**

In his first reaction to the election of Raisi on Sunday, Nasrallah said "Salam to Ebrahim (hello to Ebrahim)" on his Twitter page.

Also, in a message issued on Sunday, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah congratulated President-elect Raisi.

In his message, the Hezbollah leader added, "I congratulate you for winning the trust of the great Iranian nation and being elected as the president at this sensitive juncture in the history of Iran."

He added freedom seekers and resistance fighters "consider you as a solid and strong supporter in the face of invaders."

On Saturday, Hezbollah posted photos of Raisi's meetings with Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Nasrallah and Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassem, leader of the Bahraini Shias.

**Ex-PM Maliki hopes Iraq-Iran ties will be strengthened to meet common interests**

Nouri al-Maliki, who was prime minister of Iraq from 2006 to 2014, expressed hope that brotherly relations between Iraq and Iraq would be strengthened during the presidency of Raisi in line with meeting the joint interests of the two neighboring countries.

In part of his message al-Maliki said, "We hope that this successful election of the Muslim and brotherly nation of Iran will help realize their wishes and purposes for welfare, development and removal of unjust sanctions."

He added, "We are eagerly waiting the relations between the people and the two countries will reach a high level, and the brotherly bonds and friendship based on abundant affinities will be consolidated in efforts to achieve common interests."

The former Iraqi leader went on to say that the Iranian nation through their vigilant participation in the election neutralized the enemies' biased propaganda and plots.

On Sunday, the office of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation also congratulated Raisi for winning the presidential election and called for closer ties between Afghanistan and Iran.

**Abdullah hopes Afghanistan-Iran ties will increase in war on terror, drug trade**

In the press release by the high council, which is led by Abdullah Abdullah, it has described Afghanistan and Iran as two neighbors and brothers with common religion, culture, and language who enjoy centuries-old friendly ties.

"We expect that with the victory of Mr. Ebrahim Raisi the relations between the two governments and nations will be increased and strengthened more and more in areas of culture, economy, campaign against drug trafficking and campaign against terrorism," the office said.

**Iraqi Kurdistan president congratulates Raisi**

Nichravan Barzani, president of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, also congratulated Iran's president-elect and expressed hope that relations will deepen between Irbil and Tehran and Baghdad and Tehran based on "good neighborliness and common interests".

"I hope that during the presidency of Raisi ties between the Kurdistan region and Iraq with the Islamic Republic of Iran will be consolidated based on good neighborliness, common interests, and cooperation will increase in the path to realizing security and stability for the two sides and region," Barzani said in his message.

So far a considerable number of Iraqi officials and figures from different political factions, including President Barham Salih, Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, Judiciary Chief Faegh Zeidan and Parliament Speaker Mohammed al-Halbusi have sent separate messages offering congratulations to Raisi.

According to a tweet from al-Kadhimi's office, the prime minister expressed his hopes for further cooperation on economic and security matters "in addition to the fight against terrorism, and in a way that boosts the security and stability of the two countries and the region," al-Jazeera reported.

In a press release on Sunday, the Palestinian embassy in Tehran also said Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has sent a message congratulating Raisi.

President Abbas has also said he is felicitating the president-elect on behalf of the Palestinian government and people.

Mahdi al-Mashat, head of the Houthi movement's political office, sent a message of congratulations to Raisi on his victory, al-Masirah TV reported.

On Saturday, other world leaders including Russian president, Pakistan's prime minister, UAE officials sent congratulatory messages on the victory of Raisi.

In his message, Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted, "On his landmark victory in the Islamic Republic of Iran's 13th Presidential elections. Look forward to working with him for further strengthening of our fraternal ties and for regional peace, progress and prosperity."

agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of migration and urged international community to increase technical and financial assistance to host countries in taking care of the essential needs of Afghan refugees and to provide support to the repatriation and reintegration efforts of the government of Afghanistan, and emphasized their commitment to support a sovereign, independent, democratic and unified Afghanistan.

They also deplored the continuing high level of violence in Afghanistan and particularly condemned attacks targeting civilians, reiterated that a sustainable peace can be achieved only through an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process that aims a permanent and nationwide ceasefire as well as an inclusive political settlement, and declared their ongoing support to the Afghan peace negotiations for the achievement of a just and durable political settlement.

The ministers also reiterated the importance of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and its full implementation by all sides for the security and economic welfare of the region and beyond, recognized the important role of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as a platform for promoting economic cooperation between Afghanistan and other countries in the region and beyond, and reiterated their commitment to cooperation and solidarity during the COVID-19 pandemic, and working with the spirit of cooperation, unity and solidarity to protect the health of all our citizens, and make efforts to ensure equitable access to the vaccine.

Foreign ministers and international figures from different countries attended the Antalya forum.



# Saudis may see opportunity in Raisi win to mend ties with Iran

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** – With a new president taking the helm in Tehran, relations between Iran and some neighboring Arab states seem to be moving in a direction of de-escalation given the momentum of peace generated in the wake of Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi's win in Iran's presidential election.

Ayatollah Raisi has long been depicted by foreign media as a politician with conservative views. Some even called him a "hardliner" who is going to face difficulty improving Iran's relations with the international community. But exactly the opposite is going to happen, at least with some of Iran's Arab neighbors who long complained about outgoing President Hassan Rouhani lacking enough powers to mend ties with them.

Saudi Arabia and its allies such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain have been at loggerheads with Iran since at least 2016 when Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with Iran, prompting its allies to follow suit or lower their diplomatic ties with Iran. They also mounted a fierce campaign against a 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), between Iran and major world powers. The underlying reason for Saudi Arabia to oppose the JCPOA was that it did not address regional issues of interest to the Saudis.

Facing a Saudi-led campaign against the JCPOA, Iran sought to allay its Arab neighbors' concerns over the nuclear deal by presenting a peace initiative called the Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE). But the Saudis refused to discuss the initiative, noting that it was the brainchild of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, whom they always accused of being detached from power circles in Tehran.

As Joe Biden was elected U.S. president in November 2020, Iran once again presented the HOPE initiative, knowing that the Saudis would pressure the new U.S. administration into giving them a seat at the negotiating table with Iran. In January 2021, as Biden took over from Donald Trump, Zarif wrote a lengthy article in the influential Foreign Affairs Magazine articulating Iran's position on a number of nuclear and regional issues. In that article, Zarif expressed willingness to resolve differences in the region, once again floating Iran's Hormuz Peace Endeavor as a forum to soothe the tensions. He said Iran is willing to discuss the problems of the region. "But the peoples of the region, not outsiders, must resolve these issues. Neither the United States nor its European allies have the prerogative to lead or sponsor future talks. Rather, the Persian Gulf region needs an inclusive regional mechanism to encourage diplomacy and cooperation and to lower the risk of miscalculation and conflict," Zarif stated.

The Iranian foreign minister once again presented Iran's Hormuz Peace Endeavor, which Iran presented to the UN General Assembly in September 2019.

Zarif said the region's countries can use



this forum to "address anxieties with confidence-building measures, resolve grievances through dialogue, and engage in mutually beneficial efforts to solve shared problems and safeguard collective interests."

"HOPE is not a blueprint for the future—any permanent arrangement has to be arrived at collectively by all regional powers. But the proposal reflects Iran's aspiration for a strong, stable, peaceful, and prosperous community of countries, free from the impositions of regional or global hegemony," the foreign minister pointed out.

A few days later, spokesman for Iranian Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh voiced Iran's readiness to patch up ties with Saudi Arabia. The spokesman pointed out that if Riyadh seriously puts policy reforms on its agenda and concludes that the solution to problems lies in "regional cooperation," Iran will be the first country to welcome these reforms.

"We have always underlined that regional countries should arrive at a common understanding regarding the regional problems," he stated, noting that such understanding would help establish a "security mechanism" that could be used to govern the region.

Khatibzadeh voiced Iran's readiness to negotiate with Saudi Arabia if it changes tack, adding that Iran is ready to address Saudi concerns regarding Iran.

"The Saudis may have some concerns, and by the way, we emphasize that we need to talk about these concerns. The Hormuz Peace Endeavor was in the context of talking about these issues. Some concerns may be illusions that open the door to other powers in the region, and we are even willing to talk about these illusory and imaginary concerns," the spokesman continued.

The remarks came after Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan claimed that their hands are extended to Iran to make peace, though he accused Iran of not complying with agreements and not being "serious about talks with Riyadh."

In April, Iran resumed talks with the remaining parties to the JCPOA in Vienna. So far, six rounds of talks have been held

and they continue to be held in the coming weeks. The main goal of the talks is to revive the JCPOA by reaching an agreement on the arrangements needed for Iran and the U.S. to resume full compliance with the deal.

In parallel with the Vienna talks, Iran also held private talks with Saudi Arabia in Baghdad in April. The Baghdad talks were mainly designed to assess the seriousness of both sides in addressing issues of interest to Iran and Saudi Arabia.

While Iranian and Saudi security officials were busy talking to each other in Baghdad, Zarif embarked on a new regional tour to deepen and expand Iran's ties amid reports of a possible thaw in Iranian-Saudi relations. Zarif visited Qatar, Iraq and Oman.

"For the Islamic Republic of Iran, relations with Qatar and all other Persian Gulf littoral states are very important. The Sunday visit of his Excellency Dr. Zarif to Doha in the context of expanding and deepening bilateral relations with Qatar, especially after the recent developments in the region and the world, is very promising," Hamidreza Dehghani, Iran's ambassador to Qatar, said on Twitter at the time of Zarif's visit.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman expressed willingness to mend ties with Iran following Zarif's tour, raising hopes of a thaw in Tehran-Riyadh relations after more than five years of tensions.

"At the end of the day, Iran is a neighboring country. All we ask for is to have a good and distinguished relationship with Iran," the crown prince said.

"We do not want the situation with Iran to be difficult. On the contrary, we want it to prosper and grow as we have Saudi interests in Iran, and they have Iranian interests in Saudi Arabia, which is to drive prosperity and growth in the region and the entire world," he added.

At the same time, the Saudi crown prince highlighted "problems" with Iran, hoping that his country would be able to overcome these problems.

"We are working now with our partners in the region and the world to find solutions for these problems. We really hope we would

overcome them and build a good and positive relationship with Iran that would benefit all parties," bin Salman said.

Iran welcomed the change in Saudi Arabia's tone, expressing hope of a beginning for convergence among Muslim countries.

"By presenting proposals and initiatives for dialogue and cooperation in the Persian Gulf region, including the Hormuz Peace Endeavour, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been a pioneer in the path of amity and regional cooperation, and welcomes the change in Saudi Arabia's tone," Khatibzadeh said in a statement, responding to bin Salman's remarks.

But the incipient warmth in relations did not result in détente between the two regional heavyweights, even though the Rouhani government continued to send messages of rapprochement to the Saudis.

During his appearance in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, Zarif touched on the Iranian-Saudi dialogue, voicing readiness to dispatch an ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

"We have had three rounds of talks with Saudi Arabia in Baghdad, our representation was inclusive. We had representatives from Supreme National Security Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Intelligence, and the military," Zarif said.

He added, "Our neighborhood doctrine is that we are bound to live together forever. We will remain in the neighborhood; others come and go."

"I am ready to send an ambassador to Saudi Arabia tomorrow. It depends on them. There is no reason that we should not be able to resolve our conflicts," Zarif stated, indicating that restoration of ties with Riyadh depended on a Saudi decision.

As usual, the Saudis didn't openly respond to the Iranian foreign minister's offer of de-escalation. But this silence may soon come to an end with Raisi taking charge. The Saudis have long expressed dismay at Rouhani's alleged lack of power to create real change in the status quo of the Iranian-Saudi relations. But with Raisi assuming office in August, they will have no excuse to shun Iran's offers of opening a new chapter in the two countries' relations.

The UAE's reaction to Raisi's win gave some substance to this analysis. The Emiratis have been close allies of the Saudis and they rarely make strategic changes to their ties with Iran.

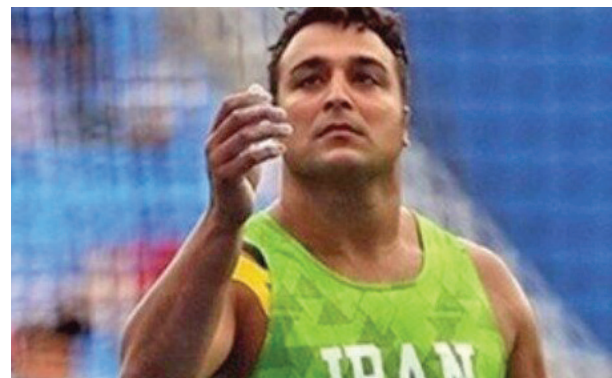
Leaders of the UAE congratulated Raeisi on his election, the UAE state news WAM reported. UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan sent a message of congratulations to Raisi on winning Iran's presidential election. In addition to Sheikh Khalifa, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, have also dispatched similar messages of congratulations to Ayatollah Raisi.

## SPORTS

### Hadadi can participate at Tokyo 2020, official says

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** - Secretary general of Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) Keykavous Saeidi says that Ehsan Hadadi has no problem taking part at the 2020 Olympic Games.

The media reports had suggested that the discus thrower would likely miss the Olympics due to the spinal injury. Hadadi has returned from the U.S. to get treatment in Tehran.



Now, the top official of Iran's NOC says that Hadadi will participate at the Games.

"Based on what the Iran's Athletic Federation has said, Hadadi is doing physiotherapy and it depends to his ability to participate at the Olympic Games. He has already secured his spot and will partake in the Games if he is completely ready," Saeidi said.

Saeidi also said the Iran's flagbearer will be introduced the next week.

"All of Iranian athletes have been vaccinated for the Games. The Iranian delegation gets prepared according to the plan for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games," he stated.

Iran has so far secured 63 quota places for the 2020 Olympic Games.

The Tokyo Games is expected to have 11,091 athletes from 205 countries competing in its 339 events, including the five sports it asked to have added to the program: baseball-softball, karate, skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing. Of this total, some 73.7% will compete only in Tokyo and in no other Games.

### Iran basketball to play friendlies with Japan

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** – Iran national basketball team will play Japan three friendly matches as part of preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

The Iranian team left Tehran on Saturday. Iran have been drawn in Group A of the Olympics along with the world's No. 1 the U.S. and France.

Mehran Shahintab's team will play Japan B on Tuesday and then will meet their main team on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Iran have been also invited to Spain. After the Tokyo's camp, the team will travel to Spain to meet them twice in Valencia and Madrid.

### Azmoun shortlisted for Asian Qualifiers Player of the Month

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** – Iran forward Sardar Azmoun has been shortlisted for the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers Player of the Month.

Some of Asia's biggest names produced the heroics required to keep their respective nations' FIFA World Cup dreams alive, and they were joined by new faces eager to leave a mark of their own.

An elite 12 teams remain in contention for a place at next year's global showpiece, but which player played the biggest role in shaping their side's destiny? Who was the outstanding player in Asia's momentous month?

Sardar Azmoun is one of them. He scored three goals in three games for Iran national football team, the-afc.com reported.

Iran arrived in Bahrain with four Group C matches remaining and their Qatar 2022 hopes very much in the balance. Had their fans known Sardar Azmoun would show up in such blistering form they mightn't have worried.

The Zenit star was simply electric for Dragan Sko?i?s side, scoring twice in the crucial win against Bahrain before netting the decisive goal against Iraq which sent the Iranians to the top of the group, taking his international tally to an exceptional 37 goals in 55 matches in the process.

Azmoun will have to compete with Mahmoud Al Mawas (Syria), Wu Lei (China PR), Harry Souttar (Australia), Salem Al Dawsari (Saudi Arabia), Abdullah Fawaz (Oman), Takumi Minamoto (Japan), Ali Mabkhout (UAE) and Son Heung-min (Korea Republic) to win the accolade.

### Ronaldo moves within just two goals of Daei's record

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** – Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo scored against Germany and moved within just two goals of Ali Daei's international record.

Portugal lost to Germany 4-2 in Group F of the Euro 2020 but Ronaldo scored his team's first goal.

Overall, Ronaldo has scored 107 goals for Portugal and trails Daei's (109 goals) for the most international goals in history.

Ronaldo can add to his international goal in the match against France, slated for Wednesday.

### Hossein Shams to be named as Iraq futsal coach: report

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** – Long-serving coach Hossein Shams has been linked with a move to Iraq futsal team.

IrqSport has tweeted that the Iranian coach is a candidate to take charge of Iraqi national futsal team.

Shams led Iran in two stints from 1998 to 2000 and 2006 to 2011.

The 60-year-old coach has most recently coached Iranian futsal club Gitipasad.

Iraq prepare for the 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup in Turkmenistan.

## JCPOA parties conclude sixth round of Vienna talks

**→1** Araqchi, while referring to the progress made in this round of negotiations, especially regarding the draft of negotiation texts, said that the remaining important issues require serious decisions in the capitals, especially in the negotiating countries. He called on the negotiating parties to make the necessary decisions with realism, seriousness and strong will to maintain and revive the JCPOA.

While stating that we are closer to an agreement than ever before, the deputy foreign minister expressed hope that an agreement could be reached in the next round of talks, although it could not be guaranteed.

The heads of the other delegations, while confirming the progress made, stressed the need for the participation of all parties with a constructive approach in creating the ground for reaching an agreement.

In remarks to Iran's state TV ahead of the JCPOA Joint Commission, Araqchi said all texts of the agreement are almost ready and that all parties involved in the talks need to make decisions.

He said, "Today is the last day of the sixth round of talks, and we have gone through very difficult days. We are now in a situation where we think almost all the agreement documents are ready. The main issues of contention that remain, some issues have been resolved and some issues still remain, but



it has taken a very precise form and it is quite clear what the dimensions of these disputes are."

"I think the time has come for our negotiating parties to decide, because the scene of negotiations and a possible agreement is quite clear. They have to make their own decisions. It is now clear what areas [are solvable], what is possible and what is not possible. So, it's time for all parties, especially those facing us, to make their final

decision. So, for a few days, which I cannot say exactly how many days it is, we will stop the talks and return to the capitals. Not just for further consultation, but for decision making," he continued.

The top Iranian nuclear negotiator added, "My colleagues had very difficult days and worked on the documents until late at night. Last night, they worked until 2 in the morning on the last sheet of documents and the last answers that had to be given. Anyway, you know that indirect negotiation is not an easy task and to avoid misunderstandings, it is necessary to work much more carefully and with more details and prepare the material."

Araqchi noted, "Every round we negotiated, we made progress, some rounds of less progress and some rounds of more. I think we have made good progress this round and, as I said before, we are now closer to an agreement than ever before, but the gap between us and the agreement now is not easy to fill and requires decisions that need to be made by the other side. I hope that in the next round, we will go through this short distance, although it is hard work and we will be able to reach a final conclusion."

He concluded, "This is my hope for the next round, but it is certainly not possible to predict whether we will be able to do it in the next round or not, but I am very hopeful."

## President-elect Raeisi: I'll form a hard-working, anti-corruption administration

Iran's President-elect Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi on Saturday lauded the "historic" and "passionate" turnout in the June 18 election, which he won overwhelmingly, vowing to make good on his campaign pledges and work to form a "hard-working, revolutionary, and anti-corruption" administration.

"Yesterday, the world once again witnessed a great epic created by an upstanding nation, which opened a new page in modern history before itself with faith, insight and solidarity," Raeisi said in a statement on Saturday evening, hours after he was declared winner of Iran's 13th presidential election.

He added that the one who was elected in the June 18 presidential election belongs to the whole nation and is a "servant of the Republic

in its entirety, whether those who voted for him or the ones who chose the other honorable candidates, or even those who did not turn up at the ballot boxes for whatever reason.

Raeisi, currently serving as the Judiciary chief, thanked the Iranians for all the support they threw behind him and said the winner of the "brilliant spectacle" on the world stage was the great nation of Iran, echoing Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

"Dear Iranian nation! You made good on your pledge yesterday with all honesty, and today, it is the turn of...this servant of yours to honor the pledge I made to you and not be negligent, event for a single second, in serving you," Raeisi said.

"Dear people of Iran, just as I entered the election [scene] independently, God willing, I will form a hard-working, revolutionary, and anti-corruption administration, with the backing of your votes and the unique trust you put in me," he added.

As the "central mission of the Islamic Revolution," he added, his administration would move toward establishing justice and launching a great campaign of providing service to the Iranians.

Raeisi also expressed gratitude for all those in charge of holding the election, journalists, media workers, and social media activists, who pave the way for a "vigorous turnout" in the election, despite all the acts of mischief on the part of enemies.

He became president after winning over 60 percent of the votes cast in the Friday election.

Raeisi has been the chief of Iran's Judiciary since 2019. The Muslim cleric has formerly held several other posts in Iran's judicial branch since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Raeisi is associated with the Principlist camp, but he said he ran in the election this year as an independent when he announced his presidential bid last month.

He was campaigning with the slogan "Popular Administration, Strong Iran" on a platform of uprooting corruption in the executive branch, fighting poverty, creating jobs, containing inflation, and corruption. (Source: Press TV)



## Issuance of industrial unit establishment permits rises 27% in 2 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — According to the latest data released by Iran's Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21) 6,489 permits have been issued for establishing new industrial units in the country, which marked a 27-percent increase year on year.

The estimated investment making for these units was more than 1.316 quadrillion rials (about \$31.333 billion).

The units are predicted to create jobs for 176,002 persons. As announced by Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki, the issuance of establishment licenses for industrial units in the country increased 40 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).



“The number of establishment licenses increased to more than 36,000 last year, which shows that people are encouraged to invest in the productive sectors”, the official has stated.

He also said that over 6,500 new industrial units were established across the country during the past year, which created jobs for over 121,000 people.

The official further said that 1,500 idle industrial units have been revived in the country during the previous year.

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

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

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

Iran's industrial parks play a significant role in making the country independent through boosting production, which is a major strategy of Iran to combat the U.S. sanctions.

In fact, strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance is the most important program that Iran is following up in its industry sector in a bid to nullify the effects of the U.S. sanctions on its economy.

## TEDPIX gains 1,600 points on Sunday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 1,691 points to 1.163 million on Sunday.

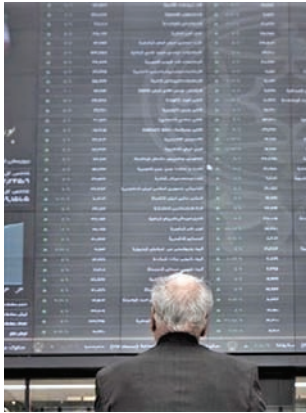
Over 7.214 billion securities worth 50.152 trillion rials (about \$1.194 billion) were traded at the TSE on Sunday.

The first market's index fell 2,164 points, while the second market's index rose 15,072 points.

TEDPIX 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.



sented 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, the 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.

# Exports of dried fruits, nuts up 36% in 2 months yr/yr

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The value of the Iranian exports of dried fruits, nuts and seeds in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21) increased by 36 percent compared to the same period last year, a senior official at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said.

According to Mahmoud Bazari, director-general of TPO's Export Coordination Office for agro crops and processing industry products, 96,000 tons of the mentioned products worth \$212 million were exported to foreign destinations in the mentioned two months.

Despite the limitations created by the coronavirus pandemic and the U.S. sanctions, the exports of the mentioned products also increased by 25 percent in terms of weight in the said period, Bazari said.

As reported by IRIB, pistachio had the biggest share in the export basket of the said products, accounting for \$122 million of the total exports.

The official noted that some 18,000 tons



of pistachios were exported in the period under review, registering 43 percent and

50 percent increase in terms of value and weight, respectively.

## Over \$2.3b of facilities paid to SMEs, semi-finished projects in 2 months

**ECONOMY** and since then over 7,660 production units and SMEs have registered for receiving the mentioned loans of which 2,766 cases have received the facilities.

Based on the mentioned program, 201.299 trillion rials of facilities (about \$4.79 billion) were paid to SMEs and semi-finished projects to support domestic production and maintain or create job opportunities in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

CBI has defined supporting production as one of its major plans over the past two years.

Former CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati has

repeatedly stressed that supporting production units to flourish production is the priority of the country's banking system.

In early May 2019, Hemmati had outlined CBI plans for neutralizing or relieving the impact of U.S. sanctions on the country's economy and mentioned providing liquidity and working capital to maintain and boost domestic production as one of those plans.

CBI's plans take two major approaches, one of which is to secure finance for production activities and also to provide the working capital needed for such activities.



## Research institutes ink MOU to co-study Oman Sea gas reserves

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Research Institute of Petroleum Industry (RIPI) and the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in studying gas hydrate resources in the Oman Sea, Shana reported.

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) had awarded the project for the study of Oman Sea gas hydrate resources to RIPI back in the Iranian calendar year 1397 (started in March 2018).

RIPI was supposed to work on the project in collaboration with NIOC's Exploration Department in an executive four-year program.



The mentioned project has been defined in 11 different sections, in two of which the institute is going to cooperate with the National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science.

Speaking on the sidelines of the signing ceremony, IRIP Head Jafar Tofiqi underlined the significance of the cooperation between the two institutes and said: “This cooperation is very valuable because it is for a major national project in terms of technical knowledge and I am optimistic that with the cooperation of the two research institutes we can implement this project well.”

“Considering the energy capacities of the country on land and sea, fortunately, exploration projects are among the important programs of the Oil Ministry,” Tofiqi said, adding: “This project is of special importance for the NIOC exploration Department as the employer, so it is necessary to use the

knowledge and executive capacities of both parties to be able to complete the project successfully.”

Field studies, research for boosting the recovery factor of oil and gas reservoirs, drilling-related research projects, and several other exploration projects are among the projects that are being pursued and carried out by the RIPI, the official said.

RIPI was initially established under the title of the “Iran Petroleum Industry Research Development Office” in 1959. Its primary aim was to carry out research on the application of petroleum materials.

The main strategy of PIRI is creating value-added via the development and indigenization of new technologies used in the oil industry.

## NIOC uses homemade downhole gauges in exploration wells for 1st time

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The Exploration Department of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has announced the successful installation of domestically-made downhole gauges in some oil exploration wells in the country.

The mentioned gauges have been set in Raam and Genaveh wells during formations testing operation using full-bore DTS tool, Shana reported.

As reported, in the mentioned trial operation, domestically-made gauges and gauge carriers were used to record pressure and temperature data.

Despite the high pressure during the acidification operation, and the high temperature, and the long test operation time, the gauges successfully recorded pressure and temperature information the carriers also performed well.

The design and manufacturing of the mentioned gauges and their carriers were all done by Iranian experts and engineers.

NIOC has been signing deals with capable domestic companies for manufacturing all kinds of oil industry equipment,



including downhole tools and equipment, pumps, types of drill bits, all kinds of control and safety valves, and accessory equipment, as well as various pipe types, explosion-proof

electro motors, turbines, compressors, alloy steels, drilling measuring tools, and etc.

Following the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions and the problems caused by high volatility and rising exchange rates in the country's currency market, Iran's oil ministry was faced with some problems regarding the supply of necessary equipment in the oil industry, so it applied new strategies to focus more on domestic production.

Last week, Iranian Vice-President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari said that 80 percent of the products that are being produced for the first time in the country are related to the oil industry.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Oil Industry Innovation and Technology Park on June 14, Sattari stressed the significant role of knowledge-based companies and startups in indigenizing the knowledge for the production of new equipment and products, saying: “The government will support research on new equipment and the private sector invests on the mass production of the final products.”



During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commodities were traded at the mentioned market.

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

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

## IME's value of weekly trades up 18%

chemical trading floor valued at nearly \$167 million.

Based on this report, the IME's customers purchased on this floor, 85,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 154,368 tons of bitumen, 66,580 tons of polymeric products, 31,155 tons of chemicals, 38,000 tons of lube cut, 110 tons of argon, 1,270 tons of sulfur, 455 tons of insulation, 1,976 tons of PDA TAR and 4,750 tons of base oil & slack wax.

Also, the exchange played host to trading of 1,973 tons of commodities on its side market.

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

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

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

On this floor the exchange traded 1.189 million tons of steel, 12,780 tons of copper, 480 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 48 tons of precious metals concentrate, 11,690 tons of aluminum, 239,000 tons of iron ore, 1,000 tons of zinc, 400 tons of coke, 10,000 tons of sponge iron and 250 tons of lead.

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

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

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

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



# Iran's new government will play prominent role in the region: analyst

➔1 The previous stage was accompanied by circumstances that might be difficult in some aspects, especially with regard to the Corona pandemic on the one hand, which cast a shadow over the economy of all countries without exception.

Iran faced unjust U.S. sanctions on the other hand, and Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal, in addition to the exacerbation of many crises and the militarily tense in the region, especially in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Palestine, Lebanon and other countries.

There are a lot of countries experiencing military conflicts in which the resistance movement receives direct support from Iran not only in the Middle East (West Asia) but in Venezuela and South America. All of these factors impacted Iranian politics and the results of the current elections.

The West, America, Israel and some Arab countries that follow American policies in the region bet on finding a flaw in the Iranian election process by working to encourage the people to boycott the elections.

They made every effort to question Iran's legitimacy internationally and thus question election results, especially after most of the qualified candidates were critical of the Western camp.

That is why the Western attack on the election was very fierce, supported by opinion polls that nominated the turnout rate between 20-25%, while the formal results announced by the Ministry of Interior shows 48.8%.

It was a large rate if we take into account the risk of the Corona pandemic and its effects on the decision of the masses about gathering and mobilizing in narrow areas.

Add to it the reluctance of many voters due to the frustration of Iranians, especially the youth, as a result of the difficult economic conditions. So, we can say the strict and harsh U.S. sanctions affected the election.

Thus, this election sent a set of messages, the first of which is that the "campaigns of boycott" failed to change the awareness of the Iranian people, who are in harmony with their authorities.

In Iran, the public interest prevailed over individual interests, and this was clear from the participation of all groups of Iranian society and all its ethnic and political spectrums.

The second message is that the principles and causes of the Islamic Revolution are still present in the mentality of the Iranian people, and it was not affected by Western propaganda and their media outlets.

Iranians remained aware and alert, despite the unjust economic sanctions and the



economic blockade. The U.S. attempts not only failed to discourage Iranian people, but on the contrary, it was a pivotal factor in the people's rallying around their leadership and strengthening their trust in them.

The fate of the country and domestic politics is in the ballot boxes only, and it contains a message for dictatorial regimes that do not differentiate between fruit boxes and ballot boxes, as described by Imam Khamenei.

According to the Iranian leader, the strength of Iran as a political system is in freedom of choice, expression of opinion, and the peaceful transfer of power.

These monarchies that criticize the Islamic Republic of Iran lack democratic institutions and elections.

**What is the impact of the Iranian elections on the resistance front?**

Iranian foreign policy principles cannot be changed, including support for the axis of resistance.

This approach has been constant in all governments of the Islamic Republic since its birth until today. The elections may have a slight impact on foreign policy and methods in supporting the resistance front but the strategy is not changeable.

However, the arrival of Mr. Ibrahim Raeisi to the helm of power gives a great moral impetus to the resistance axis because of his personal characteristics, personal biography, honorable record, and seriousness in dealing with pivotal issues, especially since he is linked to the revolutionary movement.

I refer to his speech in which he pledged to form a persevering and revolutionary government. For all this, it can be said that the

next stage will witness distinct support and a great renaissance for the resistance axis, which is different from what came before.

**Why is the Western camp trying to present an extremist image of the new Iranian president?**

The media in the Western and Arab world tries to portray the Islamic Republic in a stereotypical way that it is a violent and extremist state, as George Bush the Jr. placed Iran within the axis of evil. This is U.S. constant policy to accuse Iranian officials and presidents, including those who were open to the West.

However, with the arrival of President Ibrahim Raeisi, the campaign preceded the election by calling him an extremist and hardliner and other descriptions that contained hidden messages, to designate him within U.S. sanctions.

However, the United States today has to deal with Mr. Raeisi as a reality or a status-quo as he is the president of the Islamic Republic.

Americans are negotiating with Iranians indirectly to restore the nuclear deal to its previous track and rejoin the agreement without preconditions.

**What are your expectations regarding the Israeli response to the Iranian-Western negotiations in Vienna and the recent elections?**

Israel tried with everything it could to spoil the nuclear agreement. It even tried to ignite war in the region more than once, but in every attempt it failed, especially since the former Zionist regime's Prime Minister Netanyahu tried to use this card to win elections by fabricating a lot of harassment against

the Islamic Republic including by targeting Iranian ships, cyber-attacks and others.

But the wisdom of the Islamic Republic thwarted the Zionist plan until Netanyahu was removed.

The new Prime Minister Bennett despite his disagreement with the nuclear deal and his opposition to America's return to the agreement believes that any new agreement will be worse than the 2015 agreement. In this regard, IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi was sent to meet with senior American officials regarding the agreement.

**How do you see the future of Iran's relations with Persian Gulf Arab states in the future after the June 18 presidential election and Saudi Arabia's return to the negotiating table with Iran and Syria?**

President-elect Ibrahim Raeisi was clear, even in 2017, during his election campaigns, when he proposed dialogue and cooperation with all neighboring countries, including the (Persian) Gulf countries, especially with Saudi Arabia.

It is no secret that several meetings were held between Iran and Saudi Arabia with the mediation of Iraq in Baghdad to resolve outstanding problems and to reach solutions that satisfy all parties.

Mr. Raeisi will work on continuation of these meetings. He wants a stable and secure region, by reducing tensions, and pulling the rug out from under the feet of those who want to ignite war in the region by their proxies.

This project is what martyr General Qassem Soleimani was working on until his martyrdom.

We have seen the change in the rhetoric of the crown prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Besides the Saudis have taken positive steps to restore diplomatic relations with Syria, and I believe that the map of the region will move towards gradual stability because the approaches taken by the countries are heading towards economic growth and stopping wars and bleeding.

Today China is playing a pivotal role in regional balances. That is why Iran moved towards a strategic agreement with China and the U.S. pays attention to the Chinese danger.

In this regard, Americans have decided to begin a remarkable withdrawal of its forces from the region, which draws a map of new balances in which Iran's Raeisi will have a prominent role.

## Boris Johnson gifting Biden a picture of Frederick Douglass insults those who respect what Douglass stood for

By Richard Sudan

At the recent G7 summit of political leaders, the opportunity arose for Prime Minister Boris Johnson, of the United Kingdom to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden.

Although a formal affair, custom dictates that the two leaders of the respective nations usually exchange gifts, as has been the case for many years. Britain and the U.S. of course enjoy a longstanding so-called special relationship stretching back many years and the press and the world often look for signs that this relationship between the leaders of the so-called free world remains solid.

And so, the meeting between the two leaders is always anticipated, and no doubt meticulously planned out by the offices of both leaders. Nothing is by accident. As well as the practical reasons for leaders' meeting, it's a chance to gain a boost in political capital.

Of late, Boris Johnson and those around him have been under intense scrutiny dealing with one scandal after another, and so for Johnson, it was a chance to rub shoulders with Biden who is arguably much more popular in the United States, than Boris Johnson currently is in the United Kingdom.

Which is what made the choice of gifts between both leaders, all the more interesting. Biden reportedly gifted Johnson an expensive bike. Johnson, on the other hand, is said to have given Biden a photograph of the great African-American abolitionist and writer Frederick Douglass.

Douglass in his time was and remains highly respected for his life's work, escaping slavery and becoming a

powerful spokesperson arguing for the freedom of Black people in the United States.

While of course, systemic racism, especially anti-Black policing in the U.S. remains a serious problem, Boris Johnson himself both leads a country that remains institutionally racist, according to experts, and presides over a government that has failed to rectify the ongoing Windrush scandal caused by the Home Office which has devastated Black communities.

Boris Johnson himself has been shown to have made a litany of anti-Black and racist comments in the past, which have caused offense to many people. While Johnson himself has argued that his words written during his time as a journalist have been taken out of context, the simple truth is, if you read them, is that there is no other context in which to read them, other than the way in which they were clearly intended to be written.

What makes Johnson's gift of a picture of Frederick Douglass to Joe Biden even worse, is the official reason and explanation which many in the media have suggested.

Apparently, Boris gave Biden the picture of Douglass as some sort of 'nod' to the Black Lives Matter protests which have taken place and which continue to take place across the United States.

The irony of this, is that many critics have been arguing that Boris Johnson's government has been taking steps to clamp down on Black Lives Matter protests here in the UK.

The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Bill, which is on the cusp of becoming law in Britain, according to experts, will give police the power to shut down any pro-



tests which they decide they wish to stop.

The same legal experts also point out that the bill was really pushed, after the government saw the power of Black Lives Matter, and environmental protests last year and ultimately were concerned about the power of such gatherings.

Of course, people will interpret the meeting between Johnson and Biden in their own way, but knowing the history of the two countries, and understanding Johnson's track record of inflammatory comments, and the criticisms of his government, it's not hard to see why many view the picture of Frederick Douglass less as a gift and more of a twisted joke in bad taste. The great Frederick Douglass spent his life fighting against the kind of racist ideas which Johnson has been accused of reflecting in his writing many times.

(Source: Press TV)

## Sanders: Onslaught of voter suppression in U.S. must stop

Former U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders has said that "the onslaught of voter suppression" in the United States must stop.

Sanders, who has previously called the U.S. democracy an "oligarchy" where billionaires buy elections, on Sunday said that voter suppression is not acceptable.

"This is a democracy. We can disagree on all kinds of issues, but taking away the rights of Americans to vote and to participate in our democracy is absolutely unacceptable. Period," he tweeted.

"In my view, there is no compromise when it comes to protecting the right to vote. We must stop the onslaught of voter suppression and make it easier, not harder to vote in this country," he said in another tweet.

In an earlier tweet, Sanders said Repub-



lican "legislatures are working overtime to deny Black Americans and young people the right to vote," and added that "we must pass the For the People Act," which is a bill in the U.S. Congress intended to expand voting rights.

Republicans have been engaged in massive

voter suppression in the United States and democracy had experienced a significant decline under former Republican President Donald Trump, who kept attacking people's democratic freedoms on a regular basis, according to a study released in February 2019 by Freedom House, a U.S.-based non-governmental group.

The organization warned that U.S. democratic freedoms were eroding at rates similar to countries where democracy had been ultimately overtaken by authoritarianism.

The report put American democracy on the same level with Greece, Croatia and Mongolia, well behind its European allies such as Germany, France and Britain.

In an article for Press TV last year, American writer and commentator Daniel Patrick Welch said that the U.S. fake elections have

## Deadly clashes in Yemen as Saudi Arabia targeted with 17 drones

➔1 Over the past two years, Yemeni forces have stepped up retaliatory attacks using indigenously made missiles and drones. Saudi Arabia launched a deadly war on Yemen in March 2015 with the aim of reinstating a former government friendly to Riyadh. Almost daily airstrikes have crippled civilian infrastructure and killed hundreds of thousands of people, many of them women and children. Riyadh has also imposed an all-out air, sea and land blockade on its southern neighbor. The siege on Yemen has led to what the United Nations calls the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

## Major Islamic movement calls for expulsion of Israeli ambassador from Morocco

A major Islamic movement in Morocco has called on the government to reverse its normalization of relations with Tel Aviv and expel the Israeli ambassador to the North African country.

"We must put pressure on authorities and state institutions in Morocco to retract the normalization agreement concluded with Israel, expel the Israeli ambassador [David Govrin] from Rabat, and recall the Moroccan ambassador [Abderrahim Beyyoudh] from Tel Aviv," Abdul Rahim al-Sheikhi, the head of the Unification and Reform Movement, said in a speech during a national youth festival on Saturday.

"Support for the Palestinian cause in the face of the Israeli Occupation is not simply for the sake of defending Palestine, but rather protects us against the repercussions of normalization," he added.

"Israel, through normalization, is seeking to infiltrate into our educational system and media outlets to falsify events, propagate the Zionist narrative, obliterate the Palestinian cause, and compel our people and generations to accept such injustice."

The head of the Unification and Reform Movement went on to say that the occupying Israeli regime will continue to be Morocco's enemy hidden under the guise of normalization.

"The Moroccan nation must offer necessary support to the Palestinian cause at the same time as it opposes normalization. Palestinian resistance factions have disrupted the calculations of those favoring normalization [with Israel], and revived the Palestinian cause among Arab nations," Sheikhi said.

According to Press TV, Israel and Morocco agreed on December 10, 2020 to normalize relations in a deal brokered with the help of Trump's administration, making the North African country the fourth Arab state that year to strike a normalization deal with the regime. The others were the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan

## Taliban say committed to intra-Afghan talks as president orders security shakeup

The Taliban say they are committed to the intra-Afghan peace talks, while calling for the implementation of a "genuine Islamic system" in the country, once foreign military presence is over.

The head of the Taliban's political office, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, said in a statement on Sunday that "a genuine Islamic system is the best means for solution of all issues of the Afghans."

"We understand that the world and Afghans have queries and questions about the form of the system to be established, following withdrawal of foreign troops," he said.

"Our very participation in the negotiations and its support on our part indicates openly that we believe in resolving issues through (mutual) understanding," Baradar added.

He pledged that women and minorities would be protected and diplomats and NGO workers would be able to work securely.

"We take it on ourselves as a commitment to accommodate all rights of citizens of our country, whether they are male or female, in the light of the rules of the glorious religion of Islam and the noble traditions of the Afghan society," he said.

Baradar said authorities would provide facilities "for women to work and be educated."

The Taliban had taken a harsh stance on Afghan girls and women during their rule.

The militant group barred girls from schools and women from working outside their homes and prohibiting them from being in public without a male relative.

The groups' five-year rule came to an end following the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

## Resistance News

## Over 680 noted figures urge Biden to protect Palestinians' rights

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** TEHRAN — More than 680 global leaders from all spectra have joined together in signing an open letter calling upon US president Joe Biden to help bring an end to Israel's institutionalized domination and oppression of the Palestinian people and protect their basic human rights.

Signatories to the letter include rights groups, lawyers, former officials and leaders, US academics, civil society activists and other personages from around the world.

"We, the undersigned global coalition of leaders — from civil society to business, the arts and faith communities, politics and Nobel laureates — call for US leadership to take action to help bring an end to Israel's institutionalized domination and oppression of the Palestinian people and protect their fundamental human rights. A sustainable and just peace — for all people — will remain elusive if US policy holds to a political status quo devoid of justice and accountability," they said in the letter they sent last Tuesday to Biden.

"Your administration has committed to a foreign policy centered on the defense of democracy and the protection of human rights. More recently, you stated, 'I believe the Palestinians and Israelis equally deserve to live safely and securely, and enjoy equal measures of freedom, prosperity, and democracy.' For Palestinians, the space between these statements and their daily lives could not be wider."

"Even after a formal ceasefire, Israeli police and settler violence against Palestinians continues. The forced dispossession of Palestinians across the occupied West Bank, including families living in the East Jerusalem neighborhoods of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, and aggressive actions by Israeli forces against peaceful protesters and worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque, are the latest evidence of a separate and unequal governing system. These policies unravel the social fabric of communities and undermine any progress toward a democratic, just and peaceful future. The logic driving them has led to the recent displacement of 72,000 Palestinians in Gaza who must also survive the ongoing humanitarian crisis caused by a 14-year blockade."



## IranAir to resumes Pakistan, France flights

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s flag carrier IranAir is set to resume flights to and from Pakistan and France after weeks of suspension imposed to curb the spread of a novel coronavirus variant into the Islamic Republic.

The Civil Aviation Organization of Iran (CAOI) allowed air travel to and from Pakistan and France after dropping the two countries from the red list due to the coronavirus pandemic.

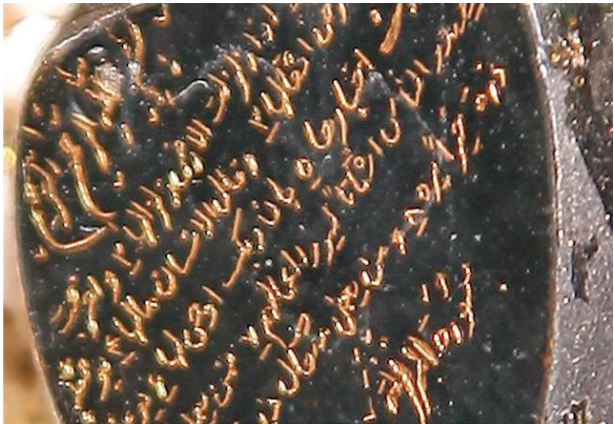


CAOI Spokesman Mohammad Hassan Zibakhsh said that flights to and from Islamabad and Paris had been resumed on Tuesday after a two-month suspension, Fars reported on Sunday. “However, Iran will continue to enforce a tough ban on flights to 13 countries where the highly-infectious British variant of the coronavirus has not been fully contained,” Zibakhsh explained. The official said Pakistan and France will remain among the 26 countries which still have a high rate of infection to the virus, adding that flights to those countries will continue with restrictions.

## Iranian crafter creates copy of Holy Quran using stone inlay

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian craftsman has started creating a delicate copy of the Holy Quran applying the techniques of engraving and stone inlay.

“That would be the first [copy of the] Holy Quran being made of stone using the techniques of engraving and stone inlay.... and all processes of this artwork are being carried out by hands,” ISNA quoted the tourism chief of Qom province, Alireza Arjmandi, as saying on Saturday.



“The diameter of the pages is two millimeters... So far, no such similar work has been made with this volume,” the official said. The artwork is being created in Qom province by Seyyed Hossein Mirehei, the report said.

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.

## Illegal diggers arrested in western Iran

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian authorities have recently arrested seven unauthorized excavators and antique smugglers in Selseleh county, the western province of Lorestan, CHTN reported on Sunday.

The accused people were traced and finally detained while digging for antiquities in a mountainous area north of the county, said Mohammadreza Moradian, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage.



They were surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, the official added.

Lorestan is a region of raw beauty that an avid nature lover could spend weeks exploring. The region was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC.

The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period. Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanid dynasties.

# Tourism complex to be constructed in Rivi archaeological site

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — An agreement in principle has recently been reached to launch a tourism complex in Tepe Rivi, which is an archaeological hill located in Iran’s North Khorasan province.

The agreement in principle seeks to provide appropriate infrastructure for the rapid tourism development near the ancient site, and to explore its untapped potential with close cooperation of the local people, the director of the historical site said on Sunday.

The camp is planned to be constructed and managed by the private sector in close collaboration with the province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, Mohammad Javad Jafari said, CHTN reported.

Prospects of tourism development make it essential to implement sightseeing projects in line with research activities to attract travelers and create sustainable jobs for the locals, the official added.

Archaeological research works in Rivi started in 2012. Since then teams of Iranian and German archaeologists accessed remains of settlements from the Bronze and Iron Age, the Achaemenid (550–330 BC), the Parthian (247 BC – 224 CE), the



Sassanid dynasty (224-651 CE), and the early Islamic period.

The teams have completed seven archaeological seasons across the site and based on a new agreement their cooperation will be continued for the next five years.

Experts in the fields of archeology, geography, geophysics, geomorphology, and

ecology from the [Ludwig Maximilian] University of Munich; the [Free] University of Berlin; the University of Tehran; and Shahid Beheshti University have worked in the previous rounds of research.

Based on the studies, various architectural and archaeological evidence from the Parthian and the Sassanid era were

## Magnificent ancient places on Earth: The Gate of Xerxes

**→ 1** Engraved above each of the four colossi is a trilingual inscription attesting to Xerxes having built and completed the gate. The doorway on the south, opening toward the Apadana, is the widest of the three.

According to sources, pivoting devices found on the inner corners of all the doors indicate that they must have had two-leaved doors, which were probably made of wood and covered with sheets of ornamented metal.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (“Mountain of Mercy”), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars Province.

Persepolis was the seat of the government of the Achaemenid Empire, though it was designed primarily to be a showplace and spectacular center for the receptions and festivals of the kings and their empire.

The royal city ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

The city was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

The immense terrace of Persepolis was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire’s king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall (“Hundred-Column Hall”).

This 13-ha ensemble of majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne rooms (Apadana), reception rooms, and dependencies is classified among the world’s greatest archaeological sites.



## First agritourism farm to make debut in Minudasht

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The first-ever agritourism permit in Minudasht county has been issued for a vast farm, which is located in the lush green Golestan province in northern Iran, Minudasht tourism director announced on Sunday.

Such permits are granted to eligible farm owners in the country to launch agritourism businesses, aiming to set certain standards in a move to ensure the quality of their services.

“Setting up in an area of 40 hectares, the farm is expected to create jobs for 100 people,” Reza Pourmehdi said, CHTN reported.

The farm includes a greenhouse, gar-



dens of blueberry, olive, pears, peaches, cherries, nectarines, pomegranates, and it has sections for wheat cultivation, and animal breeding, fish farming, and bee-

keeping, the official explained.

Agritourism is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with local people in rural areas. Farm/ranch recreation refers to activities conducted on private agricultural lands, which might include fee-hunting and fishing, overnight stays, educational activities, etc.

Experts believe that in addition to the customer services jobs, agritourism pays special attention to the production sector, saying agricultural tourism is much more important and practical than other branches of tourism because it creates a new chain and diversity in the field of production and services.

## Qajar-era bathhouse undergoes restoration

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Hammam-e Khan, a Qajar-era (1789–1925) public bathhouse in Kerman province, has undergone restoration, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The restoration project involves strengthening the building, flooring, and removing the debris, Mojtaba Shafiei announced on Sunday.

Throughout the years, this privately owned monument, which is located in the city of Mahan, has been restored and renovated several times, the official added.

Bathhouses or ‘hammams’ in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities but they do not have their social function anymore since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and



women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and women at different times of the day.

## Historical bazaar of Arak to bid for UNESCO status

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran is preparing a comprehensive dossier for the historical bazaar of Arak in central Markazi province to be submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in near future, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The World Heritage List includes a quota for each country to add its historical sites and buildings, and Iran can also register up to two per year, Mostafa Marzban explained.

Thus, due to the historical value of the bazaar of Arak, it became a priority for inclusion in the global list, the official added.

The dossier, which includes the traditional

marketplace, its passageways, stores, and attached buildings caravanserais inside, will be sent to UNESCO for being assessed as a World Heritage by the end of Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 2022), he noted.

He also noted that some 500 billion rials (about \$12 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) will be required to restore the bazaar to its former state.

Covering an area of 14 hectares, the bazaar was built during the reign of Fath Ali Shah, a Qajar monarch who ruled from 1797 to 1834, by Yusef Khan Gorji and is considered the main core of the city.

In winter, the air inside the bazaar building is warm and pleasant due to the special architecture, while in summer it is quite cool.

Amongst the UNESCO-designated sites in Iran are “Arg-e Bam” (Bam Citadel) that represents an outstanding example of an ancient fortified settlement, “Bisotun” in western Kermanshah province, which is notable for its Achaemenid-era inscription carved on a limestone cliff, lavish “Golestan Palace” in downtown Tehran which is a masterpiece of the Qajar era (1789 to 1925), and millennium-old “Gonbad-e Qabus” which is a mudbrick tomb tower for Qabus ibn Wushmagir.





# Health minister urges need to suspend Moscow flights to curb virus

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Health Minister Saeed Namaki has emphasized the need to halt all flights to and from Moscow to prevent the spread of the so-called "Moscow strain" of coronavirus, IRNA reported on Sunday.

In a letter to Alireza Raeisi, the spokesman for the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, Namaki stressed the need to raise the issue and take immediate decisions to suspend flights to and from Moscow.

Flights to Moscow will be suspended if the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control decides.

A few days ago, Russia's Gamaleya National Center scientists claimed to have identified a new variant of the coronavirus, naming it after the national capital since the strain was first found in Moscow as cases across the country spiked.

Russia has witnessed a spurt in COVID-19 cases, 89.3 percent of whom were infected with the delta virus, known as the Indian coronavirus.

So far, the country has reported



5,193,964 new cases and over 126,000 fatalities; the highest number of cases and deaths were from Moscow.

"A new mutation has arrived, a new

strain is active. It's more aggressive, it's harder to recover from, it spreads faster. It's much more likely to penetrate a person's immune system," Mayor Sergei

Sobyanin said, according to the RIA news agency.

Iran Civil Aviation Organization announced on April 28 that the country has extended travel restrictions on flights to and from 15 countries due to a surge in the coronavirus disease.

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

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

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

## IASP names Iran as head for West Asia, North Africa



**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The International Association of Science Parks (IASP) has chosen Iran as the head of the West Asia and North Africa subdivision, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Amin Reza Khaleqian, director general of communications and international affairs of Pardis Technology Park, was elected by a majority of votes as the representative of this region in the IASP for the next 2 years.

IASP is the worldwide network of science parks, innovation districts, and other areas of innovation. With members in over 70 countries, it connects the professionals managing innovation ecosystems worldwide and provides services that drive their growth, knowledge sharing, and internationalization.

Founded in 1984, the International Association of Science Parks and Innovation Areas is currently headquartered in Malaga, Spain.

The association has six sub-branches including Africa, Asia Pacific, Eurasia, Latin America, Europe, and North America.

Iran is present in West Asia and North Africa with 350 members and 115,000 technology companies in 75 countries.

According to the Iran Entrepreneurship Association, there are forty-four parks of science and technology, twenty-one of which are located in Tehran.

Over the last eight years, the creation of 13 science and technology parks, 4,553 technology units, and 1,653 new knowledge-based companies could provide employment for 34,707 university graduates.

Revenue from sales of technological products of companies located in science and technology parks in 2020 was close to 137 billion rials (nearly \$3.2 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials), which compared to 4.6 billion rials (about \$152,000)

in 2013, shows the growth of 2883 percent.

This issue was quite evident in the export sector of these companies so that the export of knowledge-based products was equal to \$1.14 million, but this amount increased to \$63.2 million in 2018, while reached \$98 million in 2020, despite the very harsh sanctions imposed on the country.

**Technological achievements of Iran**

Despite sanctions putting pressure on the country, a unique opportunity was provided for business development and the activity of knowledge-based companies in the country.

Currently, some 6,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country, manufacturing diverse products to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of foreign currency.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

In recent years, the vice presidency for science and technology has been supporting knowledge-based companies active in the production of sanctioned items.

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

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

Fortunately, last year, companies achieved a record sale of 1.2 quadrillion rials (nearly \$28.5 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials), which is expected to increase by 40 percent this year.

## Iran elected as World Ocean Assessment representative



**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Iranian scientist, Mehdi Qodrat Shojaei, has been elected as the Asia-Pacific representative in the second World Ocean Assessment working group, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Qodrat Shojaei is a faculty member at Tarbiat Modarres University.

Launched on April 21, the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) is the major output of the second cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the States of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects.

WOA II is a collective effort of interdisciplinary writing teams made up of more than 300 experts from 14 countries, drawn from a pool of over 780 experts from around the world.

It provides scientific information on the state of the marine environment in a comprehensive and integrated manner to support decisions and actions for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goal 14, as well as the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The first World Ocean Assessment (WOA I), which was released at the end of 2015, established a baseline for measuring the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects. WOA II focuses on trends observed since the publication of WOA I and current gaps in knowledge and capacity.

**Oceans are threatened**

The ocean produces at least 50 percent of the planet's oxygen, it is home to most of the earth's biodiversity and is the main source of protein for more than a billion people around the world. Not to mention, the ocean is key to our economy with an estimated 40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

Oceans cover over 70 percent of Earth

and form 95 percent of its biosphere. Yet human activities, from overfishing to plastics pollution to oil and gas extraction to climate change, are degrading the world's oceans and threatening food security for fish-dependent populations, warns the UN's Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II).

The number of "dead zones" — ocean areas where insufficient oxygen allows nothing to survive — are increasing; ocean water levels are rising, warming, and becoming increasingly acidic; and important mangroves and coral reefs are being degraded. About 90 percent of the world's mangrove, seagrass, and marsh plant species are threatened with extinction.

The most important direct driver of biodiversity loss in terrestrial systems in the last several decades has been a land-use change, primarily the conversion of pristine native habitats into agricultural systems; while much of the oceans have been overfished.

Globally, climate change has not been the most important driver of the loss of biodiversity to date, yet in the coming decades it is projected to become as, or more, important than the other drivers.

The loss of biodiversity is not only an environmental issue but a development, economic, global, ethical, and moral one. It is also a self-preservation issue. Biodiversity plays a critical role in providing food, fiber, water, energy, medicines, and other genetic materials; and is key to the regulation of our climate, water quality, pollution, pollination services, flood control, and storm surges.

In addition, nature underpins all dimensions of human health and contributes to non-material levels — inspiration and learning, physical and psychological experiences, and shaping our identities — that are central in quality of life and cultural integrity.

## COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 19

New cases	8,161
New deaths	111
Total cases	3,095,135
Total deaths	82,965
New hospitalized patients	944
Patients in critical condition	3,279
Total recovered patients	2,748,320
Diagnostic tests conducted	22,449,366
Doses of vaccine injected	5,304,008

## National Parks of Iran

(Part 8)

**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.

In fact, the strategy and the source of success at that time had been to develop single or priority-use reserves, whether for ecosystems or/and wildlife, in order to insure preservation of the resource. Having succeeded in protecting viable populations of plants and animals, the department began to turn its energy toward integrating wildlife into multiple use land practices. Through the application of existing legislation, and the cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Department of the Environment hoped ultimately to ameliorate conditions in the interspaces between reserves in order to avoid genetic isolation of plant and animal populations.

Following the Revolution of 1978-79, the Department's activities and, in particular, the establishment of the reserve system, were impugned and denounced as having been part of an agenda to provide benefaction and entertainment for members of the royal family and the rich.



In regard to the Department of the Environment, there was a degree of equivocation in the disparagements, especially as Article 50 of the new Constitution made the protection of the environment a national duty. Indifference to or, sometimes, rejection of the tenets of conservation and observance of environmental laws and regulations in the succeeding years led to catastrophic declines in wildlife, the destruction of forests and rangeland, and the pollution and alteration of wetlands and rivers.

A major negative effect was the expulsion and/or resignation of the majority of the most qualified Department of the Environment personnel, as well as many of the ablest environmental officers. Thus the supervision and protection of the reserves was seriously impaired, not to mention the cessation of investigations and monitoring that were previously routinely undertaken in many of these areas. Eventually reactions of dismay and censure developed to such an extent among the people, especially the young, that even the highly controlled press became increasingly attentive.

Articles were published indicating declines of 80-85 percent for wildlife, the despoliation of the country's reserves and wetlands, and the deterioration of nature in general (e.g., see Hamshahri, Tehran, 13 Esfand, 1383).

Nearly half a decade or so after the Revolution, the authorities began to take an interest in the reserves; more and more were added to the roster of these, while many of the extant reserves were split into two or even three of different categories.

The names of the categories (as described above), remained the same (being cited in the environment law), but little attention has been paid to the reasons for this classification; hence such aspects as ecological criteria, wildlife management, or land use, have generally been ignored and often the political decisions or personal preferences of the relevant executives have been sufficient for the choice of the designation of a reserve.

The most recent data shows the following number of reserves in existence in Iran: 26 national parks; 35 national nature monuments; 42 wildlife refuges, and 150 protected areas. It should be noted, however, that some 37 reserves are part of, or within, other reserves. This also applies to ten of the national parks, which are part of either wildlife refuges or protected areas, many, as sometimes called, being the core areas of these reserves (a factor, which would, in a number of cases, inhibit visitor programs).

One national park, Lake Urmia, with progressively greater abstraction of water from the inflow of its rivers, is almost completely dry; equally Lake Bakhtagan with a surrounding mountainous area in Fars, which encompasses both a national park and a wildlife refuge, has dried up for the same reason.

(Source: *Encyclopædia Iranica*)

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## Smugglers of fuel, livestock fined \$570m

Smugglers of fuel and livestock have been fined 24 trillion rials (about \$570 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21). The figure represents a 47 percent increase compared to the same period last [Iranian calendar] year.

Out of a total of about 42,000 smuggling cases, about 28,000 are related to export smuggling, of which 20,000 are related to the smuggling of fuel and petroleum products, mostly to Pakistan and Afghanistan, and to a lesser extent to Turkey and Iraq.

A number of these cases are related to livestock trafficking. Most of the cattle are smuggled to Iraq, and then to the Persian Gulf countries.

## جریمه ۲۴ هزار میلیارد ریالی قاچاقچیان سوخت و دام

متخلفان قاچاق کالا از ابتدای سال جاری ۲۴ هزار میلیارد ریال جریمه شده‌اند که بیانگر ۴۷ درصد افزایش نسبت به سال گذشته است.

از مجموع حدود ۴۲ هزار پرونده ی قاچاق، حدود ۲۸ هزار پرونده مربوط به قاچاق خروجی است که ۲۰ هزار فقره آن به قاچاق سوخت و فراورده‌های نفتی مربوط می‌شود که بیشتر به پاکستان و افغانستان و کمی هم ترکیه و عراق انجام می‌شود.

تعدادی از این پرونده‌ها هم مربوط به قاچاق دام است. بیشتر قاچاق دام به عراق انجام می‌شود و البته این دام‌ها از عراق به کشورهای خلیج فارس هم می‌رود.



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Hearts of people are like wild beasts. They attach themselves to those who love and train them.

Imam Ali (AS)

## Chinese-Iranian relations: Mutual influences in painting

**Part 2**

The Chinese sense of harmony in nature had resulted in the development of landscape painting, whereas the Persians, accustomed to a harsher environment, painted idealized settings that they expected to find only in paradise; representation of human figures predominated over backgrounds, which were designed simply to suggest the surroundings.

In the Ilkhanid period, however, Chinese landscape paintings stimulated Persian painters to emulate their blasted trees with gnarled trunks and dead branches; stylized rocks and mountain formations, sometimes with double outlines reminiscent of Taang blue-and-green landscapes; scalloped patterns and whirls of moving water, with crested waves; and convoluted clouds, the so-called ling zhi clouds.

All these elements were known in Sung and Yuan paintings and appeared on 14th-century blue-and-white porcelains and textiles. Other decorative motifs included real or fantastic animals like the dragon, the phoenix (fenghuang), the “unicorn”, and the crane, usually represented in landscape settings.

Even details of Chinese costume were sometime depicted, perhaps because these fashions had actually been adopted by the Ilkhanid rulers of Persia. For example, the so-called “mandarin square,” an ornamental gold-embroidered cloth panel on the front of the caftan, was apparently popular from the early 7th/14th century.

Although Chinese landscape conventions and motifs were gradually assimilated, they did not fundamentally alter traditional Persian conceptions.

The original Chinese symbolic and mythological associations of animals were, for example, largely unknown to Persian painters, who occasionally adapted such images to myths familiar in their own cultural heritage, as in the representation of the mythical bird simorgh in the form of a phoenix.

**Timurid and subsequent periods**

In the 15th century active diplomatic and trade relations were maintained by sea between the Timurid and Ming courts.

Large numbers of works of art and a considerable number of artists traveled between the two countries.

The Persian painter Ghias ad-Din Khalil Naqqash, who accompanied an envoy from Prince Shahrokh to the Ming court in 1419-22, has left an important though fragmentary record of his journey, preserved most fully in Zobdat at-Tawarikh-e Baysonghori by Hafez-e Abru.

In this period Persian painting incorporated a new array of motifs, originally imported on Chinese ceramics and textiles.

The mandarin square became increasingly popular, and the “cloud collar”, a kind of stole with shaped edges, also began to appear frequently.

The importation of Chinese artifacts initiated a vogue for chinoiserie, exemplified in the leaves of the so-called “Fatih albums” that is believed to have belonged to the contemporary Ottoman sultan Mehmet II Fatih, and several albums in the Nationalbibliothek, Berlin (West), originally published by M. S. Ipsiroglu.

These albums contain original Chinese drawings and prints on silk and paper, as well as Persian copies; the subjects range from the religious (Buddhist and Taoist) to the historical and literary.

Beginning in the Sung period, a considerable number of Chinese paintings on silk must have reached Persia, where they were emulated by painters in the Timurid court workshops.

The large-scale horizontal compositions, as well as the subject matter, suggest that the models were Chinese hand-scroll paintings. Many of the album paintings and drawings in “Chinese style” were not originally manuscript illustrations but were independent compositions.

The album itself, a new format in Persia in the Timurid period, may also have been inspired by Chinese models. In addition to pictorial works, albums usually include examples of calligraphy in various styles. Such albums remained popular with the Mughal descendants of the Timurids in India.

The Timurid album leaves in Chinese taste are assumed to have been completed in Herat and other Persian cities; none of them was produced by a Chinese master, nor can the individual style of even a lower-class Chinese painter be identified. The Yuan revival of the Tang style played a greater role than the contemporary Ming style.

The technique of Chinese ink painting and baimiao hua (drawing in ink without shading) stimulated the development of Persian drawing at the end of the 14th century. Early 15th-century marginal drawings in this style can be seen in a divan of the poems of Sultan Ahmad Jalaer.

Many Chinese paintings of birds and flowers, naturalistically rendered in the Sung period, as well as copies by Persian painters, are included in the Istanbul albums.

Although this genre was not developed extensively in Timurid Persia, it became quite popular under the Safavid Shah Abbas I (1588-1629) and remained in favor until the 19th centuries.

Persian painters tended to borrow small isolated elements from Chinese painting and to reorganize them, assimilating them to their own traditional aesthetic concerns. For example, a flowering branch, sometimes behind a balustrade or fence, a motif borrowed from Chinese painting, was often combined with a more traditional figural composition.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
Concluded

# Shanghai festival honors “The Contrary Route” director Abolfazl Jalili, star Puyan Shekari

**A R T TEHRAN** — Iran’s d e s k Abolfazl Jalili won the Golden Goblet for best director for his drama “The Contrary Route” at the Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF) on Sunday while his film’s star Puyan Shekari was honored as best actor at the prestigious Chinese event.

In a video sent to the organizers, Jalili expressed his thanks to the jury and said, “The long distance between us cannot cause problems for our relationship, and I hope I can collaborate with Chinese filmmakers on a joint project about a humanitarian story in the future.”

Shekari received the award for his portrayal of Emkan, a 17-year-old teenager who has not seen his father for many years and his mother works the late-night shift in a factory. He has a small recording camera and he decides to make a film to give a twist to his routine life, however, he is not very proficient.

Jalili, who is the writer of the movie’s script, has previously said that the movie is a screen adaptation of his own life story.

“By this film, I wanted to make children watch the night sky, crying until morning, but children in this modern day do not have any idea about the subject of the film. They stay awake all the night wasting their time in cyberspace,” he lamented.



Iranian director Abolfazl Jalili speaks to the audience in a video after winning the Golden Goblet for best Director during the closing ceremony of the Shanghai International Film Festival in China on June 19, 2021. (SIFF)

“The Contrary Route” was screened in the official competition of the festival, in which “Manchurian Tiger” by the Chinese director Geng Jun was crowned best film.

The comedy drama is about a truck driver, his pregnant wife, his mistress and a poet recovering from mental illness who are caught up in a series of unfortunate events, including a debt problem and the death of a dog.

Chinese director Huang Jianxin was the

president of the jury composed of Singaporean filmmaker Anthony Chen, Chinese actor Deng Chao, Italian producer Marco Muller, French producer Natacha Devillers and Chinese actress Song Jia.

The Jury Grand Prix went to “Barbarian Invasion” directed by Tan Chui Mui from Malaysia.

The award for best screenplay was given to the Russian movie “The Conscience” written and directed by Alexey Viktorovich Kozlov.

The film also won the outstanding artistic achievement award and brought Vyacheslav Tuyrin the award for best cinematography.

Marzena Gajewska was selected as best actress for her role “Amateurs” by Polish director Iwona Siekierzynska.

“Sisyphus” by Santiago Mohar Volkow and Nicolas Gutierrez Wenhammar from Mexico was picked as best documentary, while “Even Mice Belong in Heaven”, a co-production from Czech, France and Poland by Denisa Grimmová and Jan Bubeníček won the award for best animation.

The award for best live action short film remained at home as “Double Helix” by Chinese filmmaker Qiu Sheng garner the honor.

The award for best short animation went to “Mild Madness, Lasting Lunacy” by French director Marine Lacotte.

## Arabic translation of “A Glimpse of Iran’s Literary Past” introduced at Baghdad book fair

→1 Speaking at the meeting Shirvani criticized the late translation of the book into Arabic and said, “The significance of the book refers to its deep insight into the mutual influence of the Persian and Arabic languages.”

“There have been two theories about the mutual impacts of the Persian and Arabic languages; some have said that the Persian language has been totally inspired by the Arabic language, and others believe that the Arabic language is deeply indebted to the Persian language.

“In this book, Zarrinkub shows that both of the theories are wrong, because a complex of different political, social, economic and cultural factors have caused the languages to closely interact in various periods of the history.”

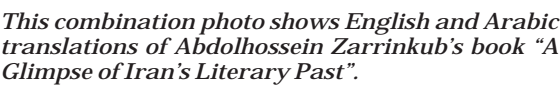
Shirvani also noted that the joint geographical location,

origin of language, legends, religion and customs between Iranian and Arabs have connected the Persian and Arabic languages in history.

For his part, Asadi-Movahed called “A Glimpse of Iran’s Literary Past” one of few outstanding books on the history of Persian literature, and it was this attribute that convinced Alhoda to render the book into Arabic by Sadiq Khursha, a professional translator of Persian books.

His translation (“Min Madi al-Adab al-Irani”) won third prize at the Sixth Sheikh Hamad Awards for Translation and International Understanding (SHATIU) in Doha, Qatar, in 2020.

Alhoda published an English translation of the book by Sadroddin Mousavi in 2020.



This combination photo shows English and Arabic translations of Abdolhossein Zarrinkub’s book “A Glimpse of Iran’s Literary Past”.

## “Sun Children” picked for CineMasters Competition at Munich festival

**A R T TEHRAN** — Iranian d e s k director Majid Majidi’s latest movie “Sun Children” has been selected to be showcased in the CineMasters Competition of the Munich International Film Festival – Filmfest Munchen in Germany.

The event is the largest summer film festival in Germany and second only in size and importance to the Berlinale.

CineMasters Competition features the new works of master directors from all over the world.

Ten other films, including “The Dog Who Wouldn’t Be Quiet” by Ana Katz, “Riders of Justice” by Anders Thomas Jensen and “Wife of a Spy” by Kiyoshi Kurosawa, will be screened in this section.

The child labor drama “Sun Children” was among the 15 movies selected for the foreign-language film category longlist at the 93rd Academy Awards. However, it failed to receive a nomination at the Oscar race.

The film is about 12-year-old Ali and his three friends. Together, they work hard to survive and support their families, doing small jobs in a garage and committing petty crimes to make fast money. Everything changes, however, when Ali is entrusted to find a hidden treasure underground but must first enroll at the Sun School, a charitable institution that tries to educate street kids and child laborers.

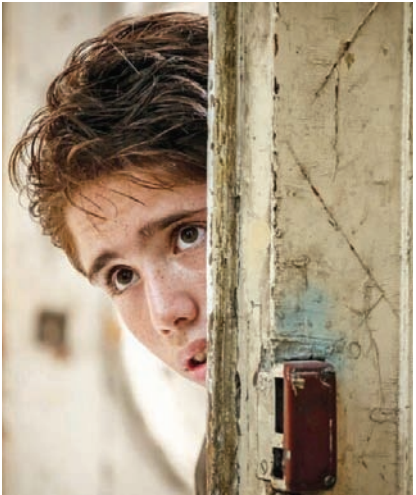
The movie had its Iranian premiere during the 38th Fajr Film Festival in

Tehran in February 2020, garnering the Crystal Simorghs for best film, script and set design.

Numerous international events, including the 77th Venice Film Festival, have also screened the movie. The festival honored the film’s star Ruhollah Zamani with the Marcello Mastroianni Award.

The 33rd International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Isfahan also awarded Majidi as best director and Zamani as best actor.

Strand Releasing, a leading U.S. distributor of foreign language, American independent and documentary films in theaters, on DVD/Blu-Ray and via video-on-demand, has purchased U.S. rights to “Sun Children”.



Ruhollah Zamani acts in a scene from “Sun Children”.

## Regina festival to screen movies from Iran

**A R T TEHRAN** — Four Iranian films will be competing in the Regina International Film Festival and Awards in Canada.

“I Won’t Remain Alone”, “Mannequin” and “Fukushima Traveler”, and “The Other” will be screening in various categories of the festival, which will be held virtually in Regina, Saskatchewan, from August 10 to 14.

“I Won’t Remain Alone” directed by Yaser Talebi is about Sorayya and Seyyed Jalal, a poor, elderly couple residing in a remote village in Northern Iran. Filmed over the course of 5 years, the film paints pictures of forgiveness, love, humanity and immortality.

The film will be competing in the short documentary section of the festival. It has also received a nomination in the best short doc category of the Parnu International Documentary and Science Film Festival, which will take place in the southwestern Estonian resort city from July 12 to 25.

Directed by Mahnaz Valipur, “Mannequin” is about Hamed, whose father sees him selling books as a vendor in a street, beating him and forcing him to work in his



“Mannequin” by Iranian director Mahnaz Valipur. stepmother’s wedding gowns gallery. Hamed falls in love with a mannequin there.

This film is competing in the student short film category.

Director Masumeh Nurmohammadi’s “Fukushima Traveler” will premiere in the feature documentary section.

The film accounts the first days of 2011, which were recorded as the most devastating winter in Japan, when a magnitude 10.0 earthquake shook the eastern part of the country and caused the Pacific Ocean to tremble.

The tsunami that struck Japan caused two explosions at the Daiichi Fukushima power plant, releasing radioactive material that polluted a large area.

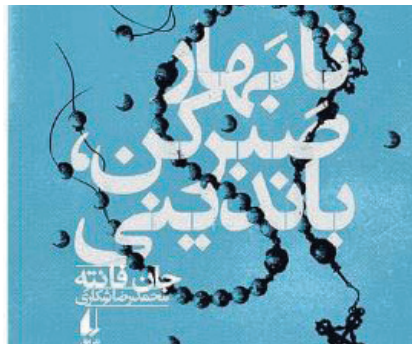
“Fukushima Traveler” won the award for best sound design at the Tietê Internacional Film Awards (TIFA) in Brazil in May.

“The Other”, a co-production between Iran and India by the Samko Brothers has also been selected to be screened in the short film category.

The film tells the story of a widower and his young daughter, who struggles to fill the void of a much-beloved wife and mother, and the sudden appearance of a mysterious stranger.

Kiki Fung, Melissa Best, Michael Robinson, Mary Lou Belli, Sreeker Prasad, Hady Zaccak and Riwta Dutta are the members of the jury.

## “Wait Until Spring, Bandini” at Iranian bookstores



Front cover of the Persian translation of John Fante’s novel “Wait Until Spring, Bandini”.

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — American d e s k novelist John Fante’s 1938 book “Wait Until Spring, Bandini” has been published in Persian by Ofog Publications in Tehran.

Mohammadreza Shekari is the translator of the book that is a powerful, lyrical and touching tale of a turbulent adolescent trying to break out of the suffocating, prison-like confinements of family, poverty and religion in a small town.

It tells the story of a winter in the childhood of Arturo Bandini, the oldest son of Italian immigrants living in Colorado during the Great Depression. With its pow-

erful and evocative account of tragic love affairs, grinding poverty and adolescence in turmoil, this first novel from the Bandini quartet is a much-neglected masterpiece of modern American literature.

Belgian director Dominique Derudder made a screen adaptation of the novel 1989. The film received the André Cavens Award for best film and won three Joseph Plateau Awards.

Fante’s early years were spent in relative poverty. The son of an Italian-born father, Nicola Fante, and an Italian-American mother, Mary Capolungo, Fante was educated in various Catholic schools in Boulder and Denver, Colorado, and briefly

attended the University of Colorado.

In 1929, he dropped out of college and moved to Southern California to concentrate on his writing. He lived and worked in Wilmington, Long Beach, and in the Bunker Hill district of downtown Los Angeles, California.

He is known to be one of the first writers to portray the tough times faced by many writers in Los Angeles. His work and style have influenced such similar authors as “Poet Laureate of Skid Row” Charles Bukowski and influential beat generation writer Jack Kerouac. He was proclaimed by Time Out magazine as one of America’s “criminally neglected writers.”