

**JCPOA talks would be concluded in Rouhani admin** *Page 2*



**I just concentrated on my job: Dragan Skocic** *Page 3*



**Tehran hosting intl. paper, related machinery exhibition** *Page 4*



# Bennetanyahu

**New Israel leadership rehashes Netanyahu's obsolete rhetoric against Iran**

See page 3



The election of Raisi is a sign of vitality for Iran: Albanian historian

**BY ALI A. JENABZADEH**  
Isi Jazexhi, an Albanian historian, believes that election of Ebrahim Raisi is a "pivotal moment" for Iran and the Islamic world.

"The election of Raisi is a pivotal moment not only for the history of the Islamic Republic but even for the history of political Islam," Jazexhi tells the Tehran Times.

"Raisi today presents to the West a similar challenge that Sultan Abdul Hamid II's reign in the Ottoman Empire presented to European imperialist powers of the late 19th century," he comments.

"His reign as the president of Iran means that for the coming four years Iran will see political stability and continuation of the pathway that the Islamic Revolution of Iran brought to the Middle East (West Asia) and Islamic world since 1979," according to the Albanian historian.

Following is the text of the interview:  
**What are the implications of Raisi's victory for the Western powers and the world at large?**

The victory of Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi as the 13th president of the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent huge shockwaves in many Western governments and circles which since 1979 have tried in many ways to topple the Islamic government of Iran and replace it with a secular and pro-Israeli regime.

Based on his resume and public record Sayyed Ebrahim Raisi is a staunch believer of the system of the Velayat-e Faqih and a loyal follower of the path of Imam Khomeini and (Ayatollah) Khamenei. The election of Sayyed Raisi seems to have upset the expectations and calculations of some pro-Israeli regimes in the West which for many years are hoping to install or insert a "Gorbachev" as a president of the Islamic Republic who in return will enact a "Perestroika" which will lead to the destruction of the system of the Velayat-e Faqih, the Islamic Republic and the Axis of Resistance against Israel.

The election of Raisi is a pivotal moment not only for the history of the Islamic Republic but even for the history of political Islam. Raisi today presents to the West a similar challenge that Sultan Abdul Hamid II's reign in the Ottoman Empire presented to European imperialist powers of the late 19th century.

*Continued on page 5*

## Iranian vaccine 6 times more effective than AstraZeneca against mutated virus

TEHRAN – The Pastu Covac vaccine has shown a 62 percent efficiency on new variants of coronavirus first emerged in South Africa and Brazil, 6 times more effective than the AstraZeneca vaccine, Health Minister Saeed Namaki announced on Monday.

The British AstraZeneca vaccine is 11 percent effective against new mutants of coronavirus identified in South Africa and Brazil, he added.

The Iranian Sputnik vaccine will be unveiled on Saturday in the presence of the Iranian ambassador to Russia, he noted, ISNA reported.

The Razi Cov Pars vaccine has passed the first phase of human trial and its second phase is close to completion, Namaki said, adding, Cinnagen vaccine has completed the second phase of clinical trial; however, we are supporting several platforms at the same time.

Developed by Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute and Pasteur Institute of Iran, Pastu Covac vaccine

is a conjugate vaccine with two injectable doses. It consists of the receptor-binding domain of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein conjugated chemically to tetanus toxoid.

The two first phases of the human trial have been conducted in Cuba, while the third phase is underway with 24,000 volunteers in Iran and 44,000 volunteers in Cuba.

In Iran, it was performed on a population of 18 to 80 years in seven provinces and eight cities across the country.

### Mass vaccination

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

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

*Continued on page 7*

## Yemen, Palestine slam UN chief for excluding Saudis, Israelis from children's blacklist

Yemen has strongly denounced the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, for removing Saudi Arabia for the second year in a row from a blacklist of countries and groups responsible for harming children during conflicts.

Foreign Minister of Yemen's National Salvation government, Hisham Sharaf, noted that the UN is condemning the victim and condoning the executioner. In a statement he said: "Although the United Nations must defend human rights, including children, as stated in its charter, it turns a blind eye to the [Saudi] targeting of residential centers, killing and wounding over 8000 children and targeting schools and hospitals by the countries of the US-Saudi aggression".

He pointed out that Guterres did not take into account the reports made by dozens of regional and international human rights organizations, ignoring all video evidence and documented data of Saudi Arabia targeting residential ar-

eas. He added this will give the green light for Riyadh to continue committing grave violations against the children of Yemen, and make UN officials accomplices in those crimes. Yemeni officials also expressed regret that the Secretary-General succumbed, for the second year, to pressure from Saudi Arabia to cut funding to the world body if the Kingdom is put back on the blacklist. Yemenis say that former UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, at least had the courage to admit to those pressures from Riyadh during his tenure. In a surprise move, the UN Chief added Yemen's popular Ansarullah movement to the list for allegedly using child soldiers.

In a statement, Ansarullah's political council said that "Guterres has provided tangible proof that the UN organization is just a platform that powerful countries exploit."

*Continued on page 5*

## Indigenous stories, lullabies to be assessed as national heritage

TEHRAN - The indigenous stories and local lullabies of the northeastern province of North Khorasan are one step closer to possibly be inscribed on the national intangible cultural heritage list, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The stories and lullabies of the people of the province are planned to be added to the list of the cultural heritage of the country so that indigenous culture can be promoted and passed down to future generations, Ali Mostofian announced

on Monday.

"The texts of several stories have been collected and documented, and a databank of storytellers and researchers in the fields of literature and indigenous culture is being developed," the official added.

Indigenous stories can teach valuable lessons about a society's culture, its land, and the way that its members are expected to interact with each other and their environment. The transmission

of these stories from generation to generation maintains social order.

Whether a lullaby, a grandmother's bedtime story or a tale from the "Thousand and One Nights" told by the heroine Shahrazad, the oral tradition of storytelling has been prominent in the culture and traditions of Persian speakers for hundreds of years, aiming at not only entertaining but also educating and promoting cultural values.

*Continued on page 6*



## President-elect Raisi's first press conference

TEHRAN— Sayyed Ebrahim Raisi, President-elect of Iran, held a press conference on Monday afternoon, two days after earning a landslide victory in the 13th presidential elections. 380 reporters from 210 media outlets worldwide attended the briefing. In the briefing, he ruled out a possibility of meeting with the American president, and stated that Iran's missile program is not up for negotiations

## Raisi's victory represents challenge for U.S.: analyst

**BY MOHAMAMD MAZHARI**

TEHRAN - A geopolitical analyst says that Ebrahim Raisi's victory in the Iranian election will strengthen Tehran's position through challenging U.S. hegemony in the region.

"Raisi's victory represents a challenge since Iran will likely prioritize regaining its respect that was gradually eroded under Rouhani," Andrew Korybko tells the Tehran Times.

After Raisi won the June 18 presidential election with a landslide victory, defeating his three other rivals with a wide margin, many observers talk about Iran's new approaches under the future Raisi government.

American media mostly try to portray Iranian president-elect as a hardliner, while others say that Raisi is capable to improve Iran's position internationally.

"This could see the Islamic Republic more resolutely defending its regional interests, which could potentially set it up for a clash with the U.S., whether directly or indirectly," Korybko argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you assess the Iran election and its impact on the Vienna talks? Will Iran distance itself more from the Western camp by the victory of Raisi?**

The outcome of the elections was predictable because of how unsuccessful the prior government was in handling Iran's interconnected socio-economic problems. There also seemed to be a widespread perception that Iran was losing respect on the international stage under those authorities.

*Continued on page 5*



## UK appoints new ambassador to Iran

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — In an announcement published by the UK government website, the Queen of England changed the British ambassador to Iran.

The statement said, “Mr Simon Shercliff CMG OBE has been appointed Her Majesty’s Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran in succession to Mr Rob Macaire CMG. Mr Shercliff will take up his appointment during August 2021.”



Simon Shercliff served in Yemen from 2017 to 2018. He then went back to England to act as the director of National Security until now.

## IAEA’s Grossi says likes to work with new Iranian president

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Rafael Grossi, head of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has said he likes to work with the new Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

“I am open to working with the next president of Iran and to hear Iran’s views,” Grossi told PassBlue in an interview published on Sunday.

Raisi was elected Iran’s new president on June 18. His administration will start work in mid-August.

Grossi said, “I want to sit down with the new leadership and build trust and a relationship as soon as we can.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, the IAEA chief said, “Iran is a sovereign nation, but from my perspective I cannot see any advantage for them to sever ties with the IAEA or pursue a policy of confrontation with the IAEA.”

Iran has been limiting nuclear inspections by the IAEA in reaction to the abandonment of the 2015 nuclear deal by the U.S. according to which Tehran had agreed to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

Iran’s move to gradually remove ban on its nuclear program started in May 2019, one year after former U.S. President Donald Trump quit the nuclear deal — officially called the JCPOA — and returned the previous sanctions and introduced new ones under different labels.

Trump even introduced a total ban on Iran’s oil export, the country’s main source of income, under his “maximum pressure” campaign against the Islamic Republic.



The purpose behind Trump and his hawkish team was to strangle the Iranian economy. The Trump administration introduced these crippling sanctions in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that has endorsed the JCPOA.

Late last year the Iranian parliament approved a legislation tasking the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) to accelerate nuclear activities, including increasing the purity of nuclear fuel, in response to the illegal sanctions against Iran. It has been stated in the legislation if the illegal sanctions against Iran are lifted in a verifiable way, Iran will reverse its decisions.

The new U.S. administration in the U.S. under the leadership of Joe Biden has expressed willingness to rejoin the multilateral nuclear pact. The remaining parties to the JCPOA — Iran, Russia, China, Germany, Britain, and France — with an indirect participation of the U.S. have started talks in Vienna since early April with the aim of reviving the JCPOA. All the parties have expressed optimism over the restoration of the agreement.

The sixth round of the nuclear deal talks in Vienna ended on Sunday. The negotiators are returning to the capitals for political decisions by senior officials.

Iran’s top nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi issued a statement on Sunday saying progress made in this round of negotiations, especially regarding the draft of negotiation texts. He said the remaining important issues require serious decisions in the capitals, especially in the negotiating countries. Araqchi, Iran’s deputy foreign minister for political affairs, urged the negotiating parties to make the necessary decisions with realism, seriousness and strong will to maintain and revive the JCPOA.

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

On Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh also looked optimistic about the next round of nuclear talks, saying it may be the last one.

“We have agreed on a clear text on all issues and what has remained entails ‘political decisions’ by all sides. If these political decisions are taken, one can be hopeful that we are in the last round of talks,” Khatibzadeh told a regular news briefing.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani looks more optimistic about the revitalization of the nuclear deal, claiming “I am sure” that the sanctions “will be lifted soon”.

Rouhani made the remarks while talking about the launch of free trade zones.

It is not yet clear when the next round of talks will begin.

# No!

## President-elect gives decisive response to prospect of meeting Biden after possible sanctions removal

→ 1 This is an excerpt of his remarks:

The message of the election was to administer “justice” and “fight corruption”.

My administration will remain loyal to the promises that I have made during the presidential campaigns.

I want to improve the economic condition of the people, improve their livelihood.

To administer a law-abiding and effective managerial system.

I also thank services by the successive governments since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. However, in certain cases due to mismanagement Iran is facing problems and is lagging behind.

**The West should know that situation has changed**

The world, particularly the West, should realize that the situation in Iran has changed through the people’s vote.

Our foreign policy will not begin with the JCPOA and will not end with the JCPOA.

We will seek a “balanced relationship” with the outside world.

“National interests” will be considered in negotiations with foreigners.

My message to the U.S. is to return to your obligations under the JCPOA because it left the deal in the first place.

Current nuclear negotiating team will follow up talks.

Negotiations should produce results. The United States should have realized that “maximum pressure” on Iran has been fruitless.

The JCPOA has been “violated” by the U.S. and the Europeans have also not abided by their commitments under the multilateral agreement.

Iran wants Europeans to commit themselves to their obligations.

**Liquidity should be directed toward production**

Liquidity should be managed. It should be directed toward the production sector.

We will make production “enticing”.

And we also should administer an effective tax system and make certain business activities like those in gold market and



housing unattractive.

**All sanctions must be lifted**

All sanctions must be lifted and their removal must be verified. America must abide by its commitments under the nuclear agreement.

**As a lawyer I defend human rights**

As a lawyer I have always defended the people’s rights. I have defended human rights. Those who have violated the rights of people in the world must be held answerable.

Instead, those who have defended the rights of the people should be praised.

Even today I consider myself tasked to defend the right of all people all around the world.

This is my honor as prosecutor general to defend the rights and welfare of the people.

**Biden must lift all sanctions**

Biden must prove his sincerity by lifting all sanctions.

I call on Biden’s administration to return to its compliances under the Iran nuclear deal and lift all sanctions

The Iranian people don’t have a good memory about the JCPOA.

The Iranian missile program is not subject for negotiations. Why does the U.S. which has not honored its commitments under

the JCPOA it is talking about other issues?

**West hosting assassins of Ayatollah Beheshti and others**

Certain Western countries are now home to assassins of Ayatollah Mohammad Hossein Beheshti and Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Rajaei.

The West must now be held accountable that why has been hosting murders of Ayatollah Beheshti.

**Competence is the criterion for cabinet makeup**

Professionalism, Revolutionary spirit, have the will to fight corruption will be the chief criterion for forming the government.

**We definitely pursue for implementation of comprehensive partnership with China**

We have a good relationship with China since the Islamic Revolution. There is great potential for cooperation.

Implementing the (25-year) comprehensive partnership will definitely be on the agenda.

**Referendum is solution to the Palestinian problem**

The Islamic Republic has been insisting on referendum for settling the conflict in Palestine.

## JCPOA talks would be concluded in Rouhani admin, says Foreign Ministry

“It is true Iran is seeking guarantees that the U.S. would not quit the JCPOA in future”

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Speaking at his weekly press briefing on Monday, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said that he hopes the next round of talks in Vienna would be the final one.

The sides have reached “a clear text” about all issues and what remains needs “political decision” from all sides, Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters at his weekly press briefing.

Iran and the 4+1 group (China, Russia, Britain, France plus Germany) have been holding talks in Vienna, Austria, since about three months ago to reach agreement on removal of anti-Iran sanctions and possible return of the U.S. to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) from which Washington withdrew unilaterally in May 2018.

The U.S. is participating in the talks indirectly as Iran has refused talks with the U.S. until Washington rejoins the JCPOA and lift sanctions in a verifiable manner.

If this political decision is taken, the next talks can be the last round, the spokesman said.

Touching upon the June 18 presidential election in Iran, the spokesman said so far 48 presidents, parliament speakers and senior figures have extended congratulations to the president-elect, Ebrahim Raisi, during the past 48 hours.

Participation of people in the election in and out of the country carried positive messages, Khatibzadeh underlined.

With near 18 million votes out of about 29 million, Raisi won the 13th presidential election in Iran.

Asked whether agreement on a revival of the JCPOA has been postponed to tenure of next government, the spokesman said such reports and speculations are far from reality.

Iran does not intend to delay the possibility of lifting the sanctions, Khatibzadeh noted.

And it is Supreme Leader’s policy which is being continued by the negotiating team, he added.

Asked if there is possibility of reaching agreement in Vienna during President Rouhani’s tenure, the spokesman said diplomats are optimistic about the issue; however, it is too soon to judge as the political decisions to be taken by all sides are of paramount importance.

**“The nuclear text has no ambiguities”**

About the recent remarks made by U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan, the spokesman said talks will never be held on a new JCPOA.

Iran will not be satisfied with anything more or less than the JCPOA, he stressed.

Turning to the issue of Afghanistan, Khatibzadeh said that Iran follows developments in Afghanistan with concern.

He went on to say that Tehran invites all Afghan sides to reduce tension, remain committed to intra-Afghan peace talks, and respect rights of minorities.

About the new government’s policy on the JCPOA, he said all will see that Iran’s principled policies will continue during Raisi’s presidency.

The Zionist regime’s media outlets have launched smear campaign against the president-elect.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the Zionist media have nothing to do but damage the face of presidents elected by the Iranian nation.

**“Raisi is the voice of the reason of the system”**

The spokesman said Raisi has served in different important posts. For example, he said, Raisi was a member of the Supreme National Security for some years.

“He is the wise of voice of the establishment,” the Foreign Ministry spokesman remarked.



**“Zarif and Raisi meet for 90 minutes”**

Khatibzadeh also said Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had a meeting with President-elect Raisi for 90 minutes on Monday morning during which good talks took place about the JCPOA and foreign policy. The spokesman said the meeting was request by Raisi.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also confirmed that it is quite correct that Iran is seeking “guarantees” that the U.S. will not quit the JCPOA again. However, he said the details cannot be discussed openly.

Iran has repeatedly said that it would immediately return to its commitments based on the JCPOA as soon as the U.S. did so.

About Iran’s readiness to send an ambassador to Riyadh, the spokesman expressed hope that talks would reach tangible outcome for establishment of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

## Chinese president congratulates Raisi on presidential win, calls China and Iran ‘strategic partners’

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a congratulatory message to Ebrahim Raisi over his election as Iranian president, Xinhua reported.

In his message, Xi noted that China and Iran are comprehensive strategic partners, and this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations.

He added that he highly values the development of China-Iran ties, and stands ready to work with Raisi to strengthen bilateral strategic communication, consolidate mutual political trust, and broaden and deepen win-win cooperation in various fields, so as to create benefits for both countries and their people.

In March Iran and China signed a 25-year strategic partnership which envisions comprehensive economic cooperation between the two countries.

In his first press conference as president-elect on Monday, Raisi said developing ties with China will be on agenda of his



administration.

China is also party to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Beijing has been a critic of the U.S. that abandoned the legally binding agreement in May 2018, when Donald Trump was president.

**Lebanese president congratulates Raisi**

Lebanese President Michael Aoun has also

sent a message to Raisi congratulating his election as the Iranian president, Lebanese official news agency LNE reported on Monday.

Wishing success for the president-elect, the Lebanese president insisted on the need to develop “friendly ties” between Beirut and Tehran.

Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabi Berri and Hezbollah Secretary General have already sent congratulatory message to the Iranian president-elect.

**Pakistan president congratulates Raisi for winning Iranians’ trust**

Arif Alvi, Pakistan’s president, has also sent a message to Raisi congratulating him for succeeding to win the trust of the Iranian people in the presidential race.

In a statement written in well-versed Persian language on Sunday night, Pakistan’s presidential palace said, “Arif Alvi, while congratulating Ebrahim Raisi, said that the Iranian people trusted his motivations for peace, welfare and progress.”

Iran has always been defender of the oppressed people including the Palestinians and this has been stated in the constitution and being insisted on by Imam Khomeini and Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

**War on Yemen should be stopped immediately**

Saudis and its allies should stop war on Yemen. This war should be stopped immediately. Yemen should be managed by the Yemenis themselves.

Iran wants war on Yemenis to end immediately.

**Iran, Saudi Arabia can reopen embassies**

Our priority is relations with neighbors especially neighboring countries and there.

In view of the Islamic Republic reopening embassies between Iran and Saudi Arabia is something that can happen.

And there should be no problem for relations between the two countries (Iran and Saudi Arabia) as well as dialogue with all regional countries

**Investment by Iranians abroad is a priority**

Helping Iranians return to the country is also on the agenda.

The entrance of Iranians to the country should be facilitated.

Investment by the Iranians living abroad in the country is highly prioritized.

Safety is for all and all investors should know that today the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the “safest places” for investment and the government guarantees it.

**Talented persons can offer views for better management**

Talented persons can propose their views on better management of the country and a mechanism has been devised in which experts can present their ideas.

**Israel must be terrified of Resistance groups instead of our governments**

Zionist regime should be horrified by Palestinian resistance groups instead of our government

Iran calls for fate of Palestine people to be decided by themselves.

Iran always supports the oppressed people of Palestine.



# Bennetanyahu

## New Israel leadership rehashes Netanyahu's obsolete rhetoric against Iran

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — In an echo of the former Israeli prime minister's tactics employed against Iran, the new Israeli government resorted to similar tactics to magnify the alleged threat posed by Iran.

While Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi did not outline in detail his foreign policy priorities as of Sunday, new Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennet condemned on Sunday the election of Raisi as Iranian president, describing him with profane language and calling on world powers to refrain from negotiating a new nuclear deal with him.

"Raisi's election is, I would say, the last chance for world powers to wake up before returning to the nuclear agreement, and understand who they are doing business with," the new Israeli prime minister said in a statement.

Bennet once again accused Iran of trying to build a nuclear weapon, noting that Iran should not be allowed to possess such a weapon. "Israel's position will not change on this," he vowed.

Bennett, an ultranationalist atop of a cross-partisan coalition, has not distanced himself from the opposition of his conservative predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu, to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Prior to a vote to approve his government, Bennet in his address to the Knesset, indicated that he plans to continue Netanyahu's failed policies vis-à-vis Iran.

"Returning to the Iran Deal is a mistake that will once again give legitimacy to one of the most violent, darkest regimes in the world," Bennett said, according to the Jerusalem Post. "Israel will not allow Iran to get nuclear weapons. Israel is not a party to the deal, and will maintain total freedom of action."

Bennet alleged that the JCPOA gave Iran billions of dollars and said that these dollars were spent on funding what he called "terrorist outposts" in the region.

The position taken by Bennet once again showed that there are no moderate politicians in Israel. Bennet assumed office thanks to the alliance he built with various, and in some cases contradictory, political factions. Israeli media outlets touted the Bennet government as the most diverse and moderate government. It is made up of very contradictory parties. It was formed from two factions that shared power equally: the Right bloc that includes 12 deputies, and a bloc seeking change which includes 49 deputies. In addition to the contradiction between the two blocs, there is a contradiction no less severe within the Lapid faction. It includes Avigdor



Lieberman's far-right party and Meretz's far-left party, and between them are Benny Gantz's party, Labor and the party of Lapid himself as well as the Islamic movement.

The Bennet government was supposed to advocate moderate policies toward the Palestinian people and Iran given the diverse composition of the cabinet. However, Bennet showed that he is not different from Netanyahu in terms of advocating hardline policies. This was evident from the approval by the Bennet government of a rightist parade in Jerusalem (al-Quds).

The parade, also known as the flag march, is widely regarded as the symbol of the continuation of state-level extremism in Israel. It was delayed several times over fears that such a controversial move would prompt another conflict between the Palestinians and the Israeli regime.

The flag-waving procession was planned to proceed but the Israeli authorities, taking into account Palestinian warnings, delayed the event, which was organized by Israeli right-wing groups. The organizers of the procession planned to march through the walled Old City's Damascus Gate and into its Muslim quarter, a provocative move that prompted the Palestinians, including the resistance groups in the Gaza Strip, to warn Israel of the consequences of the procession should it proceed.

However, the Israeli government did not heed this warning, giving the far-right groups the green light to hold their controversial parade. The so-called flag march has always been a controversial move. It is held to commemorate the so-called Jerusalem Day, one which reminds the Palestinians of the day when they lost control over Jerusalem's Old City during the 1967 war. The Israeli government wasted no time in standing by the side of right-wingers.

On Iran, the new Israeli government took the same line. This can be explained by a desire on the part of Bennet to allure his social base, which is mainly comprised of ultraconservatives. He was forced to coalesce with Muslim and leftist factions because he failed to put together a coalition of ultraconservative lawmakers. He also failed to put aside his disagreements with his former ally Netanyahu.

But Bennet will likely fail to dissuade the U.S. from rejoining the JCPOA as Netanyahu did. The former prime minister even jeopardized Israel's relations with the U.S. by publicly opposing the U.S. stated goal of returning to the Iran deal even though the Biden administration had asked him to avoid publicizing the U.S.-Israel differences over the JCPOA.

Adopting a relatively low-key approach, the Bennet cabinet is intensifying consultations with the U.S. in an effort to calmly achieve what Netanyahu failed to achieve through a vociferous campaign. To this end, Chief of Staff of Israeli Armed Forces Aviv Kochavi has begun a visit to Washington to discuss a number of issues including the Iran nuclear deal.

During the visit, Kochavi explained to White House officials Israel's position on the nuclear talks with Iran and the return of the United States to the agreement. According to Israeli media reports, Kochavi will meet with senior U.S. security and military officials, including the National Security Adviser, the Secretary of Defense, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Haaretz reported that a group of top Israeli officers, including the head of the Israeli army's strategic department and the head of the Army Intelligence Research Center, will accompany Kochavi on the trip.

Kochavi is the first Israeli official to visit the United States since the formation of a new government in Israel. The

visit comes as a number of Israeli security leaders have warned that Israel's chances of influencing the course of nuclear talks with Iran are dwindling.

Israeli President Rivlin is also set to meet his American counterpart on June 28 according to a White House statement. "President Biden looks forward to welcoming Israeli President Reuven Rivlin to the White House on June 28, 2021. President Rivlin's visit will highlight the enduring partnership between the United States and Israel and the deep ties between our governments and our people. It will be an opportunity to consult about the many challenges facing the region," the statement said.

Ahead of his trip to Washington, Rivlin will consult with Bennet and Defense Minister Benny Gantz. The meeting is to coordinate a message about Iran that the new Tel Aviv cabinet intends to convey to the United States through Rivlin. Israel is likely to reaffirm its opposition to reviving the Iran nuclear deal, but it is also expected to make proposals to the United States to amend the agreement, according to Israeli press reports.

The Israeli officials' visits to Washington come at a time when Israeli media outlets are calling on the Israeli government to clarify the mysterious death of an Israeli intelligence officer who died in a military prison during the recent war between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

The man, whose identity is under two gag orders, had been behind bars since September, according to the Jerusalem Post. He was found in serious condition in his cell at the newly-opened Neve Tzedek military prison on the night of May 16 and later pronounced dead.

"Officer X" served in a top army intelligence division. While the military won't say which one, it has been announced he was not charged with espionage or contact with the enemy, the Israeli newspaper continued. The mysterious death of the Israeli officer left many questions unanswered.

"If it's not espionage, why won't the court or IDF release his name and say what he did? If he committed a crime, the military must say what it was," the Jerusalem Post asked, adding, "Why is it taking so long to release the cause of his death? He did not commit suicide, the IDF said, adding that he was not killed. So what was it? Did he die of natural causes? The IDF must allow an independent investigation into his death, as his family has requested, and not by its internal investigations unit. If he had been discharged by the IDF during his time in prison, why wasn't he moved to a civilian prison?"

but I think it will be a difficult round," he continued.

The top Iranian nuclear negotiator stated, "As I have said many times in these negotiations, we pursued national goals and interests. Certainly, for both Dr. Rouhani and Dr. Raisi, what is important is that these interests be met," Araqchi notes.



**"As I have said many times in these negotiations, we pursued national goals and interests. Certainly, for both Dr. Rouhani and Dr. Raisi, what is important is that these interests be met," Araqchi notes.**

between Iran and the Agency that need to be resolved, as well as how the Agency will assist the negotiations progress. There are some technical points where the Agency's expert explanations can be helpful, and we also talked about the tasks the Agency should perform after reaching a possible agreement. The comprehensive meeting was very good."

He pointed out, "There was a discussion about extending the technical understanding between Iran and the Agency, and this is an important issue that will be decided in Tehran, and I have no judgment in this regard."

Araqchi also noted that he was not sure if the next round of talks would be the last one. "It is not possible to say whether the next round will be the final round or not, but I hope so. If the other side can make their own decisions, I think the next round will be the final round,

## SPORTS

### I just concentrated on my job: Dragan Skocic

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iran national football team coach Dragan Skocic says that he was under intense pressure over the past months after being named as Iran coach but he just concentrated on his job.

Under his leadership, the 'Persian Leopards' booked their place at the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 3. Iran defeated Hong Kong, Bahrain, Cambodia and Iraq and advanced to the next stage as Group C winners.



"I just trust myself and concentrated on my job. I could not wait for the competition because I was determined to show my critics I can do it. I have to say I was under intense pressure but didn't care about that and did my job. I wanted to prove we can carry out our job," Skocic said in an interview with Iran's state-run TV.

"It was a difficult mission but our task was to do our job in the best possible way. The other teams had to play three matches but we had four matches ahead. We had to play every four days and it needed to manage our players' physical condition. And we did it," the former Sanat Naft coach said.

"I was not satisfied with the AFC's decision to award hosting rights to Bahrain but I have to say they hosted the games in the best possible way. We had not a serious problem during the competition," he added.

"My expectation from our players was high. We have a team with many talented players and to manage them was a difficult duty. I didn't want to compromise my principles. So, I didn't field three striker Sardar Azmoun, Mehdi Taremi and Karim Ansarifard at the same time. I am not here to satisfy all of players because I have to make the best decision for my team," the Croat stated.

"We worked 20 hours a day to achieve our goal. It was not an easy job. We have good players and they played the main role but we had to manage the team and I am happy we have won our four matches out of four.

The Iranian media had reported that Skocic's contract has expired after the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 2 but the Croatian coach says his contract runs until 2023.

"I am under contract with the national team but the Iran football federation can terminate cooperation with me. This is not something that I decide. My goal is to help the National Team qualify for the 2022 World Cup. I wanted to make the Iranian people happy and I enjoy the success at the moment," Skocic concluded.

### Iran's losing streak continues in 2021 VNL

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iran suffered their sixth loss in a row at the 2021 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) on Monday.

The Persians lost to France in straight sets (25-21, 25-21, 25-19) on Week 5.

Stephen Boyer scored 17 points for France while Meysam Salehi earned 12 points for the Iranian team.

Vladimir Alekno's team are scheduled to meet Poland and Argentina on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

Iran have not registered a win since beating the U.S. on Week 3. Since then, the National Team have lost to Serbia, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Slovenia and France.

Iran have lost nine matches in the competition and registered just five wins.

The 2021 VNL has brought a total of 32 of the world's top national teams in Rimini, Italy.

The 16-team tournament began with a round-robin phase where each side play 15 games.

### Persepolis win fourth successive Super Cup title

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis defeated Tractor 1-0 to win fourth successive Iran's Hazfi Cup title here at the Azadi Stadium on Sunday.

Issa Alekasir scored the only goal of the match just after the hour mark after dribbling past Tractor defender Mohammadreza Khanzadeh into the area and unleashed a ferocious right-footed strike.

Tractor were reduced to 10 men in the 78th after Mehdi Tikdari was shown a straight red card for a foul on Persepolis defender Saeid Aghaei.

Persepolis had won the Super Cup title in the third previous editions.

The Iranian Super Cup is a match between the Iranian Professional League's season champions and the winners of the Hazfi Cup.

### Iran futsal team to play Belarus

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iran national futsal team will play two friendly matches with Belarus as part of preparation for the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Football Federation of Belarus has invited Iran to the country for holding a training camp from Aug. 28 and Sept. 1.

Leila Yarmohammadi, head of futsal department of Iran's Football Federation, has said Iran will play two friendly matches with Belarus in the camp.

Iran are pitted with Argentina, the U.S., and Serbia in Group F of 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup.



## TEDPIX goes up 4,800 points on Monday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 4,837 points to 1.168 million on Monday.

Over 9.309 billion securities worth 63.431 trillion rials (about \$1.51 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

The first market's index rose 3,898 points, and the second market's index rose 8,553 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 Iran-zamin Company, and Zarmakaron Industrial Company were the most widely followed indices.

## Over 470,000 tons of cement offered at IME

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The metal and mineral trading floor of Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) hosted the offering of 471,800 tons of cement, produced by 21 domestic companies, on Monday.

The value of trades at the IME has increased 18 percent during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).



As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, in the past week, 824,288 tons of commodities with a total trading value of \$384 million were traded at the exchange, showing also a 31-percent growth in terms of the volume of traded commodities.

The exchange sold on its metal and mineral trading floor 438,651 tons of commodities worth more than \$216 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 185,564 tons of steel, 4,720 tons of copper, 8,850 tons of aluminum, 250 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 400 tons of metallurgical coke, 12 tons of precious metal concentrate, 585 tons of zinc ingots, 194,270 tons of cement, 11 kg of gold bars, 9,000 tons of sponge iron and 35,000 tons of iron ore pellets.

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).

## Annual exports of cellulose products exceed \$100m

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran exported over \$100 million worth of cellulose products in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), according to Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki.

"This industry [cellulose] has developed significantly over the past decade, for example, until 10 years ago we were an importer of tissue papers, but today we are among the exporters of this product," Niaraki said at the opening ceremony of Iran's 4th International Specialized Exhibition of Paper, Cardboard, Cellulose Products, and Related Machinery in Tehran on Monday.



The official noted that the production of tissues and packaging papers in the country grew significantly last year, and more than 700,000 tons of packing papers were also produced in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21).

According to the official, domestic producers are currently capable of providing all types of cellulose products that the market is demanding, however, technical issues and the lack of raw materials have led the country to import most of the required materials for the production process.

Currently, 120,000 tons of sanitary tissues are consumed annually in the country, while the production in this field is more than 200,000 tons.

Iran's 4th International Specialized Exhibition of Paper, Cardboard, Cellulose Products and Related Machinery kicked off at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

The inaugural ceremony of the four-day exhibit was attended by Deputy Industry Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki.

# Development projects worth \$14.7b inaugurated in free trade, special economic zones

**→ 1** As reported by IRNA, in this series of inaugurations 15 production and development projects with a total investment of 26.19 trillion rials (about \$623 million) were put into operation in the Aras Free Trade Zone which will create jobs for 575 people, while 11 infrastructure projects worth 2.25 trillion rials (about \$53.57 million) were inaugurated in Arvand Free Zone, which will provide employment for 260 people directly.

Also, 15 projects were put into operation in Qeshm Free Trade Zone, the investment value of which is 24.80 trillion rials (about

\$590 million) and will create jobs for 880 people. In Kish Free Zone, nine projects worth 26.89 trillion rials (about \$640 million) were inaugurated which create job opportunities for 375 people.

The president also ordered the beginning of several development projects with a total investment of 420 trillion rials (\$10 billion). These projects are going to create jobs for 7,117 people when put into operation.

One of the most important projects that were inaugurated on Monday in the Arvand Free Trade Zone, was the Shalamcheh-Basra



railway.

Shalamcheh-Basra railway route which connects the southwestern Iranian city of Shalamcheh to Basra in Iraq is 32 kilometers long along which a 700-meter bridge is also constructed.

According to the Secretary of Iranian Free Zones High Council Hamidreza Mo'meni, currently, 621 development projects are being implemented in free trade and special economic zones, which have average physical progress of 50 percent.

## Iran among the leading countries in maritime telecommunications

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Mohammad-Reza Allahyar, the deputy of engineering and infrastructure development at Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), has said Iran is among the world's leading countries in maritime technologies and telecommunications.

Mentioning the virtual presence of PMO as Iran's representative at the 10th International Maritime Transport and Logistics Conference in Egypt, Allahyar said the PMO's Engineering and Infrastructure Development Department was in charge of the panel on the role of digital transformation in the development of container terminals, in the mentioned conference.

He underlined the positive impact of such international events on the global status of the Iranian maritime industry, saying: "Attending international forums and conferences can lead to the exchange of knowledge and experiences, while promoting the scientific and professional level of the participants, and fortunately, the Ports and Maritime Organization has had a good presence in the international



arena and plays a significant role in this area."

Regarding the PMO's measures for the digital transformation or smartening of the country's ports, the official noted: "In recent years, serious measures have been taken

to achieve this goal and in the field of engineering and infrastructure development, efforts have been made to use up-to-date equipment and technologies."

"Among the software that has been considered by the Ports and Maritime Organization for smartening of the ports, we can mention the decision-making-aid software for vessels, which was developed by domestic knowledge-based centers with the support of the PMO," Allahyar explained.

"Currently, only two countries are able to provide this software, and fortunately, Iranian experts succeeded in developing it using a sea dynamics simulator model and the software is now being used in a trial basis," he added.

Underlining the significance of marine engineering for the country, the official said: "We should know that the field of marine equipment engineering is also very important and fortunately in this field, Iran is one of the leading countries and we are ahead of many countries in the region in this field."

## Tehran hosting intl. paper, related machinery exhibition

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's 4th International Specialized Exhibition of Paper, Cardboard, Cellulose Products, and Related Machinery kicked off at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Monday, IRNA reported.

The inaugural ceremony of the four-day exhibit was participated by Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki.

As reported, there are currently 120 paper production plants in Iran, whose major challenge is the supply of raw materials.

According to Abolfazl Roghani Golpayegani, the head of the Iranian Syndicate of Paper and Cardboard Manufacturers, currently, the per capita consumption of paper products in Iran is 22 kilograms (kg), while in Europe the figure stands at 55 kg and in the United States is 160 kg.



The annual consumption of textbook paper is 40,000 tons, while some 120,000 tons of sanitary paper is also consumed annually in the country. The production in this field is more than 200,000 tons.

Last week, Golpayegani had said that considering the country's potentials and

capacities, Iran could easily become a hub for paper production in the region.

"Due to the general conditions and available facilities, Iran has the potential to become a regional production hub in many industries including the paper and cardboard sector," Golpayegani said.

Apart from Turkey, which is the largest automaker in the region through cooperation with Italy's Fiat, Iran is the top producer in other industries such as cement, glass, steel, etc.; it can also become the main supplier of paper to the region's large market, he stated.

According to the official, the government has issued a license for an annual production of 2.8 million tons of packing paper, while the country's annual production capacity is currently 1.6 million tons and the domestic demand is 900,000 tons per year.

"Therefore, surplus production must be

exported, and exports are already underway to Europe, including Germany, Finland and the United Kingdom, as well as Asia and the Persian Gulf Arab nations," he said.

Golpayegani noted that by creating the necessary infrastructure, using the existing vacant capacities and developing the production units, while improving international interactions and resolving the country's political issues, the paper industry can achieve the goal of becoming the region's main supplier.

The head of the Syndicate of Paper and Cardboard Manufacturers pointed to the supply of raw materials as the main challenge of this industry and said: "Department of Environment is the first authority to approve orders for raw material, but strict regulations by this organization have become an obstacle to the industry's activities."

## Exports to Syria jumps 73% in 2 months on year

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** —Iran's value of export to Syria hit \$49 million during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), which was 73 percent higher than the figure for the same period of time in the past year, a director in Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

Sohaila Rasoulinejad, the director of the Syria Desk in TPO's Office of Arabian Countries, also stated that Syria is ranked 14th in Iran's most important export markets.

Components and parts of steam turbines worth \$30 million, equivalent to 60 percent of the exports, accounted for the largest share of exports to this country, followed by goods such as electrical conductors, iron or steel rods, and baby milk powder, the official further said.

She put Iran's import from Syria and \$2 million during the said period.

According to the chairman of Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce said that trade is rising between the two countries.

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



Syria's trade statistics show that trade with China and India has not changed in the past three years, but Iran's trade with Syria is on the rise, he added.

Saying that the two sides are still far from their targeted bilateral trade, the official said plans must be put in place to see an improvement in exports and imports with this country, and some important steps have been taken in this due over the past year.

## 13 idle mines to be revived in Kermanshah province by next March

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — As announced by a provincial official, 13 idle mines are planned to be revived in Kermanshah province, in the west of Iran, by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Rasoul Eskandari, the deputy head of the province's Industry, Mining, and Trade Department, also said that 150 idle mines were revived in the province during the past year, creating jobs for over 150 persons.

Saying that 202 mines have operating license in the province, the official said that of this figure 163 mines are currently active.

The head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has announced that 253 idle small-scale mines were revived throughout the country in the previous Iranian calendar year.

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

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

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

Emphasizing that the above goals have been achieved as a result of productive cooperation among the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry, provincial industry organizations, Iran Mines houses, and private sector companies, Jafari noted that since the

beginning of the program in March 2019 up to the end of the previous year, 303 mines have been revived.

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

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

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

Reviving the small mines not only is a major step for supporting and boosting domestic production, it also plays a significant



role in job creation throughout the country, Gharibpour said back in June 2020.

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



# Raisi's victory represents challenge for U.S.: analyst

➔ **1** It's therefore understandable why the Iranian people wanted a change that they hope will alleviate their problems and restore their country's respect abroad. The new government will seek to prioritize both of these issues, which necessitates careful diplomacy as well as shrewd strategy. The nuclear talks will continue in parallel with Iran expanding its partnerships with non-Western countries like China and Russia.

**Putin congratulated Iran's president-elect Raisi as the first foreign leader. What does it signal?**

President Putin prioritizes Russia's Non-Western partnerships such as the one that it has with nearby Iran since these form integral parts of the Eurasian Great Power's geopolitical "balancing" act. Russian-Iranian relations are better than at any time in history though they've yet to reach their full potential. More trade and investment is a must, and this can be facilitated through Azerbaijan's proposed six-nation regional integration platform that it unveiled shortly after its victory in last year's Karabakh War. President Putin is clearly signaling his intent to expand relations with Iran, which will likely be achieved through the newly unlocked trans-Caucasian trade corridors. Russia will likely invest much more in Iran too if a deal is soon reached to reduce or outright remove the U.S. unilateral sanctions regime and thus eliminate the threat of so-called "secondary sanctions".

**What will be the impact of Raisi's victory on American political circles? What will be their reactions?**

No credible commentator in American political circles predicted any other outcome of the vote. Some might try to delegitimize this exercise of democracy for ideological reasons but they'd be powerless to influence the country's domestic processes. From an American



geostrategic perspective, Raisi's victory represents a challenge since Iran will likely prioritize regaining its respect that was gradually eroded under Rouhani. This could see the Islamic Republic more resolutely defending its regional interests, which could potentially set it up for a clash with the U.S., whether directly or indirectly. America will therefore have to be more careful going forward since it should expect Iran to respond in one way or another to whatever provocations it might be planning.

**Do you predict that Iran and Persian Gulf Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, will reach an understanding in the near future?**

There's a discernible desire among all to reach some sort of understanding that could at the very least result in a so-called "cold peace" for an uncertain length of time. All players are becoming exhausted from the seemingly never-ending regional tensions which have

apparently taken on a life of their own in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic has also resulted in them looking increasingly inward in order to improve their dire socio-economic situations. No one has the same level of interest in foreign affairs as they used to. It would therefore be to everyone's benefit if they reached the earlier described pragmatic understanding and that it holds for at least the next few years.

**What will be the new Iranian government's options to contain any possible sanctions?**

There's practically nothing that Iran could do to prevent any new sanctions since they're unilaterally implemented by the U.S. for strategic reasons. What it can do, however, is improve its defensive economic capabilities in the face of such threats. This can be achieved by prioritizing trade and investment with Iran's top non-Western partners, particularly China, Pakistan, and Russia.

Regarding the first-mentioned, the two countries recently clinched a 25-year strategic partnership deal which will see the Islamic Republic become a more integral part of the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI). China's long-term plans seem to be to transform Iran into a regional production powerhouse, but this will of course take a lot of time to achieve. Most Chinese companies aren't deterred by unilateral American sanctions threats or secondary ones thereof and will therefore likely continue investing in Iran regardless of whatever happens.

As for Pakistan, it hosts BRI's flagship project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which can be expanded westward into Iran via the W-CPEC+ vision in order to facilitate China's above-mentioned strategic goal. Although relations remain complicated for a variety of reasons, they've noticeably improved in recent years, which makes this vision increasingly viable. Plenty of work remains to be done, however, there's clearly the political will on both sides to achieve this. Upon any serious success in this strategic direction, Iran will be able to improve its economic connectivity with China.

The Russian angle was already described earlier in this interview, but to recap, the Eurasian Great Power is a very promising economic and investment partner for the Islamic Republic. They can engage with one another across either the Caspian or South Caucasus, the latter of which is becoming much more feasible in light of Azerbaijan's victory in last year's Karabakh War and the subsequent unblocking of regional trade corridors. Russia might not invest all that much into Iran until the U.S. unilateral sanctions are reduced or removed, but once that happens, then these two countries can finally realize their true economic potential.

## The election of Raisi is a sign of vitality for Iran: Albanian historian

➔ **1** His reign as the president of Iran means that for the coming four years Iran will see political stability and continuation of the pathway that the Islamic Revolution of Iran brought to the Middle East (West Asia) and Islamic world since 1979.

The nightmare that the election of Raisi has caused in the West can be seen by the titles of their publications. Like Sultan Abdul Hamid II who was insulted as a "Bloody Sultan" or "Red Sultan", Raisi is being attacked and insulted as "hardliner", "mass murderer", "ultraconservative cleric", "Islamic hardliner" and etc. These schizophrenic attacks reveal the importance that the elections of Raisi has for the future of Iran, Islam and the Middle East (West Asia).

In the coming four years the West will have to talk to Sayyed Raisi and his government and by seeing the wave of attacks and insults, it seems that Mr. Raisi will be a tough player in the politics of Iran and the Middle East (West Asia).

**Maryam Rajavi and her gang in Albania, the Evangelicals of Trump, plus Israel did what they could to distort the true face of Raisi. What is your comment?**

Scholars who studied the behavior of the cult of Maryam Rajavi, Israel, and their Evangelical supporters during the era of the Trump administration have noted the particular interest that MEK took against Sayyed Raisi. In their publications and conferences, they attacked him in person and sent his name to many Western governments and institutions; preparing the way for President Trump's Executive Order 13876 which led to the designation of Mr. Raisi as part of the group of Iranian officials who were sanctioned by the U.S. government.

MEK lobbied and convinced the Evangelical fanatics, who were running the Trump administration, to include Mr. Raisi in the sanctioned list as well as the charitable foundation Astan Quds Razavi (AQR) which he directed from the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad.

MEK lobbied even against other Islamic institutions of Iran like Al-Mustafa International University which



is the Islamic version of the Pontifical Urban University which the Vatican has for preaching Christianity. Because of its anti-clerical and anti-Islamic ideology, MEK is obsessed with hatred against Islam and the clergy in Iran. This is one of the reasons why they went after Sayyed Raisi and the Islamic institutions of Iran.

Nevertheless, Sayyed Raisi is now the new president of Iran. The dream of Maryam Rajavi, John Bolton, and some Zionists in the Trump administration to have a regime change in Tehran by 2018 was not materialized. MEK and its regime change thugs have all but lost. That is why we see such a massive anti-Raisi hysteria in the West. People of Iran voted for Raisi and democracy has prevailed!

**Some groups attributed to the Rajavi cult have attacked voters outside Iran. What is your analysis?**

Well, as you might know, MEK is a totalitarian organization. Maryam Rajavi who heads MEK proclaims to be a person with supernatural powers. She rules over her soldiers in Albania through violence and blackmail. MEK hates democracy. Their cult does not accept elections and democracy. They do not accept

even the debate. I have challenged MEK commanders and Maryam Rajavi for a public debate in Albania and they never accept. Democracy, debate, openness is a sin for MEK.

Maryam Rajavi does not allow her soldiers to vote in the paramilitary camp of Manza in Albania. MEK like ISIS, Jahbat al-Nusra and other cultish sects consider democracy and elections a sin. That is the reason why they attacked voters outside Iran. If they could, they would even assassinate any Iranian who votes and believes in democracy.

**What is Israel's possible reaction to the presidential election in Iran and the Vienna talks?**

The Israeli media and politicians have become hysterical by the election of Sayyed Raisi. They are insulting him with the same terms that MEK does. They are telling the Americans that "we have no choice but to attack Iran". The Israeli regime believes that the election of Raisi will embolden the Islamic resistance from Gaza to Lebanon. The past connections and visits of Mr. Raisi in Lebanon, make many Israeli policymakers believe that during his reign the Islamic resistance will be strengthened further and this will endanger the existence of the apartheid system in Israel.

They are trying all they can to convince the Biden administration to abandon the Iran nuclear deal and go to war against Iran. However, the Americans seem to be tired of Israel. President Biden is not interested to fight a war for Israel for the time being. Netanyahu who was a chief warmonger now is out of power. There is chaos, insecurity and hysteria in Israel at the present. The latest war in Gaza showed that they are losing the war with the Palestinians. And they fear that Sayyid Raisi will be the new Saladin.

**How can Iran and Turkey and other powers in the region form a coalition to confront Israel?**

Mr. Necmettin Erbakan has shown to Turkey and Iran the path towards Islamic independence in his D-8 project since 1997. If Turkey and Iran follow the path set by PM Necmettin Erbakan, they both can become the saviors of the Middle East (West Asia).

## Calls growing louder for Europe to revive diplomatic ties with post-war Syria

With Syrian President Bashar al-Assad winning a fourth term in office and earning a massive mandate from Syrians, calls are growing louder in Europe for reviving diplomatic ties with the Arab country.

European governments, who left no stone unturned in plotting the downfall of the democratically-elected government in Damascus for more than a decade, have finally begun to wake up to the reality: the Syrian government is here to stay for the foreseeable future.

An article in the U.S.-based magazine National Interest says time has come for chancelleries north of the Mediterranean to change their course and send their diplomats back to Syria.

It notes that while some countries like Russia, China, and India never broke off their ties with Damascus, others have begun to mend their broken ties with the Assad government.

Syria has been grappling with the foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. Damascus accuses the Israeli regime and its Western and regional allies of aiding and abetting the Takfiri terrorist groups that have wreaked havoc in the Arab country for over a decade.

A recent report by a U.S.-based humanitarian aid group revealed that the economic cost of the foreign-sponsored conflict in Syria is estimated to be at over \$1.2 trillion, beside the loss of thousands of civilian lives and large-scale displacement of people.

## Pakistan's Khan fears 'civil war' if no peace deal in Afghanistan

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has called on the United States to find a political settlement to its war in Afghanistan before withdrawing from the country, as he ruled out hosting any U.S. military bases to be used against other countries.

Khan was speaking in an interview to U.S. news platform Axios that was aired late on Sunday.

"The Americans, before they leave, there must be a settlement," he said, referring to a September 11 deadline set by the U.S. government for its troops to withdraw from Pakistan's northwestern neighbor.

## Macron, Le Pen fail to gain traction in French regional elections

Le Pen's far-right party stumbled, Macron's centrists crashed and incumbent conservatives surged ahead in the first round of France's regional elections that were dominated by security issues and a record-low turnout.

Sunday's vote, which was meant to be centered on local concerns like transportation, schools and infrastructure, turned into a dress rehearsal for next year's presidential vote, as would-be presidential hopefuls seized on the regional campaign to test ideas and win followers.

According to al Jazeera, Macron's rivals on the left and right notably denounced his government's handling of the pandemic.

## U.S. preparing fresh Russia sanctions over 'Navalny poisoning'

A top White House advisor has warned that the United States is preparing another round of sanctions against Russia over the alleged poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny. President Joe Biden's National Security advisor Jake Sullivan told American media that "We sanctioned Russia for the poisoning of Alexei Navalny... We rallied European allies in a joint effort to impose costs on Russia for the use of a chemical agent against one of their citizens on Russian soil".

Sullivan added, "We are preparing another package of sanctions to apply in this case, as well. We've shown along the way we're not going to pull our punches". Russia has rejected as baseless the accusation that it was behind the Navalny poisoning. Moscow says it will respond logically to any new sanctions. It also says the sanctions over the Navalny affair are linked to its energy distribution via the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that will serve some European countries including Euro heavyweight Germany.

In January, Moscow arrested and jailed the opposition leader when he returned to Russia after recovering from the alleged poisoning. In March, Washington imposed sanctions on a series of government officials and entities including the director of Russia's FSB security agency over the case. Diplomatic relations between Moscow and Washington had all but broken down since Biden took office in January. Biden likened Putin to a "killer" and in March Russia took a rare step by recalling its ambassador to Washington.

The U.S. administration acted likewise. A recent summit between Biden and Putin sought to ease tensions. Following the bilateral meeting, the Russian and American ambassadors returned to their posts, however, it appears that ties have dipped again.

## Resistance News

### Sinwar: Our meeting with UN delegation was "bad"

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** TEHRAN— Yahya Sinwar, Hamas chief in Gaza, described his meeting with the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, as "bad."

Sinwar said after the meeting on Monday, "The roots of the problem must be resolved and unfortunately, there are no signs of solving the humanitarian crisis in Gaza."

He noted that Hamas will hold a meeting for the leaders of the national and Islamic factions in the coming hours to decide their next steps.

The Hamas leader added that the Israeli occupation continues its hostile policies against Gaza and the prisoners and is trying to blackmail the resistance.

Sinwar met on Monday morning with Wennesland to discuss issues related to the Gaza Strip, breaking the siege on it, the continuation of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and the closure of its border crossings.

## Yemen, Palestine slam UN chief for excluding Saudis, Israelis from children's blacklist

➔ **1** The statement added that "It would have been better for the UN to remain neutral and not to turn into a cheap trumpet repeating the nonsense and absurdities of the [Saudi] coalition of aggression". Ansarullah denounced the unfair classification, denouncing it as invalid and not based on any argument, noting that the UN has declared itself a party to the aggression. Yemen's National Salvation Government pointed out Yemen respects its obligations

under international law and protects the rights of Yemeni children, noting that the country does not need to militarize children as long as it has men who can repel and defeat aggression. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry says the Israeli absence from the blacklist shows the bias of the UN and indicates a call to ensure the regime escapes from punishment.

The ministry added that this also exposes the UN's lack of credibility and in-

tegrity. The ministry stressed the need for accountability and fairness to the victims of Israel's bombardment and to preserve the memory of the recent Palestinian children that were martyred by Israeli warplanes. Over the years, the blacklist of those who violate children's rights has been controversial. In 2016, diplomatic sources said that Saudi Arabia's allies pressured then UN Chief Ban Ki-Moon to remove Saudi Arabia from the list.

The removal prompted angry reactions from rights groups after one diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the media that the pressure to remove Saudi Arabia amounted to "real blackmail". Riyadh had threatened to cut all funding to UN programs if it was not removed from the child rights blacklist for killing children in Yemen. According to analysts a similar lobbying campaign has been waged by Israel and its allies.

## Rights group urges UK to probe UAE activist's death near London

A U.S.-based advocacy group, Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), has called on United Kingdom authorities to investigate the circumstances of a prominent Emirati

dissident's death in a car crash near London.

Alaa al-Siddiq, 33, executive director of the UK-based ALQST, a non-profit organization that advocates greater

freedoms and human rights in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the wider Persian Gulf region, died in an automobile collision in Oxfordshire on Saturday.



## Indigenous stories, lullabies to be assessed as national heritage

➔1 The Islamic Republic plans to register the 30th of Azar (December 21) on its national calendar as a day of stories and storytelling based on a proposal from the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), which was approved by the General Culture Council of Iran.



The final decision on the proposal will be made at the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution.

The 30th of Azar on the Iranian calendar is the last day of autumn, the evening of which is celebrated by Iranians as the ancient tradition of Yalda Night. Storytelling by parents and grandparents is a key element of the celebration.

Yalda Night, which falls on December 20 this year, is considered the longest night of the year when the ancient Iranians celebrated the birth of Mithra, the goddess of light. It is also known as Chelleh Night, which alludes to the first 40 days of winter, considered to be the harshest of the season.

People on this night are usually served with fresh fruits and a mixture of dry fruits, seeds, and nuts in floral bowls. Following a hot dinner, many people often recite poetry, narrate stories, chant, play musical instruments, or just chat cozily until midnight or so.

## Restorers to refine centuries-old mansion in eastern Iran

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Soltani Mansion, a historical building in Qaen city, the eastern province of South Khorasan, has undergone some rehabilitation works, a local tourism official has said.



The plasterwork of the interior and portions of the exterior façade, which had been damaged due to natural elements, underwent restoration, Hamid Abbaszadeh announced on Monday.

The mansion that currently houses Qaen’s anthropology museum dates back to Zand-era (1751 to 1794) and it was fully restored and renovated during the Qajar era (1789–1925), the official added.

The building has a rectangular plan, with summer and winter porches, kitchen and storage, and several rooms on either side, he added.

The historical monument has been registered on the National Heritage list.

South Khorasan province is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert.

It is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

## Old trees, strait in Semnan made national heritage

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** —A total of six natural properties scattered across Semnan province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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

Four old plane trees and a tamarisk tree as well as Zolamat Strait were added to the prestigious list.



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

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

# Take a walk through the ancient city of Bishapur

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Bishapur (literally, “The city of Shapur”) was the grand capital of the Sassanid king, Shapur I whose armies defeated the Romans three times.

Like an arch bridge at Shushtar, much of Bishapur was allegedly built by Roman soldiers taken captive after their Emperor Valerian was defeated in c. 260 CE.

Bishapur is situated south of modern Faliyan, just off the ancient road between Persis and Elam, which connected the Sasanian capitals Istakhr (close to Persepolis) and Firuzabad to Susa and Ctesiphon. The city was built near a river crossing.

The site has been partly excavated so far, revealing the Palace of Shapur and the nearby Temple of Anahita, where a stairway leads underground to a pool around which the faithful once walked and prayed. Bishapur was not a completely novel settlement: archaeologists have found remains from the Elamite and Parthian ages.

Many architectural aspects of Bishapur look Roman and do not belong to Iranian building traditions. An example is what specialists call the “Hippodamian Plan”, which means that the city looks like a gridiron, while Iranian cities usually were circular in design, according to Livius.org; a website on ancient history written and maintained since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona Lendering.

The core of the city was the old castle, situated on a steep rock, which is in itself



An ancient statue of Shapur I, Bishapur, southern Iran.

one of the most interesting geological features of the southern Zagros mountain. The oldest monument was the relief I, in the Tang-e Chowgan gorge, which celebrates one of the earliest victories of the Sassanid monarch.

Reliefs II and III commemorate the defeat of Valerian. Probably, the small relief VII did the same. While these were cut, the city, palace, and the so-called

Temple of Anahita were built by the Roman prisoners of war. Another monument from the founding period is the cave monument.

The city, surrounded by walls that may have stood some ten meters high, was inhabited by some 50,000 to 80,000 people. Later monuments include reliefs V (investiture of Bahram I), IV (an Arab embassy to Bahram II), and VI (victory

of Shapur II).

Bishapur remained an important city until the Arab invasion of Persia and the rise of Islam in the second quarter of the seventh century. It became a center of Islamic learning (a madrassah has been excavated) and there were still people living over here in the tenth century, but the decline had started in the seventh century.

The main monuments have been excavated between 1935 and 1941. Nevertheless, most of the city is still buried, and incidentally, teams of archaeologists returned to the site afterward.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled “Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region”-- to its World Heritage list.

The ensemble is comprised of eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

## Remnants of ancient fire temple discovered in heart of Alborz mountains

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A team of Iranian archaeologists has recently discovered remnants of an ancient fire temple in Savadkuh county, which is situated in the heart of the Alborz mountain range.

The fire temple is estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224 CE-651), Mehdi Abedini Araqi, who leads the archaeological survey, said on Monday.

The discovery was made at a distance of about five kilometers from the historical Espahbod Khorshid Cave, he noted.

The fire temple was constructed in the form of ‘Chartaqi’, which was a prominent element in Iranian architecture, having various functions and used in both secular and religious contexts for over 1,500 years.

Soaked in a vibrant history, Mazandaran (also known as Tabarestan) was a cradle of civilization since the beginning of the first millennium BC. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, it was almost overrun in about 720 CE by the Arab raiders.

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty. The northern section of the region consists of a lowland alongside the Caspian and an upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains.



## Tomb raider arrested in ancient Elamite realm

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Iranian police have arrested a grave robber in the archeological site of Haft Tappeh, which was once part of the ancient Elamite kingdom in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, CHTN reported on Monday.

The accused person was traced and arrested while stealing the metal fences around the ancient tomb of the Elamite king Tepti-ahar, which is one of the oldest tombs, so far been discovered in the site, said Ramin Maknavi, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage.

The culprit was surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, the official added.



Tepti-ahar, the last ruler of the Kidinuid period (1460-1400 BC), known from inscriptions on bricks, a sale contract from

Susa, and a text said to be from Malamir (in Lorestan Province), is mentioned on approximately 55 of the Haft-Tappeh tablets, bearing the title “king of Susa and Anshan”.

Tepti-Ahar built a new capital of Kanbak (modern Haft-Tappeh). The excavated archive shows the diplomatic exchange with Babylonia, possibly even dynastic marriages.

Haft Tappeh (literary meaning “Seven Mounds”) is located 15 kilometers to the south of the ancient city of Susa, itself a highly significant archeological site in southwest Iran.

Early excavations in Haft-Tappeh conducted by the late Iranian archaeologist Dr. Ezzatollah Negahban yielded a large number of petroglyphs bearing cuneiform inscriptions in Akkadian, belonging to Elamite kings. The petroglyphs contain information on the religious beliefs, trading methods, and the political, cultural, and social relations of the time.

The site first drew attention to itself when parts of a brick wall and a vault were found during a construction project in the area. Early archeological studies showed that the site housed the world’s oldest vault built over the tomb of Tepti-Ahar.

## Sightseeing tours of Rey arranged for summertime

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The tourism directorate of Rey has arranged a summer festival, which includes various crafts workshops and special sightseeing tours of the ancient Iranian city, which is situated in southern Tehran.

The package tours will be offered on foot for a group of 15 people per day from June 26 to September 22, Rey tourism chief Noruz Taqipour said on Monday.

For the workshop programs, sightseers would visit four handicraft workshops in the fields of traditional glassmaking, pottery, glass cutting, and stone carving, the official explained.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire



## Gabbeh rugs popular for interior design

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Gabbeh rugs have long been a popular feature when it comes to interior decor. Gabbeh is a traditional flooring similar to carpet but they differ from one another in motifs, size, colors, and the number of its long and thick wefts.

Such a rug is one of the most popular handicrafts in the southwestern province of Bushehr.

They are woven usually by nomadic people using handspun wool. Their patterns are of a simple type with only a few elements of decorative, mostly rectangular objects containing animals.

They are common in almost all the villages and even some of the cities of the southwestern province. The motifs and patterns of Gabbeh are not the same

as the carpet. Gabbeh may do not have any margin, or may not be symmetrical. Many of its motifs look like paintings of children, quite simple and primitive, but inspired by nature and surroundings.

Patterns of Gabbeh are created by the memory of their weavers. They are completely free to use any motif and they can place it anywhere they desire in the pattern. Another major difference between Gabbeh and carpet is the color palette used in them, according to Visit Iran, the official travel guide to the country.

A major part of the Gabbeh is weaved using wools in their raw color. The Bushehr Gabbeh has plain backgrounds in white, cream, brown, black, and grey, and the patterns are made in black, red,

dark blue, and other similar colors.

The weavers are mostly women and girls who each have a special kind of motif on their minds and they skillfully weave them. In general, the common feature of the Gabbeh of Bushehr is the traditional patterns that have been evolved through generations and are artistically valuable.

The materials used in the process of Gabbeh weaving are produced from the wool of the sheep that are bred locally. Today European countries and the Arab states of the Persian Gulf are reportedly the two major buyers of Bushehr Gabbehs.

Therefore, the makers have begun dying the wool with herbal pigments such as orange, blue, green, and yellow to use in the background. The motifs of these products are animals and doll-like.



The coastal province borders with the Persian Gulf on the west and bounded by the regions of Hormozgan and Fars on the southeast and east and Khuzestan on the northwest.



# Water transfer project to Lake Urmia complete by 97%

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** – The project to transfer water from the Kanisib Dam to Lake Urmia is completed by 97 percent, aiming to flow about 600 million cubic meters of water into the lake annually, IRNA reported on Monday.

Lake Urmia, located in the northwest of Iran, was once the most extensive permanent hypersaline lake in the world. Unsustainable water management in response to increasing demand together with climatic extremes has given rise to the lake's depletion during the last two decades. The lake's restoration program was established in 2013 and aims to restore the lake within a 10-year program.

The Kanisib tunnel, stretching to 35 km, is the most important structure for transferring water to Lake Urmia to prevent it from drying out, which is currently in the final stages of construction, Tajrish, deputy head of the Department of Environment (DOE) said.

The project has been proposed by the government. So far, a budget of 28 trillion rials (nearly \$666 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been spent on it, he noted.

The water transfer tunnel cause Lake Urmia to reach its ecological level over the next seven years, which is 1274.1 meters with 15 billion cubic meters of water and 4,300 square kilometers surface, he added.



Tajrish went on to say that currently, 150 million cubic meters of water is stored behind this dam, which is ready to be transferred to Lake Urmia, expressing hope that the project will be fully operational by the end of September.

Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program's office in West Azarbaijan province said that there is another water transfer project from West Azarbaijan,

which will also be exploited by the end of this year (March 21, 2022).

With the full utilization of water transfer projects, nearly 1.1 million cubic meters of water will enter Lake Urmia annually, he added.

Over 640 million cubic meters of water will release to the Lake annually from the south of West Azarbaijan, 300 million cubic meters from all wastewater treatment

plants in neighboring provinces, and 180 million cubic meters from the Silveh Dam, he explained.

**Lake Urmia's surface increased by over 1500 km<sup>2</sup>**

Lake Urmia's surface area has reached up to 2,917 square kilometers, indicating 1,582 square kilometers increase in comparison to 2013 when the Lake Urmia Restoration Program began.

The level of Lake Urmia has reached 1,271 meters, which indicates an increase of over 1.39 meters compared to the lowest volume recorded, Sarkhosh said.

The volume of water also raised by 3.81 billion cubic meters, which has increased more than 5 times compared to the Iranian calendar year 1394 (March 2015-March 2016) and before the Lake Urmia Restoration Program started, he highlighted.

Achieving sustainable rehabilitation requires countless efforts, such as preventing the lake's water flow from entering the agricultural land. Lake Urmia's condition stabilized with a positive trend due to heavy rainfall, but there is a fear that this trend will be reversed by drought in the coming years.

The above normal levels of rain came to help conservation measures to preserve Lake Urmia, however, it still needs 9.5 billion cubic meters of water to reach its ecological level.

## Iran, India to exchange knowledge on vaccine development

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** – The Pasteur Institute of Iran and Indian Bharat Biotech inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to transfer technical knowledge of the rotavirus vaccine, IRNA reported.

Rotavirus vaccine is a vaccine used to protect against rotavirus infections, which are the leading cause of severe diarrhea among young children. The vaccines prevent 15–34 percent of severe diarrhea in the developing world and 37–96 percent of severe diarrhea in the developed world.

Following over 2 years of continuous negotiations with Bharat company for joint cooperation in the field of rotavirus vaccine, the MOU was signed by Alireza Biglari, head of the Pasteur Institute, and Krishna Ella, director of Bharat Biotech in a virtual meeting on Thursday.

With this measure, a very effective step will be taken in reducing the number of outpatient and inpatient cases in children.

According to the MOU, the two sides will cooperate in transferring the technology for the production of the rotavirus vaccine to Iran and the domestic production of the vaccine.

At the meeting, both sides expressed their readiness and interest in developing relations in the field of health and joint production of vaccines.

Ali Chegni, Iranian Ambassador to India, praising the company's capacities, stressed the need to strengthen cooperation between



the two countries for joint production of vaccines.

### Rotavirus prevalence

Infection by rotaviruses is one of the major causes of childhood diarrhea with an associated high mortality rate (440,000 deaths/year) and is responsible for 25 million medical visits and 2 million hospitalizations every year, especially during the cold season.

The prevalence of rotavirus infections in Iran has been estimated as 30–50 percent while the mean prevalence is reported to be 39.9 percent. According to a WHO report, in Iran, 42 percent of gastroenteritis are caused by rotaviruses which are estimated to have inflicted approximately 2000 and 270 deaths in 2008 and 2013, respectively.

This pattern indicated that the rate of rotavirus-caused diarrhea for Iranian children is similar to the rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region. The prevalence of rotavirus infection is varied in different regions of Iran. For instance, this rate is 6.3 percent for Birjand in South Khorasan province and 79.2 percent for Tehran.

## WFP supports over 30,000 refugees in Iran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** – The World Food Program (WFP) has supported 30,009 refugees by providing food items and financial assistance during May.

WFP assists 31,000 beneficiaries yearly through unconditional food assistance in addition to the provision of a girls' education cash incentive, and a school feeding initiative consisting of nutritious school snacks.

Moreover, it supports refugees' livelihoods through activities that aim at providing them with complementary skills in view of a sustainable repatriation to their country of origin once the situation is conducive.

The assisted people received 393.5 MT of fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil, lentils, biscuits, date bar, nuts and milk, according to a report recently published by the WFP.

Some 8,413 were women, 8,628 men, 6,189 girls, and 6,779 boys (these figures include 537 Iranian teachers who receive WFP school snacks).

General food distributions in refugee settlements are ongoing, in addition to cash-based transfers, which aims at reducing the economic impact on beneficiaries caused by negative market developments, such as inflation and rising food prices.

Due to COVID-19 situation, schools are continuing their work either online or in person depending on the situation in their provinces. School snacks distribution is being continued either on-site for those who have routine classes or as take-home ration for those who receive online training.



WFP received a contribution of EUR 1.7 million from the Federal Republic of Germany for its assistance program, which will benefit Afghan and Iraqi refugees living in settlements in Iran.

### Iran hosting world's fourth largest refugee community

Iran is hosting the world's fourth largest refugee community. The country has generously hosted approximately 1 million refugees for the past 30 years. The majority, which mainly came from Afghanistan and Iraq, live in urban areas. Approximately 31,000 of the most vulnerable refugees live in 20 settlements located throughout the country.

Based on the latest statistics, over 3 million Afghans are living in Iran – some 780,000 Afghan refugees, over 2 million undocumented Afghans, and another 600,000 Afghan passport-holders with Iranian visas.

However, in light of the pandemic, all refugees, even those undocumented, benefited from access to free primary health services and free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like Iranian nationals.

## National Parks of Iran

### (Part 9)

It seems that no attention has been paid to the fact that the network of national parks, if carefully managed, constitutes a vast resource for recreation, tourism, and education. Only organized trophy hunting trips are a part of the department's established routine for the reserves. National parks, wildlife refuges, and protected areas are treated alike in respect to visitation by the public. Special permits must be obtained for entry, an environmental guard must accompany visitors for any hiking or outings, and no sorts of facilities are provided for the public. According to published reports in the Iranian press (e.g., in the Tehran newspapers Etemad

and Sharq), effective enforcement of protective measures in the reserves is generally lacking or poor. Livestock grazing is not adequately controlled, resulting in the decline and often destruction of the vegetation and thus the habitat for wildlife in many reserves. Indeed, apart from widespread poaching, cases have been reported of tree cutting, even within some national parks (cf. NBSAP, p. 20).

The total area of the reserves mentioned above is given as 16,676,734 hectares, which is slightly more than double the area that was under protection 35 years before, when the number of reserves was about 70. This is approximately 10 percent of the total area of the country, which was considered an acceptable

proportion. It is also noteworthy that, during the past generation, the heightened concern and concerted efforts of many international organizations in respect to conservation and the protection of the world's natural resources have resulted in a very appreciable increase in the creation of such reserves, particularly in the developing countries. For instance, IUCN's tabulation of figures for the percentage of protected areas in each of the countries of the world in 2010 cites 26.28 percent for Brazil, 22.42 percent for Poland, 14.5 percent for Indonesia, and 31.26 for Saudi Arabia; Iran is measured at 7.08 percent (WDPA).

(Source: *Encyclopædia Iranica*)

Concluded

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## Shiraz University, Chinese Academy of Sciences sign MOU

Shiraz University and Chinese Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences (RCEES) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand cooperation in scientific and research projects, IRNA news agency reported on Tuesday. Joint research activities through the Silk Road Research Program, joint publication of articles and books, study opportunities for faculty and doctoral students, use of laboratory facilities, experience exchange workshops especially in the field of natural disasters, droughts, floods, medicinal plants, biodiversity, land degradation and international joint research projects were among the mutually agreed programs.

## دانشگاه شیراز و موسسه تحقیقات منابع طبیعی چین تفاهم‌نامه امضا کردند

دانشکده کشاورزی به نمایندگی از دانشگاه شیراز با موسسه تحقیقات منابع طبیعی آکادمی علوم چین سند تفاهم‌نامه همکاری‌های علمی-پژوهشی مشترک امضا کرد. به گزارش ایرنا، زمینه بهره‌برداری عملیاتی از ظرفیت‌های تفاهم‌نامه حاضر به ویژه در زمینه فعالیت‌های پژوهشی مشترک از طریق برنامه پژوهشی راه‌آبریشم، نشر مشترک مقالات و کتب، فرصت‌های مطالعاتی اعضای هیأت علمی و دانشجویان دکتری، استفاده از امکانات آزمایشگاهی، برگزاری کارگاه‌های تبادل تجربه به ویژه در حوزه حوادث غیرمترقبه طبیعی، خشکسالی، سیل، گیاهان دارویی، تنوع زیستی، تخریب سرزمین و طرح‌های پژوهشی مشترک بین‌المللی در قالب برنامه‌های مشترک مورد توافق طرفین مورد بحث و بررسی قرار گرفت.

## COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 20

New cases	10,485
New deaths	136
Total cases	4,399,403
Total deaths	83,101
New hospitalized patients	1,259
Patients in critical condition	3,258
Total recovered patients	2,760,229
Diagnostic tests conducted	22,573,637
Doses of vaccine injected	5,355,753

## Iranian vaccine 6 times more effective than AstraZeneca against mutated virus

→ 1 Iran is also producing vaccines jointly with three countries of Cuba, Russia, and Australia, which may also be released by September.

### Homegrown vaccines

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

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

Razi Cov Pars, developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, is the second Iranian-made vaccine that started the clinical trial on February 27.

The mass production will start with a capacity of 1 million doses per month, after the third phase of the clinical study with at least 20,000 volunteers.

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

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

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

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

## UN blasts world leaders for failing to seal £72bn-a-year deal on climate

The head of climate change at the UN has warned that world leaders are still "far away" from securing a deal to limit the disastrous effects of global heating, with less than five months to go before a key summit in Glasgow.

Time is now running out, said Patricia Espinosa, who was formerly foreign minister of Mexico but now leads the UN on climate policy. She told the Observer that although advances had been made at the G7 meeting in Cornwall last weekend, progress had not been made on honouring past commitments to find \$100bn (£72.5bn) a year to help developing countries invest in green technologies.

"We're still very far away from being fully confident of having a full success at Cop26," she said. The UN climate conference, opening on 31 October in Glasgow, is considered to be of special importance in the battle against global warming, which is now melting ice sheets, raising sea levels, destroying coral reefs and disrupting weather systems across the planet.

The Paris climate agreement in 2015 pledged that nations would try to limit temperature rises to less than 1.5C by drastically limiting fossil fuel emissions, the principal cause of global heating. Glasgow will be the first opportunity to assess the impact of the promises made in Paris and to implement new measures to avert global catastrophe.

The G7 had offered hope that this process could be boosted in advance of Cop26, but Espinosa expressed disappointment, saying: "Regarding finance, I'd have really hoped for a clearer signal on how and when we will be able to see the commitment to mobilise the \$100bn fulfilled."

Honouring the pledge is seen as critical if developing countries are to come into line with plans to cut emissions and take costly steps necessary to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. At the G7, there were commitments to get to the target before Cop26, but a lack of detail remained about precisely how much money wealthier nations would be willing to give.

"This is one condition to be able to have a good basis to have a successful Cop26," Espinosa said. "It is essential. We cannot afford a lack of success. Cop26 should be able to give some sense of hope to the world."

"There isn't much time. We are already in the second half of June."

This point was backed by Rachel Kyte, dean of the Fletcher School at Tufts University in Massachusetts, and a former UN climate envoy. "The G7 failed to lead when it didn't agree how to fulfil the \$100bn promise. Their apparent strategy of brinkmanship is wrong-headed. Many around the world are already at the brink," she said.

"The UK has six months left to its G7 presidency and five months to go until Cop26. Johnson has to muster the world to significant climate finance commitments, purposing development finance and detail behind the global Marshall plan that President Biden calls Build Back Better World. Then, and only then, can we get the agreement we need in Glasgow."



INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Mohammad Shojaeian  
■ Editor-in-Chief: Ali A.Jenabzadeh

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
info@tehrantimes.com  
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
» Printed at: Jame Jam Barta Born - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
P.O. Box: 14155-4843  
Zip Code: 1599814713



When this world favors somebody, it lends him the attributes, and surpassing merits of others and when it turns its face away from him it snatches away even his own excellences and fame.

Imam Ali (AS)

## History of art in Iran during Safavid to Qajar Periods:

### Part 1

#### The unity of Safavid art

The arts of the Safavid period show a far more unitary development than in any other period of Iranian art.

This characteristic is due not simply to the political domination of one family but also to the steady move toward a centralized autocracy supported by a skilled bureaucracy in a single city; it is this political evolution that broke down feudal powers, united Iran as a single cultural entity, and replaced the several provincial styles of the 15th century with a uniform art emanating from the capital.

Within this course of development three definite chronological divisions can be distinguished.

In the first period, from the beginning of the reign of Esmail I to the end of the reign of Mohammad Khodabandeh (1501-87), centrifugal forces were still strong. Under a distinguished patron such as Tahmasp a lavish and refined court style developed but did not exclude provincial centers, such as Shiraz, which continued to produce manuscripts of lesser quality throughout the 16th century.

Shah Esmail I, Shah Tahmasp, and Shah Esmail II can all be typified as princely esthetes akin to the Timurid prince Baysonghor and the Mughal emperor Babur. Under the particular aegis of Shah Tahmasp, court artists created a brilliant synthesis of Iran's various styles; nonetheless it remained a court rather than a national style.

The reign of Abbas I (1588-1629) encompasses the second period, in which governmental centralization not only provided the ruler with more far-reaching and extensive power than ever before in Iran's Islamic history but also concentrated potential patrons in the capital city of Isfahan.

While new classes emerged as patrons, Iran's provinces lost virtually all their political and cultural autonomy. State workshops for arts of especial economic importance further imposed unitary styles so that art emanating from Isfahan (or Mashhad or Kerman) was coterminous with Iranian national art.

In the third period, from the accession of Shah Safi to the death of Shah Soltan Hosayn (1629-1722) the styles established during Shah Abbas's reign were perpetuated, and new elements further developed.

Increased naturalism, portraiture, and realism coexisted with traditional Iranian idealism and studied elegance and grace. Monarchs, as well as lesser patrons, exhibited eclectic taste for foreign arts that were now less readily synthesized than before, and as in economics and politics, Iran was less sequestered from other cultures than it had been.

#### Safavid, pre-Safavid, and foreign art

As the Safavid order actively pursued the creation of a unified nation-state in Iran by bringing together disparate and formerly feuding elements, so, too, Safavid art emerged out of several previously distinct strands.

Most important were those roughly corresponding to the historical division of Iran between its Eastern and Western halves; in the later 15th century these were controlled respectively by the Timurids from Herat and the Turkmens from Tabriz.

Whether in architecture, calligraphy, or the figural arts, it was the blending and synthesizing of these two cultural traditions that was essential to the creation of Safavid art.

By the middle of the 16th century the arts of Safavid Iran had already begun to exert considerable impact upon its neighbors. To Mughal and Deccani India the appeal of Safavid architecture, textiles, calligraphy, and painting was enormous, and large numbers of skilled Iranians emigrated to India to serve patrons there.

But Safavid Iran also exerted a noticeable effect upon its chief rival, the Ottoman Empire, although this impact is chiefly recognizable in calligraphy and painting.

Beyond these neighboring states Iran's cultural influence was less impressive, and it did not exert the same attractive force for Europeans as did Mughal India or Ming China. Yet it is likely that Safavid fashions in clothing and in garden architecture, transmitted by way of European printed travel books, were important influence on 17th-century culture in Europe.

#### Safavid art and religion

Three important figures in Safavid art history — Doost Mohammad, a painter and calligrapher under Shah Tahmasp; Sadeqi Beg, a painter and poet under Shah Abbas I; and Qazi Ahmad, a historian working under the same monarch — argued at length that figural painting is an art to be esteemed as highly as calligraphy and that this attitude is indeed sanctioned by the faith, since Imam Ali (AS) was a painter and a calligrapher.

This new theory did not occasion an increased production of figural imagery in the period; it merely sought to justify what was already there.

But it does perhaps account for the more frequent illustration of certain, ostensibly religious subject matter, whether in the mystical works of poets like Nezami and Jami or in the considerable number of hagiographies produced in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

# Iran honors Japanese scholar Ryuichi Sugiyama for studies on Imam Reza<sup>(AS)</sup>

→1 The festival is organized every year with contributions from the Imam Reza (AS) International Foundation for Culture and Arts, and Astan-e Quds Razavi.

“Japanese Iranologists, Islam experts and Iranian experts on Japanese studies have played a key role in the development of a mutual understanding between the great nations of Iran and Japan, therefore it is our duty to appreciate them,” Divsalar said after handing over the award to Sugiyama at his office.

Sugiyama, a junior researcher of the Organization for Islamic Area Studies at Waseda University in Tokyo, also said, “It’s a great honor for me to receive this award from Iran, in particular, from the Imam Reza (AS) International Foundation for Culture and Arts.”

“I will do my best more than before to do research on Imam Reza (AS), Mashhad and Astan-e Quds Razavi,” he added.

As a frequent visitor to Iran, Sugiyama said that he spent most of his time from 2004 to 2006 at the Astan-e Qods Razavi



Japanese scholar Ryuichi Sugiyama receives the Razavi Scholar Award from Iranian cultural attaché Hossein Divsalar in Tokyo.

Museum and Library in Mashhad doing research on the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS).

He called the library and museum a treasure trove, and expressed his thanks to the staff for their help and support.

“The Mausoleum of Imam Reza under the Islamic Republic of Iran: The Administration and Activities of the Twelver Shiite Imamate Mausoleum in Iran” is one of Sugiyama’s articles published by Waseda University.

“This paper aims to examine the current state of the Imam Reza mausoleum, which exists as the only Twelver Shiite Imamate mausoleum in Iran, primarily by examining official press releases and publications related to this site,” he wrote in an introduction to the article.

Another of his articles is “The Mausoleum of Imam Reza during the Afsharid Period: A Consideration of its Organization and Administration in the 18th Century Based on the Tumar-e Alishahi (Scroll of Ali Shah)”.

## “Ballad of a White Cow” wins Berlinale Competition Audience Award

organizers announced on Sunday.

“Ballad of a White Cow” is about Mina, a young woman who lives alone with her deaf child while her husband had been executed for a murder charge a year ago. She tries to get her life together, take good care of her child and make both ends meet. However, her life gets more sorrowful when she finds out that her husband was innocent.

Totem Films, a Paris-based international sales and co-production company, has purchased the rights to sell the film in Europe.

Almost all filmmakers invited to the Berlinale Summer Special were able to travel to Berlin to personally present their films to the audience for eleven nights in 16 open-air cinemas of the German capital.

In order to enable even greater audience participation in this festival, the organizers divided the 71st Berlinale into two parts due to COVID-19.

They also added the Berlinale Competition Audience

Award to the traditional Panorama Audience Award this year to acknowledge the place of the audience in the event.

“Mr. Bachmann and His Class” by Maria Speth from Germany took first place in the 2021 Berlinale Competition Audience Award.

The story of the movie is set in a German city with a complex history of both excluding and integrating foreigners, where a charismatic teacher provides his pupils, who all come from different countries originally, with the key to feeling at home in Germany and becoming citizens of the world.

“I’m Your Man” by the German director Maria Schrader won second prize.

“The Last Forest” by Luiz Bolognesi from Brazil stood in the first place of the Panorama Audience Award, while “Miguel’s War”, a co-production of Lebanon, Germany and Spain by Eliane Raheb and “Gendration” by Monika Treut from Germany took second and third places.

## “Holy Bread”, “Radiograph of a Family” praised by ZagrebDox audience

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian

documentaries “Radiograph of a Family” and “Holy Bread” are among the top ten favorite films selected by the audience at ZagrebDox, the organizers of the Croatian international documentary festival announced on Sunday.

“Radiograph of a Family” directed by Firuzeh Khosrovani took fourth place, while “Holy Bread” directed by Rahim Zabihi stood sixth on the list.

In “Radiograph of a Family”, Khosrovani investigates her parents’ unusual marriage in this documentary steeped in bittersweet history. Hossein, a radiologist, is secular and sophisticated, while his young bride Tayi

is a devout Muslim, shocked by her new husband’s Western tastes.

Khosrovani creates a poetic portrait of a fraught but loving relationship set against 1960s Switzerland and revolutionary-era Iran using family photos, other archival materials, recreated and imagined dialogue, and the geographical dimensions of her childhood home.

“Holy Bread” documents the highly dangerous work of Kurdish kulbars, workers who try to support their families by transporting goods across the Iranian border. On foot, they carry their loads along mountain paths that are rocky, steep, and either slippery due to snow or blisteringly hot.

Along the way, many of them suffer injuries, die in blizzards, or are shot by border police.

The film crew followed these workers for nine years to document the impact of living like a human pack mule. The Film gives exposure to a group of mostly men, who, driven by poverty, hunger and despair, operate on the margins of society.

“Love Around the World”, a co-production by England, Germany and France by Andela Rostuhar and Davor Rostuhar won the audience award

It was followed by “Hold Me Right” by Serbian director Danijela Stajnfelnd and “Between Summers” by Anja Koprivsek from Croatia.



“Radiograph of a Family” by director Firuzeh Khosrovani.

## Iranian movies line up for Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

A R T TEHRAN — Five Iranian movies have

been selected to be screened at the Short

Shorts Film Festival & Asia in Tokyo, Japan.

“Emergency” by Maryam Esmikhani, “Witness” by Ali Asgari, “Burned” by Fatemeh Mohammadi and “White Clad” by Reza Fahimi are competing in the Asia International & Japan Program, while “I Won’t Remain Alone” by Yaser Talebi is an entry to the Non-Fiction Program.

“Emergency” is about Nazanin, a seven-year-old girl, who is trying to reveal a secret that bothers her by getting close to the emergency agent who has come to their house to check on her mother.

As a co-production between Iran and France, “Witness” tells the story of a mother who helps an elderly woman in a shopping mall in Tehran. A tragedy occurs, brutally confronting her with the impact of her actions.

In “Burned”, every night, when Hafeez hears the sound of gunfire at the border, he goes there to take away the belongings of the immigrants’ corpses to make a living.



“I Won’t Remain Alone” by Yaser Talebi.

One night, between the bodies, he notices a young girl and her child who are hiding in a corner.

“White Clad” is about a grandmother who gives Ahmad, a ten-year-old boy, a cake of cheese, so that he can give it to his father, who is a teacher. It is hoped that his father will intervene and stop them from hanging the grandmother’s son.

“I Won’t Remain Alone” is a documentary following Sorayya and Seyyed Jalal, a poor, elderly couple residing in a remote village in Northern Iran. Filmed over the course of 5 years, I won’t remain alone paints pictures of forgiveness, love, humanity and immortality.

The Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia is a film festival held at the Harajuku/Omotesando area in Tokyo. It is one of the largest international short film festivals in Asia, and every year more than 10,000 works are gathered from all over the world.

The winner of the Grand Prix is eligible to be nominated in the short film category of the Academy Awards the following year.

## Elizabeth Gaskell’s “North and South” comes to Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian

translation of English writer Elizabeth Gaskell’s 1854 novel “North and South” has been published in Persian.

The book published by Ofoq in Tehran has been rendered into Persian by Samin Nabipur.

The book tells the story of Margaret Hale, who is uprooted from her comfortable home in Hampshire to move with her family to the north of England after her father leaves the Church in a crisis of conscience.

Initially repulsed by the ugliness of

her new surroundings in the industrial town of Milton, Margaret becomes aware of the poverty and suffering of the local mill workers and develops a passionate sense of social justice.

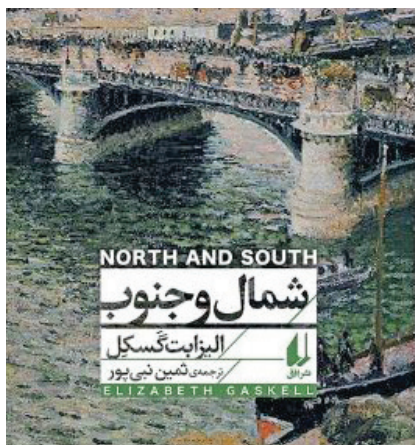
This is intensified by her tempestuous relationship with the mill-owner and self-made man, John Thornton, as their fierce opposition over his treatment of his employees masks a deeper attraction.

In “North and South”, Gaskell skillfully fuses individual feeling with social concern, and in Margaret Hale creates one of the most original heroines of Victorian literature.

It is one of her best-known novels and was adapted for television three times in 1966, 1975 and 2004. The 2004 version renewed interest in the novel and attracted a wider readership.

Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, often referred to simply as Mrs. Gaskell, was an English novelist and short story writer during the Victorian era.

She is perhaps best known for her biography of Charlotte Bronte. Her novels offer a detailed portrait of the lives of many strata of society, including the very poor, and as such are of interest to social historians as well as lovers of literature.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Elizabeth Gaskell’s 1854 novel “North and South”.