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## Pakistan PM, Iran president-elect discuss Afghanistan war

TEHRAN – Iranian President-elect Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan spoke by phone late on Sunday discussing the recent developments in neighboring Afghanistan.

Imran Khan congratulated President-elect Raisi on his victory in the presidential elections held on June 18, expressing hope that he will soon be able to meet him, IRNA state news reported.

The Pakistani prime minister was one of the first leaders to congratulate Ayatollah

Raisi on his election win.

"Congratulations to Excellency brother Ebrahim Raisi @raisi\_com on his landmark victory in the Islamic Republic of Iran's 13th Presidential elections. Look forward to working with him for further strengthening of our fraternal ties and for regional peace, progress and prosperity," Imran Khan said on Twitter hours of Iran announced the results of its presidential election on June 19.

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## 240 idle industrial units revived since late March

TEHRAN- The head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) announced that 240 idle industrial units have been revived in the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

Emphasizing that one of the most important programs of the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade is to activate the semi-active and stagnant units, Ali Rasoulzadeh

said that reviving 1,600 idle and semi-active industrial units in the industrial parks and zones is targeted for this year.

With the revival of each idle industrial unit, 26 job opportunities will be created, which is expected that more than 100,000 jobs will be created in the country this year through the return of industrial units to the production cycle, the official stated.

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## Artist hangs paintings with bright colors to heal wounds of pandemic

TEHRAN – Veteran artist Ali-Mohammad Sheikhi opened an exhibition in Tehran on Sunday, showcasing his latest collection of paintings done with bright colors for healing as COVID-19 is still claiming victims in the country. Speaking during the opening ceremony of the exhibit "Brumous Colors" at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau, he said, "These works are different from those paintings I have exhibited before."

"With this collection, I have tried to

make people feel happy and to heal their gloomy hearts with the bright colors even if only for a few moments amid the pandemic, which has made them weary," he added.

He has kept his idealistic style in the 40 works comprising the collection, which has been created over the past two years. However, he said that he plans to add more paintings to the series that features elements from the beauties of nature.

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## Iran's plans for promoting mining sector bearing fruit

BY EBRAHIM FALLAHI

Having 68 different types of minerals, including the world's largest copper, zinc and iron reserves, Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries across the globe. In this regard, the Iranian government has been seriously pursuing several programs for promoting the mining sector as a major contributor to the country's economic growth.

Iran's proven iron ore reserves are 2.7 billion tons (about 0.8 of the world's total reserves), while the country's copper reserves are 2.6 billion tons (about 0.4 of the world's reserves). The country also has 11 million tons of zinc reserves (about four percent of the world's total reserves).

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

Despite the country's huge potential in this area, due to some issues like the lack of necessary machinery and equipment and the lack of access to financial resources and foreign investment because of the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian mining sector has been struggling to operate at its maximum capacity over the past few years.

So, the government programs for promoting this industry are mainly focused on relying on domestic sources for helping the mining sector overcome its current problems and hit its ideal targets.

In this regard, creating a database on the status of the country's mines has been one of the primary programs that the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry started in collaboration with the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) in order to have a comprehensive picture of the activities of the mining industry.

The program started in March and wrapped on May 21, aimed to collect detailed data on the activity status of the country's mines and the reasons why some mines have become idle; so that the collected data could be used to assess the mining sector's condition and to take necessary measures for helping the idle mines get back on track or to boost the production of the already active mines.

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## 1.8m jobs created by 97,000 active cooperatives

BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI

TEHRAN – Some 97,000 cooperatives are active across the country, which have created more than 1.8 million direct jobs, Minister of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare, Mohammad Shariatmadari, said in a message on the occasion of World Cooperatives Day 2021.

The United Nations International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July. The aim of this celebration is to increase awareness about cooperatives, highlight the complementary goals and objectives of the United Nations and the international cooperative movement.

In 1992, following a concerted lobbying effort by the cooperative members of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) and COPAC members, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the International Day of Cooperatives by the UN by resolution 47/90 of December 16, 1992.

This year, the International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on July 3 as "Rebuild better together".

In the world, 280 million jobs have been created by cooperatives and in our country, there are more than 97,000 active cooperatives that have created more than 1.8 million direct jobs, Shariatmadari stated.

He went on to note that fortunately, in Iran, after the creation of a comprehensive smart system for the cooperative sector, unique and laudable measures have been taken to create e-government and increasing transparency in cooperatives.

Speed and accuracy in the processes of creating and registering cooperatives and smart monitoring of the processes are among the characteristics of this system, which has been welcomed by all key actors in the field of cooperatives, he emphasized.

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## U.S. forces come under second rocket attack within 6 days in Syria

Media reports in Syria and the region say a U.S. military base in Syria's eastern Deir al-Zawr province has come under rocket attack.

The reports say at least two rockets have been fired at the American base near the al-Omar oil field. A UK-based monitoring group affiliated with Syria's opposition as well as a spokesman for U.S.-backed Kurdish forces have also confirmed the reports.

It is unclear from which direction the rockets were fired. However, a U.S. military spokesman for American forces occupying Iraq and Syria has denied the base has come under attack again. The operation comes six days after a barrage of rockets struck the same American base. Last week's attack came on the backdrop of airstrikes by U.S. warplanes against Iraqi security forces in Iraq and Syria, along the two country's border crossing region of al Bukamal - al-Qaim. The attack killed four Iraqi soldiers and one

Syrian child as well as injuring a number of Syrian civilians. There has been growing anger and calls for U.S. forces to withdraw from both countries. Hundreds of American forces are occupying eastern Syria, including the country's oil fields there. Washington has sent the troops without permission from the Syrian government or a United Nations mandate. In Iraq, thousands of troops are militarily occupying the country despite legislation passed by the Iraqi parliament in January 2020 demanding an end to their occupation. Anger has grown in Iraq following the U.S. assassination of Iran's Lieutenant General, Qassem Soleimani, and the deputy chief of Popular Mobilization Forces, an armed faction of the country's security forces, Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis. As American forces refuse to end their occupation of Iraq, there have been growing attacks against U.S military bases as well as American convoys.

## Bronze Age, ancient relics unearthed near once residence of 'Iran's Napoleon'

TEHRAN – Iranian archaeologists have unearthed arrays of relics and ruined structures near a once resident of Nader Shah, often called the "Napoleon of Iran."

Estimated to date from the Bronze Age to the Qajar era (1789–1925), the objects were found near the northeastern villages of, Khalaj, Qolleh Zu, and Garu in Kalat county, Razavi Khorasan province.

"So far, 127 historical relics and ruined monuments have been identified, covering the period from the Bronze Age to the Qajar era," ISNA quoted

Hamed Tahmasb zadeh, a senior local archaeologist, as saying on Sunday.

The ruined structures are related to watermills, Asbads (windmills), water irrigation systems, qanats (underground aqueducts), roads, stairways, and walls were part of the discoveries, Tahmasb zadeh said.

Moreover, the archaeologists have discovered a cemetery, which is estimated to date back to the Iron Age and Bronze Age, Tahmasb zadeh added.

An ancient mine and the ruins of towers, fortresses,

mosques, public bathhouses, bridges, and historical gardens were also found in the vast archaeological survey, the report said.

The three villages are situated near Qasr-e Khorshid (literally 'the Sun Palace'), an 18th-century iconic monument that was once a royal resident for Nader Shah of Persia (1688–1747) who created an empire that stretched from northern India to the Caucasus Mountains.

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## Mohseni Ejei inaugurated as new Judiciary chief

TEHRAN – In an inauguration ceremony held on Monday, Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei replaced President-elect Ebrahim Raisi as the new Judiciary chief. High-rank officials such as Mohammad Mohammadi Golpayegani, head of the Leader's office; Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of the Expediency Council; and Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, the parliament speaker, attended the inauguration ceremony. The Leader appointed Mohseni Ejei as the new Judiciary chief on Thursday.

## China plans to form alliance with Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey to undermine U.S. hegemony: professor

BY MOHAMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN – An Egyptian expert in Chinese politics says that Beijing is going to build an alliance with Tehran, Islamabad and Ankara to counter U.S. influence in Asia.

"In conjunction with all this, it seems that Chinese military analysts also support building new alliances related to the Middle East (West Asia), including, for example, the formation of a (Turkish-Iranian-Pakistani) alliance, in their desire to discourage India from cooperating with the "Quartet" sponsored by Washington to contain China," Nadia Helmy tells the Tehran Times.

According to the professor of political science at Beni Suef University, China wants to send a "clear signal to Washington that Beijing does not intend in the future to be satisfied with playing an economic and commercial role only, but rather has the ambition to turn into a geopolitical and military actor. It has a worthy place in the international balance of power."

Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you assess China-U.S. agreement? Do you predict China will economically surpass the U.S. in near future?**

This agreement comes against the backdrop of a (new cold war) between China and the United States, and efforts by both sides to rally allies and friends in a united front to confront the other party, especially with the efforts of the new U.S. administration of President Biden, like his predecessors Trump and Obama,

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## New Judiciary chief says justice must expand in all aspects

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — Speaking at his inauguration ceremony on Monday, Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei said that the Judiciary must do its best to broaden justice in all fields.

He began his remarks by thanking the Leader of the Islamic Revolution for his trust in the judicial body.

“Now, by the grace of God, I will pursue this serious responsibility with strength and power, and help from other branches, along with my colleagues in the Judiciary, and I thank all those who encouraged me in the last few days by sending their kind messages,” Ejei said.

In a decree on Thursday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed Ejei as the new Judiciary chief, replacing Ebrahim Raisi who won presidency in the June 18 elections.

He asked God to give him a correct understanding of the situation, the perception in action and the ability to bear this heavy responsibility, and God willing, the cooperation of his colleagues and the support of other forces.

By stating that the core of the Judiciary’s work is the Development Document, Ejei said this period will be the period of transformation and excellence.

“We must be able to take great steps with unity and full integration with the parliament, government, military and law enforcement forces,” he said

while referring to his plans that justice must be expanded to all sectors.

“A more serious, decisive and non-discriminatory fight against corruption in all areas, the development of technology for better and cheaper service, the maximum use of popular capacity for the actions ahead must be considered, and a mechanism for the expansion of legitimate freedoms must be established,” he said.

He said that it is up to the people to know the big family of the Judiciary as it is.

“The Judiciary must be fully protected, because if there is the slightest stain in this body, it will be seen immediately. The oppressed and those who deal with the Judiciary should be respected. Infrastructure must be provided so that these people can be properly served and the Judiciary can be a refuge for any oppressed and all the people. I emphasize all the people.”

He added that the Judiciary must pay special attention to those who have neither the language nor the ability to speak.

“Now there are people who cannot get a lawyer and on the other hand are not familiar with the law, these people cannot afford to pay a lawyer and an expert, so we must have a special look at this group and at this stage the government and parliament must help,” he underlined.

Ejei noted that he welcomes help by all media and appreciates fair and constructive criticism by experts.

## ‘Political developments not affecting Iran-Afghanistan economic ties’

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — An Iranian Foreign Ministry official said on Sunday that despite the increased tensions in Afghanistan, trade between Iran and Afghanistan has not been interrupted.

In his remarks on Sunday, Rasoul Mohajer, the deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy, stated that recent events in Afghanistan have no impact on economic interactions with the neighboring country.



“Despite the tension in Afghanistan, all (Iranian) ministries have been encouraged to continue to interact in accordance with the policy. At least until today, the economic relationship between Iran and Afghanistan has not changed, and cross-border exchanges are ongoing,” he added.

The deputy minister pointed out that the value of trade between the two countries is more than \$3 billion, and said due to the popularity of Iranian goods in Afghanistan and the unique opportunities in the market, the trade has been stable.

Iran’s trade with Afghanistan is almost entirely handled by the private sector, Mohajer added.

The security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated in recent weeks as the Taliban is capturing more districts in the Central Asian country.

The Kabul government has launched a “national mobilization” in response, arming local volunteers and resurrecting militia organizations to fight the Taliban.

Iranian officials argued that the Afghan crisis needs to be resolved through negotiations with inclusion of all Afghan groups without any foreign interference.

Iran has been trying hard to broker peace between the two warring parties.

“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,” Ali Rabiei, the Iranian government spokesman, said on June 29.

## France, China, Germany call on JCPOA parties to “seize opportunity”

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — After a three-way video call on Monday, leaders of France, China, and Germany called on all parties involved in the Iran nuclear talks to seize a window of opportunity for an agreement.

A French presidency source broke the story to the Reuters on Monday. The source said that French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chinese President Xi Jinping had spoken for more than an hour.

On a similar note, Al Jazeera quoted an EU high-rank official saying nuclear file faces complications, but in the end, an agreement is possible.

# Speaker: Ejei’s deep knowledge of Judiciary will benefit country

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Monday that the deep knowledge and understanding of Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei as the new judiciary chief will benefit the country.

Qalibaf made the remarks during a ceremony in which Mohseni Ejei replaced Ebrahim Raisi as the new judiciary chief.

In a decree on Thursday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution named Mohseni Ejei as Judiciary chief. This was done as Raisi, who won the June 18 presidential election, is preparing to form his new government, which will start work in early August.

“With the knowledge that I have of Mr. Mohseni Ejei and his deep and accurate knowledge of the Judiciary, the (reform) movement that started during Raisi’s time will proceed more rapidly with an extra effort,” Qalibaf said.

Qalibaf went on to say that it is an unforgivable sin if somebody distances himself from the concerns of the people, noting people will never accept such an approach from the officials.

The bitter reality is that today the country is in a difficult situation and it is getting worse for the people, especially the underprivileged, in terms of economic livelihood and investment, the parliament speaker remarked.

He also said people’s trust as the important capital of the Islamic Republic is also declining.

“In the area of social issues, where our biggest social capital, which is the people’s trust, is declining, which is why we are not in a good situation, and this is a bitter reality,” he noted.

The top parliamentarian continued, “We thank God that a new era of governing



the country has begun and we are on the verge of starting work and responsibility in a new era, which is a very unique opportunity.”

The current parliament, which started its work in spring 2020, has said it will focus on promoting the living standards of the underprivileged classes of society. President-elect Raisi has also promised to follow such a policy.

Qalibaf added people will not accept any excuse from the officials for not working diligently, and this is the duty of all.

“There is no excuse for failure. We are all obliged to be proficient and accountable to the people, to the Leader and to God. We are obliged to prove the effectiveness of religion in governing the society, we are obliged to outline a good life espe-

cially for the deprived and the oppressed, and we are obliged to increase economic stability, hope and vitality in the society with proficiency and accountability,” he highlighted.

He continued by saying that it is clear that the main burden of this responsibility will be on the shoulders of the government in the future because the foundation of the country’s capacities is in the hands of the government as the executive branch.

The speaker did not rule out the importance of the other two branches (Judiciary and Parliament), saying they must help the government as well.

“It is clear that the other two branches must complete these activities. In this cooperation, they have empathy and synergy and efficiency and accountability,

and today this empathy, cooperation and synergy should be seen not only at the level of the heads of the three branches but also to the lower levels of responsibility from district and governorship to all levels in wide and deep communication with people,” he elaborated.

Qalibaf stressed the need to smartening the government sectors for more competence and accountability, and to make activities transparent, reminding people that “marginalization and distancing oneself from people’s concerns is an unforgivable sin and makes people fell unhappy. They will never accept this from us.”

He added that this does not mean that the officials do not pay attention to independence of the branches of government and that there is no difference of taste in expert meetings and specialized studies, but the independence of branches is recognized according to the constitution and all officials are obliged to observe it.

“That is, the interaction between the workforces with prudence and empathy will lead to a unified outcome for the benefit of the people, and we will feel God’s pleasure in the people’s satisfaction, and the people will approve it,” Qalibaf noted.

The parliament speaker pointed out, “We must believe in the divine traditions and our goal and intention must be for God and for the people. The nature of our work must be working hard. We must work well and do good work and be effective and see its result in the society, because the legitimacy of our officials depends on our role in the field of justice and broadening it.”

He added, “God willing, we will take a serious step and do our duty with the support and good prayers of the people.”

## Analyst: Next foreign minister must be good negotiator

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — Speaking to ISNA news agency on Monday, Mehdi Motaharnia, an international affairs analyst, said that the next foreign minister must be a good negotiator and know the principles and techniques of diplomacy to the best of his ability.

“In our country, the president and the minister of foreign affairs are the shapers of the diplomatic apparatus and act as the executors of the policies approved in the executive bodies,” Motaharnia said.

He added that in Iran, various organizations and institutions are led by the Leader as the commander-in-chief and political leader of the Islamic Republic. He is the final decision maker in various matters and the government is a member of decision-making institutions under the leadership.

The university professor continued, “In fact, the president and the foreign minister are the implementers of diplomacy and foreign policy, and as a result of this role, the foreign minister must be a good negotiator and know the principles and techniques of diplomacy to the best of his ability as well as the management of the diplomatic corps.”

Motaharnia said that in Iran although the foreign minister is a political figure, in practice he is not a decision-maker in the field of foreign policy.

“In many countries, foreign minister acts as an influential figure shaping president’s views on foreign policy. Of course, the character of foreign minister is very important,” he opined.

The international affairs analyst stated that the minister of foreign affairs is one of the key ministers in the structure of the Islamic Republic, but in the context of power in the Islamic Republic, he is not effective in decision-making. The foreign minister can only implement the decisions taken in the desired direction, he added.

“This is while the minister of foreign affairs is not alone in the ministry and forces from the executive branch are present next to him who monitor the activities of the ministry, and naturally this issue can also affect the diplomatic moves of the minister.”

Therefore, he noted, in the Islamic Republic the minister of foreign affairs, more than being in the foreign policy apparatus, should be a diplomat in the bureaucratic apparatus in the field of foreign policy, with strong characteristics and foundations of negotiation ability, charismatic personality, enhanced capabilities to connect with the international community.

Asked about possible nominees for the post of foreign minister, the international affairs analyst said, “All of these

people, from (Ali) Bagheri to others, are not declared choices, but possible choices about the post of foreign minister in the next government, and these are only speculations.”

Motaharnia added that it is Raisi who should identify many key ministers through consultation with the leadership. “Undoubtedly, given Raisi’s closeness to the Leader, he should be more coordinated with the Leader than other presidents in identifying and selecting ministers.”

He underlined that the context of the Iranian society, the situation in the region and the situation of the international system are such that in the next government ministers must be sufficiently influential to help the country get out of the current critical situation and counter possible future problems.

“Therefore, great care must be taken in the selection of these persons,” he added.

The university professor emphasized that the situation of Iran’s nuclear file, the country’s situation in the region and the situation of Iran’s economy in the global community are three basic issues that should be given much attention.

“These three issues are in a meaningful connection with each other, and even today domestic policy issues are a function of foreign policy issues,” he concluded.

## Iran’s nuclear measures in line with UN Security Council resolution, MP says

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — Speaking with the ICANA website on Monday, a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy and Committee of the parliament said that every nuclear step that Iran is doing is in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.

Abolfazl Amouei stated that one of the main reasons for the incomplete implementation of the resolution is the illegal behavior of the United States in refusing to lift the Trump era sanctions on Iran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to adhere to the provisions of the resolution and regulates its actions within the framework of paragraphs 26 and 36 of the UN Security Council and within the framework accepted in the Vienna talks between Iran and the P4+1 group until the U.S. returns to the agreement.

Amouei added, “The United States has so far shown that it is unwilling to abandon its maximum pressure policy components.”

“The policy of maximum pressure on Iran, although considered a failed policy for all American elites, but its components, such as sanctions, belong to the United States, and therefore, by adhering to Resolution 2231, we have shown that the other side has not fulfilled its obligations and they do not adhere (to them),” the parliamentarian said.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump quit the JCPOA in May 2018 and returned the previous sanctions and imposed new ones under his “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran.

Amouei said that the UN secretary general must step up pressure on the West, including the United States, which has

made it difficult to implement the resolution properly.

The parliamentarian added, “The Vienna talks have not yet reached the desired results of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and until the United States agrees to lift JCPOA and post-JCPOA sanctions, we should not expect Iran to allow them to enter as a member.”

The United States is involved in the Vienna talks indirectly. The European Union and three European states party to the nuclear deal act as intermediary between Iran and the U.S. in the Vienna talks.

According to a monitoring deal between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), the Islamic Republic agreed that cameras operating at its nuclear sites would continue to store data and Iran

will provide the Agency with the stored recordings for an agreed period of time.

The deal was first was struck in February for a three-month period to give nuclear negotiations time to revive the JCPOA. And then it was extended by one month, which ended on June 24. The time ended while the nuclear talks lingered. This prompted Iran to unilaterally announce the expiration of the deal. This happened as the end of the sixth round of the Vienna nuclear talks.

The sixth round was concluded nearly four days before the expiration of the Iran-IAEA monitoring deal. Following this round, the U.S. and its European allies ramped up diplomatic pressures on Iran in an apparent effort to get Iran to make more concessions in the next round, which is reportedly expected to begin in the coming days.

## Russia nuclear negotiator: U.S. must stop hitting 3 birds with 1 stone

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN — In a tweet posted on July 5, the Russian ambassador to international organizations in Vienna said some parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) want to “hit 3 birds with 1 stone.”

“In the context of #ViennaTalks some analysts and officials advocate for addressing new topics such as regional security and missiles. An attempt to hit 3 birds with 1 stone. Unrealistic and counterproductive. The agreed goal of the talks is just to restore the original #JCPOA,” Mikhail Ulyanov said.

He had earlier stated that technical understandings between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency have not been officially extended yet.

“Under the circumstances it is important to ensure that video cameras at nuclear sites continue to work and video records are preserved. This will allow to avoid problems



in future,” he tweeted on July 3.

On the same note, he said that continued contacts and

dialogue between Iran and the IAEA are of paramount importance, “especially at this stage when we can expect full restoration of JCPOA and sanctions lifting soon.”

Under the leadership of former President Donald Trump, the United States withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018 and launched a “maximum pressure” campaign of severe economic sanctions against Iran, prompting Tehran to take corrective action and gradually reduce its nuclear commitments under of the agreement.

Iran and the remaining parties of the JCPOA (France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China) have been negotiating since early April to allow the United States to rejoin the agreement.

On June 20, the sixth round of nuclear talks ended and the negotiators returned to the capitals for further consultations. The talks are expected to be resumed in future days.



# First we take Tel Aviv...

Iran remains unmoved as Israel resorts to military threats

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — With the Vienna nuclear talks hitting a deadlock after the sixth round, Israel finds itself more isolated on Iran and is unable to influence the talks, something that prompted it to try out a new military stunt in order to get the talks moving in line with Israel's interests.

During his recent trip to Washington, Chief of Staff of Israeli Armed Forces Aviv Kochavi reportedly conveyed clear messages to the U.S. administration regarding the possibility of the U.S. returning to the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement. These messages included threats of an Israeli military attack inside Iran. The Israeli general held behind-closed-doors meetings with several high-ranking American officials including Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, CIA Director William Burns, and DIA Deputy Director Suzanne White.

In these meetings, Kochavi claimed that Israel had made a decision to dismantle the alleged Iranian military nuclear program a year before the U.S. 2020 presidential election and the start of the buzz over a return to the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). According to Israeli reports, Kochavi also told his American interlocutors that the Israeli army has devised at least three military plans in order to thwart the Iranian nuclear program, and that the previous Israeli government, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, put aside funds for these plans, and that the current government, led by Naftali Bennett, pledged to add large sums in order to fill gaps related to readiness



As soon as possible.

This saber-rattling came against a backdrop of a diplomatic war of words between Iran and the U.S. after the sixth round of the Vienna talks which resulted in little progress compared to previous rounds. The U.S. demanded a commitment from Iran to discuss other thorny, non-nuclear issues such as Iran's missile program and its regional influence while rejecting Iranian demands regarding the lifting of all Trump-era sanctions and the provision of a guarantee that Washington would not withdraw from the deal again once it is revived. In fact, disagreements

between the two are so deep that the mere resumption of the talks now hangs in the balance, with Russia is now insinuating that the talks may not be resumed any time soon.

This charged atmosphere has led Israel to remarkably increase diplomatic contacts with the U.S. in the hope that these communications would affect the U.S. stance toward the Vienna talks. But the Israelis themselves have acknowledged that they are unable to influence the U.S. Iran policy.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported Monday that Tel Aviv can no longer influence the new deal that the Biden administration

seeks, one that would be "longer and stronger" than the existing one that is the JCPOA.

But the Israelis seem not to be giving up on their anti-JCPOA crusade. They appear to have reverted to the decades-long dream of getting the U.S. to do their own job with American blood and treasure: an American military strike against Iran. Haaretz reported that Israeli officials are trying to convince the U.S. into bringing up the military option against Iran if it continued its nuclear activities, hoping that making hostile announcements would create deterrence against Iran.

But one diplomat predicted that the Biden administration was less likely to attack Iran if it violated the terms of the agreement, Haaretz said, adding, Americans do not currently want the potential for a military conflict in terms of their priorities.

In doing so, the Israelis signal their assessment that threats of military strikes work with Iran, something that belies the most recent bouts of escalation during the Trump administration. Over the course of the Trump presidency, the U.S. issued a whole range of stark threats against Iran from attacking cultural sites to starving the Iranian people but none worked with Tehran. In addition, the Israelis themselves launched what they call the "campaign between wars," a military doctrine mostly aimed to confront Iran's spheres of influence in the region while keeping the confrontation below the threshold of an all-out war, to eliminate its regional influence and undermine its nuclear program. But they failed to achieve their goal as Iran's nuclear program continues to advance and the country's sway continues to expand.

## People gave affirmative response to Leader call for election participation: official

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The head of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's office has praised the voter turnout rate in Iran's recent presidential election, underlining that the people went to polling stations at the direction of the Leader despite propaganda campaigns by enemies not to do so.

Mohammad Mohammadi Golpayegani said most people participated in the presidential election despite economic hardships and the enemies' propaganda and this was because Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei had asked people to cast votes.

The head of the Leader's office made the remarks during a handover ceremony of the head of the Judiciary. Gholam Hossein Mohsen Ejei was inaugurated as the new head of the Judiciary, replacing Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, who, in turn, will be inaugurated as the new president of Iran in the coming weeks.

"June has been a blessed month. June 18 has certainly been one of God's days. In this enthusiastic election all Iranians, women and men as well as those able to cast vote, gave an affirmative response to the Leader's divine call despite all the hardships and woes that they all admit," Golpayegani said, adding, "All of us witnessed that



on the election day, June 18, long lines formed up at the polling stations."

He said the enemies urged the people not to participate in the election and used everything in their media power to discourage people from casting their votes. "We were under a bombardment of audio-visual propaganda on social media. And there were miserable, wretched

individuals, hired by the enemies, who told the people not to go to polling stations and not to cast their votes. [They instructed the people to say that] our vote is no. Some inside the country also said similar things. But none of them affected the people, and as the Leader of the Revolution said, everyone was amazed at the elections that what a nation that is so committed to its Leader and establishment," Golpayegani pointed out.

Iran's presidential race was held on June 18 with four candidates on the ballot and led to the victory of Raisi. Initially seven candidates - Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi, Mohsen Mehr-Alizadeh, Alireza Zakani, Naser Hemmati, Saeed Jalili, and Mohsen Rezaei along with Raisi - ran for the post. Shortly before the start of the voting, Zakani and Ghazizadeh-Hashemi withdrew from the race in favor of Raisi while Mehr-Alizadeh announced his withdrawal in tacit support for Hemmati, who represented the reformist and moderate political groups. Following the victory of Raisi, his rivals rushed to congratulate him on his success without casting any doubt on the election's integrity, a move that earned praise from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in a recent public appearance.

## Pakistan PM, Iran president-elect discuss Afghanistan war

**→1** The call was done at the initiative of the Pakistani prime minister, according to a statement put out by the premier office. "The Prime Minister congratulated President-elect Raisi on his victory in the Presidential elections held on 18 June 2021, which was a manifestation of Iranian people's trust in his leadership. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the upward trajectory of bilateral relations [between] Pakistan and Iran and agreed on further boosting existing cooperation, in particular in its economic dimension. It was affirmed that the establishment of border sustenance markets along Pakistan-Iran border was an important step, which would yield economic and social benefits for the people of both countries," the statement said.

It added, "In the regional context, the PM expressed concern at the worsening security situation in Afghanistan, & cautioned that the latest developments could lead to serious repercussions for both Pakistan & Iran, resulting in an influx of refugees towards the bordering areas of the two countries. Prime Minister Imran Khan strongly underscored the imperative of a negotiated political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. Both sides emphasized the need to continue facilitating an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive political settlement."

Imran Khan also appreciated Iran's support for Kashmir. "The PM thanked Iran for its steadfast support for the just cause of Jammu & Kashmir. Expressing concern at the serious human rights situation in IIOJK & Palestine, the two leaders emphasized the need to resolve these long-standing disputes in accordance with the UNSC resolutions," the Pakistani statement noted.

"It was agreed to maintain high-level exchanges, with both leaders extending invitations to each other to pay official visits," the statement concluded.

The Pakistani prime minister also praised Raisi as an "eminent scholar," according to a statement issued by the Iranian president-elect's office. "I read your biography and found out that you are an eminent scholar," the Iranian statement quoted Imran Khan as telling Raisi.

Imran Khan also voiced concerns over the continuation of the war in Afghanistan, underlining that "we are concerned about the situation in Afghanistan and its involvement in a longstanding war."

He described the political solution as the best solution to Afghanistan but said it is difficult to achieve this solution in the current situation.

In this telephone conversation, Ayatollah Raisi, while expressing gratitude for the phone call and congratulatory message of the people and the government of Pakistan, described the intertwined ties between the two nations and the wide and diverse capacities of the two countries as a suitable platform for promoting cooperation in various fields.

Ayatollah Raisi called the success of the friendly government and brotherly nation of Pakistan the success of the government and the people of Iran and added that "mutual trust" and "synergistic alliance" between the countries of the region are the two main pillars of stability and endurance of neighborly relations.

The president-elect said, "In economic diplomacy, the new government views all the economic potential of its neighbors as valuable opportunities for cooperation, and therefore no economic potential is neglected."

Raisi said achieving "sustainable security" was possible only through the participation of countries in the region, adding that experience has shown that foreigners sow the seeds of insecurity and institutionalize instability under the pretext of creating security.

The president-elect called Palestine the symbol of the convergence of the Islamic world and described the effective and continuous defense of the oppressed nation of Palestine as the guarantor of "the stability of regional security."

Ayatollah Raisi also expressed concern

over the situation in Afghanistan and said, "Afghanistan's security is important to us and this security must be established by Afghans."

Afghanistan has become an issue of concern for both Tehran and Islamabad as the conflict there worsened in the wake of foreign troops' withdrawal. In recent weeks, Iran intensified its diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions in war-torn Afghanistan. To this end, a number of Iranian diplomats traveled to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In late June, the Iranian foreign minister's special envoy for Afghanistan traveled to Kabul and left the Afghan capital for Islamabad for talks with Pakistani officials on the latest security developments in Afghanistan and then returned to Kabul again to resume his meetings with the country's political and defense officials.

In his meetings with Afghan officials, Mohammad-Ebrahim Taherian presented a report on his talks with Pakistani officials, and conferred with Afghan authorities and figures on the achievement of peaceful solutions to the ongoing crisis and prevent the outbreak of a civil war in the country, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The Iranian diplomat had met with Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar and Abdullah Abdullah, the head of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, before heading to Pakistan. During these 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 at the invitation of Mohammad Sadeq Khan, the special envoy of the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Afghanistan.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said Iran was closely following



developments in Afghanistan.

"Closely following alarming developments in Afghanistan. Iran calls for immediate de-escalation, respect for rule of law, & inclusive dialogue. Destructive policies of the U.S. have had lingering consequences in our region & now its utterly irresponsible conduct is taking a toll," Khatibzadeh said on Twitter.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif held a trilateral meeting with his Turkish and Afghan counterparts during his stay in the Turkish resort city of Antalya.

The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan called for active participation of the three countries in the Afghan peace process and fight against terrorism in the region.

Zarif and his Turkish and Afghan counterparts, Mevlut Cavusoglu and Mohammad Haneef Atmar, issued the call during their trilateral meeting in Antalya.

During the meeting, agreements were made on transit ties with Afghanistan through Iran and on economic cooperation with Kabul.

The Iranian, Turkish and Afghan foreign ministers issued a joint final statement at the end of their meeting.

In Antalya, Zarif held several meetings with current and former Afghan officials in a bid to understand the situation in Afghanistan. In his meeting with Atmar, Zarif reiterated Tehran's preparedness to effectively contribute to the enhancement of solidarity in Afghanistan.

The top Iranian diplomat underlined the necessity of cooperation among all Afghan political groups to return security and stability to the country.

## SPORTS

### Nemati, Arkhi named flagbearers for Iran's Paralympic team

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Archer Zahra Nemati and thrower d e s k Nourmohammad Arkhi will be the flagbearers for Iran delegation at the Tokyo Paralympics opening, the Iranian Paralympic Committee said Monday.



Iran have won 62 quota places for the Games so far.

Nemati was Iran's flagbearer in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. She won a gold medal at the London 2012 and became the first Iranian woman to win either an Olympic and Paralympic gold medal.

The organizers have asked for a male and female flagbearer from each participating country and region in the interest of gender equality.

### Iran basketball's fixtures at Tokyo 2020 revealed

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iran national basketball team d e s k will play Czech Republic in the opening match of the 2020 Olympic Games on July 25.

The Czech Republic became the last team to seal a berth in the Tokyo men's basketball tournament after beating Greece 97-72 in the final of their qualifying event held in Canada.

Iran will compete in men's basketball at the Olympics for the third time in their history after earning their spot as the highest-ranked Asian team at the 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup.

Iran are in Group A along with the U.S., France and Czech Republic. Iran will play Czech Republic at the Saitama Super Arena. The Persians are scheduled to face the U.S., and France on July 28 and 31, respectively.

The Iranians have previously participated at 1948 and 2008 Olympic Games.

The top two teams in each of the three groups and the two-best third-place finishers move on to the quarterfinals.

### Bijan Heydari chosen to officiate at 2021 ACL East Zone

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian referee Bijan Heydari has d e s k been appointed to officiate the match between Cerezo Osaka from Japan and China's Guangzhou.

The match will be held on Tuesday at the Buriram Stadium in Thailand in Group J of the 2021 AFC Champions League (East Zone).

Heydari will be assisted by his countryman Alireza Ildorom and South Korean Park Sangjun.

The South Korean Kim Daeyong is the fourth official.

### Uzbekistan defeat Iran at CAFA U17 Women's Championship

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iran lost to Uzbekistan 2-0 at the d e s k CAFA U17 Women's Championship on Monday.

Iran had started the tournament with a 6-0 win over Afghanistan. Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Afghanistan are in Dushanbe on a round-robin basis, with the final match between Tajikistan and Iran to close out the schedule on Wednesday.

Uzbekistan, who are coached by winning CAFA U20 Women's Championship boss Ilkhom Khanjariev, are favorites to win the title.

The 2021 CAFA U17 Women's Championship is the first edition of the tournament at this age level.

### Iran suffer defeat against Latvia at FIBA U19 World Cup

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iran suffered their second loss d e s k in a row at the FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup on Sunday.

Iran were defeated against hosts Latvia 58-48.

Parsa Fallah scored 16 points for Iran, while Latvian Kristians Feierbergs earned 17 points.

Serbia defeated Puerto Rico 84-64 in the same group.

Iran began the campaign on Saturday with an 88-67 loss against Serbia. Iran will play Puerto Rico on Tuesday in Group B.

The 15th edition of the U19 global showcase tipped off with a limited number of fans being allowed into the games - something that seemed unimaginable just a few months ago.

The tournament, which runs from July 3-11 and is being held in Riga and Daugavpils, in Latvia.

The Baltic country is hosting the event for a second time, following 2011. The United States go into the 2021 edition as the reigning champions from 2019 and the winners of seven of the previous 14 tournaments.

### Srecko Katanec parts company with Iraq

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Slovenian coach Srecko Katanec d e s k has reportedly canceled his contract with Iraq national football team.

Iraqi media reports suggest that Katanec has canceled his deal after the Iraqi football federation failed to meet its financial commitment.

Under coaching of Katanec, Iraq booked a place in the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 3.

Iraq have been drawn in Group A along with Iran, South Korea, Syria, the UAE and Lebanon in the next stage.



## Industry minister inaugurates 5 major projects in Khorasan Razavi

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini inaugurated and commenced five major industrial projects in northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province during a two-day visit to the province on Saturday and Sunday, IRNA reported.

Razm Hosseini who arrived in the mentioned province on Saturday inaugurated a washing machine production line, a tile and ceramic production unit, as well as a soft drink production unit while ordering the beginning of a pharmaceutical factory development project and a project for the construction of a ceramic and tile production unit.

As reported, the washing machine production line, which



was put into operation in Neyshabour with 450 billion rials (about \$10.7 million), has an annual production capacity of 41,000 units and has created jobs for 50 people.

The tile and ceramic production unit was also inaugurated in Torbat Heydarieh city with 590 billion rials of investment (about \$14 million). The unit is going to produce 8,900 tons of ceramic and tiles and has created jobs for over 75 people.

The official also ordered the beginning of the construction of another ceramic and tile production unit in the said city which has an annual production capacity of 6,600 tons of products and will create jobs for 110 people.

He further inaugurated a soft drink production unit in Kashmar city. This unit has an annual production capacity of over 50,000 tons of various soft drinks and has created jobs for 120 people.

As reported, over 8.8 trillion rials (about \$209.5 million) has been invested in the mentioned production unit.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the said unit, Razm Hosseini put the share of soft drinks and sweets in the country's total annual non-oil exports at \$500 million.

He also traveled to Bardaskan County on Saturday evening and, after visiting the copper and gold mines in the region, inaugurated the transmission line and electricity distribution network of the Bardaskan mines.

Razm Hosseini was accompanied by his deputies in the mentioned visit and attended several meetings with the industry officials of the province.

## TEDPIX rises 10,800 points on Monday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 10,893 points to 1.254 million on Monday.

Over 6,714 billion securities worth 49.875 trillion rials (about \$1.187 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

The first market's index gained 10,361 points, and the second market's index rose 13,907 points.

TEDPIX rose 43,000 points in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.256 million points on Wednesday, June 30 (the last working day of the week).

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).

While some economic factors such as reduced banking interest rate, and less profit-making status of the parallel markets including the markets of gold coin, forex, and housing led people to make investment in the capital market, their improved knowledge of this market was also a prominent factor contributing to the capital market's flourishing.

Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) have been taking some major steps in this regard to make people acquainted with the capital market and investment making in this market.

# 240 idle industrial units revived since late March

**→ 1** Last year, 1,557 stagnant and semi-active units returned to the production cycle in the industrial parks with a financing of 35 trillion rials (over \$833 million), providing employment for 27,000 people, the ISIPO head further said.

With the aim of reactivating stagnant units or units that are operating below capacity, 900 consultants from the private sector and knowledge-based companies were selected in the form of industry clinics across the country to recognize the weaknesses of these units, Rasoulzadeh has previously stated.

"Despite the two major challenges of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic, which imposed severe restrictions on the country, we tried to activate domestic capacities by turning to localizing the technology of manufacturing parts and equipment", he added.

Sanctions have caused problems for financial exchanges and the export of goods to other countries, he said, adding, "The negative effects of coronavirus pandemic on various parts of the country, including industry, are not hidden from anyone, and the economic growth of some countries has reached below zero during this period."

Iran is proud that despite these restrictions and pressure from these two important challenges, its industry has grown by more than seven percent, according to the



statistics and reports from various sectors, the official further highlighted.

Also, as announced by Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki, over 6,500 new industrial units were established across the country during the past year which created jobs for over 121,000 people.

Touching upon the Industry Ministry's plans for the realization of the motto of the current year which is named the year of "Production: support and the elimination of obstacles" by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the official has said: "In the year that has been dedicated to the production sector by the Leader of the revolution, the

orientation of all government organizations and executive bodies should be towards supporting the country's industrial and mining units."

Niaraki pointed to a 40-percent increase in the issuance of establishment licenses for industrial units in the previous year, saying: "The number of establishment licenses increased to more than 36,000 last year, which shows that people are encouraged to invest in the productive sectors."

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

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

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

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

## Iran's plans for promoting mining sector bearing fruit

**→ 1** Based on the data collected in this program, the SCI announced that there are currently 10,170 mines across the country, of which 6,861 are active and 3,309 mines are not operational.

Of the country's active mines, 6,449 are solely producing minerals, while 289 mines are conducting exploration operations along with their production activities, and 123 mines are being exploited, equipped, and prepared at the same time.

The findings of this program confirmed that out of 3,309 inactive mines in the country, 298 mines were being equipped and prepared, 60 mines were operating less than 30 days, 513 mines permanently stopped operating, 208 mines were temporarily closed and 430 mines were categorized as "not active for other reasons".

In investigating the causes of inactivity of the country's mines, lack of liquidity, lack of access to machinery and equipment, blockage, market stagnation, lack of licenses, as well as legal and environmental problems were stated as the most common reasons for the mines going idle.

The collected data in the mentioned program is going to be used by the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry and the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) for exploring ways for better support the country's mining sector in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) by removing the barriers in the way of the activities of the idle mine.

Last year, 253 idle small-scale mines were revived throughout the country, according to IMIDRO Head Vajihollah Jafari, and this year the organization, which is in charge of managing and promoting the country's mining sector, is planning to pursue its development programs more vigorously.

The official noted that the plan for reviving idle mines in the previous year was realized by 126 percent.

Jafari also announced that under the framework of the program for reviving idle mines, 200 mines are planned to be put back into operation in the current year.

A glance at the steps taken in this regard shows that



the Iranian government's plans are paying off and the mining sector is expected to become a more dynamic player in the country's economic scene in the current Iranian calendar year.

## Removing barriers to bilateral trade discussed between Iran, Armenia

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — During a meeting between Iranian commercial attaché in Yerevan and Armenian Customs Authorities, the two sides explored the ways to remove the obstacles to boosting bilateral trade between Iran and Armenia.

As reported by Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), during the meeting it was emphasized on the reform of some trade procedures for the Iranian traders, including under invoicing and problems in non-clearance of goods in the Armenia's customs.

The ways of removing the barriers in the way of trade between the two countries had been also discussed during a meeting between Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum and Armenian Deputy Economy Minister Varos Simonyan last week.

In the meeting held on June 29, the officials underlined the significant growth in the level of trade between the two countries and stressed the need for planning to further develop cooperation within the framework of the preferential trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and achieve the desired level of bilateral trade.

Speaking in the meeting, Zadboum referred to the two countries' deep cultural, historical, and political relations and stated: "The Trade Development Organization of



Iran is ready to hold a meeting of the [two countries] joint industrial, mining and commercial working group in order to identify obstacles and problems facing bilateral trade and to take appropriate and effective decisions to address them."

He further expressed satisfaction with the holding of Iran's exclusive exhibition in Armenia earlier this month and noted that holding such events in the two countries and the exchange of trade delegations is necessary to better introduce export capabilities and to exchange information related to the needs of the two markets.

Zadboum also pointed to the removal of non-tariff barriers and reduction of logistics and transportation costs, along with the expansion of the scope of the preferential trade agreement between Iran and the EAEU, as important factors in increasing the level of trade relations between the two countries

and called for addressing such subjects in the joint working groups.

Simonyan for his part welcomed the holding of a joint working group on industry, mining, and trade as soon as possible, and announced his readiness to hold expert talks during the meetings of the joint working group between the two countries.

The Armenian deputy minister also met with the Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, in which the two sides stressed the need for boosting joint investment in various sectors.

In this meeting, Shafeie noted that Iran and Armenia could become good trade partners among the EAEU members.

Mining, livestock, and agriculture, textiles, clothing, construction, technical and engineering services, as well as transportation and transit, were among the areas mentioned by the officials for mutual cooperation.

Back in January, Iran, and Armenia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the expansion of trade ties between the two countries.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini and the Armenian Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan in Tehran.

Expansion of trade with the neighboring countries, especially boosting exports to the

neighbors is one of the major policies that Iran is seriously pursuing to nullify the effects of the U.S. sanctions on its economy.

In this regard, given its good political and cultural relation with Iran, the neighboring country Armenia is one of the major trade partners of Iran and the Islamic Republic is taking different measures to expand trade ties with this neighbor.

Iran's signing a free trade agreement (FTA) with Eurasian Economic Union has noticeably affected its trade relation with Armenia.

Based on the agreement, which was finally reached in 2018 after several years of negotiations, about 862 commodity items are subject to preferential tariffs.

According to the Head of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hervik Yarijanian, the preferential trade agreement between Iran and EAEU has had a significant impact on the country's trade relations with Armenia.

According to the official, the volume of trade between the two countries has witnessed an outstanding rise since the agreement became effective.

Iran mainly imports red meat from Armenia, while Armenia imports polymer raw materials, machinery, industrial gases, manufactured artifacts, leather and leather goods from Iran, he said.

## Heads of ICCIMA committees call on next govt. to focus on regional treaties

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The heads of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s specialized committees have called on the next government to focus on privatization and joining regional treaties as a priority in its economic planning.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, the head of ICCIMA's specialized committees gathered on Sunday to prepare a proposal package for the next government in which the demands of the private sector in various areas would be presented.

It was decided in this meeting that the mentioned package would be prepared and published in two sections covering macroeconomics and more detailed areas such as industry, mining, agriculture, tourism, etc.

The need to joint regional treaties, downsize the government, maintain economic security by stabilizing laws and regulations, and trying to strengthen the ICCIMA position in the economy by relying on its members were among the most important points emphasized by the heads of



the mentioned committees.

In this meeting, Mohammadreza Ansari, the ICCIMA deputy head pointed to the chamber's expert views on the country's economic situation and offering specific executive strategies to solve the existing challenges as an important step and called on the heads of the ICCIMA specialized committees to take this proposal package seriously.

Further in the meeting, the attendees offered various

proposals for resolving the country's current economic issues and the viewpoints were collected to be included in the mentioned proposal package to be reviewed and finalized.

Back in May, ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie had stated that the private sector's expectations from the next government will be prepared in the form of a proposal package, during the 14th meeting of the ICCIMA board of directors.

According to Shafeie, from the perspective of the private sector, the first priority of the future President should be to accelerate the country's economic growth in a sustainable, stable, and comprehensive manner.

Iran's presidential elections were held on June 18, and Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi was elected as the country's next president.

Under Iran's law, an incumbent president cannot run for a third term if he has already served for two consecutive terms in office. Rouhani was first elected in 2013 and reelected four years later.



# China plans to form alliance with Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey to undermine U.S. hegemony: professor

➔ **1** To shift the focus of his country's attention to the Asia-Pacific region to contain China's accelerating progress, and slow down its plans to lead the world economically, politically and militarily during the next few years.

It was clearly evident from the first virtual summit held by President Biden, which brought him together with the leaders of Japan, India and Australia, in what is known as the (Asian NATO or the Quartet), to discuss various available ways to deal with the Chinese Dragon.

As it was clear from the meetings of the National Security Adviser and the U.S. secretaries of state and defense with their counterparts in Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and China, during the past two months, the high priority that the new U.S. administration attaches to exercising the strategy of "maximum pressure" on Beijing in order to constrain its military and economic rise in the world.

In conjunction with all this, it seems that Chinese military analysts also support building new alliances related to the Middle East (West Asia), including, for example, the formation of a (Turkish-Iranian-Pakistani) alliance, in their desire to discourage India from cooperating with the "Quartet" sponsored by Washington to contain China. This Quartet, which a number of observers describe as an "Asian NATO", includes the United States, Japan, India and Australia). In this context, a consortium of Chinese banks recently expressed its willingness to lend Turkey 3 billion dollars to finance several stalled projects in Istanbul, the largest financial support provided by China to the Turks in modern history.

Beijing's growing interest in the Middle East (West Asia), the latest of which was the (Sino-Iranian agreement), coincides with the faltering of the new Biden administration in its first approaches towards most countries in the region, especially (Iran, Turkey and Israel).

The Biden administration is still "recalibrating" its relations with those countries. Its efforts with Tehran to renew negotiations on the Iranian nuclear program are still facing obstacles, despite the indirect talks that are taking place.

However, the (Sino-Iranian agreement) is a very important development because it comes after decades of reluctance in Beijing to challenge Washington in the Middle East (West Asia). This agreement also represents a clear indication of the strong emergence of Beijing on the Middle Eastern (West Asian) scene, and of the unmistakable Chinese desire to gain a foothold in the Middle East (West Asia), and the waterways straits in the region.

**Do you think China can lead the global economy in near future? Do you expect emerging Asian powers like India and Turkey to form a coalition with China?**

Here, I can analyze that the (project of a Chinese-Russian alliance against Washington) is Beijing's most powerful tool in this American confrontation.

The new U.S. administration, led by Joe Biden, seems almost bewildered about the right approach to confronting the growing Chinese advance. The tactics of Barack Obama's era when Biden was his vice president have no effect after Beijing made strides during the past few years in a fierce race towards the cockpit of the world in the coming decades. If not only years. This situation prompted the U.S. President to awaken the leaders of the alliance of "democratic" countries, in order to confront the non-democratic countries led by China and Russia.

The levels of confrontation between Washington and Beijing have not gone beyond the limits of a war of words, which means that the new president's policy towards China is still being prepared and formulated, including how to deal with tariffs on Chinese goods set by former President Donald Trump.

The basis of the American attack, so far, is apparently wrapped in the values ??of democracy and human rights with a deep sense of fear, calling for vigilance by escalating the confrontation, so that "Beijing does not eat our lunch", according to the statements of President Biden.

But China at the time of Obama has changed, as China began to face the USA administration and President Biden today.

Until recently, Beijing's plan was based on avoiding a direct collision with American and European policies.

Therefore, it has tended to ensure the collective nature of managing its international relations, in the Arab world with the (League of Arab States), in Africa with the (African Union), and in the (Persian) Gulf with the ('Persian' Gulf Cooperation Council).

While the basis for managing today's relations is bilateral with countries, without the slightest concern with the state's ties, and its position within the axes and alliances.

We can as well analyze the Chinese moves in the Middle East (West Asia), the representative of Chinese diplomacy, Minister of Foreign affairs Wang Yi toured the Middle East (West Asia), focusing on the



pivotal countries in the region, thus sending a clear signal to Washington that Beijing does not intend in the future to be satisfied with playing an economic and commercial role only, but rather has the ambition to turn into a geopolitical and military actor. It has a worthy place in the international balance of power.

Beijing has benefited from the continuing tension within many (Latin American countries), and has supported governments there in exchange for exceptional economic concessions, similar to what happened and is currently happening in Venezuela led by Nicolas Maduro. The state pays Beijing with "oil to repay the debt" that it granted it, and China has become the largest trading partner for Brazil, the giant of Latin America, and Chile are the most advanced country in the region. It is currently one of the main partners of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Thus, Central and South America, Washington's backyard, turned, inadvertently, into China's largest trading partner.

It is noteworthy that the Chinese success in penetrating the (back garden of Washington), cost the Trump administration an American loan of 3,500 million dollars, at an interest rate not exceeding 2.48 percent, in order to enable Ecuador to settle all of its debts with China. The country, with U.S. guarantees, obtained a loan of \$6.500 million from the (International Monetary Fund), in exchange for Ecuador's remaining in the "clean grid", an agreement that companies and governments signatories to agree to prevent Chinese companies from entering certain sectors, especially in the field of "Fifth generational technology".

The American head of the Financial Development Corporation, the U.S. public body overseeing the mentioned process, said at the moment of the signing of the agreement, that:

"This is not a Republican or a Democratic priority. It is a priority for the United States".

Republican Senator Ben Sassi did not deviate from the same position, as he recently confirmed that:

"I have many political differences with the Biden administration, but all Americans must unite against the tyrants of Beijing."

Between the last appearance of China on the world stage, in the middle of the last century, within the Non-Aligned Movement, and efforts to search for a position in the global political scene, China quickly climbed the lists of global rankings, until it became a major global power, representing the world's largest population, largest trade power, and the second-largest economic power, the third most important military power, and the owner of the largest fiscal surplus.

The Chinese economy was able to conquer the Coronavirus pandemic, achieving positive growth last year of 1% percent, at a time when the economies of Western countries succumbed to the invasion of the red color, recording declines and negative rates.

The Chinese dragon is betting for leadership, from the position of the attacker, as revealed by the confrontational style, as it has gone beyond the limits of winning the countries in dispute between the two major powers, towards penetrating the countries affiliated with the American alliance.

Lebanon, for example, received an offer from China to finance and implement development projects, worth \$12 billion, that would save the state from political and economic collapse, but the internal conflict thermometer prevented it from being accepted.

The visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Yi, during the period from March 24 to 30, 2021, to the Middle East (West Asia), and the signing of cooperation agreements with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Turkey, and Riyadh's request to sponsor an (Arab-Chinese summit), is a Chinese message that announces undermining the hegemony and unipolar system by the USA towards multi-Polar Union, which was launched at the beginning of the last decade of the last

century, after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The project of a (Chinese-Russian alliance in the face of the United States) remains Beijing's strongest tool in this confrontation.

Opening up to Russia, which is eagerly awaited by the Russian President, to respond to his description as a "killer" by Joe Biden, will mix many cards in Washington, and there is a crack in the front of democratic countries under the auspices of the American President.

Many of the interests of the members of this alliance are in the hands of Moscow, such as the "Nord Stream 2" gas pipeline file between Russia and Germany, which threatens the idea of a joint U.S.-European alliance to confront the Sino-Russian duo.

The Coronavirus pandemic revealed that the time estimate set in the early forties, for China to reach world leadership, had been reduced by several years, after the Chinese economy succeeded in withstanding the collapse, at a time when the American economy declined by about 10 percent, which means that China won five years. from economic conflict.

This numbers game is simple in theory, but extremely complex in practice. The shift of the command center from Washington to Beijing is more than just numbers in the economy, or alliances in politics, or a tactic in geopolitics.

**How do you evaluate U.S.-China trade war? Is the U.S. capable to contain China?**

The current confrontation between the United States and China is drawing the features of a new global cold war, covering the areas of trade, diplomacy, culture, education, finance, technology, industry and armaments. But what is new in the Cold War this time is that it is not just a war between two regimes, one of which wants to survive at the expense of the other, but rather a war on the part of the United States against (China, Russia, Iran, North Korea), and others, in order to ensure the continued leadership of the United States of the world order. In order to achieve this goal, the U.S. former President Trump has demonstrated that he is willing to impose retaliatory measures even against his allies, such as: (Germany, France, Canada, Japan and Mexico), in order to ensure adherence to the leadership in the world.

On the other hand, China is trying to absorb the shock of trade wars and sanctions and keep rising by boosting internal demand in its huge market. For this purpose, China has signed the largest free trade agreement in the world with the countries of East Asia and the Pacific, including Japan and South Korea. It is also continuing to strengthen its relations with Russia and dozens of other countries through its New Silk Road global project.

The most obvious example of China's smart management of the trade war is its imposition of a 25% tariff on (American lobster) in July 2018, which reduced U.S. exports of lobster by 70%, at the same time Beijing reduced tariffs on (Canadian lobster) by 3%, which has doubled its exports to China, so the Chinese consumer is paying less for lobster.

So, I suggest that the impact of the continuation of the U.S. trade war on China will be minimal, especially as its economy shifts from (intensive dependence on exports to dependence on consumption as a driver of economic growth).

Thus, if the U.S. administration increases tariffs, this will not have a significant impact on the Chinese economy, in light of the diminishing role played by exports as an engine of Chinese growth.

**What are the main reasons of the Chinese economic rise and expectations for the future?**

China and the United States are closely related to each other, they are the largest trading partner, and therefore any attempt to separate the two economies will not only lead to serious consequences for both countries but will also cast a negative shadow on the global economy in terms of higher prices

and slowing global economic growth. It is therefore in the interest of both countries to move away from zero-sum thinking, put an end to the trade war, and move towards removing any barriers to trade between them.

The facts have mentioned that the Chinese exports to the United States did not decrease, due to many factors; The first is that there are no alternatives goods for many American products, whereas the U.S. imports from China, such as the iPhone, so the American consumer is forced to absorb the higher prices of goods imported from China.

It is unlikely that the American companies will close factories that manufacture their products in China, because the manufacture of many products in the United States is associated with materials and parts that are found only in Beijing, and the best evidence for this is that in 2012 "American Apple company" has tried to move the manufacture of the Mac Pro developed from China to Texas city at the USA, but the difficulty of providing the small screws that hold the parts of the device together prevented transportation.

Underpinning the fact that the trade war did not achieve the results that the United States sought is that economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and elsewhere have found that increasing the U.S. tariffs did not force Chinese exporters to lower their prices, but rather charged the American consumer with higher tariffs by raising tariffs. The prices of their goods, and therefore the situation on the ground has become that the American consumer is the one who pays his government the increase approved by the American side on Chinese goods. Whereas Chinese consumers are not paying higher prices for U.S. imports.

**What are China's challenges and opportunities for the Asian countries?**

China is taking a new approach to the Asian region, which tends to favor bilateral relations or larger blocs, such as the Indo-Pacific agreement and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as it finds increasing opportunities to expand its influence against the backdrop of the epidemic.

In addition to the new Chinese ways of dealing with Central Asia, which were recently revealed, whereas Beijing has achieved successes since the beginning of the pandemic by carrying out high-level humanitarian and medical missions, and has also enhanced its digital technologies as a means to limit the spread of the virus.

China has also used the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to help advance its defense about its response to the (COVID-19) and appears to see further integration into Eurasia through the Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to gain influence through infrastructure building and investment guidance.

China does not seek, as yet, global hegemony, but rather the creation of a (sub-system), in which it controls countries that can be docile in the Asian region.

China's share in Asia could also grow as Russia - one of the largest players in the region - faces an economic slowdown caused by the epidemic and low energy prices.

On the other hand, the main Chinese challenges in the Asian region, especially (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Middle Asian countries) is China's main security challenges and interests in (South Asia) to prevent the (Islamization and radicalization of the Uighur minority) in the border region of Xinjiang, especially with the desire of Uighur fighters to return from Syria.

In Afghanistan, Chinese officials fear that units of former fighters of the Turkistan (or East Turkestan) Islamic Movement are spreading among the ranks of the (Taliban jihadist movement), since the movement's succeeded in controlling Badakhshan Province and the Wakhan Corridor located near the Chinese border in 2019.

China has been keen to include its fears of supporting Uyghur fighters in the "good neighborly" agreements that China signed with Central Asian countries, and in the (anti-terror protocol of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization).

The rise of the Islamic State in eastern Afghanistan, within the province of "Khorasan", is also a source of Chinese concern, as the organization is considered a magnet for Uyghur fighters who defected from the ranks of the (Taliban movement). Despite the movement's attempt to bring the Islamic State under control, officials in Beijing fear that this will not last long after the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

We can refer here to the statements by Zhao Lijian, the spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, who expressed these concerns once Washington confirmed the date for the withdrawal, saying that "foreign forces stationed in Afghanistan should withdraw in a responsible and orderly manner to ensure a smooth transition in Afghanistan and avoid terrorist forces exploiting the chaos."

China's call for a "responsible and orderly" withdrawal has become a constant model in the statements of Chinese officials about the status of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, lest it leaves a vacuum whose results will appear quickly in Xinjiang.

## Russia says British provocations like warship incident demands strong response

The Kremlin spokesman says the warship 'HMS Defender' that passed through the Black Sea near Russian borders was a 'well-planned provocation' and that President Vladimir Putin had made clear any repetition would provoke a response.

Speaking to state media, Spokesman Dmitry Peskov says 'it is obvious that the [Russian] reaction will, of course, be tough'. He reiterated Russia's accusation that both London and Washington had planned the incident and that Britain could not have conducted intrusion alone. Peskov, citing Russian intelligence, says 'the essence of such operations is planned by all the same senior comrades - those over the ocean'. Tensions are running high in the region as NATO and Ukraine conduct joint military operations in the Black Sea. The war drills are being monitored by Russia's Black Sea fleet. Peskov accused NATO of being a destabilizing element that could lead to confrontation but added that Moscow was open to dialogue with North Atlantic Treaty Organization. On Wednesday, Putin said Russia fired warning shots and dropped bombs in the path of the British warship to chase it out of the Black Sea waters near Crimea. The Russian President said Moscow could have sunk the warship without starting World War Three. London says it does not recognize Russia's account over the incident, claiming its warship was sailing through international waters.

## Taliban warns all foreign forces must leave by September deadline

Speaking to British media, a spokesman says military troops or military contractors' risk being considered as occupiers. Suhail Shaheen says 'if [Western powers] leave behind their forces against the Doha agreement, we would react and the final decision is with our leadership'. Shaheen says the Taliban will not pose any threat to NGOs, diplomats, or foreign civilian contractors providing services to the country. There has been an increase in violence in Afghanistan recently amid territorial gains made by the Taliban. However, Shaheen dismissed allegations that the Taliban had played any part in the violence. He says many districts had fallen to the Taliban through mediation after government forces refused to engage in battle. Reports indicate this account is similar to that of the government. The Taliban spokesman says capturing Kabul was not 'Taliban policy'.

The Afghan government says the group should now sign a ceasefire agreement to prove they are committed to peace. Over the past week, reports have emerged that 1,000 (mainly U.S.) troops might remain in the country to protect the American embassy and Kabul international airport.

## UNICEF says children's education is one of the greatest casualties in war on Yemen

A new report published by the United Nations children's agency says six years after the war on Yemen, just over two million boys and girls are out of school. The report cites poverty, conflict and a lack of opportunities as the key reasons behind the disruption to children's education. UNICEF also warns that this number could rise to six million. It says an entire generation is facing dire consequences now and, in the future, where they may find themselves trapped in a cycle of poverty. To make matters worse, for more than four years now, two-thirds of teachers in Yemen (more than 170,000) have not received a regular salary because of the war. The report makes an appeal for all attacks on schools to stop, saying there have been 231 such attacks. It also calls on international donors to support educational programs with long-term funding. In March 2015, Saudi Arabia and some of its regional allies, backed by the United States waged a deadly war on Yemen with almost daily airstrikes. Human Rights groups accuse Saudi Arabia of war crimes, saying vital civilian infrastructure including hospitals and schools has been bombed. Rights groups also accuse Western power of being complicit in war crimes as they continue to sell weapons to Riyadh which monitoring groups and charities say is prolonging the war.

Riyadh has also imposed an all-out land, air and sea blockade on Yemen resulting in what the United Nations says is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Hundreds of thousands of Yemenis have been killed, many of them women and children.

## Unrest in Chile delays inauguration of new constitutional assembly

Chile had to postpone the writing of its new constitution after fresh clashes erupted between protesters and police in Santiago. Security forces used water cannons and fired tear gas to disperse angry crowds. Drafting a new constitution was only one of the key agreements the government agreed upon after social unrest gripped the country in October 2019. Regular protests have been staged since then. At the time, demonstrations were held against a government rise in transport fees but soon morphed into other grievances held among Chileans. Chile is not the only U.S. ally in Latin America that has been rocked by protests over the past year or two. Brazil and Colombia, among others, are also seeing growing anger against their respective governments. On the other hand, countries that oppose what they perceive as U.S. interference in Latin America, such as Bolivia or Venezuela, have seen popular support towards their governments at the ballot boxes. This is despite Washington's attempts to militarily oust both governments in Caracas and La Paz. In Bolivia, American efforts succeeded when Evo Morales was replaced with Jeanine Anez in a military coup. However, that was short-lived as Morales' party returned to power in recent elections. Anez has now been detained facing corruption charges, with Bolivia trying to recover millions of dollars from just one of her former ministers who fled the country as Morales returned.



## Bronze Age, ancient relics unearthed near once residence of ‘Iran’s Napoleon’

→ 1 Narratives say the ‘palace’ is named after Khorshid who was one of Nader’s wives. However, it was never completed due to an ambiguous state of affairs that poured in following Nader Shah’s sudden death.

Some believe that foreign artisans were engaged in the construction of the monument as its exterior panels bear pineapple and pear motifs, which are deemed to be unknown in the then Khorasan region. Evidence suggests the building was used as a residential headquarters during the early Qajar era (1785 to 1925).

Nader Shah is widely considered as one of the most powerful rulers in the history of the nation. He assumed power when a period of chaos overwhelmed Iran. The powerful monarch managed to reunite the Persian realm while repelled invaders. He is sometimes referred to as the Napoleon of Persia (Iran) or the Second Alexander, according to Encyclopedia Britannica.



Born Nader Qoli Beg, Nader had an obscure beginning in the Turkish Afshar tribe, which was loyal to the Safavid shahs of Iran. After serving under a local chieftain, Nader formed and led a band of robbers, showing marked powers of leadership. In 1726, as head of this group of bandits, he led 5,000 followers in support of the Safavid shah ?ahmasp II, who was seeking to regain the throne his father had lost four years earlier to the Ghilzay Afghan usurper Mahmud.

Nader reformed Iran’s military forces and utterly defeated the Ghilzay Afghans in a series of brilliant victories, after which he restored Tahmasp to the Iranian throne. In 1736 Nader deposed the youthful ?Abbas III (as Tahmasp II’s son was styled) and ascended the Iranian throne himself, taking the title of Nader Shah.

Although brilliantly successful as a soldier and general, Nader Shah had little talent for statesmanship or administration, and Iran became utterly exhausted during the later years of his reign. Tens of thousands of people perished in his ceaseless military campaigns, and the exactions of his tax-gatherers ruined the country’s economy.

## UNESCO-designated monastery offers 360° virtual tours

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The Monastery of Saint Thaddeus, a UNESCO-registered property in West Azarbaijan province, has launched a series of 360° virtual tours, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The tours are available in five different languages of Turkish, Kurdish, Persian, Armenian, and English, and anyone interested can choose the language of their choice, Jalil Jabari said on Monday.

They include viewing the rooftops, the courtyard, the church hall and the altar, the entrance area, the road leading to the church, as well as its old kitchen, the official added.

The virtual tours provide an online visit to the province’s landmarks and tourist attractions since not everyone can visit in person, especially with the coronavirus outbreak, he explained.

Also known as the Qareh Klise (“the Black Church”), the monastery is one of the oldest surviving Christian monuments in the country. It is situated in Chaldoran county some 20 kilometers from Maku, adjacent to the borders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey.

The ancient Church shows off elaborate bas-reliefs of flowers, animals, and human figures on its façade and exterior walls. It bears verses of Old and New Testament in Armenian calligraphy as well.

Every year in late July, tourists travel from all over the world to Chaldoran to visit and pilgrimage the monument. Besides the essential core of the pilgrimage, called Badarak, baptism of children and youngsters along with performances of traditional songs and dances are amongst highlights of the event.



The festivity is of high importance for Iranian-Armenians who mostly come from the cities of Tabriz, Urmia, Tehran, Isfahan, and Qazvin, to stage the reunion in groups and families. It also provides them an opportunity to go on holiday and visit distant relatives.

Attendees commemorate the martyrdom of St. Thaddeus, one of the twelve disciples killed while he was preaching the Gospel. The legend says a church dedicated to him was first built in 68 CE where Qareh Klise is standing.

Thaddeus was an apostle of Christ and the ceremony is rooted in the last supper with Jesus Christ on the night of his arrest and execution by the Roman soldiers.

Together with St. Stepanos Monastery and the Chapel of Dzordzor, Qareh Klise was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2008 under the name “Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran”. All three sites are located in West Azarbaijan and are of high significance from historical and cultural perspectives. They bear credible testimony to interchanges with the ancient regional societies in particular the Byzantine, Orthodox, and Persian.

UNESCO has it that the churches bear examples of outstanding universal values of the Armenian architectural and decorative traditions.

# Ancient tombs, relics, architectural vestiges discovered in southern Iran

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A team of **d e s k** Iranian archaeologists has unearthed some ancient tombs, relics, and architectural vestiges in a survey they recently conducted in the southern Fars province.

The survey probed into Hirbodan hill and its surroundings, which is estimated to date from some 4,500 years ago.

“The findings of this excavation include human burials, architectural structures and inscriptions carved on the edge of an earthenware vessel,” Iranian archaeologist Sepideh Jamshidi-Yaganeh, who leads the survey, said on Sunday.

In this archaeological season, five trenches were carved, which also resulted in the discovery of relics, which are known as Kaf-tari Ware, distinctive ceramic vessels dated to the late 3rd and early 2nd millennia BC.

According to Encyclopedias Iranica, Kaftari ceramics were named and first characterized by Louis Vanden Berghe based on surface surveys and limited soundings carried out in the Marv Dasht region of the Kur River basin in highland Fars. The range of stylistic variation in the ceramics that fall under this name has been most



clearly shown by more systematic surveys across the Kur River basin and excavations at the site of Tall-e Malyan, both led by William Sumner.

Hirbodan hill was is located near the once heart of the Achaemenian Empire (c.

550–330 BC), which was stretching from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, to Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia, and India.

Throughout the late prehistoric periods, Elam was closely tied culturally to Mesopotamia. Later, perhaps because of

domination by the Akkadian dynasty (c. 2334–c. 2154 BC), Elamites adopted the Sumero-Akkadian cuneiform script.

The modern-day provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan were once the seat of power of the Elamite kingdom.

Elamite language, extinct language spoken by the Elamites in the ancient country of Elam, which included the region from the Mesopotamian plain to the Iranian Plateau. According to Britannica, Elamite documents from three historical periods have been found. The earliest Elamite writings are in a figurative or pictographic script and date from the middle of the 3rd millennium BC.

Documents from the second period, which lasted from the 16th to the 8th century BC, are written in cuneiform; the stage of the language found in these documents is sometimes called Old Elamite.

The last period of Elamite texts is that of the reign of the Achaemenian kings of Persia (6th to 4th century BC), who used Elamite, along with Akkadian and Old Persian, in their inscriptions. The language of this period, also written in the cuneiform script, is often called New Elamite.

## Tourism sector to create more than 800 jobs in Ardebil

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The tourism sector is estimated to generate more than 800 jobs in Iran’s Ardebil province.

“Some 835 jobs are expected to be created in Ardebil by several investments in tourism-related projects, which are estimated to get off the ground by the end of the current Iranian year 1400 (ends in March 2022),” a local tourism official said on Monday.

Some 100 billion rials (\$2.3 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) of bank facilities are to be allocated only in one case for an investment plan, Negar Sarioletlaq added.

Also, two tourism-related projects have been inaugurated so far this year, generating six jobs, she noted.

Back in January, the provincial tourism chief, Nader Fallahi, announced that more than 150 tourism-related projects are underway across Ardebil province. The mentioned projects will prepare the province’s tourism sector for the post-coronavirus era when the number of tourists and travelers is expected to rise magnificently, the official added.

Last April, tourism authorities of the province announced that they have developed extensive plans to draw more tourists during the winter season to the province and make it the winter tourism hub of the country. In December 2019, Fallahi announced that seventeen tourism projects, worth 1,500 billion rials (some \$35 million) would be inaugurated in the province in near future. Ha said that the objective to launch tourism projects in the province is to provide tourists from all over the world and domestic tourists as well with the opportunity to use these facilities and select Ardebil as their prime destination.

Back in November Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said that investment in the tourism sector and boosting tourism infrastructure has not stopped despite the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardebil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and



Shrine Ensemble.

The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardebil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

## Traditional cistern to host permanent handicrafts hub

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Haj Ali **d e s k** Mohammad Ab-Anbar, which is a traditional mudbrick cistern in the oasis city of Meybod, will be hosting a permanent handicrafts hub, Meybod’s tourism chief has said.

Restoration work has been commenced on the Pahlavi era (1925-1979) cistern to have it prepared to host a permanent handicrafts market and workshop when the refurbishment finishes, Mehrdad Zolfagari said on Monday.

The restoration project involves repairing and strengthening walls, rooftops, and arches as well as landscaping and flooring, the official added.

It is planned to set up two handicraft workshops, a center for training, and seven stalls for selling handmade products in the southern area of the cistern, he noted.

There would also be live performances of handicrafts being produced, which are



on the verge of extinction in the region, he explained.

Haj Ali Mohammad Ab-Anbar was inscribed on the national heritage list in 2008. The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or seasonal rainwater.

Such an underground reservoir or Ab-Anbar is part of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains. Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

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. In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran’s number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

Shiraz was named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”. Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a “world city of filigree”. And Qassemabad

village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer garment for women, was, however, the main subject for the WCC assessment for the village.

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), Mehr reported. The country’s handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

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.

## Old trees, cave, waterfall in southwest Iran approved as national heritage

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A total of nine natural **d e s k** properties scattered across Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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

Old walnut, elm, oak, and hackberry trees were among the properties added to the prestigious list.

Sheikh Alikhan Waterfall and Chama Ice Cave, both in the city of Koohrang, were also added to the list as well.

Located almost 90 kilometers from the provincial capital of Shahr-e Kord, near a village with the same name, Sheikh Alikhan Waterfall is one of the unique natural beauties of the region.

The waterfall has the most beautiful view in spring and the highest amount of water, with the overturned tulip bloom around it. In winter it turns to a frozen waterfall,



which challenges ice climbers and nature tourists. The other top destination for nature travelers in the region is Chama Ice Cave, which despite its natural beauty, is very dangerous. Located in the central part of Koohrang city,

## Iranian handicrafts: Hasirbafi in Bushehr

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Hasirbafi or **d e s k** mat weaving is a kind of ancient handicraft that is widely practiced in Iran’s Bushehr province using certain dried-out leaves and stems.

This craft is more common in coastal villages and riversides because the principal material for it is wilding plants that grow near the marshes and rivers.

In many regions, stems of wheat, rye, rice,

and leaflets of palm trees are used to weave the products, too. There are plenty of material resources in Bushehr which is bounded by the Persian Gulf. That is why mat weaving has long been one of the most popular handicrafts of the southern province.

To weave a mat, first stems that match each other in size and diameter are picked and soaked in water. Then three to five of them are packed together by another stem. These bundles are

weaved together to make objects such as baskets, bags, floor covers, wall hang, etc.

The leaflets can be colored using a special kind of ink called “Bagham” or logwood. Bagham is available in colors such as green, blue, violet, and orange, and sometimes the weavers mix them with turmeric to add to the brightness. The motifs of mat weaving are most commonly made from memory and are geometric and diamonds.





# Iran facing fifth wave of coronavirus as Delta variant spreads

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** – Iran is at risk of the fifth wave of the pandemic as the highly contagious Delta variant spreads all over the country.

Delta, now present in at least 85 countries, is the most contagious of any COVID-19 variant yet identified.

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control started strict restrictions for two weeks as of Sunday (July 4) in 92 cities that have the highest rate of infection in the country.

Shopping malls, gyms, mosques, salons, universities, schools, libraries, kindergartens, cinemas, museums, cafes, zoos, and amusement parks will be closed for two weeks.

Currently, 92 cities are in the high-risk red zones (the highest category on Iran's coronavirus risk scale), and 183 cities are in the orange zones, Alireza Raeisi, spokesman for the National Headquarters for Coronavirus control said.

Due to the surge in new cases, it is definitely necessary to follow health protocols and restrictions more to prevent the spread, he added.

The Ministry of Health has announced that the Delta virus has been found everywhere in the country, and given that the virus is very highly contagious, it can



increase the rate of hospitalizations and transmission.

Unfortunately, the rate of compliance with health protocols in the country is less than 70 percent, and it should increase to above 85 percent to be effective.

Since the outbreak, the country has reported more than 3.2 million cases and more than 84,000 deaths.

**Over 7% increase in mortalities in a week**

According to the Ministry of Health, during the last week, the country has experienced an 11 percent increase in the number of hospitalizations, a 7.2 percent increase in the death toll, and a 13.2 percent increase in the number of cases compared to a week earlier. Accordingly, Tehran has witnessed a 31

percent increase in the number of hospitalizations, and a 41 percent increase in casualties, and a 27 percent increase in new cases compared to the previous week.

Also, the number of hospitalizations and deaths has increased significantly in recent weeks. The incidence of hospitalizations and deaths is higher than the national average. Sistan-Baluchestan province is also suffering from a severe wave of the pandemic, and the mortality of the province, which was further away from the national average, has climbed to the first rank in the country.

The province borders Afghanistan and Pakistan, which have had recent outbreaks.

**Tackling pandemic**

The country has closed and reopened businesses and entities several times since last February due to the virus surges.

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

While Iran continues efforts to mass-produce local candidates, several foreign vaccines have already been imported despite difficulties made by the U.S. sanctions.

Two homegrown vaccines have been approved for emergency use lately.

Over 4.4 million people have received the first dose of the vaccine, while only 1.7 million have received the second injection.

## Unprecedented migration of Afghans triggers new wave of COVID-19 in Iran: MP

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN**— An unprecedented and illegal migration of Afghan people to the province of Sistan-Baluchestan, southeastern Iran, has triggered a new wave of coronavirus in the country, MP Esmail Hossein-Zehi said on Monday.

"Over recent days and in the wake of unrest in Afghanistan, the number of migrants to Sistan-Baluchestan has increased. Unfortunately, a majority of the people enter the country without observing health protocols," the parliament's news agency quoted Hossein-Zehi as saying.

The illegal migration has led to a rise of around 1,000 new cases of infection to coronavirus in the province, he added.

Violence in Afghanistan continues to rise, with the Taliban taking more territory. The rise in violence comes as the U.S. and its NATO allies are withdrawing their troops from Afghanistan after two decades.

As Afghan forces prepare to take charge of security alone,



the concern is growing among the people.

Farzana Kochai, a female MP, has said the withdrawal was being carried out irresponsibly.

Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen has said many districts

had fallen to the Taliban through mediation after Afghan soldiers refused to fight.

Afghan government spokesman Razwan Murad has told the BBC that the government was ready for talks and a ceasefire and the Taliban should now prove that they were committed to peace.

Health Ministry's spokeswoman Sima Sadat-Lari has said while the country is still grappling with the fourth wave of the disease, a new wave of COVID-19 has emerged due to an outbreak of the Delta variant of the virus that has entered the country from the south and south-east.

The Health Ministry has classified as "red" – the highest category on coronavirus risk scale – the capital, Tehran, and nine other cities in Tehran province.

The southern and southeastern provinces of Fars, Hormozgan, Kerman, and Sistan-Baluchestan are also now classified as "red".

## Thirsty Iran faced with scorching summer

By Sadeq Lavasani

Iran is ranked among the world's arid countries with its annual precipitation levels at about one-third of the global average. But this year, significantly lower rainfall means the country is experiencing one of its driest years, if not the driest, in several decades.

The head of National Center for Drought and Crisis Management Ahad Vazifeh warned recently that precipitation has declined by over 40 percent so far this year compared with Iran's long-term average. This is expected to put further pressure on already-strained groundwater resources in a country that has been digging deeper and deeper wells.

With summer already here, there are now fears of water cuts and rationing. Iranian media are replete with pleas for people to economize on water as demand is expected to surge dramatically in the usually dry season.

More than 200 Iranian cities and a very larger number of villages, mostly in the central and southern parts, are water-stressed. Iranian officials suggest that the country could somehow manage the problem this

year. But they know all too well that water scarcity and dwindling resources are posing a pressing challenge that needs careful planning and considerable investment.

Many of Iran's neighbors are grappling with much lower rainfall. But some like Oman have made use of modern technology to deal with water scarcity.

Persian Gulf littoral states desalinate and pump around 26 million cubic meters of sea water to their parched cities every day. Iran with the longest coast line in the Persian Gulf currently has a very small share of that figure: just a few hundred thousand cubic meters per day.

U.S. sanctions have undoubtedly been fueling the water problems in Iran. The American restrictions have blocked transfer of modern environment-friendly technologies to Iran in many fields including water treatment and irrigation.

Before the unilateral U.S. withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and re-imposition of American sanctions in 2018, the Iranians had been planning to utilize cooperation with other countries including Australia, which is also

grappling with a water crisis, to improve water management systems. The American sanctions policy has made such cooperation almost impossible.

Meanwhile, the economic pressure caused by the U.S. sanctions is making it impossible for the Islamic Republic to invest enough to develop its water infrastructure.

Despite all such difficulties, Iran is advancing an ambitious mega project to desalinate and transfer water from the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman to its central and eastern parts through four major pipelines. This is an effort to quench the thirst of its growing industries and provide drinking water for its population.

It sounds very logical for Iran to follow the example of its southern neighbors, but the increasingly popular technique has its own downsides.

There are environmental concerns like the highly salty waste water from the project that can have detrimental environmental impacts. Proponents of the initiative have argued that benefits far outweigh the disadvantages, and that there are methods to minimize damage.

President Hassan Rouhani, who inaugurated new phases of the major water desalination and transfer project a few months ago, acknowledged that the waste water from desalination plants is a cause of environmental concerns, but said despite higher costs, the government has decided to transfer the brine to the Sea of Oman instead of the Persian Gulf, which has higher salinity, to limit the environmental impact.

The Islamic Republic has to develop sustainable resources for its fast rising demand if it wants to combat water scarcity. Desalination is definitely one of the feasible methods, but it's no silver bullet.

Experts suggest a combination of steps including more efficient wastewater management systems, improving water catchment and harvesting, enhancing irrigation and agricultural practices, educating to improve consumption, and employing modern water conservation technologies to resolve freshwater crises. It seems imperative for Iran to implement as many of these steps as it can if it truly wants to ensure water security even during prolonged dry periods.

## COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. July 4

New cases	16,025
New deaths	157
Total cases	3,270,843
Total deaths	84,949
New hospitalized patients	1,780
Patients in critical condition	3,255
Total recovered patients	2,940,874
Diagnostic tests conducted	24,043,129
Doses of vaccine injected	6,476,320

## 1.8m jobs created by 97,000 active cooperatives

→ 1 "Development of creativity and innovation system in cooperative businesses through the establishment of innovation centers and development of cooperatives, forming cooperative think tanks as facilitators between members of the country's cooperative sector, and also paving the way for the transformation of ideas into products are among the new functions of cooperatives.

Supporting the activities of emerging knowledge-based cooperatives and developing new types of cooperatives are the other measures taken," he further explained.



Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the readiness of cooperatives to take over the smart system of distributing goods and services with the approach of eliminating unnecessary intermediaries in order to reduce the cost of goods and services, adding that establishing a direct relationship between producers and consumers is another feature of cooperatives in the country.

**How cooperatives work**

Cooperatives have been acknowledged as associations and enterprises through which citizens can effectively improve their lives while contributing to the economic, social, cultural, and political advancement of their community and nation.

Cooperatives also foster external equality. As they are community-based, they are committed to the sustainable development of their communities - environmentally, socially, and economically. This commitment can be seen in their support for community activities, local sourcing of supplies to benefit the local economy, and in decision-making that considers the impact on their communities.

Despite their local community focus, co-operatives also aspire to bring the benefits of their economic and social model to all people in the world.

## Environmental protection in Iran

(Part 4)

A similar program is being implemented with respect to rangeland, and it would appear that several million hectares of rangeland is being, and will be, privatized within the same period. The justification for this program appears to be an increase in agricultural production, but experts agree that, on the one hand, it will actually result in a net economic loss (i.e., reduced yield) and, on the other, that the ecological consequences will be irreversible damage to watersheds, accelerated erosion, and the destruction of valuable ecosystems.

Rangelands, which formerly comprised more than 60 percent of Persia, have also been destroyed on an unprecedented scale. Rangeland production in 1970 was estimated to be 20 million tons of forage per year (Niknam, pp. 35-39), which was inadequate for the number of grazing animals in the country.

The policy in the mid-1970s was to ensure pasture recovery through both better control and reduction of grazing, as well as incorporation of grazing animals into fodder-growing agricultural units. An estimate made in 1983, showed forage production to have decreased to about 10 million tons per annum, i.e., half the amount it had been thirteen years before. Yet very little additional fodder was provided by the agricultural sector.

In another estimate made in 1990 it is demonstrated that the population of domestic grazing animals in Persia exceeds pasture capacity by a factor of four (Riazi, p. 35). Excessive grazing, the cutting of vegetation, and the indiscriminate ploughing of range for dry farming on land invariably ill-suited for the purpose are the main practices leading to rangeland destruction. The result has been the total loss of vegetation over wide areas, desertification, erosion, floods, and dust storms.

Parks and protected areas. The areas that Persia began protecting in the late 1950s (Firouz and Harrington, p. 8) had been incorporated by 1976-77 into one of the most comprehensive programs for nature conservation in Asia and the Middle East.

The Department of the Environment placed great emphasis on natural processes and on minimizing human interference with nature. The reserves were developed strictly on an ecological basis.

The Department of the Environment's strategy was to establish priority-use reserves to protect renewable natural resources, viable remnants of Persian ecosystems, and endangered or threatened species of fauna and flora (Firouz, 1974, pp. 33-42). By the mid-1970s there were eleven national parks, twenty wildlife refuges, twenty-three protected areas, and two national nature monuments, totalling an area of about 7.5 million hectares.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → €

## Iranian researchers produce nano-mask with 99.9% lethality to coronavirus

Researchers at the Institute of Materials and Energy affiliated with the Ministry of Science, produced nano face masks that can kill coronavirus by 99.9 percent.

According to ISNA, Abuzar Masoudi, a faculty member of the Materials and Energy Research Institute, said that since the fibers of the fabric are hydrophilic. Therefore, the behavior of the virus is different, so different masks have been offered, including the FFP1 mask, which prevents up to 95 percent of the virus and up to 80 percent of the bacteria. While the N95 mask resists the virus up to 95 percent, and up to 100 percent of the bacteria.

This is while sponge and cloth masks prevent up to 50 percent of bacteria from entering the body, and are not able to fight the virus. According to Masoudi, this project is planned to enter the industrial production phase.

## محققان ایرانی ماسک نانو با قدرت کشندگی ۹۹.۹ درصد ویروس کرونا تولید کردند

محققان پژوهشگاه مواد و انرژی زیر نظر وزارت علوم، تحقیقات و فناوری ایران با استفاده از لایه نشانی نانو ذرات به پارچه به الیافی دست یافتند که قادر به تخریب ۹۹.۹ درصدی ویروس کرونا هستند.

به گزارش ایسنا، ابوزر مسعودی عضو هیات علمی پژوهشگاه مواد و انرژی گفت از آنجایی که الیاف پارچه آب دوست هستند؛ از این رو رفتار ویروس متفاوت است و بر این اساس ماسک‌های مختلفی عرضه شده است که از آن جمله می‌توان به ماسک FFP۱ اشاره کرد که تا ۹۵ درصد از ورود ویروس و تا ۸۰ درصد از ورود باکتری جلوگیری می‌کند. این میزان برای ماسک N۹۵ تا ۹۵ درصد ویروس و تا ۱۰۰ درصد باکتری می‌شود.

این در حالی است که ماسک‌های اسفنجی و پارچه‌ای تا ۵۰ درصد از ورود باکتری به بدن جلوگیری می‌کنند، ولی قادر به مقابله با ویروس نیستند. به گفته آنها این طرح برای ورود به فاز تولید صنعتی برنامه ریزی شده است.



INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
www.tehrantimes.com

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» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
» Printed at: Jame Jam Barta Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
P.O. Box: 14155-4843  
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If you overpower your enemy, then pardon him by way of thankfulness to Allah, for being able to subdue him.  
*Imam Ali (AS)*

## Art, architecture during Qajar period

### Part 5

The religious buildings of Nasser ad-Din Shah's reign continued in this tradition but employed a much more extensive range of designs. Mosaic tiling continued in geometrical patterns, but cuerda seca was enlivened by the use of such motifs as bouquets and vases of abundant roses and groups of fruit—melon, grapes, pomegranates—all framed in garlands and drapery swags.

The style has a decidedly Victorian flavor heightened by the intrusion of such motifs as scenes of European landscapes obviously copied from imported contemporary postcards and magazine illustrations.

Probably the most extraordinary use of tilework in a religious building is seen in the tekyeh of Moawen ul-Molk in Kermanshah, decorated with large panels of cuerda seca tiles depicting a sequence of events from the tazieh drama and Sufi themes; in the composition and use of color they are treated as paintings.

Also included are portrait tiles of local civil and religious dignitaries worked in a hatched and stippled technique in black on white, obviously influenced by lithographs and photographs.

The tilework of secular buildings was used to panel facades, as in the Golestan Palace, to line courtyards and form decorative interior friezes as in some of the late Qajar houses of Shiraz and to adorn city gates.

It shared the floral landscape designs of religious buildings but there was more opportunity for narrative scenes, which were worked in cuerda seca technique on a large scale, resulting in poster-like images, with colors applied either in clear washes or in varying depths of intensity.

Themes included subjects from popular literature such as Rustam combating the White Div boldly splashed across the central pediment of Semnan's city gate and contemporary subjects ranging from a full-scale portrait of Nasser ad-Din Shah on horseback decorating the facade of the Bagh-e Eram, to realistically depicted soldiers in combat in World War I featured on Tehran's Darvaze-ye Bagh-e Mellî.

Underglaze painted tiles are best seen in the friezes within the main vestibules of the Golestan Palace and lining the walls of the reception salon at Saltanatâbad.

Treated in a hatched and shaded naturalistic style they depict such events as Nasser ad-Din Shah listening to a piano recital or reviewing his troops, groups of European women in fashionable dress, and a later series of Parthian and Sassanid kings inspired by coins and lithograph illustrations.

### Stonework

Stone was used comparatively sparingly in architectural decoration as slabs of cream-colored limestone or greenish marble, either supplied in Shiraz from the nearby mountains or brought in from Azarbaijan or Yazd.

The slabs were generally made up into dados running along the facades of courts of both religious and secular buildings, ornamented with designs carved in fine shallow relief or openwork.

In the Masjed-e Sepahsalar at Tehran, these dados were carved with highly wrought floral designs while at Shiraz a more delicate pattern using iris and rose motifs was favored.

An interesting local development confined to Shiraz was the copying of figure scenes from the Achaemenid reliefs of Persepolis, notably the processions of servants from the palaces of Darius and Xerxes.

### Glasswork

Glass was used in three principal ways. First, stained glass was made up of insets of red, blue, emerald, and yellow set within openwork wood panels used for fanlights and sliding sash windows.

Here the Hosseiniyeh Amini of Qazvin is notable because a stained-glass rose window is also painted with twelve zodiac symbols. Second, mirrorwork mosaic, a technique used in late Safavid times to sheath a surface, was fully developed in the Qajar period.

It was used to cover the inner surface of an ayvan or talar as for example in the shrine of Shah Abd al-Azim in Ray and the reception area of the Narenjestan at Shiraz, while the inner chamber of Shah Cheragh in Shiraz is completely lined with it.

Third, in domestic architecture friezes of repeating floral and scroll patterns were inlaid in pieces of colorless red, green, and blue glass against a smooth white stucco ground.

Stucco as a form of architectural decoration in its own right has a long history in Persia. In Qajar times, especially during the reign of Nasser ad-din Shah, it became a highly elaborate means of decorating the ceilings, walls, and fireplaces of domestic architecture and was molded in prominent relief in a repertoire of designs closely resembling those of contemporary tilework; thus the ornate bouquets and bowls of roses and medallions containing fruit and bird motifs are found contained within foliage.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

# Artist hangs paintings with bright colors to heal wounds of pandemic

→1 "Nature is part and parcel of man's existence and the colors in the artworks represent vigor and a constructive interaction between man and nature," Sheikhi said.

"God is in the color of purity and happiness and we would reach God when we are looking at the color," he stated.

Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai, the director of the Visual Arts Office of the Art Bureau, also attended the opening ceremony of the

exhibition, which will run until July 11.

In a short speech, he called Sheikhi, one of the pioneers of the first generation of revolutionary artists who began their career at the Art Bureau, which was established after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

He said that the exhibition represents a new face of Sheikhi's art, in which he has mixed elements from still life and floral and geometric motifs.

In its new policy, he said that his office



Artist Ali-Mohammad Sheikhi poses during the opening ceremony of his painting exhibition "Brumous Colors" at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran on July 4, 2021.

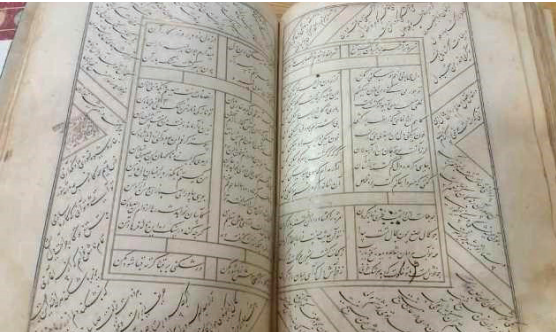
plans to show more concern towards the art market, and added that a council of art experts will carry out valuations to price artworks at the exhibitions being organized by the Art Bureau.

"From now on, artworks will be

showcased with price tags at the bureau's exhibitions, and art lovers will be able to purchase their favorite artworks," he noted

The bureau used to organize art exhibitions without financial objectives.

## Iran national library preserves 560-year-old divan of "Parrot of India"



The Tohfât al-Seghar by poet Amir Khosrow Dehlavi is preserved at the National Library and Archives of Iran.

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — A rare manuscript of a divan of Amir Khosrow Dehlavi, the greatest Persian-writing poet of medieval India who was known as the "voice of India" or "Parrot of India", is preserved at the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI).

This manuscript dating back to 560 years ago is the oldest copy of the divan, which is the first book of five

divans written by the poet, an NLAI bibliographer Hamzeh Moradi-Bahram said in a press release on Monday.

The divan entitled the Tohfât al-Seghar ("A Gift from Childhood") contains the poems Amir Khosrow Dehlavi composed between 12 and 20.

The book has been inscribed by Ghias ad-Din ibn Vali Qasemi in 880 AH during the Timurid period (1370–1507).

Quatrains by Persian polymath Omar Khayyam Neyshaburi have also been written on the margins of the pages in the divan.

Nasser ad-Din Abul-Hassan Amir Khosrow Dehlavi, (1253-1325) was a son of Amir Sayf ad-Din Mahmud, a Turkish officer, and an Indian mother. He was born in Patiyali and early on displayed his poetical talent, encouraged by his maternal grandfather, Emad al-Molk.

His master in poetry was Shahab ad-Din Mahmura Badauni, who had written religious and panegyric verse. Khosrow took service with Sultan Balban's family, accompanying his son Boghra Khan to Bengal and later

his eldest son to Multan.

There the prince was killed by the Mongols in 1284 and the poet captured. Afterwards, he went with the governor Hatam Khan to Oudh and returned to Delhi in 1289.

He was a favorite of Sultan Jalal ad-Din Khalji (1290-96) and of his assassin Ala ad-Din Khalji (1296-1315), under whom he wrote most of his works.

After enjoying the favor of Qotb ad-Din Mobarakshah (1316-20), Ghias ad-Din Toghloq (1320-25), and for a short time Mohammad Toghloq, Khosrow died in 1325. One should not blame him for his shifting allegiances in a confused political situation; this was the normal practice of medieval poets.

The Wast al-Hayat was another divan he collected between 1273 and 1284. The Ghorrat al-Kamal carries poems written between his 34th and 43rd years.

In 1316, Khosrow collected the Baqiya-ye Naqiya, and shortly before his death, the Nehayat al-Kamal.

## Animations from Iran nominated for Italy Cartoon Club Award

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian animated movies "Autumn Winds, Spring Winds and Two Doves" and "Stars in the Rain" have been nominated for the Cartoon Club Award at the International Film Festival of Animation Cinema, Comics and Games in Italy.

The festival will take place in Rimini, a city on the Adriatic coast, from July 12 to 18.

Directed by Sadeq Javadi "Autumn Winds, Spring Winds and Two Doves" is a production of Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

The movie tells the story of 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 the communication and the guests sadly begin to

depart. Yet the dove does not wait for spring to come and starts searching.

The short animation has been screened at over ten international festivals across the world. The film competed in the Neum Animated Film Festival currently underway in Bosnia and Herzegovina since last week.

In February, it won the silver award for best animation at the 50th Roshd International Film Festival, an Iranian festival that promotes films on educational topics for children.

"Stars in the Rain" directed by Sara Namju is about a boy who draws paintings and joins passengers on a train in a city where it has been raining for years.

It received a diploma of the 1st degree laureate in the animation category at the

Light to the World International Youth Film Festival in Rybinsk, Russia.

The International Film Festival of Animation Cinema, Comics and Games returns to Rimini with a formula that combines live and online events, the organizers have announced.

It will be dedicated to the safeguarding of the planet and it will pay homage to Italian poet Dante Alighieri on the 700th anniversary of his death.

This year's festival will begin in places between the historic center and the seaside area, touching the most evocative sites, including the Square on the Water, the Agostiniani Court, the Tiberio Cinema, the City Museum, the Art Space Augeo and Federico Fellini Square.



"Autumn Winds, Spring Winds and Two Doves" by director Sadeq Javadi.

## Busan International Kids and Youth Film Festival picks movies from Iran

city on Monday.

"No Comment" by Zhivar Farajzadeh, "The Cocoon and Butterfly" by Mohammad Salehinejad, "The Kites" by Seyyed Payam Hosseini and "Witness" by Ali Asgari have been selected to be screened in various categories of the festival, which will run until July 11.

"No Comment", which is about children who search through garbage to find recyclable materials in the northwestern Iranian town of Saqqez is competing in Ready-Action! 15, a section dedicated to films by 13-15 year-old juniors.

"The Cocoon and Butterfly" is about Parvaneh, a seven-year-old girl who is handicapped and unable to attend school. Yavar, a pupil of second grade, tries to teach her at home. Meanwhile, Parvaneh's father disagrees.

The movie was crowned best at the 50th Roshd International Film Festival, which promotes films on educational topics for children.

This film has been selected for Staying Together, in which the organizers focus mainly on harmony and conflict in a community.

"The Kites" is competing in the Embrace the Difference category, which thinks about how to respect and embrace differences.

The film is about a border boy who falls in love with a girl who lives across the border. He tries to reach out to the girl through the missing girl's kite on the other side of the border.

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

The film has been selected for Asian Panorama, a section that features fictions and shorts with controversial issues and films with a high level of completion.

## "Abigail" comes to Iranian bookstores

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of Hungarian writer Magda Szabo's most widely read novel "Abigail" has been published in Persian.

The book originally published in 1970 has been translated into Persian by Nasrollah Mordiani and Bidgol is the publisher of the novel.

"Abigail" tells the story of a headstrong teenager growing up during World War II, and is the most beloved of Magda Szabo's books in her native Hungary.

Gina is the only child of a general, a widower who has long been happy to spoil his bright and willful daughter. Gina is

devastated when the general tells her that he must go away on a mission and that he will be sending her to boarding school in the country.

She is even more agast at the grim religious institution to which she soon finds herself consigned. She fights with her fellow students, rebels against her teachers, finds herself completely ostracized, and runs away.

Caught and brought back, there is nothing for Gina to do except entrust her fate to the legendary Abigail, as the classical statue of a woman with an urn that stands on the school's grounds has come to be called.

If you're in trouble, it's said, leave a

message with Abigail and help will be on the way. And for Gina, who is in much deeper trouble than she could possibly suspect, a life-changing adventure is only beginning.

"Abigail" was popularized through a much-loved television series in 1978. The book was also chosen as the sixth most popular novel at the Hungarian version of Big Read.

"A tense, intimate narrative that brilliantly depicts youthful innocence ensnared by lethal menace... Szabo the magician reveals, for an instant, time, history and human folly, all glimpsed through a child's clear eyes," Anna Mundow of the Wall Street Journal wrote about the novel.



A copy of the Persian translation of Magda Szabo's "Abigail".