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## Water, electricity projects worth over \$102m put into operation

TEHRAN - Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian on Tuesday inaugurated five major water and electricity industry projects valued at 4.32 trillion rials (about \$102.8 million) through a video conference in the 13th week of the ministry's A-B-Iran program in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

The said projects were inaugurated in Hamedan, Zanjan, and Golestan provinces, the Energy Ministry portal (known as Paven) reported.

Three of the mentioned projects including a wastewater treatment plant and some projects for the development of electricity transmission network were put into operation in Hamedan province, while two water projects were also inaugurated in Golestan and Zanjan provinces. Under the framework of the A-B-Iran program, the Energy Ministry has inaugurated many projects to supply drinking water to the country's rural areas.

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## Play on life story of Islamic Revolution ideologue Ayatollah Beheshti published

TEHRAN — A play recounting the life story of Ayatollah Mohammad-Hossein Beheshti, a main ideologue of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, has been published.

The play entitled "The Loneliest of the Oppressed, The Most Oppressed of the Lonely" has been penned by Nasrollah Qaderi.

It has been published by Sureh-Mehr, a major publishing house working under the

auspices of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

The play was introduced at the Shohadaye Enqelabe Eslami Cultural Complex in Tehran on Tuesday during a special meeting attended by Qaderi, Dramatic Arts Center director Qader Ashena, Art Bureau director Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman and a group of cultural figures.

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## Iran slams UN for not including Israel, S. Arabia in child-killing blacklist

TEHRAN — Iran on Monday severely criticized the United Nations for failing to include Israel and Saudi Arabia in its blacklist of parties violating minors' rights during conflicts, calling on the world body to adopt a non-discriminatory approach in naming and shaming child-killer regimes.

Iran's Ambassador to the UN, Majid Takht-Ravanchi, made the remarks in an address to the Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict, after UN Secretary General Antonio

Guterres presented his annual report.

The report covers countries and organizations under the UN's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, which are listed as grave violators in the report's annexes.

Recruitment of child soldiers, attacks on schools and hospitals, killing and maiming, sexual assault and abduction of children could trigger inclusion in the annex, which could result in Security Council sanctions.

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## Kuwaiti physician calls Iranian coronavirus vaccine scientific breakthrough

**BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI**  
Kuwaiti medical doctor praises Iran's success in producing coronavirus vaccines, saying it marks one of the most important scientific breakthroughs in recent years.

"The achievement of Iran and Cuba in producing COVID vaccines, which are among the sanctioned countries by the United States and the West, is one of the most important scientific breakthroughs in recent years," Issam al-Salih tells the Tehran Times.

"It is good news for the peoples of the region who were looking at the global scientific monopoly," notes.

Following is the text of the interview:  
**Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has received a dose of Iran's first locally developed COVID-19 vaccine. How do you read this move?**

Iran's success to manufacture a COVID vaccine is a great scientific achievement for Iranians.

Despite economic, political and technological embargoes Iran is considered one of the eight countries that have developed infrastructure for this vaccine, which is a glimmer of hope for Muslims and West Asian citizens. It is an achievement we are proud of as people of the region, especially since Iran is a neighboring country to Kuwait and other Arab countries.

It has had a great echo at regional level, despite the attempts of the cynics to undervalue this wonderful achievement.

This step sent a message to the world about Iranian achievements indicating the Supreme Leader's complete confidence in capabilities of Iranian young experts and scholars.

**How do you assess the moves by countries, especially countries like Iran and Cuba, that have tried to produce Covid-19 vaccines? Does the Third World need such efforts as long as the developed countries are far ahead in the field of medicine?**

The achievement of Iran and Cuba in producing COVID vaccines, which are among the countries under sanctions by the United States and the West, is one of the most important scientific breakthroughs in recent years.

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## Iran is a role model for primary health care: WHO

TEHRAN - Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern Mediterranean Region, has said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

For the past four decades, its PHC network has aimed to ensure that people have timely access to affordable, accessible, and acceptable essential health services, he said in a message to the inaugural ceremony for 696 primary health care facilities across the country on Tuesday.

"These new facilities will help to increase the level of health care coverage towards 100 percent," he added.

"At the outset of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Islamic Republic of Iran made its primary health care system a core part of its national response. This PHC infrastructure allowed systematic outreach activities for early case detection, contact tracing, and triage for hospital referral (if necessary) by community health workers.

In addition, the PHC registry system helped to better identify vulnerable groups, including age groups at high risk of developing moderate to severe COVID-19 symptoms who might need hospital care.

PHC also played an important role in efforts to leave no one behind, through stepwise national campaigns to combat COVID-19 including equitable access to vaccines for the most vulnerable people in the fifth round."

He went on to say that as the pandemic has demonstrated, there is a global need to integrate primary health care across a wide range of policies, strategies, activities, and services. This reorientation of the health system requires clear political commitment and strong leadership at all levels.

Engaging individuals, communities, and stakeholders from all sectors is crucial to better define health needs, identify solutions and prioritize actions by working closely together, he concluded.

## PM strongly condemns U.S. raids on PMU as 'flagrant violation' of Iraq's sovereignty

Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi has strongly condemned as a "flagrant violation" of the Iraqi sovereignty an overnight airstrike by U.S. warplanes against the positions of the anti-terror Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), also known as Hashd al-Sha'abi, in which several resistance fighters were killed.

"We condemn the U.S. air attack that targeted a site last night on the Iraqi-Syrian border, which represents a blatant and unacceptable violation of Iraqi sovereignty and Iraqi national security," said a statement from Kadhemi's office on Monday.

The statement added that the government will "study all legal options" to prevent such action being repeated.

The statement came after the Iraqi cabinet, headed by al-Kadhemi, held an emergency security meeting following the U.S. airstrikes.

In the early hours of the day, U.S. warplanes

attacked three positions purportedly belonging to the PMU along the border.

Later, the 14th Brigade of the PMU announced that four of its fighters had been killed when the warplanes hit its headquarters. The brigade is made up of the Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada anti-terror resistance group.

The PMU in general is an Iraqi government-sponsored umbrella organization composed of about 40 factions of volunteer counter-terrorism forces, including mostly Shia Muslims besides Sunni Muslims, Christians, and Kurds. The organization had a significant role in defeating the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group in Iraq.

**Iraqi military condemns U.S. airstrikes on PMU's positions**

Separately, Iraq's military spokesman Yehya Rasool denounced the U.S. airstrike and said it was a "breach of sovereignty."

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## Historically distinct bathhouse restored to former glory

TEHRAN — A historically distinct bathhouse, where a popular reformist prime minister of Iran was murdered in the mid-19th century, has been restored to former glory.

A top tourist destination, the bathhouse is located within the UNESCO-recognized Bagh-e Fin, which is a lush green Persian garden in the city of Kashan on the margins of the central Iranian desert.

A budget of one billion rials (\$23,800 at the

official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) was allocated to the project, Kashan's tourism chief Mehran Sarmadian said on Tuesday.

The project involved repairing the walls, scraping worn-out coatings, and re-applying new plasterworks as well as replacing worn-out flooring and installing lights and speakers, the official added.

The bathhouse was the place where the nationalist hero Mirza Taqi Khan, better known as

Amir Kabir, was killed upon the order of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar (r. 1848 – 1896).

Moreover, eight wax figures depicting Amir Kabir and his killers at the moment of his death were also restored, Sarmadian noted.

A budget of 200 million rials (\$4,700) was spent on the project, which included cleaning the figures and restoring their hair, faces, and eyes, he explained.

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## Athletic Grand Prix held in Shahrekord

TEHRAN — Iran's Athletic Grand Prix was held in Shahrekord, the capital city of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province.

The competition brought some 45 athletes across Iran together in the city. The Grand Prix serves as Olympic Games and 2021 World Athletics U20 Championships in Kenya.

Sprinter Farzaneh Fasihi, who has been recently awarded a spot at the 2020 Olympic Games, took part in the competition in the women's 100 meters.

## The U.S.-China tug-of-war

**BY DOST MUHAMMAD BARRECH**

The international world order during the Cold War was a bipolar world order dominated by two great powers the U.S. and USSR. USSR remained a formidable threat to the U.S. and the downfall of the former in 1991 culminated in the emergence of the latter as a sole power. To perpetuate its hegemony across the globe, the U.S. after 9/11 started the war on terror, a military campaign against Al-Qaeda. The tenet of war and terror has now been waning. Currently, China is the only game in the town in the U.S. threat perception manufacturing. Countering China has been the prime objective of U.S. foreign policy. A recent G-7 summit under the leadership of the U.S. has entirely revolved around China-bashing. G-7 members in their 12,400-word communiqué labeled China and said that Beijing had been guilty of human rights abuses and was using its economic influence to bully others. China, by reacting to the G-7 communiqué, maintained that "a small" group of countries decided the fate of the world were long gone".

A few pertinent queries that need to be answered are: Why has the U.S. obsession with China been escalating? Is a threat of China to the U.S. actual? Answering these questions require experts to ponder over prevailing great power competition between the U.S. and China. China's growing economic, military and political powers across the globe create a discomfort zone for the U.S.

The U.S. in great power competition with USSR during the Cold War termed the latter's ideology antithetical to Western values predictably will now espouse the path of Cold War by accusing China of being an authoritarian regime.

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## Iran will open maritime security coordination center in Chabahar

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Navy commander unveiled plans for inauguration of a center in the country's southeastern port city of Chabahar for international cooperation on maritime security, the Tasnim news agency reported.

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi broke the story on Tuesday as he delivered a speech at the 7th meeting of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) held on Reunion Island, a French department in the Indian Ocean near Madagascar.



The commander said the Iranian Navy will do its utmost to pave the way for regional interaction by opening "coordination center on international cooperation for maritime security" in Chabahar, in southeast Iran.

Highlighting the Iranian Navy's activities as the rotating president of the IONS, Khanzadi said Iran has stepped up efforts for coordination among the IONS members, held meetings of the maritime security task force, and convened meetings on joint naval exercises.

He also noted that Iran's Navy has compiled the first "IONS tactical book" focusing on plans for the fight against piracy, sharing of information, and addressing natural disasters.

Iran is a permanent member of IONS and has held its 3-year presidency since 2018.

The IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.

The IONS has 24 members, including Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, France, Australia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Malaysia, Seychelles, Thailand, Timor Leste, and the UK.

There are also 8 observers, namely China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Russia and Spain.

## Iran slams UN for not including Israel, S. Arabia in child-killing blacklist

➔ However, the Tel Aviv regime has never been listed. The Saudi-led military coalition which has waged a bloody war on Yemen was removed from the list in 2020. It happened some years after the coalition was first named and shamed for killing and injuring Yemeni kids.



Takht-Ravanchi demanded a mechanism for the inclusion or exclusion of names in the blacklist so as to ensure the impartiality and validity of the UN function.

"Protection of children, particularly girls, in armed conflicts is a fundamental moral and humanitarian principle and every effort must be made to ensure that it is fully respected by all parties in all conflicts," he said.

"The mechanism to list the parties violating the rights of children in armed conflicts must also be used effectively and without discrimination and selectivity. It is a source of grave concern that the Israeli forces have never been blacklisted as violators of children's rights in relevant reports of the secretary-general and also the name of the so-called Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen has been deleted from the top of that list," he added.

The Iranian envoy also said that the UN confirmed the killing and wounding of 194 people in Yemen in 2020 by the Saudi-led coalition.

On June 22, 2021, Yemeni children marched across the country to protest the killing of more than 3,500 counterparts and the injuring of over 4,000 over the past six years in Saudi strikes, which have also orphaned thousands of Yemeni kids and displaced millions of them.

Additionally, Takht-Ravanchi said Israel keeps committing the most systematic and gross violations of children's rights in West Asia.

The UN secretary general's report confirmed 1,031 cases of severe violence against 340 Palestinian children, including 11 killings, 324 injuries, 361 arrests and 30 attacks on schools and hospitals by Israeli forces, he added, noting that 66 children were among the 253 Palestinians who lost their lives in the 11-day Israeli war on Gaza last month.

"These barbaric acts are clear manifestations of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, materially breach fundamental norms and principles of international law, and entail international responsibility of the Israeli regime, whose officials must therefore be brought to justice for committing such heinous crimes," Takht-Ravanchi stated.

# Iran continues efforts to broker peace in Afghanistan

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian officials have repeatedly emphasized that the Afghanistan crisis must be settled through intra-Afghan talks. The Tehran Times examines efforts by the Iranian diplomats to broker dialogue between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times that will soon be published, Mohsen Baharvand, the Deputy Foreign Minister in Legal Affairs, stated that Iran has a good interaction with Afghanistan and "our border security is interdependent."

He added that the security forces must have taken extra precautionary measures, but said he does not see any "sign that our land was in danger."

The deputy foreign minister also said that there were negotiations between the Taliban and Iran in Qatar and when the Taliban delegation came to Iran on Jan 26.

"I do not think Iran is a country that needs someone to recognize its borders. Iran is a powerful country, its borders are clear, and overall Iran is the most powerful country in the region, and Iran does not need anyone to recognize its borders. Iran watches over its borders. We are a powerful country and we do not need anyone's guarantee," the deputy foreign minister said.

Baharvand noted that Iran considers its own interests in any situation, calling Iran a "proactive, strong and powerful country".

### Government says Taliban is part of Afghanistan's future solution

In remarks on Tuesday, government spokesman Ali Rabiei said that the Taliban is part of Afghanistan and a part of its future solution.

"What is important for us is the formation of an inclusive government with the presence of all Afghan groups and the achievement of a peaceful and lasting solution in this country," he noted.

He added that the Islamic Republic is closely monitoring developments in Afghanistan and is following the recent moves with concern.

"While calling on all parties to calm down, we do not consider the use of violence and non-peaceful behaviors useful in resolving disputes, and we will continue our consultations with Kabul to end unconstructive conflicts and replace dialogue and engagement with the participation of all influential political groups and forces," the spokesman underlined.

Rabiei said the Islamic Republic continues to urge all countries not to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

"Our mission is to communicate with the Afghan government and provide any necessary assistance," Rabiei highlighted.

**The tripartite meeting**  
In line with continuation of Tehran's efforts to help broker peace in neighboring Afghanistan, Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian Fard held talks with Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar on Monday.

Taherian Fard referred to his recent visit to Pakistan, stressing the importance of a plan to hold a trilateral meeting among foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Iran, and



Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian Fard talking to Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar (right).

Pakistan as well as boosting relations of the three countries.

The Afghan foreign minister also stressed the need to expand bilateral and multilateral relations with Iran.

Expressing his approval over holding a tripartite meeting among Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, Atmar stressed that such a meeting will be useful in strengthening regional consensus in the efforts to stabilize Afghanistan.

The Iranian diplomat had met with Foreign Minister Atmar and Abdullah Abdullah, the head of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, before heading to Pakistan. During the meetings, the current developments in Afghanistan were discussed and the two sides stressed the need to continue consultations in this regard. It is worth mentioning that Taherian paid a visit to Islamabad on Wednesday at the invitation of Mohammad Sadegh Khan, the special envoy of the prime minister of Pakistan for Afghanistan.

Iran has doubled down on its diplomatic efforts to achieve peace in neighboring Afghanistan as the conflict there has intensified between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

The Taliban have intensified attacks on government forces as the U.S.-led foreign troops have begun leaving the war-torn country after two decades.

### Foreign Ministry says security and unity in Afghanistan are important to Iran

Speaking in his weekly presser on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh noted, "The security of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan is very closely linked."

Khatibzadeh said "what is important to us is security and unity" in Afghanistan.

"Violence in Afghanistan has escalated to alarming levels and some minorities are under pressure. We want everyone to respect rights (of others). Only a political solution can guarantee Afghanistan's future."

In his Monday remarks, Khatibzadeh also said the Taliban represent only part

of Afghanistan and not the entire country.

However, he said, the Taliban should be seen as part of the solution to end the protracted conflict in the Central Asian country.

"The Taliban does not constitute all Afghanistan, but is part of that country and part of the way out of crisis," Khatibzadeh said, according to Tasnim.

Khatibzadeh stressed the need for the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan through "peaceful and sustainable solutions" that would involve all Afghan groups and ethnicities.

Khatibzadeh also said Iran is closely monitoring the situation in Afghanistan at high security and political levels and is negotiating with all Afghan groups.

"It is necessary to protect the territorial integrity (of Afghanistan) and its achievements of the past two decades. Moreover, authentic intra-Afghan dialogue is the sole sustainable solution. We are prepared to facilitate the talks," Khatibzadeh stated.

He also underlined that Iran would not rush to comment or make any forecast on the possible collapse of Kabul and the subsequent developments in Afghanistan. "What matters to us is (the formations of) an inclusive government, security, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan."

He added, "We are monitoring the moves of Daesh in Afghanistan."

Iranian officials maintain that the intra-Afghan negotiations should include all Afghan groups in accordance with the Afghan constitution.

The Taliban is making rapid advances in Afghanistan. It views the Ashraf Ghani government as a puppet regime. Last week the UN expressed alarm at their gains.

Some analysts say the Taliban have been moderated over the years.

A member of an Islamabad-based think tank believes that the "Taliban are accommodating all ethnic groups" as it looks forward to seize the power in Kabul.

"Taliban are accommodating all the ethnic groups in their organization as they have eyes on the upcoming administration in Kabul," Zafar Iqbal Yousafzai, a sen-

ior research associate at Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), tells the Tehran Times.

The U.S. intelligence community has concluded that the government of Afghanistan could collapse as soon as six months after the American military withdrawal from the country is completed, according to officials with knowledge of the new assessment. The Wall Street Journal reported last week.

American intelligence agencies revised their previously more optimistic estimates as the Taliban swept through northern Afghanistan in recently days, seizing dozens of districts and surrounding major cities. Afghan security forces frequently surrendered without a fight, leaving their Humvees and other American-supplied equipment to the insurgents.

The new assessment of the overall U.S. intelligence community, which hasn't been previously reported, has now aligned more closely with the analysis that had been generated by the U.S. military. The military has already withdrawn more than half of its 3,500 troops and its equipment, with the rest due to be out by Sept. 11.

On Wednesday, Taliban fighters were battling government troops inside the northern city of Kunduz after occupying the main border crossing with Tajikistan the previous day and reaching the outskirts of northern Afghanistan's main hub, Mazar-e-Sharif. Tajikistan's border service said 134 Afghan troops at the crossing were granted refuge while some 100 others were killed or captured by the Taliban.

The U.S. is pulling out from Afghanistan, ending the country's longest overseas war, as a result of the February 2020 agreement that the Trump administration negotiated with the Taliban in Doha, Qatar. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday that, while Taliban attacks on Afghan forces are increasing, there has been no such rise in attacks on American troops. "Had we not begun to draw down, violence would have increased against us as well," she said. "So the status quo, in our view, was not an option."

U.S. President Joe Biden has said that Afghans "are going to have to decide their future" as Afghan President Ashraf Ghani visited the White House on Friday.

According to al Jazeera, about 5,000 Afghan families have fled their homes in the northern city of Kunduz after days of fighting between Taliban fighters and government forces, officials said on Saturday.

Heavy fighting has also been reported in the provinces of Kandahar and Baghlan, where the Afghan forces claimed to have retaken areas from Taliban control but the armed group still held on to parts of Pul-e-Khumri area in central Baghlan, according to local media.

According to the WSJ, the setbacks suffered by the Afghan military in recent days prompted the prominent mujahedeen commanders who fought the Taliban before 2001, such as Atta Mohammad Noor, to call on supporters to rejoin armed militias in a national mobilization. While this mobilization is ostensibly in support of Afghan government forces, it shifts the power away from Ghani's embattled administration and toward the warlords whose authority he long tried to curb.

## Iran renews support for Afghanistan, urges peaceful solutions to settle conflicts

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Speaking at his weekly press briefing on Tuesday morning, Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei assured the Afghan government and people that the Islamic Republic will always stand by them.

"We assure the government and people of Afghanistan that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always stood by them and will continue to do so, and we call on all ethnic groups and political forces in Afghanistan to unite and reject any foreign interference, and commit to peaceful solutions to settle their disputes," he remarked.

Rabiei added, "We always emphasize that genuine Afghan-Afghan dialogue is the only lasting solution to the Afghan problem."

He went on to say that Iran attaches great importance to Afghanistan's territorial integrity and national unity and seeks respect for the rights of minorities and guarding the achievements made by the Afghan people over the past two decades.

Rabiei also said that the Taliban is part of Afghanistan and should be part of solution for the protracted conflict in the country.

"What is important for us is the formation of an inclusive government with the involvement of all Afghan groups and the achievement of a peaceful and lasting solution in this country," he noted.

The spokesman said that the Islamic Republic continues to urge all countries to avoid interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The remarks by the Iranian government spokesman come as the war between the Taliban and government forces is intensifying.

"Our mission is to communicate with the Afghan government and provide any necessary assistance," Rabiei highlighted.

He also said the Islamic Republic is closely monitoring



developments in Afghanistan with concern.

"While calling on all parties to calm down, we do not consider the use of violence and non-peaceful behaviors useful in resolving disputes, and we will continue our consultations with Kabul to end unconstructive conflicts and replace it with dialogue and engagement with the participation of all influential political groups and forces," the spokesman underlined.

**Raisi-Rouhani visit**  
Elsewhere in his remarks, the spokesman said that the meetings between President-elect Ebrahim Raisi and the outgoing administration ministers are intended to transfer experiences and better understanding on how to run the country. Outgoing president Hassan Rouhani visited Raisi on his victory day to congratulate him and exchange views.

Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh and Industry Minister Alireza Razzm Hosseini also met with the president-elect on Tuesday, briefing him on latest developments in their portfolios.

### 'Nuclear deal talks can continue in next administration if we don't reach mutual understanding'

Responding to questions about the fate of nuclear deal

negotiations in Vienna, the spokesman said if Iran cannot achieve what it wants by the end of the government, according to the decision of the top decision-makers, the next government will follow the issue.

"All this depends on the policy of the establishment and what is going on in the negotiations, and we will not hesitate to present our opinions, but if the views are not paid attention to, the continuation of the negotiations will be postponed to the next government," he emphasized.

Iran and other remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA) have been negotiating in Vienna since April to revive the talks. The United States is also participating in the talks indirectly. The sides are expected to hold a new round of decisive talks.

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi has said enough talks have taken place and now it is the time that the other sides take political decisions.

Rabiei said that any agreement must necessarily include the lifting of oppressive economic sanctions against Iran.

"Based on the instructions of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution if it is possible to lift the sanctions, when he said that it should not be delayed not even for a day, the government is committed to continue the negotiations with full determination, regardless of the differences of opinions, and we are determined to lift the sanctions as soon as possible. But we are not in a hurry to abandon our rights during the remaining time of the government to conclude the negotiations," he underlined.

Rabiei also said that there is a consensus on lifting sanctions in key sectors of the Iranian economy, such as energy, finance, banking, and insurance.

However, he added, if no agreement is reached on all issues, no agreement will be reached in practice, and if an agreement is reached in all cases, "we can speak of an agreement reached."



# Canada report makes no sense: deputy FM

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Diplomatic tensions between Iran and Canada run high with a recent investigative Canadian report on a 2020 Ukrainian plane crash on the outskirts of the Iranian capital being the latest in a string of differences between the two countries. A senior Iranian diplomat told the Tehran Times that this report bears no legal meaning.

Ever since the Ukrainian passenger plane was mistakenly shot down by Iranian military forces in a highly charged confrontational atmosphere between Tehran and Washington in early 2020, relations between Iran and Canada have been constantly worsening as large swaths of passengers aboard that plane were holding Canadian citizenship.

Iran announced that it accidentally shot down the Ukrainian plane a few days after the incident, forming an investigation team that worked hand in glove with several concerned countries to get to the bottom of what happened on that tense night. The investigation team concluded that the plane was brought down due to a human error, prompting the Iranian government to offer compensation sums much more than what is usually being paid to families of victims of similar incidents, according to Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Mohsen Baharvand.

In a lengthy interview with the Tehran Times which will soon be published in full, Baharvand said the usual compensation sum for victims of aviation accidents is something around \$20,000 but Iran offered each victim of the Ukrainian plane, regardless of their age, gender, or nationality, a lump sum of \$150,000. Baharvand noted that some of the victims' families have already received their share of compensation.

Iran also cooperated with Ukraine, a country that owns the crashed plane, to investigate the issue. Canada, as the advisor of Ukraine in this case, also played a part in the investigation. But all this seems to be of no avail in terms of getting Canada to respect Iran's independent investigation.

The Canadian government has managed to launch its independent investigation into the plane crash while leveling accusations against Iran from time to time. The result of the investigation has recently been published, underlining that there was no evidence that Iran intentionally shot down the Ukrainian jet.

However, the Canadian government



leveled trenchant criticism against Iran, holding it responsible for the downing of the passenger plane despite the fact that its own report on the issue admittedly said there was no evidence to prove that Iran intentionally downed the Ukrainian jet.

The government of Canada's report entitled "The Downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752: Factual Analysis" confirmed earlier Iranian assessment that there is no evidence that the downing of the plane was "premeditated." Despite its admission about the lack of evidence about Iranian premeditation, the Canadian government's report claimed that Iranian civil and military authorities are "fully responsible" for the crash of the Ukrainian plane.

Following the issuance of the Canadian report, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marc Garneau, and the Minister of Transport, Omar Alghabra, put out a joint statement mounting a blistering attack on "Iranian civilian and military authorities," accusing them of "recklessness, incompetence, and wanton disregard for human life," and holding them "fully responsible for the downing of Flight PS752."

"The report was produced by the Canadian Forensic Examination and Assessment Team, led by former CSIS Deputy Director Jeff Yaworski. The government established the Forensic Team in October 2020 and mandated it to compile and analyze all available information about Flight PS752. This work is part of Canada's broader efforts to uncover the truth about what happened and hold the perpetrators to account," the

joint statement said.

It also raised questions about a decision by Iran to keep its airspace open during tit-for-tat strikes between Iran and the U.S., which started after the latter attacked the convoy of top Iranian commander General Qassem Soleimani near Baghdad's Airport in early 2020.

The Canadian report castigated Iran for not "implementing basic protections like closing the airspace over Tehran or notifying airlines." The joint statement added, "All planes flying into or out of Tehran's airport that night were at risk, including four civilian flights that took off immediately before Flight PS752 with hundreds of passengers on board going to major international hubs."

In addition, the statement also accused Iran of covering up the evidence regarding the plane crash. "Iran must also account for the cover-up that followed the downing of Flight PS752, including bulldozing the crash site before investigators arrived," it claimed.

The Tehran Times reached out to Baharvand, who is in charge of negotiations with Ukraine over its plane, to hear his response to these Canadian allegations.

Baharvand offered a legal answer to a question on why Iran did not close its airspace. He said experts may have technical reservations on his view, but from a legal standpoint, Iran did not have a commitment to close the airspace, and thus closing it is more of a precautionary measure than a commitment.

"First, closing the airspace is not a commitment. It's just a precautionary measure.

You don't see anywhere in the world that a country involved in a conflict is obliged to close its airspace. This doesn't happen. This is not a commitment that must be bindingly met," Baharvand told the Tehran Times, adding, "Second, our conflict zone, where we were in conflict with America, i.e. the Ain al-Assad airbase, was at a distance of 700-800 kilometers from Tehran. No one thought that an incident would happen to a passenger plane. Besides, Iran's airspace was really clear at that time. If you look at the air traffic of the time, you don't see many civilian planes flying over Tehran."

The senior Iranian diplomat also put a share of the blame on the Ukrainian airliner. He said airways are responsible for conducting part of the risk assessment of flights. This means that risk assessment is not exclusively a duty of governments, Baharvand said, noting that during the drama of early January 2020, British Airways refused to fly over Iran and chose to reroute their flights through Iraq due to their risk assessment.

Baharvand concluded that the downing of the Ukrainian plane was not intentional. A few minutes before this plane's takeoff, a number of passenger planes successfully took off and safely continued their flights, he continued. But five minutes before the Ukrainian airliner took off, the deputy foreign minister said, the mobile air defense system unit deployed nearby moved to another place, causing a disruption of co-ordinates, which, in turn, led to a failure in identifying the civilian plane.

The Iranian diplomat said the Canadian report does not make sense legally as Canada is not in a position to independently conduct an investigation into a matter falling under Iran's sovereign right to investigate.

In addition to discussions surrounding the Ukrainian plane, Baharvand touched on the longstanding differences between Tehran and Ottawa, saying that tensions between the two precede the plane issue. He pointed to a Canadian decision to seize properties belonging to the Iranian government in Canada as an instance, underlining that Canada had no legal rights to seize properties owned by the Iranian government in accordance with state sovereign rights. No other country all over the world, except the U.S., has done what Canada did with Iranian state properties, Baharvand asserted, hinting that a resumption of ties with Canada hinged on restoring the ownership of these properties to the Iranian government.

## Tehran says to support Syria in face of unfair sanctions

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A senior Iranian diplomat said on Monday that his country is ready to play an active role in reconstructing Syria and help the country in the face of unjust Western sanctions, Press TV reported.

Ali Asghar Khaji, Iranian foreign minister's senior aide for special political affairs, made the remarks in a meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus.

Over the past years, the U.S. has been maintaining an illegal military presence on the Syrian soil, collaborating with anti-Damascus militants and stealing the country's crude oil resources.

It has also slapped rounds of crippling sanctions on Syria, which has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011.

Parts of the restrictive measures have been imposed under the so-called Caesar Act, an American piece of legislation that alleges to support the Syrian people by protecting them against the Syrian administration's way of governance.

The bans target almost all Syrian economic and trade activities, as well as the country's government officials. Syria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Bassam Sabbagh has stressed that an improvement of the humanitarian situation in Syria requires an immediate lifting of unilateral coercive measures imposed by the U.S.

### "Syrians' strong will"

During the Monday meeting, senior diplomat Khaji and President Assad also discussed ways to further cooperation between Syria and Iran in various areas, Syrian official news agency SANA reported.

Khaji also said high turnout in the Syrian presidential election last month, which led to Assad's landslide victory,



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (C-R) and Ali Asghar Khaji (C-L), Iranian Foreign Minister's senior aide for special political affairs, meet in Damascus on June 28, 2021. (Photo by SANA)

demonstrated the Syrians' strong will.

Assad also congratulated the successful presidential election in Iran earlier this month, which dealt a new blow to ill-wishers who are trying to target the Islamic Republic's security and safety.

Ebrahim Raeisi, the incumbent Iranian Judiciary chief, was elected president after he garnered about 62 percent of the votes in the June 18 election. He will succeed President Hassan Rouhani, who has served two four-year terms in office.

The election was held amid an earsplitting political and media campaign by the United States as well as its Western and regional allies who were trying to portray the vote as "undemocratic."

During the meeting, Assad and Khaji also exchanged

views about strategic relations between Syria and Iran and underlined the important role played by the two countries' joint committees to enhance cooperation in all areas, particularly in the economic sector to serve the common interests of the two nations.

They also discussed regional developments and several issues of political concern, particularly the agenda of the Astana meetings and stressed the importance of continuing political efforts to achieve positive results in Syria's interest.

Iran, Turkey, and Russia have emphasized the need to continue consultations and coordination among the three guarantors of the Astana process as the most effective format for settling disputes in Syria.

The Syrian president and the Iranian diplomat also emphasized that the Syrian Constitutional Committee should continue its work without any foreign intervention.

The constitutional committee is a United Nations-facilitated constituent assembly process that seeks to reconcile the Syrian government and the opposition.

In a separate meeting, Khaji and Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal al-Mekdad discussed possible ways to enhance relations to overcome the impacts of unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Syrian and Iranian nations.

Khaji also hailed the successful presidential election in Syria and massive participation of the people in the political process.

The two sides also discussed preparations for an upcoming Astana meeting and affirmed the importance of respecting Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Khaji and Mekdad said the constitutional committee should work without any intervention under any pretext.

## SPORTS

### Farhad Ghaemi to come out of retirement

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran's outside spiker Farhad Ghaemi will be come out of retirement after four months.

The 31-year-old player had announced his retirement from the national duty after 14 years in late March due to the personal problems.

After Iran's poor performance in the 2021 Volleyball Nations League, the team coach Vladimir Alekno has asked the player to join the team for the 2020 Olympic Games.

Iran finished in 12th place in the 2021 VNL and the results have raised concerns about the team's performance in Tokyo, where the Persians have been drawn along Japan, Poland, Canada, Venezuela and Italy in Pool A.

Ghaemi helped Iran win two gold medals at the 2014 and 2018 Asian Games as well as a bronze medal at the World Grand Champions Cup.



### Ehsan Hadadi to undergo surgery after Tokyo 2020

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Gholamreza Norouzi, head of Iran's Sports Medicine Federation, says that discus thrower Ehsan Hadadi will undergo spinal surgery after the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Hadadi has returned Iran from the U.S. to get treatment in Tehran. Now, Norouzi says the athlete is reluctant to undergo surgery before the Games but he will have surgery after the Olympics.

"Hadadi will definitely participate at the Olympics. Hadadi is doing physiotherapy to get prepare for the Olympics. I wish him the best of luck at the competition. The thrower will undergo spinal surgery after the Games," Norouzi said.

Hadadi became the first Iranian to earn an Olympic track and field medal when he took silver in the discus at the 2012 London Games.

He threw 68.18 meters in London.

### Iranian gymnast Keikha fails to qualify for Olympics

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian gymnast Saeedreza Keikha failed to secure his spot at the 2020 Olympic Games.

Keikha's original work on Pommel Horse earned gold over top qualifier Nariman Kurbanov (KAZ) at the 13th Artistic Gymnastics World Cup four days ago, giving the Iranian his first-ever FIG World Cup title.

However, he could not earn his spot in the Games and lost the Olympics battle to his Japanese rival Kohei Kameyama.

Local media reports suggest that Keikha will represent Iran at the 2020 Olympic Games after receiving a wild card.

The rescheduled Summer Olympic Games are being held July 23-Aug. 8 in Tokyo, Japan.

### U.S. basketball team named for Tokyo 2020

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Three-time Olympian Kevin Durant has been invited to U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team.

The U.S. Basketball unveiled its official 12-member for the Games.

The U.S. Olympic Team 2020 are seeking a fourth consecutive Olympic title. They were drawn into Group A alongside 2019 FIBA World Cup bronze medalist France, 2017 Asia Cup runner-up Iran, and the to-be-determined winner of the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Canada.

The American men will open Olympic preliminary round play on July 25, against France, then will play Iran on July 28 and will close out preliminary play on July 31 versus the winner of the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Canada.

The U.S. Olympic basketball squad: Bam Adebayo (Miami Heat), Bradley Beal (Washington Wizards), Devin Booker (Phoenix Suns), Kevin Durant (Brooklyn Nets), Jerami Grant (Detroit Pistons), Draymond Green (Golden State Warriors), Jrue Holiday (Milwaukee Bucks), Zach LaVine (Chicago Bulls), Damian Lillard (Portland Trail Blazers), Kevin Love (Cleveland Cavaliers), Khris Middleton (Milwaukee Bucks) and Jayson Tatum (Boston Celtics)

### Iran to open CAFA U15 Girls with a match against Afghanistan

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran will begin the CAFA U15 Girls Championship with a match against Afghanistan on Friday.

The tournament will be held in the capital of Tajikistan from July 2 to 8 in the round-robin competition.

Uzbekistan won the first edition in 2017 but Iran claimed the title in the second edition in 2019.

Now, the Iranian girls prepare to win the title for the second time. Iran will begin the campaign on Friday with a match against Afghanistan. The Iranian girls are scheduled to play powerhouses Uzbekistan on July 3.

Iran will also play Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on July 6 and 8, respectively.

### Esteghlal forward Cheick Diabate returns to Iran

**S P O R T S d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football team forward Cheick Diabate returned to Iran on Tuesday.

The Malian striker went to France after the Iran Professional League was halted for the 2022 World Cup qualification but failed to return to Iran due to COVID-19 flight restrictions.

He was supposed to stay in France for 10 days but the player was forced to remain there for about a month.

Now, Diabate has returned to Iran. Tasnim news agency reported. Esteghlal is scheduled to meet Almasan on Thursday.

## Resistance against economic war is bearing fruit, Rouhani says

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Outgoing President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that his administration has eased the burden on his successor Ebrahim Raisi by providing basic commodities.

The administration has made all arrangements with realistic evaluations to ensure a steady supply of basic commodities despite the economic problems caused by the coronavirus restrictions, rise in global prices, and reduced production in the wake of drought, Rouhani told an economic meeting.

Raeisi, the incumbent Judiciary chief,

won the June 18 presidential election by a landslide. He will be sworn in as president on August 5.

In spite of all troubles, especially the obstacles posed by the COVID outbreak and the economic war, the administration will not allow its successor to face any problem in providing basic commodities at the beginning of its tenure, he added.

Pointing to the promising signs of defeating the enemy in its economic war and possible removal of cruel sanctions against the Iranian nation, Rouhani said a release of Iran's blocked assets, that have been unjustly and illegally frozen

in other countries, will mark the fruitfulness of the Iranian nation's resistance against the economic war.

Last week, the president highlighted his administration's success in dealing with the sanctions in an unequal battle, urging that his successor should be informed of the economic conditions and the measures taken during his tenure to settle the problems.

Former U.S. president Donald Trump quit the multilateral 2015 nuclear deal — the JCPOA — in May 2018 and started slapping harshest sanctions in history against Iran in line with his "maximum

pressure" campaign against Iran. His aim was to strangle the Iranian economy. His administration introduced a total ban on Iran's oil sale.

In November 2018, Trump's national security adviser John Bolton said, "The objective has been from the beginning to get oil exports from Iran down to zero."

Speaking to reporters in Singapore on the sidelines of the ten-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Bolton added, "It is our intention to squeeze them very hard. As the British say: 'Squeeze them until the pips squeak'."



## Major automakers manufacture 203,500 vehicles in a quarter

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Three major Iranian car-makers, namely Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), SAIPA Group, and Pars Khodro, manufactured 203,529 vehicles during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21- June 21), the data released by Codal website showed.

According to the data, the production by the mentioned companies was just one percent more than that of the last year's first quarter in which the output stood at 203,334.



During the said three months, IKCO manufactured 97,230 vehicles, registering a slight rise of just 0.57 percent compared to the same period last year.

SAIPA manufactured 81,669 vehicles in the mentioned period, 2.7 percent more than the output in the first quarter of the previous year.

Pars Khodro also manufactured 24,630 vehicles in the period under review, 9.23 percent lower than the figure for the same time span of the past year.

Three mentioned major Iranian carmakers, IKCO, SAIPA, and Pars Khodro, had manufactured 900,714 vehicles in the previous year (ended on March 20), which was 4.3 percent more than the figure of its preceding year.

According to Codal data, during the past year, IKCO manufactured 480,338 vehicles, which was 21.9 percent more than the output in its preceding year, which was 393,812 vehicles.

SAIPA manufactured 317,321 vehicles, with a 12.6-percent fall from 363,379 vehicles manufactured in 1398. And Pars Khodro manufactured 103,055 vehicles in the past year, showing a 2.8-percent drop from the output of its previous year, which was 106,072 vehicles.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's programs for the current Iranian calendar year show that the manufacturing of 1.2 million cars has been put on the agenda.

According to the Industry Ministry data, since Iranian automakers had produced 984,200 such vehicles in the previous calendar year, the country's car output is planned to increase by over 21 percent in the current year.

The production of 8,968 buses, minibuses, and vans is also planned for the current year, which would be an increase of 378 percent in this sector. Last year, domestic automakers managed to produce only 1,873 units of such vehicles.

## TEDPIX gains 4,000 points on Tuesday

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), climbs 4,727 points to 1.248 million on Tuesday.

Over 7.171 billion securities worth 54.349 trillion rials (about \$1.29 billion) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first market's index rose 7,307 points, and the second market's index gained 3,615 points.

TEDPIX rose 66,000 points in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on June 25).

The index returned to the uptrend after a long period of fluctuation and continuation of the downward trend.

Over the past two years, a number of factors affecting Iranian economy have created a new status in the country's capital market, in a way that this market experienced such a growth in the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20) that was never seen in its history of more than 50 years.



The fall in oil prices and the reimposition of the U.S. unilateral sanctions on Iran's economy led the Iranian government to turn to the capital market for funding.

On one hand, the government tried to prevent liquidity from going to the markets such as gold and foreign currency, and on the other hand, considering the recent events in the Iranian economy, it also looks at this market with a view of financing, which resulted in the prosperity of this market.

The rising rate of inflation and also that of foreign currency exchange have been also mentioned as two major factors led to the flourishing of the capital market.

In addition to inflation, which has been one of the main drivers of capital market growth in the past two years, another market driver is changing the attitude of government officials towards the capital market and trying to transfer the shares of 18 large state-owned companies through exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

# Tehran hosting 2 international exhibitions

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The 18th International Exhibition of Kitchen, Bath, Sauna, Pool Industries and Equipment as well as the 13th edition of Doors and Windows Technology International Exhibition of Iran (Do-Win Tech 2021) opened at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

As reported, some 230 Iranian and foreign companies are taking part in the mentioned exhibitions to showcase their latest achievements and products in the related industries.

The opening ceremonies of the exhibitions were attended by senior officials including the Secretary of Iranian Free Zones High Council Hamidreza Mo'meni and Managing Director of Iran International Exhibitions Company (IIEC) Hassan Zamani.

The exhibitions are being held with complete observations of safety and health protocols and standards to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus. Both exhibitions will wrap up on July 1.

According to the organizers, many knowledge-based companies and start-ups are



attending this year's exhibitions and various specialized workshops are also scheduled

to be held on the sidelines of the events. The Do Win Tech 2020 exhibition is host-

## Water, electricity projects worth over \$102m put into operation

**→ 1** The first phase of the A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended on March 19, 2020), during which 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion) were put into operation across the country.

In the second phase of the program that was carried out in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) 250 water and energy projects worth 500 trillion rials (about \$11.9 billion) were inaugurated in several provinces.

The third phase of the program was officially started

on April 6 and like the previous phases, this year, too, the Energy Ministry is planning to inaugurate numerous water and electricity projects in various provinces every week.

Earlier this month, Ardakanian had announced that since the beginning of the third phase of the program in the current calendar year 65 major energy projects worth 150 trillion rials (over \$3.57 billion) have gone operational across the country.

Last week, the minister inaugurated 24 major water and electricity industry projects valued at 9.028 trillion rials (about \$214.9 million) through video conferencing in eight provinces.



## 60% of Iran's industrial parks in need of renovation

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The deputy head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) announced that 60 percent of the country's industrial parks are more than 15 years old and need to be renovated, IRNA reported.

Making the remarks in a meeting between MPs and owners of industrial units on Monday, Fathali Mohammadzadeh, noted that more than 1,011 industrial parks and zones are established across the country, 830 of which have been handed over to industrial units.

According to Mohammadzadeh, so far 93,000 operation deals have been signed



with industrial units and currently, over 48,400 units have started operating in these parks and zones.

He further noted that 950,000 people are

currently working in the country's industrial parks and zones.

He emphasized that ISIPO needs more authority to effectively maintain the country's industrial areas as the heart of the country's economy, saying: "Many problems will be solved if one percent of the added value that industrialists pay to the government is spent on industrial parks and zones."

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

In fact, strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance is

the most important program that Iran is following up in its industry sector in a bid to nullify the effects of the U.S. sanctions on its economy.

In this due, the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21) has been named the year of "Production: Support and Elimination of Obstacles", and all governmental bodies, as well as the private sector, are moving in line with the materialization of this motto.

Regarding its significant role in the realization of the mentioned goal, the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has already defined its main programs for supporting domestic production in the current year.

## Over 1,000km added to Iran's transit routes in 8 years

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry data shows that more than 1,000 kilometers (km) have been added to the country's transit routes over the past eight years, IRNA reported.

As reported, the total length of the country's transit routes reached 25,329 km at the end of the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20) from the 24,033 km eight years ago.

The mentioned data also indicates that back in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) the total length of the country's freeways stood at 2,203 km, while at the end of the previous Iranian calendar year the figure reached about 2,726 km.

Regarding the main roads in the country, the total length of the said roads was 21,628 km in 1392 which increased to about 25,193 km at the end of the previous year.

In 1392, there were about 5,534 km of rural asphalt roads, while the figure reached 135,540 km at the end of 1399.

Back in May, Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Kheirollah Khademi said 440 km of freeways



and 1,200 km of highways will be added to the country's road network by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2022).

Khademi noted that the ministry prioritized the completion of nine major freeway projects which would

have the biggest impact on the country's transportation and transit operations over the past two years and these projects have had average progress of more than 70 percent so far.

"Two of the mentioned projects were put into operation in the previous year and 221 kilometers of freeways were completed across the country," he said.

Khademi, who is also the managing director of Iran's Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC), stressed that the completion of 221 km of freeways in the previous year was achieved despite the fact that the annual freeway construction in the country has been 80 km.

As for the country's highways development, the official said the completion of 2,000 km of highways has also been put on the agenda, of which last year 170 km was completed.

"Most of the highways that are going to be inaugurated this year are part of the East-West and North-South corridors, which will be a big step towards the development of freight, transit, and passenger transportation in the country," he noted.

## Quarterly exports from Golestan province increases 68%

**ECONOMY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The value of exports from Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, increased 68 percent during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the first quarter of the previous year, according to a provincial official.

Ebrahim Hosseini, the director-general of the province's customs department, announced that 130,710 tons of commodities valued at \$35.254 million have been exported from the province in the three-month period of this year, indicating also 450 percent growth in terms of weight.

The official further said that 1,281 tons of products worth \$5.217 million have been imported to the province in the first quarter of this year, showing 123 percent rise in terms of value, and 32 percent growth in terms of weight, as compared to the figures for the same period of time in the past year.

The value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$10.7 billion in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year, up 69 percent compared to the last year's same period, IRNA reported quoting the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

According to Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi, Iran exported 30 million tons of non-oil commodities in the mentioned three months, registering a 38-percent rise compared to the figure for the last year's Q1.

Meanwhile, some 8.4 million tons of goods valued at \$10.2 billion were also imported into the country in the said period to register a 34-percent rise in terms of value compared to the last year's same quarter.

In total, the Islamic Republic traded 38.4 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$20.9 billion with its trade partners in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year, up 25 percent and 50 percent in terms of

weight and value, respectively, Mir-Ashrafi said.

According to the official, the country's trade balance was \$476 million positive in the mentioned time span.

Iran's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were China with \$3.1 billion worth of exports, Iraq with \$2.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$1.3 billion, Turkey with \$595 million, and Afghanistan with \$570 million.

Meanwhile, the country's top five sources of imports during these two months were the UAE with \$3.2 billion, China with \$2.2 billion, Turkey with \$1 billion, Germany with \$414 million, and Switzerland with \$384 million worth of imports.

The official also noted that over 2.742 million tons of goods were transited through Iran in the said period, registering a 121-percent rise compared to the same period in the previous year.



The value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

According to Mir-Ashrafi, Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, while that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official added.



# The U.S.-China tug-of-war

➔ **1** The U.S. president Joe Biden says that “I think we’re in a contest not with China per se but a contest with autocratic governments around the world as to whether or not democracies can compete with them in the rapidly changing 21st century.” In the pretext of democracy vs autocracy, the U.S. again is weaponizing its values and playing the ideology and values card.

Jeffrey Sachs, a professor at Columbia University in the U.S., argues that the U.S., “instead of recognizing its violations of human rights, criticizes other countries with biased human rights application.” Sachs further articulates that the U.S. always tries to be a champion of human rights. Ironically, the U.S. has turned a blind eye to its horrendous human rights record and plays the double game by using human rights as a significant tool to interfere in other countries’ domestic affairs to retain its hegemony. Under the guise of human rights violation, the U.S. is committed to punishing China and its soft image.

The U.S. is deeply worried about China’s military and latent powers, posing a grave threat to its hegemony across the world. Kenneth Waltz asserts that “great powers are those that score highly on the size of population and territory; resource endowment, military strength; political stability and competence”. China, which appears to be following Waltz’s doctrine, has been making steady progress in both military and latent powers. Beijing after the U.S. in 2020 had the world’s second-highest military expenditure of \$252 billion. The Center for a New American Security, 2020 report forecasted that due to China’s robust economy its military power had been expanding that by and large would disturb the U.S. military supremacy.

Robert O. Work, a former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense, warns the U.S. that



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“China is on the way to developing secretive weapons directed energy weapons, advanced space weapons, electromagnetic rail guns, high-powered microwave weapons or even more exotic arms”. An emerging battlefield between the U.S. and China for sure is the technological race, where Beijing is stealing a march on Washington.

Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. think-tank, says “Made in China 2025 is a real existential threat to U.S. technological leadership”. Sophisticated technologies in the great power competition in the foreseeable future will affect strategic stability while an imminent arm race between the U.S. and China would remain technology-oriented. Artificial intelligence (AI) is another domain

where Beijing will outstrip Washington. AI by 2030 would probably contribute \$15.7 trillion to the global economy. China’s contribution in AI by 2030 will be around \$7 trillion. Analysts are of the view that China is predicted to be overtaking the U.S. as the world’s largest economy a few years earlier than predicted due to COVID-19. The U.S. gross domestic product in 2020 contracted by 2.3% to \$20.93 trillion in current-dollar terms. Meanwhile, China’s GDP expanded by 2.3% last year to \$14.7 trillion, putting Beijing’s economy at merely \$6.2 trillion behind the U.S. However, China’s per capita income in the last two decades had spectacularly reached (10,276 dollars).

In order to derail China’s Belt and Road

Initiative (BRI), the U.S. and its G-7 members have undertaken to Build Back Better World (B3W). A White House press statement while sharing detail regarding B3W said that the U.S. was reuniting the world’s democracies to live up to the expectations of the people and cope with the world’s foreseen challenges by demonstrating the shared values of democracy. The press statement further said that the U.S. and its G-7 partners would use B3W to meet the “tremendous infrastructure needs of low-and middle-income countries” with “the aim of help narrow the \$40+ trillion infrastructure need in the developing world”.

Though economies involved in B3W are developed countries, they are in financial crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Global Financial Crisis 2008, from which some countries have not entirely recovered. BRI unlike B3W is single-handedly financed and underpinned by China while there are multiple stakeholders in B3W. States are dynamics that can alter their foreign policies overnight; any divergence of interest among the U.S. and its allies would cause a huge setback to the B3W.

Obviously, B3W is unmatched by BRI. The U.S. relative decline is somewhat obvious in the shape of formulating alliances, such as Quad also known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, highlighting democratic values and supporting G-7 members. China’s rapid headways in economy, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, soft power, military and latent powers are shifting the world order in its favor. The U.S. excessive economic dependence on China shuns the former to go for direct confrontation with the latter. The U.S. with the support of its allies will try to contain China to slow down Beijing’s economic growth that invariably will affect its economy, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity as well as its military and latent powers.

## Kuwaiti physician calls Iranian coronavirus vaccine scientific breakthrough

➔ **1** It is good news for the people of the region who were looking at the global scientific monopoly.

Especially in the field of medicine and the technology of producing vaccines we are facing a monopoly by major international companies such as Pfizer and AstraZeneca.

There is no doubt that the national will is able to counter the Western embargo and generate the necessary drive towards independence and pursuit of knowledge. The necessity is the mother of invention.

The blockade has contributed to preventing those two countries to access medicine and clinical and healthcare facilities. Unfortunately, the political differences have a big role in lack of aid and medical supplies, even during the coronavirus pandemic.

I also followed the Iranian-Cuban alliance in the production of a joint vaccine, and it showed us the importance of solidarity, fighting despair, and trusting in national and local resources. These sciences are no longer in the monopoly of America and Europe, and those vaccines that are now in high demand globally will not be monopolized, when Iran and Cuba provide adequate amounts of vaccine for their people despite the sanctions.

There is no doubt that Iran will help peoples of neighboring countries, which are seeking to get rid of the pandemic. In my opinion, they are on the right path and history will record that.

I have heard about the Barekat vaccine from the Iranian company Shifa Pharmed Industrial Co, as I have learned about vaccines from other companies such as the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute.

There is another vaccine from a company affiliated with the Iranian Ministry of Defense, so I am happy to hear about these achievements, and this also comes by announcing the manufacturing of two vaccines, the Abdala vaccine and the Soberana02 vaccine.

It reminds us of their level of development, cooperation, and confidence in the local capabilities. Congratulations to them for this achievement, which indicates the failure of the sanctions and sieges.

**Why haven’t we seen an Arab initiative in the field of vaccine production despite capabilities in the Arab world?**

Unfortunately, the governments of Arab countries and



health leaders lack faith in the capabilities of their scientists and their scientific resources. It is really unfortunate that no real initiative has embraced these genius minds, and we in the Arab countries have a lot of capabilities, but there is no political and administrative will to adopt this. It is not acceptable that Cuba a small country located on an island in the Caribbean Gulf to be able to produce two different vaccines, while 22 Arab states failed to collaborate or join up to produce a common vaccine, for example.

Our health security should not be dependent on abroad. This is really saddening.

**What has the world learned from the Corona experience? What are its pros and cons?**

The global Corona pandemic reminds us that the human being is still weak and exposed to the threat of pandemics, no matter how much we develop financially, and that the risk of epidemics exists if we do not join hands and work on steps to improve the health system.

We must investigate the causes leading to the spread of the coronavirus to ensure that it will not be repeated again, and be prepared to exchange industrial, medical and scientific experiences.

We also have to review what happened and cast light on the source of the pandemic. The best way to prevent its spread in the future is taking precautions as well as taking advantage of the experiences and capabilities to ensure the national health security of each country

The Corona crisis has affected jobs, social contacts, global trade, study and travel procedures.

**What are the latest developments with regard to the coronavirus spread in Kuwait and the Persian Gulf countries?**

Since late February 2020, Kuwait has been exposed to the corona and a partial and total ban has been implemented several times.

The Kuwaiti government has invested all the capabilities and potentials of the medical and administrative staff.

Currently, we are considered one of the countries that have succeeded in partially containing the pandemic when the problem was exacerbated in certain hotspots where people arrived from abroad, and then it moved to hotbeds among citizens who need to work and trade.

For this reason, airports, ports and border points were opened, which caused the entry of some infected cases, including the Indian mutant Delta, which is one of the fast-spreading viruses and causing severe infection.

Some still do not believe in the procedures that are being taken by the Ministry of Health, however, the number of corona cases for weeks has ranged between 1500-1900 per day, and the death tolls are about 1920 only since the pandemic reached Kuwait.

However, campaigns have vaccinated approximately 66% of the population, with about 325,000 people infected. This is generally acceptable.

Kuwait has imported Western vaccines including Oxford and Pfizer, and we hope to use other vaccines and platforms for those who wish, such as the Iranian, Chinese and Russian vaccines, especially for those who believe in conspiracy theory and the insecurity of some vaccines, such as Oxford. Perhaps this increases their confidence.

First and foremost, the vaccine is a means to prevent the spread of the disease. In general, there is nothing wrong with how the government manages the pandemic, and we aspire for more realism and firmness, and in the end we wish all humans safety and the end of this crisis forever.

## Democrats criticize Biden’s Iraq airstrikes, reignite war powers debate

More U.S. voices have joined the chorus of opposition to President Joe Biden’s weekend airstrikes against facilities belonging to Iraqi anti-terror resistance groups on Iraq-Syria border, with Democrats expressing frustration over his decision to sidestep Congress again.

Democratic lawmakers have already been infuriated over Biden’s airstrikes in the region earlier this year without first

seeking congressional approval, a move which reignited the party’s long-running push to rein in presidential war powers.

Biden cited his authority under Article II of the Constitution, which allows him to take steps to protect U.S. service members.

Some Democrats, however, sounded the alarm about possible abuses of that power, which the U.S. president has employed to circumvent Congress and legally justify

various military operations.

“The danger here is that you fall into a pattern of military escalation that becomes war without voters ever having a say,” Senator Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), a top member of the Foreign Relations Committee said. “The safest bet for a president is to just claim broad Article II authority.”

According to Press TV, Biden’s airstrikes came as U.S. lawmakers were already

working to repeal the two-decade-old authorizations for the use of military force in Iraq.

The Iraqi government condemned the airstrikes on its soil on Monday, with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi denouncing the attack as “blatant” violation of his country’s sovereignty. Kadhimi said “Iraq reiterates its refusal to be an arena for settling scores.”

The Palestinian factions had so far fended off several wholesale Israeli wars, but the recent victory marked the most decisive one to ever be scored by them given its grand scale and manner of achievement.

Haniyeh and Nasrallah discussed ways of leveraging the victory through “utilizing all capabilities in a bid to reach the final and decisive victory,” the statement added.

The two sides also laid emphasis on the strength of their brotherly relations, which they said have an important role in the consistency of the regional resistance axis.

Haniyeh reached Beirut on Sunday at the head of a delegation. The official has so far sat down with several other notable Lebanese figures.

## Haniyeh, Nasrallah discuss ways to achieve ‘final victory’ against Israel

Top leaders of the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance movements have exchanged views on the latest Palestinian military gains against Israel and ways to achieve “ultimate victory” against the occupying regime.

Accompanied by a delegation, Ismail Haniyeh, the visiting head of Hamas’ Politburo, met with Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Tuesday for talks on “the latest developments related to the resistance [campaign] against the Israeli enemy in the region.” Lebanon’s al-Manar television network reported on its website.

During the meeting, the two sides held talks on the details of Operation Sword of al-Quds and its repercussions, Hezbollah’s Media Relations Office said in the statement.

The Palestinian resistance groups that are based in the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip launched the operation on May 11, days after the Israeli regime turned a deaf ear to their earlier ultimatum and kept assaulting their compatriots and their sanctities in the occupied territories.

Upwards of 4,000 rockets were fired towards the Israeli-occupied territories during the operation, killing 11 Israelis and causing millions of dollars in damage to the occupying regime’s various structures and facilities.

The rockets flew throughout the entire expanse of the territories, reaching as far as Tel Aviv, the holy occupied city of al-Quds, and even northern-lying cities such as Haifa and Nazareth, forcing the regime to desperately demand a ceasefire.

## Iraq PM strongly condemns U.S. raids on PMU forces as ‘flagrant violation’ of country’s sovereignty

➔ **1** “We condemn the U.S. air attack that targeted a site on the Iraqi-Syrian border last night, which represents a blatant and unacceptable violation of Iraqi sovereignty and national security in accordance with all international conventions.”

Rasool further called on all involved parties to exercise restraint and avoid any escalation of tensions.

He said Baghdad would work thoroughly to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

## U.S. forces, allied SDF militants injured in rocket attack on Syria oil filed

A rocket attack on a US-occupied Syrian oil filed has reportedly wounded several American forces and allied militants from the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of mainly Kurdish forces fighting against Damascus.

Citing Syrian sources, Russia’s Sputnik news agency reported that seven SDF elements, including a commander, sustained injuries on Monday night in the rocket strike on Omar oil field in Syria’s eastern Dayr al-Zawr province.

The injured were taken to al-Shaddadi hospital in Hasakah province, the report said.

It also cited sources close to SDF as saying that an unidentified number of U.S. army soldiers and other foreign troops were wounded in the attack.

The U.S. military confirmed the attack, but denied any American casualties.

“At 7:44 P local time, US Forces in Syria were attacked by multiple rockets. There are no injuries and damage is being assessed,” sadi Coly. Wayne Morrotto, spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve, a codename for a US-led offensive targeting Iraq and Syria since 2014 under the pretext of fighting Daesh.

The rocket strike came one day after the U.S., at the order of President Joe Biden, bombarded locations along the Iraqi-Syrian border, killing four Iraqi resistance fighters.

Some sources in al-Bukamal city in Dayr al-Zawr told Sputnik that the US aerial assault also killed a Syrian child and injured three other civilians.

## New Israeli foreign minister lands in UAE on 1st state visit

Yair Lapid is the first Israeli minister in history to officially visit the United Arab Emirates after he arrived in the country on Tuesday to inaugurate Israel’s embassy in Abu Dhabi and consulate in Dubai.

According to al Jazeera, Israel’s newly installed foreign minister will be hosted by his Emirati counterpart, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The countries’ top two diplomats are expected to discuss a range of bilateral issues over the two-day visit, including economic cooperation, trade and security.

“The inauguration is a symbolic act,” foreign ministry spokesperson Lior Haiat told Al Jazeera. “The embassy and consulate have already been working for four and a half months.”

Israel normalized relations with the UAE and Bahrain last August under the government of former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose 12-year grip on power ended earlier this month.

## Slimmer Kim prompts ‘heartbreak’ in North Korea

North Koreans have been worrying tearfully about leader Kim Jong Un’s “emaciated” condition, state media quoted a local resident as saying, in a highly unusual broadcast that provided rare acknowledgement of foreign speculation about Kim’s weight loss.

The comments – in a country where public discussion of the leader’s health and personal life is nearly always off-limits – are being seen as an effort to boost domestic support for Kim as he grapples with deepening economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, sanctions imposed as a result of its nuclear programme, and natural disasters, some experts said.

“Our people’s hearts ached most when we saw [Kim’s] emaciated looks,” North Korean state TV cited the unidentified man as saying on Friday. “Everyone says their tears are welling up in their eyes naturally.”

Judging from photos published recently, Kim, who is about 1.70 metres (5 feet, 8 inches) tall, appears to have lost some weight. Previously tipping the scales at about 140 kilograms (309 pounds), which would make him “very severely obese”, North Korea watchers say he may have lost between 10 and 20 kilograms (22 – 44 pounds) in recent times.

Analysts said the remarks showed authorities were seeking to use the change in Kim’s weight to reinforce loyalty to the regime in desperate times, portraying him as a “devoted, hardworking” leader as the country struggles to tackle a food crisis and other challenges.

## Resistance News

## Nasrallah, Hamas chief talk recent Gaza war in Beirut

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** **TEHRAN**— The top leaders of Hezbollah and Hamas held talks in Beirut on Tuesday about last month’s 11-day war with Israel in the Gaza Strip.

Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of the Palestinian Hamas, arrived in Lebanon on Sunday and met several top officials, including President Michel Aoun and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri.

On Tuesday, Haniyeh and Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah discussed how they can build on the experience of the latest round of violence. The bruising war had caused widespread destruction in the Gaza Strip, brought life in much of Israel to a standstill and killed at least 254 people.

Meanwhile, Lebanese parliament speaker Nabih Berri met in his office on Monday with Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas political bureau chairman, along with the accompanying delegation and discussed latest Palestinian developments.

Berri congratulated the delegation on the victory achieved in the “Saif al-Quds” battle and praised the Palestinian steadfastness, calling for uniting Palestinian efforts and positions.

For his part, Haniyeh lauded the Lebanese support for the Palestinian cause and people and Berri’s efforts in this regard.



## Hand-woven carpet exports jump 84.6 percent in two months

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** —Iran’s export of hand-woven carpets increased 84.6 percent in terms of value during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 21-May 21, 2021), from a year earlier, IRNA reported on Monday.

“According to the customs statistics, exports of Iranian hand-made carpets has increased by 84.6% over the [year’s first] two months in terms of value,” said Farahnaz Rafe’, the head of the National Union of Cooperatives of Iran’s Carpet Manufacturers.



“Among the 33 countries trading with Iran during the period, Japan and Germany were the two main importers of handwoven Persian rugs and carpets,” she added.

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

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

## House of pottery opens in Golpayegan

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — On Monday, a house of pottery was inaugurated in the city of Golpayegan, which was once a thriving hub for the ancient craft in central Iran. “Concerning the history of earthenware in Gileadean, a house of pottery was inaugurated in the city to revive the ancient craft,” CHTN quoted Golpayegan’s tourism chief as saying on Monday.

Initiated with the close cooperation of a leading local crafter, the house is also a school for training various fields of traditional pottery, embossed painting techniques, and painting on pottery, the official noted.



With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

The value of Iran’s handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021). Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

## 90 properties added to Iran national heritage list

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A total of 90 historical sites, aging structures, and natural sites in Khorasan Razavi province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Tuesday in a letter to the governor-general of the northeastern province, IRNA reported.

Several mansions, ancient hills, remnants of castles, mosques, cisterns, petroglyphs, caves, public bathhouses, and cemeteries were among the properties added to the prestigious list.



The provincial capital of Mashhad attracts hundreds of pilgrims each day from various Iranian cities, neighboring countries, and even across the globe; the raison d’être is the striking massive shrine complex of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam.

Dozens of five-star hotels and hostels are dotted across Mashhad. The city has also the highest concentration of water parks in the country, and it also embraces a variety of cultural and historical sites that are generally crowded. The metropolis is also a good place to buy top handwoven rugs and carpets, and it’s a staging post for travel to Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and little-touristic Khorasan regions.

# 70-year-old street stairs under restoration in Tehran

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A restoration project has been commenced on a 70-year-old stairway, which goes down to Tehran’s Vali-e Asr Street, famed as the longest in West Asia.

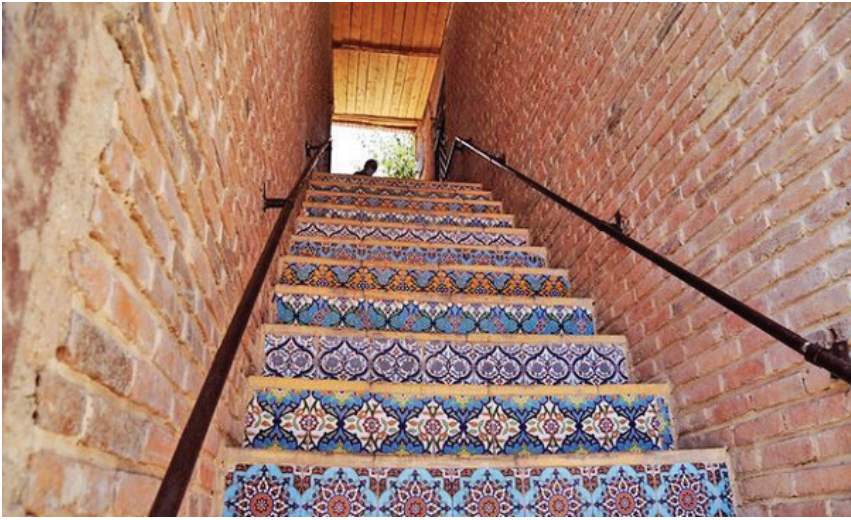
The stairway is the first of the eight sets of stairs that connect Vali-e Asr Street to other streets and alleys nearby, the mayor of the district has said.

The project aims to improve the appearance of the stairways and remedy the unfavorable conditions that had occurred in previous years, Mehr quoted Turaj Farhadi as saying on Tuesday.

The other seven sets of the historical stairways will also undergo restoration works in the near future, he noted.

While restoring the stairways, efforts are made to maintain their originality and antiquity, the official added.

Vali-e Asr Street runs for over 17 kilometers from the railway station in the south of the metropolis to the Tajrish



square in the north. It is lined with many shops, restaurants, parks, cinemas, and

cultural centers.

In the 19th century, the route once

passed through Shemiran gardens, barren fields between Tehran and Shemiran, Yusef Abad, Abbas Abad, and Behjat Abad ending at its southernmost tip inside the then Qajar-era town of Tehran.

Vali-e Asr Street, which is registered on Iran’s National Heritage list, was added to UNESCO’s temporary list in 2019. The street is one of the main urban elements of the Iranian capital in the north-south direction.

“Vali-e Asr Street is the best example which witnesses the persistent exercises of creating the concept of Garden-Street as a destination of an urban area from the Safavid era up to the modern time. A variety of architectural styles from traditional to modern and eclectic is a representation of eastern and western values synthesis in a specific geographical point, which carries a true definition of an architectural and spatial place,” according to UNESCO.

## Historically distinct bathhouse back to former glory

**→ 1** Amir Kabir was a modernized figure who instituted significant changes in the country, particularly in the fields of education and administration. He was imprisoned in the bathhouse and eventually murdered upon the decree of the king who could not tolerate his popularity.

The history of Bagh-e Fin in its current shape dates back to the time of Shah Abbas I who was the 5th Safavid king of Iran and reigned from 1588 to 1629. However, some sources say the original premises date far back in time.

Because the oasis city of Kashan lies adjacent to the central Iranian desert, water is scarce, however, inside the garden, water superabundantly flows through a series of turquoise-colored pools and fountains.

The elevated cedars inside the garden that are up to 500 years old contribute to the scenic landscape while the profusion of orange trees permeate pleasant fragrance when the trees are in blossom.

Besides the bathhouse complex, the garden also embraces several historic structures such as a two-story edifice that was once used to be the lodging for the



royal establishment.

The genuine concept of the Persian Garden that is deeply rooted in time interweaves natural elements with manmade components to embody an idea of creating a paradise on Earth by the means of artis-

## Archaeologists to shed new light on Marivan plain

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A team of Iranian archaeologists has commenced a follow-up survey on the ancient Marivan plain, which is situated in Kordestan province, western Iran.

“Supervised by [Iranian archaeologists] Nemat Hariri and Mohammad Masoumian, the survey is aimed to gain a clear understanding of various historical periods across Marivan,” CHTN quoted Marivan’s tourism chief as saying on Monday.

“This study is conducted to find answers to questions about the role of the



natural passage of the Marivan plain in the transfer of [early] human groups and their culture into the Iranian plateau.”

Systematic field-walking in the summer of 2018 resulted in the recording of 60 archaeological sites dating from the Neolithic to the Late Islamic periods. Of these, 37 sites were newly discovered by the Marivan Plain Archaeological Project (MPAP); the remaining 23 sites examined by the MPAP have previously been identified by researchers from Iran’ Bu-Ali Sina University, according to Cambridge University Press.

Preliminary evidence shows occupation fluctuating over time with peak settlement numbers identified for the Chalcolithic, Iron Age, Parthian, and Islamic periods. A range of diagnostic surface finds shows the complexity of archaeological material from the Marivan Plain.

Experts believe that cultural interaction in the Marivan region had a varied impact on local groups. The Zagros Mountains may have acted as a physical barrier to direct interaction curtailing or rerouting exchange, possibly via south-western Iran or the Rania plain in Iraq.

## Prehistorical troglodyte homes to become tourist destination

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A series of prehistorical troglodyte homes and their rock-carved surroundings situated in northwest Iran will be prepared for sightseers.

“The troglodyte caves of Binalar, which are located in Meshkinshar county (of Ardebil province), will be [temporary] handed over to the private sector to be prepared for tourist visits,” provincial tourism chief Nader Fallahi said on Monday.

“Those troglodyte caves were once settlements of early humans... and they embrace two-story and three-story dwellings parts of which have been destroyed over time... and some of those caves are interconnected,” the official explained.

“The participation of the private sector is an important step toward bringing prosperity to Binalar caves to attract tourists to the area,” Fallahi stated.

So far, tens of thousands of ancient petroglyphs and rack-carved arts have been discovered in Meshginshahr county, some of which depict mountain goats, boat



anchors, shooting and scenes of war, and scenes of deer hunting in individual and collective forms.

The rock art can be seen in some mountainous regions across Iran where roaming life and livestock farming are prevalent typically. The rock-carved figures of animals, associated tools are regarded as good clues to help shed light on daily life in the distant past, though some figures might be symbolic.

Iran is a haven for ancient troglodytic architecture which is somewhat forgotten though they are filled with life and creativity. The northwest Kandovan village is one of the most famous examples of troglodytic architecture in the country; its ice-cream cone-shaped homes are resembling that of Turkey’s Cappadocia.

In 2018, the country hosted the 3rd International Troglodytic Architecture Conference in which tens of experts, researchers, and academia discussed troglodyte-associated architecture, culture, and technology.

## First boutique hotel to make debut in Qom

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Qom province is to recognize its first boutique hotel, which is its main structure is a historical mansion featuring gems of traditional Iranian architecture.

“The historical mansion of Salamatiha is to become the first boutique hotel after being fully restored and renovated,” provincial tourism chief Alireza Arjmandi said on Tuesday.

A budget of 180 billion rials (\$4.2 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, which is being carried out by the private sector, the official added.

Upon completion, the project is expected to generate 17 job opportunities,

he noted.

In addition to offering accommodations, boutique hotels are notable for their architectural style, aesthetic appeal, and artistic arrangement, he explained.

He also noted that a way to deal with the destruction of historical monuments and houses is by restoring and rebuilding them, as well as changing their purpose.

Over the past couple of years, hundreds of historical sites and monuments across Iran have been temporarily ceded to the private investors by auctions reportedly to gain higher productivity and better maintenance.

Conducted by the Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places, the scheme is expected to assist a sustainable

development for the local communities through fueling a tourism boom along the once flourishing route.

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

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

The antiquity of Qom goes back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) and several historical mosques, mansions, and



natural sceneries have been scattered across the city as well as towns and villages nearby.



# Tribespeople to be vaccinated against coronavirus in four months

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — All the tribespeople aged above 18 will be vaccinated against coronavirus by the end of the eighth calendar month Aban (November 21), deputy health minister Alireza Raisi said.

“By the end of Mordad (August 22) all the tribespeople aged over 50 will be vaccinated ahead of the national plan’s schedule, and by the end of Shahrivar (September 22) all the people aged above 40 will be vaccinated,” he explained, IRNA reported on Monday.

There are 1,186,830 people living in 212,660 tribal families across the country, he noted.

Health Minister Saeed Namaki said in May that vaccination is going well in the country, and by the end of June, “we will vaccinate the target groups, including the population above 60, and the incurable and special patients.

Some 85 percent of the toll occurs among the elderly and those with underlying diseases so that vaccination will reduce at least 80 percent of the mortality, and then we will enter the vaccination phase of other age groups by



both Iranian and imported vaccines.”

Over 14,000 hospital beds will be added to the health system by mid-August to sooner contain the coronavirus pandemic, Kianoush Jahanpour, head of

the Information Center of the Ministry of Health, has said.

Moreover, 1,400 health projects will be inaugurated, which have been started 12 months ago, he stated.

This movement in less than 14 months in the most difficult conditions of sanctions and epidemic will be remembered as a record in the history of the health system of Iran, he noted.

President Hassan Rouhani said last month that if the volume of COVID-19 vaccine required by the country is provided, the vaccination of people with underlying diseases will be completed by late July, and the whole population will be vaccinated by late November.

To vaccinate people with underlying diseases, about 14-15 million doses of vaccine is required, while we now have 5 million doses, so another 10 million must be provided to complete the process by the end of July, then we will continue the process with foreign and domestic vaccines, he explained.

He expressed hope to start vaccination of the whole population by the end of the summer (September 23), noting that given the country’s ability of vaccine administration, vaccinating 500,000 people in 24 hours, the entire population can receive the vaccine within three to four months.

## Vocational plan aims to create jobs for 100,000 inmates

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization has prepared a plan, aiming to create jobs for around 100,000 inmates in the current Iranian calendar year which began on March 21.

“We have set the target for offering services to 60 percent of the inmates by providing each of them with 150 hours of training courses,” IRNA quoted Ahmad Rahro-Khaje, an official with the Organization, as saying.

The vocational training program is carried out based on an agreement signed with the Technical and Vocational Training Organization, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, and the Ministry of Agriculture, he explained.

Despite the prevalence of coronavirus in the past [calendar] year, we managed to provide the services to 70,457 persons, equaling 41 percent of the inmates, he added.

Khosro Mokhtari, managing director of Cooperative

Foundation for Prisoners, said in March that some 35,000 job opportunities have been created by 950 workshops in prisons across the country.

One hundred thousand inmates are provided with skill training courses on average per year, he noted.

About 70,000 of the prisoners succeed in receiving technical and vocational certificates which will be valid after they are released from prisons, he added.

Sustained employment of prisoners during incarceration and support for the employment of prisoners’ families after release is on the agenda, Mohammad Mehdi Haj-Mohammadi, head of the Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization, has said.

About 70 percent of prisoners in Iran are directly and indirectly involved in drug-related crimes, Eskandar Momeni, the director of headquarters for the fight against narcotics, said in November 2020.

Some 40 percent of the inmates in prisons are convicted of



drug smuggling directly and 30 percent indirectly, he stated.

According to Momeni, many social harms such as divorce, violent behaviors, robbery, etc. are rooted in drug use.

He added that over four million people in the country are regular and recreational drug users.

## Iranian students shine at International Olympiad in Informatics

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The national team of Iran won one gold and three silver medals at the 33rd International Olympiad in Informatics, which was held virtually from 19 to 25 June in Singapore.

Alireza Keshavarz grabbed the gold medal, while Alireza Kaviani, Ali Safari, and Ali Shah-Ali gained the silver medals, ISNA reported.

A total of 28 students participated in international Olympiads over the past year (March 2020-March 2021), winning 27 medals and one honorary diploma.

Last year, two international Olympiads of physics and geography were not held due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, but other Olympiads of mathematics, biology, computers, and chemistry and astronomy were held.

Six students participated in International Mathematical Olympiad, and International Biology Olympiad, Chemistry Olympiad, computer Olympiad each hosted 4 Iranian students, while 10 students from Iran attended the Astronomy Olympiad.

Among the 28 students participating in the international competitions, seven won world gold medals, eleven grabbed silver, and nine won bronze medals and one student gained an honorary diploma.

Some 541 students participated in the national summer competition last year, of whom 507 were awarded national medals.

### More success

Most recently, Iranian students won 44 medals in the Indonesia International

Applied Science Olympiad and the South Korea science and engineering competition in December 2020.

Other students won colorful medals at the 2020 South African science and invention festival, which was held virtually on November 28-December 5.

The students also grabbed 8 colorful medals at the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA), according to the National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents.

Also, the students grabbed four medals at the 31st International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2020) which took place in Nagasaki, Japan on July 3-11.

The team of Iranian students won six colorful medals at the 61st International

Mathematical Olympiad (IMO 2020), putting the country in 18th place. Held on September 21-22, IMO 2020 was hosted by Saint Petersburg, Russia.

The country’s team also snatched 4 medals at the 52nd International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO 2020) held in Turkey from July 6 to 15.

Moreover, Iran finished fourth winning three gold medals and a silver medal at the 32nd International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2020) which was held in Singapore from September 13 to 19.

The students also won gold and silver medals at the Bangkok International Intellectual Property, Invention, Innovation and Technology Exposition (IPITEx 2020) which was held on February 2-6 in Bangkok, Thailand.

## Forests and forestry in Iran

### (Part 6)

In other parts of Iran, forests and stands of forest-like vegetation have undergone such a drastic decline that desertification is taking place even in those parts of Central Iran where—in remote and ecologically favorable areas—small reserves of trees, woody bushes, and shrubs had hitherto survived. The use of wood as fuel is the decisive factor in the destruction of the last of the “forests” in Central Iran.

Forestry and forest industries today. In view of the scattered distribution and depleted nature of forests within

Iran, and given the lack of a scientifically based and sustainable forestry, forest industries are very limited and are significant in only a few regions. A recent statistical survey (Iran Yearbook '93, pp. 346-47) lists 182 large wood industry plants, 37 of which employ between 50 and 999 workers, while only 3 employ more than a thousand workers.

The fact that the labor force in this sector is less than 14,000 indicates the small size of the industry. All major sawmills as well as wood and paper industries are located in Gilan or in Mazandaran. The center of

economic forestry in Gilan is the Hashtpar region and the hinterland of Rasht. A large new wood and paper processing unit has apparently been set up near Sari with a capacity of over 240,000 tons of paper. At the time this article was being written, it was not possible to verify whether the project to build a second newspaper roll manufacturing mill in Mazandaran (by the Austrian Voith company) had been realized.

(Source: *Encyclopædia Iranica*)

Concluded

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## Tehran short of 12,000 classrooms

Considering the current population of students educating in Tehran, there is a shortage of 12,000 classrooms which will increase to 18,000 over the next few years, director of the organization for renovation of Tehran schools has stated. Currently, 8,500 classrooms are beyond repair and must be reconstructed, while 14,500 others need retrofitting, ISNA quoted Ali Shahri as saying on Wednesday.

There is also a high density of students in the capital, and despite the average capacity of classrooms accommodating 24 students, the number of students in some areas is twice the average, he lamented.

Referring to the current construction projects, he said that there are 110 projects under construction, half of which will be completed by the new school year (September 23).

## کمبود ۱۲ هزار کلاس درس در پایتخت

مدیرکل نوسازی مدارس استان تهران اظهار کرد: با توجه به جمعیت فعلی دانش آموزی به ۱۲ هزار کلاس درس جدید نیاز داریم که البته با احتساب رشد جمعیت به ۱۸ هزار کلاس طی چندسال آینده می‌رسد.

علی شهری در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، گفت: ۸۵۰۰ کلاس درس در تهران باید مورد تخریب و بازسازی قرار گرفته و ۱۴ هزار و ۵۰۰ کلاس درس مقاوم سازی شوند. همچنین با تراکم بالای جمعیت دانش‌آموزی در استان روبرویم و علیرغم آنکه تراکم میانگین در مدارس کشور ۲۴ نفر است، شاهد دوبرابر این میزان تراکم در برخی مناطق هستیم.

مدیرکل نوسازی مدارس استان تهران تاکید کرد که در حال حاضر ۱۱۰ پروژه نیمه تمام دیگر داریم که امیدواریم نیمی از آنها را تا مهر ماه به مرحله بهره‌برداری برسانیم.

## COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 28

New cases	12,717
New deaths	142
Total cases	3,192,809
Total deaths	84,127
New hospitalized patients	1,672
Patients in critical condition	3,176
Total recovered patients	2,862,261
Diagnostic tests conducted	23,538,876
Doses of vaccine injected	5,907,914

## Tehran hosts WHO's Specialized Helpline for those willing to quit smoking

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Establishment of a national tobacco cessation helpline and tobacco cessation service clinics across Iran was celebrated and introduced in a formal ceremony at the Ministry of Health on Monday.

The ceremony was attended by the Representative of World Health Organization (WHO) to I.R. Iran Dr Syed Jaffar Hussain.

The clinics operate across 63 universities of medical sciences and were set up supported by and under direct leadership of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention Department of the Ministry of Health. The department has initiated several other inter-related tobacco cessation projects in the country to support people in receiving help to quit smoking in cooperation with the Secretariat for WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and with guidance from WHO.

These projects include improving the management of tobacco cessation services, designing and implementing a helpline for those who wish to quit, capacity building of primary health care staff working in the selected comprehensive health centers that offer tobacco cessation services, advocacy and social awareness raising on tobacco cessation, boosting visibility of tobacco cessation services.



The Secretariat for WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in collaboration with WHO is running other projects as well. The sustainable waterpipe elimination nationwide and the tobacco-free initiative in 63 cities and 63 villages were also launched in early 2020.

In addition, tobacco-free schools and campuses is ongoing by the secretariat in collaboration with Tehran University and the Ministry of Education. Offering tobacco cessation services is a key component cutting across all those projects which are implemented supported by WHO’s technical assistance.

A good portion of smokers are well informed about the health risks of smoking and its link to various diseases and are willing to quit. Easy access to tobacco cessation services would increase the success rate for this group. To emphasize that, the World No Tobacco Day 2021 focused on tobacco cessation services and the impact of their availability on quitting rates.

The World No Tobacco Day was celebrated on 31 May 2021, and is continuing as one-year campaign during which different activities can be organized to raise awareness on tobacco cessation services and introduce possible measures to expedite them. WHO in collaboration with its member states launched a year-long global campaign to help 100 million people quit tobacco.

Tobacco use kills more than eight million people each year globally. More than seven million of those deaths result from direct tobacco use, while around 1.2 million are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke. Statistics show globally that about 40% of the young generation are exposed to the second-hand smoke.

According to the national NCDs risk factor study (STEPS 2016), about 14 % of the population over 18 years old in Iran were smokers. The smoking status of adolescents aged 13-15 years old in Mar 2016, also showed that about 3% of adolescents were smoking cigarettes and about 6% were waterpipe smokers. In addition, in Iran statistics showed about 15% of the population over the age of 15 years old are exposed to the second-hand smoke in public places and about 26% at home.

WHO predicts one billion deaths from smoking across the world this century if no serious action is taken to control and prevent tobacco use. Also, the organization says that if current trends continue, Iran will be one of the countries with the highest rates of tobacco use over the next 40 years.

Tobacco control activities in the I.R. Iran started in 1993 under the auspices of the National Tobacco Control Committee. Iran ratified the WHO FCTC in 2005, following which, the National Headquarters for Control and Campaign against Tobacco was established under the Ministry of Health's leadership in 2007.

During Monday’s ceremony, an online platform for psychological self-assessment and self-care was launched to encourage the general population toward mental health self-assessment and to guide them to learn self-care methods to maintain and promote mental health.



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The mind of a wise man is the safest custody of secrets; cheerfulness is the key to friendship; patience and forbearance will conceal many defects.

Imam Ali (AS)

## Iranian movies line up for Neum Animated Film Festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – Movies by Iranian directors are competing in the various categories of the Neum Animated Film Festival currently underway in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“This Side, Other Side”, “Imaginary Scene”, “The Eleventh Step”, and “Autumn Winds, Spring Winds and Two Doves” have been selected to be screened in the official competition of the festival, which is organized online due to the pandemic.



“Autumn Winds, Spring Winds and Two Doves” by Iranian director Sadeq Javadi.

In “This Side, Other Side”, director Lida Fazli shows that no border can prevent the formation of friendships and affection between children, and she wishes that the world of adults, like the world of children, would be full of peace and friendship.

The story of “Imaginary Scene” directed by Neda Gudarzi is set in a crowded shopping center, where people are moving around, but everything changes with the sudden arrival of the coronavirus.

“The Eleventh Step” tells the story of a little lion cub, born in a zoo. The lion cub lives in a cage that is only ten steps long. On the eleventh step he bangs his head against the bars, but one day the zookeeper leaves the cage door open. Maryam Kashkoolinia is the director of the animation.

“Autumn Winds, Spring Winds and Two Doves” directed by Sadeq Javadi is about a bride who is awaiting her groom who is crossing the sea to meet her. They keep in touch by means of a dove. But a violent, autumn storm breaks communication and the guests sadly begin to depart. Yet the dove does not wait for spring to come and starts searching.

“Creative Mind” by Mahdi Barqzadegan, “The Rotation” by Hazhir As’adi and “The Nose” by Hamideh Teimuri are competing in the panorama section.

“Creative Mind” is about challenges that all of us have with our minds. Sometimes, it seems that we cannot control our minds. The movie tells the story of a man who wants to sleep but cannot, because his brain has some ideas about sleeping.

In “The Rotation”, there is a war between two tribes on claiming the sun in the sky. As a result of that war the volcano erupts. Those two tribes now are dead and several centuries will pass, but the humans are still at war to claim the sun in the sky.

“The Nose” is about Ivan, a barber who one morning finds a nose in the bread, and the same day his customer Kovalyov realizes that his nose is out of place. Kovalyov is looking for his nose and Ivan throws the nose into a river, but the police officer notices.

The festival opened on June 26 and will run until July 1.

## Iranian ensemble Ain to perform at Dagestan

**A R T** **TEHRAN** – The Iranian ensemble Ain will be performing at the International Festival of Folklore and Traditional Culture Highlanders, which open on Wednesday in Dagestan.

The group, which is from the western Iranian city of Hamedan, will travel to Dagestan with a contribution from Iran’s Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO).

Mostafa Azadi-Moqrader, Mostafa Rashidi-Motlaq, Seyyed Es’haq Sadeqi, Mehrdad Varasteh-Dalir, Hossein Ahmadi-Neshat, Moein Sarevandi and Farshad Farahani-Delju are members of the band

The festival was launched in 2004 with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the State Russian House of Folk Art.

Dozens of artists, as soloists and in groups from around the world, will present their works during the festival, which runs until July 6.

The festival also gathers thousands of spectators, both residents of the republic and guests from other places.

# Play on life story of Islamic Revolution ideologue Ayatollah Beheshti published

→1 “Based on a definition of Islam by Imam Khomeini, Martyr Beheshti designed a political structure, which is matchless compared to other existing political systems,” Ashena said in a brief speech he made during the meeting.

“He can be considered as the main architect of the political structure of the Islamic Republic,” he added.

Qaderi also talked about the play, which was previously called by its provisional title, “Another Ashura”.

“Research for writing the play began twelve years ago and its plot was written seven years ago,” Qaderi said.

“This play covers the life of Martyr Beheshti from his birth to his martyrdom and, in fact, it is docudrama written in seven acts typically based on my imagination,” he added.

He said that he is eager to stage the play if the necessary arrangements are developed and the play is not “mutilated” under governmental controls.

Earlier in June 2020, Qaderi also elaborated on this play.

“In this play, the story goes along with the event of Ashura and it begins with the death of Mohammadreza Kolahi Samadi, an



Dramatic Arts Center director Qader Ashena (2nd L) and Art Bureau director Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman (3rd R) unveil a poster for the play “The Loneliest of the Oppressed, The Most Oppressed of the Lonely” at the Shohadaye Enqelabe Eslami Cultural Complex in Tehran on June 29, 2021. (SNN/Mehrdad Esfahani)

Iranian dissident accused of planting a bomb at the Islamic Republic party’s headquarters and killing Ayatollah Beheshti and over 70 other people,” Qaderi said.

Kolahi was a member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) and was suspected of planting a bomb at the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party (IRP) that killed

more than 70 officials in 1981.

He added that the story is narrated by the wife of Kolahi, and the mother and wife of Ayatollah Beheshti.

“All the events are selected from documents and books about Ayatollah Beheshti as well as documents about his assassination,” he added.

Ayatollah Beheshti played a key role in establishing Iran as an Islamic republic in 1979.

On February 3, 1979, the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, appointed Beheshti a member of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Council, and he soon became the council’s first secretary.

He also became the leader of the newly founded Islamic Republican Party (IRP), which was the most important group in the Majlis – parliament.

Considered one of the most powerful men in Iran, Beheshti played a leading part in the U.S. hostage crisis.

Kolahi was sentenced to death in absentia after fleeing the country in 1981. He was gunned down in front of his home in the Dutch town of Almere in December 2015.

## Rare manuscript of Kulliyat-i Attar showcased at Mashhad library

A number of literati and cultural figures attended the unveiling ceremony of the manuscript.

The manuscript is composed of the Asrar-nameh (Book of Mysteries), Mantiq at-Tayr (Conference of the Birds), Mosibat-nameh (“Book of Affliction”) and 76 love poems by the Persian mystic and poet Farid ud-Din Mohammad ibn Ebrahim Attar Neyshaburi (C. 1142-1220).

He was also the author of the Elahi-nameh (The Book of God), Mokhtar-nameh and Tadkerat al-Awliya.

Attar is most famous for the Mantiq at-Tayr, an allegorical poem describing the quest of the birds (i.e., Sufis) for the mythical Simorgh, or Phoenix, whom they wish to make their king (i.e., God).

His Elahi-nameh and the Mosibat-nameh (“Book of Affliction”) both are mystical allegories similar in structure and form to the Mantiq at-Tayr.

UNESCO is commemorating Attar by registering the 800th anniversary of his passing on its 2021 calendar of events.

Attar’s works have been published in several languages

across the world.

A Japanese translation of the Elahi-nameh by Ayano Sasaki, a professor of Persian literature at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, was published in 2019 by Heibonsha, a Tokyo-based publishing house best known for producing dictionaries, encyclopedias and books on art, history and philosophy.

“It is hard to translate a literary text, especially one in Persian, into Japanese. Cultural and literary differences cause these difficulties,” Sasaki said during a conference on Attar organized at the University of Isfahan in April 2015.

“One of the differences is the melodies that the words have in the classical Persian literature,” she stated and added that it is impossible to transfer the melodies in translation.

“Japanese people welcome instructive, sweet and satirical stories, including the narratives that are in Attar’s works,” said Sasaki, who is the author of many articles including “Basic Principles of Persian Prosody” and “Selection of Classical Persian Poetry Meters”.

## Leon Trotsky’s book on fascism, ways to fight it published in Persian

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** – Bolshevik revolutionary and Marxist theorist Leon Trotsky’s book “Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It” has been published in Persian.

Mohammad Radmanesh is the translator of the book released by Talaye Porsoo Publications in Tehran.

The book argues why fascism was able to conquer only in those countries where social democratic or Stalinist parties blocked the workers and their allies from utilizing a revolutionary situation to remove the capitalists from power.

Trotsky was one of the leaders of the Russian October Revolution, second only

to Vladimir Lenin.

During the early days of the Soviet Union, he served first as People’s Commissar for Foreign Affairs and later as the founder and commander of the Red Army and People’s Commissar of War. He was also among the first members of the Politburo.

After leading a failed struggle of the Left Opposition against the policies and rise of Joseph Stalin in the 1920s and the increasing role of bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party and deported from the Soviet Union.

An early advocate of Red Army intervention against European fascism, Trotsky also

opposed Stalin’s peace agreements with Adolf Hitler in the 1930s.

As the head of the Fourth International, Trotsky continued in exile to oppose the Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, and was eventually assassinated in Mexico by Ramón Mercader, a Soviet agent.

Trotsky’s ideas form the basis of Trotskyism, a term coined as early as 1905 by his opponents in order to separate it from Marxism.

Trotsky’s ideas remain a major school of Marxist thought that is opposed to the theories of Stalinism. He was one of the few Soviet political figures who were never rehabilitated by the Soviet administration.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Leon Trotsky’s book “Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It”.

## “I Am Number Four” at Persian bookstores

by Ofoq in Tehran.

Peyman Esmailian is the translator of the book, which is the first book in the Lorien Legacies series.

Pittacus Lore is the pseudonym of James Frey and Jobie Hughes. The book was published by HarperCollins on August 3, 2010, and spent seven successive weeks at #1 on the children’s chapter of the New York Times bestseller list.

The story centers on the conflict between two extraterrestrial species: the Loric and the Mogadorians.

The Loric are classified into two factions: the overseers known as the Cepan and the guardians known as the Garde, the latter of whom possess unique abilities known as Legacies.

The story opens with a prelude that follows Hannu – the alias used by Number Three, one of nine Garde children hiding on Earth after their homeworld of Lorien was invaded – residing in Kenya where he is killed by Mogadorian assassins under the command of General

Andrakkus Sutekh.

Most of the book is told in the first person by Number Four, who takes the name, John Smith. As the story begins, he and his guardian or Cepan, Henri, learn of the death of Number Three and move to Paradise, Ohio, assuming new identities aka John Smith.

There, John befriends conspiracy theorist Sam Goode and “adopts” a dog identified by its name tag as “Bernie Kosar”.

He also meets and is attracted to a fellow student, Sarah Hart, who is working as a photographer. Sarah’s ex-boyfriend, football player Mark James, is a bully who torments both John and Sam.

DreamWorks Pictures bought the rights to the film in June 2009; it was released on February 18, 2011, and was the first DreamWorks movie to be distributed by Disney’s Touchstone Pictures.

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

### Part 8 Later Safavid period (1629-1722)

Abbas’s paranoia resulted in the death or incapacitation of all his sons, and he was succeeded by his grandson, Safi I (1629-42), who was barely interested in architecture and merely brought to completion projects begun by his predecessor.

The royal workshops continued to produce ceramics, textiles, and carpets that were stylistically and technically scarcely distinguishable from those of Abbas I. The master painter Reza continued to paint until his death in 1635, and his students dominated 17th-century painting. But the reign of Safi I marks no new directions in either art or politics.

His son, Abbas II (1642-66), is the only

one of the later Safavids whose reign could be called impressive. An important patron of architecture, he also encouraged Reza’s many students.

Reza’s son Safi was a gifted still-life painter and one of the court’s principal textile designers. Mohammad Qasem and Mohammad Yusof specialized in single-page drawings and paintings of elegant youths. Abbas II commissioned several sumptuous Shahnameh in traditional styles but also brought a number of Europeanizing painters to his court, most notably Ali-Qoli Jobbedar and Mohammad Zaman.

Abbas II’s successor Solayman (1666-94) is amply described by several contemporary European visitors, especially Chardin and

Tavernier: an unstable personality, he showed little interest in government or architecture but was a gifted and eclectic patron of painting and drawing, encouraging not only the Europeanizing masters “inherited” from his father but also the gifted Moin Mosavvar, who produced some of his finest, “journalistic” renderings of contemporary Isfahan life during the shah’s reign.

Erotic subject matter, already apparent during the reign of Shah Abbas I, received wider attention, not only in paintings and drawings but also occasionally in ceramics. For the most part, however, ceramics, textiles, and carpets continued to utilize designs and motives established under Shah Abbas I.

The last of the reigning Safavids, Soltan

Hosayn (1694-1722), appears to have abrogated responsibilities in patronage as well as in government. No manuscript can be confidently attributed to his patronage, though he commissioned Ali-Qoli Jobbedar and Mohammad Zaman to portray the Russian ambassador to the Safavid court.

Portraiture too had been introduced at an earlier period, but it seems to have been both more realistic and more abundant in the last years of the dynasty. In 1722 the shah ordered Mohammad Zaman’s son, Mohammad Ali to paint a group portrait of king and court; it is impressive both for its forbidding gloom and as a final testimony to the Safavids.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
Concluded